

# WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Hall, Market Place, Wetherby, LS22 6NE

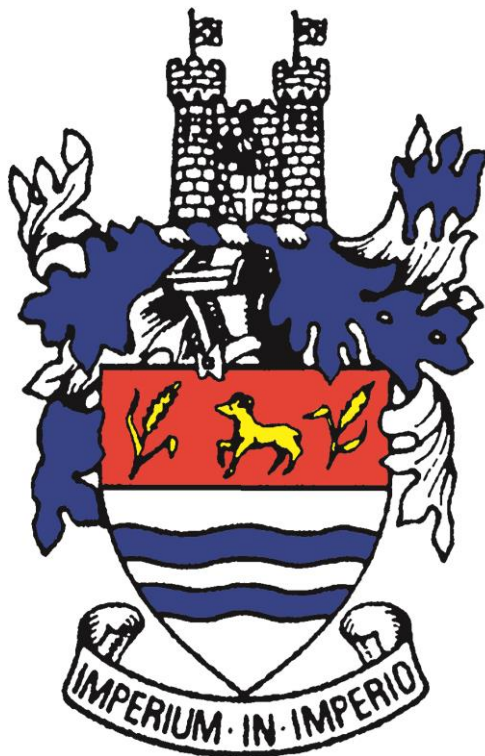
Telephone: 01937 583584

E-mail: [wetherbytc@btconnect.com](mailto:wetherbytc@btconnect.com)

Web site: [www.wetherby.co.uk](http://www.wetherby.co.uk)

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

held in the Micklethwaite Room  
Wetherby Town Hall  
at 7.30 pm on Thursday 26 May 2016



This meeting is an opportunity for local residents to meet their councillors and to ask questions about any issues that might be affecting them and to get information about what is happening in the town

The Mayor will provide a review of the work of the Town Council during the last 12 months and Town Councillors present will be happy to answer your questions and provide information on plans for the next 12 months.

## **MEMBERS OF WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **North Ward**

Cllr Harry Chapman (Mayor)

Cllr Norma Harrington

Cllr Nish Kanabar

Cllr Kazia Knight

Cllr Neil O'Byrne

### **East Ward**

Cllr Julie Brady

Cllr Alan Lamb

Cllr Joanne Maltby

Cllr John Procter

Cllr John Trower (Deputy Mayor)

### **West Ward**

Cllr Cindy Bentley

Cllr David Frame

Cllr Victor Hawkins

Cllr Galan Moss

Cllr Gerald Wilkinson



Members of the Town Council are involved in many aspects of life for those of you who live or work in Wetherby. They serve their local communities and make a real difference to the lives of local people promoting the well-being of you all.

Should you wish to contact a Councillor for your ward then email [wetherbytc@btconnect.com](mailto:wetherbytc@btconnect.com) and a member of the Town Council staff will then ensure that any correspondence is forwarded to them.

## **PARKING**

At last we are able to report that many of the parking issues in the town have been resolved.



The four-hour parking in the Cluster of Nuts Car Park has certainly made a difference as people are able to have a leisurely time visiting shops and cafes and not having to rush to be back to their car within two hours. Retailers have commented that this has certainly made a difference to their trade.

Additional all day parking is also now available at the Station Car Park. This car park has been resurfaced and lighting installed. We are just waiting for the CCTV to be live, the final surface of the centre isle and for the Location Board to be erected.

Despite recent rumours, at the moment we are not aware of any plans to change the all-day parking in the Wilderness Car Park. Morrison's Car Park is still restricted to two hours and do remember that there is a number plate recognition system in place so, if you go over the two hours, you will be fined.

Problems with HGV's parking on A168 have largely been solved by the placing of logs on the verges and the 'No Parking' signage.

### **Parking in the vicinity of the schools**

Schools have reported problems with parking at pick-up and drop-off times as the safety and wellbeing of the children has to be the priority.

Parking restrictions have now been put in place with some double yellow lines and single yellow lines being put down to restrict parking in the vicinity of the schools.

### **Residents Parking**

Parking on some of the side roads in town is causing problems for residents and a Resident Parking Permit system is currently being finalised for First, Second and Third Avenue off Walton Road and also Sandringham Park. All residents will be notified prior to any changes being made.

### **TRAFFIC**

Speed checks during the year on Spofforth Hill and Deighton Road caught many motorists breaking the 30 mph speed limit. Members of the Town Council have now been trained in the use of the hand held SID (Speed Indication Device) which indicates to motorists how fast they are travelling. The councillors plan to be out on Spofforth Hill with these.

Some good news is that permanent Matrix Signs are to be placed on both sides of Deighton Road and on Hallfield Lane near to the schools. These speed signs will warn motorists of their speed and, as proven in other areas, should be effective in slowing the traffic down.

### **FLOODING IN WETHERBY**



The 2015 Christmas floods and the height of the water levels on the River Wharfe caused considerable damage in Wetherby and also surrounding villages.

A number of homes in Wetherby were flooded and Scaur Bank and The Ings looked like lakes. Extensive damage was caused to the Wetherby Sports Association facilities and also at the Wetherby Castlegarth Tennis Club where the force of the water ripped down fencing around the club's six tennis courts. The Bath House was also flooded and we were fortunate that the water level reached just an inch lower than the wooden ground floor.

You can still see the signs of the damage that these torrential rains caused where the wall has collapsed at Micklefield on Boston Road. We must also think of the communities of Linton and Collingham who are still suffering due to the closure of Linton Bridge. It will be several months before the repair is finished.





## **WETHERBY'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

For the last two years we have been keeping you updated with the progress of a team of mainly volunteers, headed by Ward Councillor Alan Lamb, who have been working on this project.

We now have some good news in that the first draft of this plan will be presented to the Town Council at the June meeting. The plan looks to enhance and protect the good things about Wetherby and to also ensure the future growth of the town, looking at parking, health care needs, new leisure facilities and a new building for Wetherby High School.

Once the plan has been reviewed by the Town Council it will be released to all residents in Wetherby in order that they can have their say on the proposals.

## **Churchill Retirement Homes (Benfield Motors' Former Site)**

Churchill Retirement Living have now decided on the name for these 56 sheltered flats for the elderly and we were delighted to hear that this will be known as Tatterton Lodge. A presentation will be made to the Tatterton family in due course. It is anticipated that the first people will be moving in during March 2017.

## **Aldi Store**

It seems as though we have been waiting for ever for the new Aldi Store to open. I can confirm that work will commence this autumn with a spring 2017 opening.

## **WETHERBY IN BLOOM**

The Wetherby in Bloom volunteers never ever let Wetherby down, that is for sure. Their pride in everything they do for the town can be seen by the



wonderful floral displays and the care and dedication in making sure that the numerous hanging baskets are always looking their best.

When you work or live in Wetherby you do take the wonderful flowers for granted but I have to tell you that visitors to the town are always full of praise for how colourful and how well kept the town is and how it makes them want to return again.

The winner of the 2015 Wetherby in Bloom licensed premises floral competition was the New Inn and they were presented with a crystal rose bowl trophy which is held for one year. We do thank all the participants in the competition as they certainly add to the floral impact of town.

The very wet weather at the start of the year did the plants no favours with many of the flower beds just not able to recover. We have the Ward

Councillors to thank for their help with funding to enable the re-planting of the Garden of Rest.

## **MARKET**

The Thursday Market continues to be popular but it needs the continued support from the local residents for it to continue to flourish.



Many weekly markets are struggling to survive and we are lucky that our residents support these traders, who sometimes, on quieter days, do comment that they have only just covered their overheads.

The market traders always have a banter with their customers and I bet it is not often

that you visit the market when you don't bump into someone you know and stop for a natter.

The Farmers Market continues to struggle but the regular stalls holders attending do provide a variety of fresh produce, plants and meat.

## **WHITAKER MEMORIAL SHELTER**

Many of you will not recognise this name for the shelter in the Garden of Rest as it has, as far as we can recall, always been referred to as the Old Man's Parliament.

Following fund raising by the Civic Society, donations from charitable foundations and various trusts, the shelter has been refurbished and has had new electric and water supplies, a sink installed and double glazing.



This shelter is used on a Tuesday and Thursday by many of our more senior male residents but it would be just wonderful if other groups could also make use of this building.





## **GREEN SPACE AREAS**

### **Mason Field**

It was last August that we reported about the vandalism to the fence surrounding the play area in this park. The vandals once we had carried out some initial repairs came back and did even more damage.

So far so good this year with no problems and hopefully no-one will spoil this facility for the rest of us.

### **Scaur Bank**



An area of the park is now used by a football club at the weekend and we also have keep fit groups training in the park.

It is such a large area that it certainly attracts many residents for picnics and every year The council have a duty of care to

keep the area safe for visitors and this year we have carried out some extensive tree work on over 72 trees removing and pruning branches to prevent accidents.

### **Sandringham Park**

The park is among a very few (1,582) in the country that have received the prestigious green flag. This award is a sign to the public that the space is kept to a high standard and is beautifully maintained.

We have just erected a new flag pole as the old one was vandalised beyond repair. Unfortunately, the green flag also looked as if it had been trampled on and a hole had been burnt in it. The duly repaired flag is once again flying over the park.



The Park is a Queen Elizabeth II Field in Trust and this will ensure this field will remain a park in perpetuity.

## **Hudson Park**

The drainage that has been installed in order to reduce the flooding of the footpath has certainly worked as the path no longer has large areas where people have to do a detour onto the grass.

This is a popular area for the dog walkers and there are not many times during the day that you don't see one of our four legged friends and their owners enjoying this park. We have installed an additional dog bin at the Harland Way corner as people cut through here.

I have to say that considering the number of dogs enjoying this park they do leave very little mess for us to clean up!



## **Jubilee Garden**

It was in 2005 when the Friends of Jubilee Garden (who are part of the Wetherby in Bloom Team) were digging out the whole of the banking ready for planting and when you look back at what they have accomplished and, how they have continued to cultivate and manage this area it is a tremendous achievement. It is difficult to find the words to express the gratitude and to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of this small team.



They have never asked for financial support from the Town Council for plants and have held money raising events in the Bath House for these. I have a feeling that most of the people attending these were indeed members of Wetherby in Bloom and that they also provided the cakes for the coffee mornings.

I am sorry to have to report that over the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> May vandals decided that they would pull out plants and just smash the flowers down and trample over the planted banking. The most distressing part of the damage done was to the John



Williams memorial tree where they have actually broken a branch off. The tree will never look the same again.

This damage has been reported to the police and we urge members of the public to report any suspect happenings that they see. We know that the damage was done between 5pm and 7pm and hopefully someone might have seen something.

You may recall that we also had huge amount of damage done in November 2015 to the windows on the Bath House when vandals threw great big boulders at the windows and actually smashed the frames breaking a number of panes of glass. One of the boulders went right through and caused damage to the banister and ended up in the plunge pool area. We are currently looking at having metals grids put in front of the windows and one also to the bottom door but this is a long process due to this being a listed building.

### **WETHERBY COMMUNITY PATHS PARTNERSHIP**

This group continues to monitor and report on the footpaths in Wetherby and have recently had a meeting with officers from Leeds City Council to make suggestions regarding footpath signs in the Station Car Park.

Part of their remit is the monitoring and cutting of the Parish Paths and once again this year our contractor Sephton Baxter has provided one cut of these paths for free.

New members are always welcome and interested parties should contact the Town Clerk.

### **CEMETERY**

We seem to be getting more and more enquiries from people trying to track down the graves of their ancestors.



We had an enquiry from someone in Sussex whose grandfather was buried in Wetherby Cemetery. Her grandfather was a medic who served at the Battle of the Somme and then came to Wetherby and served the community as a GP. Following helping with the enquiry his

grand-daughter enquired whether the town were having any commemorations for the centenary of the Battle of the Somme as she would wish her grandfather to be remembered at any commemoration. This led to conversations with the local Royal British Legion and the arranging of the

service to commemorate the Battle of the Somme on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 at St James' Church to which everyone is invited. The conversations also led to the grandfather's name being added to those whose graves are marked with a cross of remembrance in November each year.

### **QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE AWARD**

The award in 2015 was presented to two sisters Leah and Teiana Vine and their names have been added to the honours board which is in the Bramham Room of the Town Hall. These girls have a sister with Rett Syndrome and launched a charity and fund raising event putting together a film explaining and educating us all as to how the condition affects their sister in her everyday life.



The Jubilee Award Ceremony was very well attended and it was a lovely opportunity for the town to acknowledge the special qualities of so many young people.

### **TOWNSPERSON OF THE YEAR 2015**

Dean Buckle of Wetherby Bike Shack was announced the winner with a fanfare from Wetherby Silver Band at the Christmas Dickensian Event.

He was an extremely popular choice as he works tirelessly for many charities and he certainly does get the message across to the young about safe cycling.

### **REMEMBRANCE DAY/POPPY APPEAL**

The appeal broke all records in the Wetherby area raising more than £30,000. The people of Wetherby showed fantastic generosity and support throughout the appeal and it is due to their donations and their volunteers that they were able to raise such a fantastic amount.

## TOUR DE YORKSHIRE

Some of the world's best cyclists raced through Wetherby on 29<sup>th</sup> April and what a welcome they received from this Market Town.



Schools created shields that were displayed on lampposts in the town centre and blue and yellow bunting made the town look very festive with live music and other events taking place in the Garden of Rest.

Crowds, waving their Yorkshire flags, lined the streets cheering on the cyclists and the whole town was just packed and totally buzzing. The atmosphere was totally electric.

## TRIBUTE PAID TO JOHN TATTERTON

A bench has been placed outside by Library as a thank you from the town for his life spent serving the community and to acknowledge his love of Wetherby.



## CHRISTMAS IN WETHERBY

### Christmas Lights Switch On

Hundreds, once again, flocked to the Market Place for what has become an annual lights switch-on event. Star guests included Christine Talbot and Duncan Wood from the ITV Calendar news team, who turned on the town's colourful display.



Visitors were able to



browse a selection of stalls and there was festive food and entertainment from Leeds Pipe Band. There were also fairground rides for the children and performances from Disney's Frozen.

This was the third year that the Wetherby Business Association have run this event and they have firm plans to keep it on the town's festive calendar.

### **Nativity Scene**

The nativity scene down at Bridgefoot donated by various groups certainly added to the Christmas feel of the town and we hope the people of Wetherby and the visitors enjoyed this most relevant display during the festive period this year and will continue to do so for many future years.

### **Christmas Lights**



Many retailers again supported the town by sponsoring Christmas trees above their shops and also by providing funding towards the refurbishment of many of the large displays.

The Ward Councillors provided the sponsorship for the many set pieces that were fixed to lampposts on Market Place and around the Town Hall.

Once again we could certainly boast about Wetherby looking very festive.

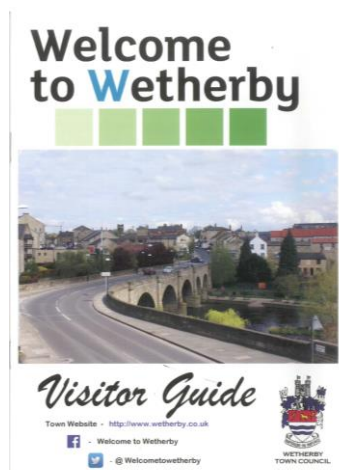
### **Carol Concert**

There may not have been as many singers as in previous years but I have to say that those that attended certainly made the Market Place ring out in Christmas cheer. Hot toddy and a mince pie were their reward and how happy they were to sing their hearts out at this festive time.

### **WELCOME TO WETHERBY**

This group, who devote so much of their time in attracting visitors to the town, has been involved in numerous initiatives throughout the year.

They were behind the happenings in Wetherby for the Tour de Yorkshire and arranged for the Visitors Guide to be reviewed and re-printed. These are free to all and are sponsored by



many local businesses who are happy to pay for an advertising space.

In addition, a new Walking in Wetherby booklet has been produced which gives details of 16 walks and includes the 'Blue Plaques' Trail. This first edition received financial sponsorship from Wetherby Ward Councillors, Wetherby Civic Society and the Wetherby District Footpath Group. This booklet is now being sold for £3 and the revenue generated will provide the funding for a reprint.

During the summer, members of the group will be seen at the Bandstand Concerts in their Welcome to Wetherby yellow sashes handing out visitors guides and copies of the floral trail. A number of visitors will be people who come with, or follow their favourite band, and these ambassadors also need to be an information bureau for the many questions they will get asked about Wetherby.

### **WETHERBY TOWN HALL**

This lovely Grade II Listed Municipal building needs some money spending on the windows, doors, guttering and soffits before the winter and we are currently obtaining quotes for the work.

As some of you will be aware, we have been saving money for a new roof and we are keeping our fingers crossed that it will be a few more years before this is needed. We are, with the help of officers from Leeds City Council, going to have a survey of the roof carried out and we will have to hire a cherry picker in order to do this. We are aware that some slates need replacing but we don't know how large a job this is at the moment. The plan is that when we put the scaffolding up for the painting and general repairs, that we have any roof repairs carried out at the same time.

The Town Hall still has its regular hirers some of whom have been coming for over 40 years. The Saturday Antique Fair continues to be popular and what can I say about the 'shoeman' which is what customers call him when they phone to see what date he is coming into the Town Hall.



These hirers are very important not only to help with the upkeep of the Town Hall but they bring trade to the town which supports the local retailers. The four hours free parking certainly ensures plenty of time for refreshments in one of many cafes in the town and the purchase of yet another pair of shoes!