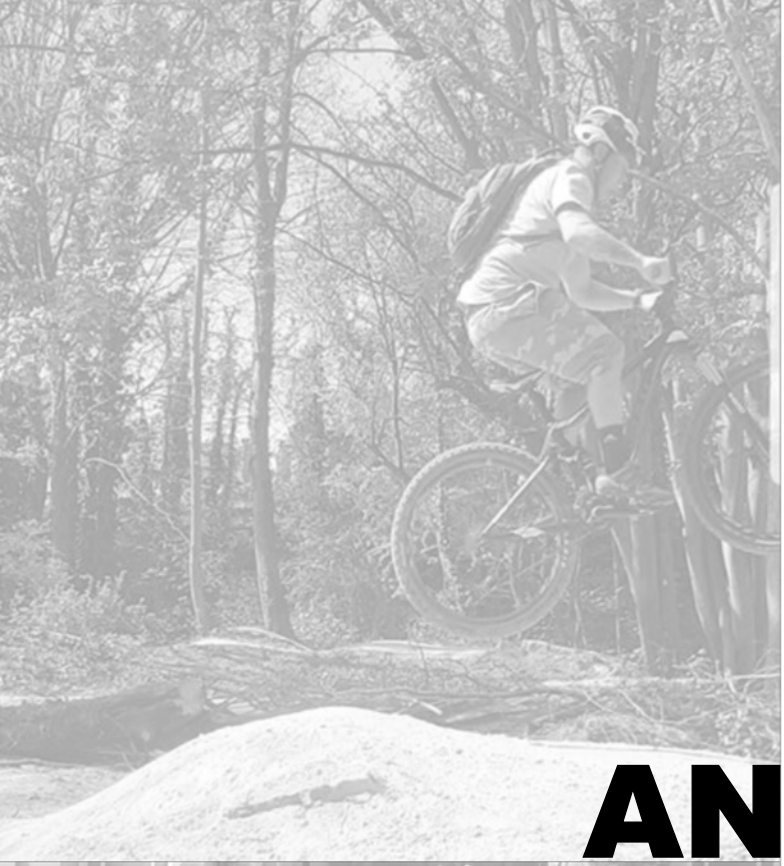

WETHERBY
TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT 2019

A review of the work of the Town Council during the past twelve months.

Adopted by the Town Council at its
Annual Meeting on Tuesday 14th May 2019

Presented by the Mayor of Wetherby
Councillor Galan Moss
At the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday 23rd May 2019

CONTENTS

The Council
- Councillors P.3
- The Mayor P.3
- 2018/19 Action Plan - Outcome P.4
- Committees & Delegation P.5

Planning & Development
- General P.6
- Planning Committee P.6
- Better Wetherby Partnership P.6
- Neighbourhood Plan P.6

Property P.7
- Tree Inspection & Maintenance P.7

Playground Project P.8
- Project Finance P.8
- Grand Opening - 13th October 2018 ..... P.9

Devil's Toenail P.10
Public Wi-fi Network P.11
Welcome to Wetherby P.12
- Christmas Window Dressing Competition 2018 ..... P.12
- Whole Town Open Day - 13th October 2018 ..... P.13

Links with Other Organisations P.14
Jubilee Award 2018 ..... P.15
Other Information P.16

THE COUNCIL

Councillors

Councillors serving during the civic year, until the election on 2nd May 2019 were:

East Ward
Julie Brady
Alan Lamb - (also a Ward Member on Leeds City Council) - alan.lamb@wetherby.co.uk
Denise Podlewska (co-opted on to the Council at the meeting on 12th June 2018).
Dawn Payne - dawn.payne@wetherby.co.uk
John Procter

North Ward
Harry Chapman - harry.chapman@wetherby.co.uk
Norma Harrington (also a Ward Member on Leeds City Council) - norma.harrington@wetherby.co.uk
Nish Kanabar - nish.kanabar@wetherby.co.uk
Kazia Knight
Neil O'Byrne (Deputy Mayor) - neil.obyrne@wetherby.co.uk

West Ward
Cindy Bentley
David Frame - david.frame@wetherby.co.uk
Victor Hawkins - victor.hawkins@wetherby.co.uk
Galan Moss (Mayor of Wetherby) - galan.moss@wetherby.co.uk
Gerald Wilkinson - (also a Ward Member on Leeds City Council) - gerald.wilkinson@wetherby.co.uk

**E-mail addresses are provided for those Councillors who remain on the Town Council for the 2019/20 Civic Year.*

The Mayor of Wetherby

Councillor Galan Moss was elected to serve as the Mayor of Wetherby at the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 8th May 2018.
Councillor Moss' wife, Sandra, has assisted him in the Mayoral role as the Mayoress of Wetherby.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have attended over 50 engagements during the year; ranging from events hosted by Wetherby District Lions Club, to the opening of Windsor Court Nursing Home, to starting the annual Santa Race for Martin House Hospice. Councillor Moss has also taken the opportunity to spend time working with the Town Council's staff. During a day with the Town Handyman he helped to erect the new sign at Sandringham Park (commissioned by the Friends of Sandringham Park, made by Wetherby High School and erected by the Town Council).

Councillor Moss's charities of choice for 2018/19 are the Parent Teacher Associations of the four Wetherby primary schools. Councillor Moss has enjoyed visiting the town's primary schools on several occasions throughout the year, with highlights including attending sports days, speaking at assemblies and helping to judge the St. Joseph's School Bake Off!

2018/19 Action Plan - Outcome

As part of its work towards achieving Local Council Award Scheme Foundation status the Council adopted an action plan for the 2018/19 year, setting out targets and providing a structure for the year ahead. The outcome of work on the identified tasks has can be viewed in the table below.

		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Update
Recreation Project - Playground Upgrades	v			IT & MH										Works completed. Signs to be installed w/c 10/12/18. Minor outstanding admin items.
Big Toe - Bike Skills Project	v			IT with Wetherby Bike Trails										Funding secured and works started. Hoped for completion in Spring 2019.
H &S Review - ELAS	O													2 visits undertaken by ELAS rep. Fire risk assessment of Town Hall complete.
Newsletter Publication	N	IT	IT											Not yet started due to time constraints.
Annual Town Meeting - 31st May 2018	v	IT	IT											
GDPR Compliance - 25th May 2018	v	BJJ												Ongoing, but: new privacy notice adopted, e-mail accounts for Cllrs implemented, forms being updated as used. Archiving exercise planned in office.
Safeguarding Policy	v													Adopted 12/6/18. All staff have received training.
~~Inventory of Status~~		IT												Not required - statues in town will be surveyed by volunteers.
Big Toe Land Acquisition	O	IT / Wetherby Bike Trails												Completed with Watson's 9/5/18, Lease with LCC ongoing.
Improvements to Bath House	O	Cllrs												Investigation works ongoing by Councillors Chapman, Moss and Hawkins.
Welcome to Wetherby 4 Business Launch	v	W2W / IT												Undertaken, group now has 39 members. Facebook group operational and news bulletins being distributed.
Asset Register Preparation	v	IT												First version adopted 8/5/18, updates approved on 11/12/18. Ongoing work to ensure it remains complete and accurate.
Provision of Public Wi-Fi	v	IT												Launch event held on 4/4/19.
Employment Review - ELAS	O	IT	Staffing Committee											Updated staff handbook to be approved at first staffing meeting in 2019/20.
Update Risk Assessment	v		IT											Adopted 12/3/19.
Insurance Renewal	v		IT											Quotes obtained and new 3 year agreement entered in to with BHIB from 20/7/18.
Remembrance Sunday	v			IT / AW / British Legion										Town Council's element of organisation successfully undertaken.
Launch Markets Logo & Promotions	v				IT									Logo designed by Cllr Podlewska. Promotions still to be implemented. New social media programming implemented.
Paint Church on the Corner (Interior)	N				MH									To be carried out summer 2019.
Update Cemetery Rules & Regulations	O				MH									Work commenced.
Implement new stall erection contract.	v					MH								Completed - new contractor began from 1/9/18, positive initial feedback.
Update Committee Terms of Reference	v					IT								Adopted - 12/2/19, to be implemented from 14/5/19.
Jubilee Award	v					IT								2018 winner was Charles Thompson.
Budget Preparation & Adoption	v					IT / AW / Salem								Approval by Full Council on 12/2/19.
Reserves Policy	v					IT	Budgets Committee							To be undertaken in 2019/20 financial year.
Welcome to Wetherby - Open Day	N						IT							Successful event held on 13/10/18. Event to celebrate UCI World Road Cycling Championships planned for 21/9/19.
Shop Window Dressing Competition	v						W2W / IT							Competition live at moment. Record number of entries received (29).
Social Media Policy	v							W2W / IT						
Officers host SLCC Christmas Lunch	v							IT						
Christmas Market	v								AW					Taking place on 7/12/18
Update Tree Management Strategy	v								MH					
Preparation for Financial Year End	v								IT, MH, IT	Property				Policy adopted on 27/2/19 by Property Committee. Tree inspections undertaken w/c 26/11/18.
2019 Civic Service	O										IT			
										IT, AW, Gillan	IT			Date set for 12/5/19

Committees & Delegation
The Town Council has continued its drive to ensure that it works in accordance with best practice for Local Councils.

One of the most significant tasks undertaken during the year was a complete review of the committee structure and the scheme of delegation which sets out how the work of the Council is shared out.

All the Council's policies and procedures can be viewed online at weherby.co.uk, with links to specific documents given below.

The Council's committee structure now consists of the following groups:

Appeals Committee	The purpose of this Committee is to hear and determine appeals on grievance and disciplinary matters and report thereon to the Full Council.
Budget & Governance Committee	The aim of this Committee is to manage the internal audit of the Council's financial and procedural issues.
CIL Committee	The purpose of this Committee is to develop and make recommendations to the Full Council on strategies for the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds available to Wetherby Town Council.
Co-Option Advisory Committee	The purpose of this Committee is to consider any applications to fill a casual vacancy and make recommendations thereon to the Full Council.
Finance & General Purposes Committee	The aim of this Committee is to consider and determine items of business as directed by the Full Council, urgent items of business which cannot be deferred until the next ordinary Full Council meeting and complaints received in accordance with the Council's Complaints Procedure.
Markets Committee	The purpose of this Committee is to consider any matters concerning the strategic operation of the weekly Thursday market and Saturday antiques fair and the running, under licence, of the monthly Farmers' Market.
Paths Partnership	The aim of the Paths Partnership is to effectively monitor and work to enhance the Public Rights of Way (PROW) in and around Wetherby.
Planning Committee	The Planning Committee considers consultations on applications and agrees responses to be submitted to the planning authority (Leeds City Council). The committee meets every 3 weeks, usually at 4pm on a Monday afternoon.
Property Committee	The Property Committee is responsible for the maintenance of all the greenspace and recreational areas managed by the Town Council and the cemetery on Hallfield Lane. The Deputy Clerk is responsible for the administration of this Committee.
Staffing Committee	The aim of this Committee is to develop strategy and policy in all matters relating to human resources and to take employment related decisions on behalf of the Council where directed. The Committee provides effective and professional staff management in all matters relating to the employees of the Council helps to ensure that the Council is exercising an adequate duty of care for all of its employees.
Welcome to Wetherby	The aim of the Group is to encourage visitors to the town of Wetherby through activities which help towards improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural vitality of Wetherby.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

General
Planning has been a hot topic in Wetherby throughout the year covered by this report and the Town Council has had regular items on both Full Council and Committee meeting agendas to ensure it keeps abreast of and responds to, consultations and proposals.

The Council has not only responded to routine consultations on planning applications, but has also considered consultations by Leeds City and Harrogate Borough Councils on their Local Plans. The Town Council has been represented at hearings on the draft Leeds Site Allocations Plan and at Plans Panel and Planning Committee meetings in both Harrogate and Leeds when significant applications were being determined.

Planning Committee
The Council's Planning Committee has met 18 times in the past year, considering 105 planning applications and 27 applications for works to protected trees.

Proposals considered have ranged from an extension to the Caxton Street cinema, to extensions to dwellings, the removal and re-planting of trees, creation of new homes and many more besides.

In addition, the committee has considered pre-application consultations on proposals for a residential development off Westgate and for a telecoms mast off North Street.

Details of all planning applications can be viewed on Leeds City Council's website: https://www.leeds.gov.uk/planning/planning-permission/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications

Better Wetherby Partnership
The aim of the Partnership is to ensure that new development respects the community-led sense of place currently enjoyed in Wetherby, whilst contributing positively towards the local economy, character and scale of our vibrant and attractive market town. The Town Council has been represented on the Better Wetherby Partnership by Councillor Moss and Ward Councillors Harrington, Lamb and Wilkinson.

Regular reports on the work of the Partnership have been received at Full Council meetings. The Town Council has supported the work of the Partnership by covering the cost of room hire in Wetherby Town Hall.

Neighbourhood Plan
At the time of writing this report the final draft of the plan had been submitted to Leeds City Council for a routine final public consultation prior to independent examination, a referendum and hopeful adoption of the plan as policy to guide the future development of Wetherby.

PROPERTY

General

The Council continues to manage its wide portfolio of property including:

- Town centre gardens.
- Three playgrounds.
- Adult exercise equipment in Sandringham Park.
- The 'Little Toe' bike skills area at Millennium Field, off Quarry Hill Lane.
- Skate park at the Ings.
- The Hallfield Lane Cemetery.
- Sandringham Park, in conjunction with the Friends of Sandringham Park.
- Over 15 other sites in and around Wetherby town centre.

During the past year the Council and its Property Committee agreed on a number of new initiatives, including:

- Taking over ownership of a large ex-Naval anchor which has been on display in Wetherby since the 1970's. It has come to symbolise the towns link with the Royal Navy. Leeds City Council agreed to the anchor being sited on land adjacent to the Cluster of Nuts car park with the shank pointing towards the location of HMS Moorlands aka "The Wrennery". Wetherby in Bloom have now planted up the area around the anchor, to commemorate their 30th anniversary, making this a fitting first sight for visitors arriving by coach or parking at the car park.

- Agreeing to the planting of a Christmas tree in the Garden of Rest, to be funded by the Old Men's Parliament. This will compliment Wetherby Business Associations' lights across the town centre.

- Taking ownership of the nativity scene which was located in the Garden of Rest. Further work is required to make the display vandal resistant.

- Waiving all charges relating to the burial of children in the Hallfield Lane cemetery.

Tree Inspection & Maintenance

Wetherby Town Council owns, and is responsible for the maintenance of, over 500 trees in 13 separate locations around the town.

To aid the Council in its responsibilities a 'Tree Inspection and Management Policy' has been adopted. The Council has taken a proactive approach to tree maintenance. However, only essential/minimal works will be undertaken in order to manage a tree because the Council supports a general policy of tree preservation. The type of works undertaken will depend on the tree's location, the species of tree and its state of health at that time.

In November 2018 the Council commissioned a survey of all the trees it owns and now maintains a schedule detailing the age, type and condition of all specimens. Trees have been numerically tagged and plotted on maps to aid identification.

In line with the new policy, Pullan Landscape, Construction & Maintenance have been appointed to carry out works identified as being required in the recent inspections. Consent, where necessary, has been received from Leeds City Council and works are expected to be carried out early in the 2019/20 civic year.

Pullan have also been appointed as the Council's preferred contractor for any minor tree works that are needed over the next 3 years, meaning that the Council can respond efficiently to any issues that may arise.

PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

On 13th October 2018 the Council's three playgrounds (Scaur Bank off Linton Road, Mason Field off Hallfield Lane and Nidd Approach off Aire Road) were all re-opened following extensive refurbishment. Kompan started work on the Scaur Bank site in early August, finishing Nidd Approach in time for the grand opening in mid-October.

Scaur Bank

- The central, 'spider', pyramid climber and a small springer were retained and refurbished with all other pieces of equipment being replaced.
- The site was enlarged with new metal, bow-topped fencing being installed.
- Key pieces of new equipment include a multi play units for older and younger children, spinners, an overhead zip line and new swings suitable for all ages and abilities.
- At the time of writing this report the site had been closed due to flood damage in March 2019.

Mason Field

- The site was enlarged to allow for additional equipment which is designed to appeal to older children, to be included. New fencing was installed around the entire perimeter of the site.
- In response to feedback from local children a trampoline was installed.
- The existing aerial runway was replaced.
- A new, multi-use goal replaced one of the existing units.
- Sensory and role-play panels were included in the design for this area extending the range of play opportunities at this site.
- Wetherby District Lions generously sponsored a challenging, multi-use climbing frame.

Nidd Approach

- A large, wooden climbing frame now forms the centre-piece of this playground. It incorporates a trim -trail and gives excellent play value within a small area.
- All the safety surfaces at this site were replaced and the existing equipment painted to refresh it.
- A new see-saw was also installed.

Town and Ward Councillor Gerald Wilkson at the opening of Mason Field playground off Hallfield Lane. Then and now!

Project Finance

Expenses (£)		Funding (£)	
Scaur Bank	72,410.97	CIL Funding	64,105.87
Mason Field	73,034.55	LCC Green Spaces, through the Ward Councillors	70,000.00
Nidd Approach	17,825.50	Wetherby District Lions	12,466.00
Signs	689.85	Wetherby Town Council	15,628.00
		LCC Housing Advisory Panel	1,761.00
TOTAL	163,960.87	TOTAL	163,960.87

Grand Opening - 13th October 2019

DEVIL'S TOENAIL - BIKE SKILLS PARK

Building on the success of the Little Toe which was opened in Spring 2017 the Town Council has been working with, Wetherby Bike Trails on the next phase of their project to provide new cycling facilities in Wetherby.

The Devil's Toenail was a disused area of land off the Harland Way. After negotiations between Wetherby Bike Trails Volunteers and the very generous landowners (Mr and Mrs Watson), Wetherby Town Council was able to take over ownership of the majority of the site.
A lease for the remainder (a small strip on the Eastern side) has been agreed in principle with Leeds City Council.

After almost a year of building, 500 tonnes of stone, literally thousands of hours of people's free time and grant support from Leeds City Council's Outer North East Community Committee and Sport England, over one kilometre of trails, a jump line and pump track have been constructed and were opened for use on 13th April 2019.

Volunteers from Wetherby Bike Trails, have worked alongside expert Yorkshire volunteer trail builders, SingletrActon, digging all weathers and seen their goals literally get closer and closer, meter by meter. The Devil's Toenail has gradually come to life each weekend, making a facility for the community with the community, especially our young people.

The bike park offers challenges for all abilities, with a blue section for basic riding, red for proficient mountain bikers and black for experts. The trail is a loop around most of the site, including a rock garden made from recycled stone. The jump line is an opportunity to get some air and the pump track is a continuous loop of features to help maintain mountain bike riding skills.

Key sections reflect the area's history, such as 'Flying Ginger' for the jump line named after Wetherby's WW2 fighter ace Ginger Lacey and the central trail, 'The Mainline' recalls the days of steam. Watsons Meadow is named after the Watson family.

Located right by Sustrans Route 67, on the Harland Way between Wetherby and Spofforth, the park is perfectly located in the town and easily reachable from outside the area, with CCTV monitored carparking nearby at Stations Gardens, Wetherby, LS22 6YR. From there it's a short ride under two bridges, a turn to the left and you've arrived, ready to shred the 'DT'.

PUBLIC WI-FI

On 4th April 2019 a new, free public wi-fi service was launched in Wetherby, supported by the Town Council.

The best-in-class network offers speeds of up to 1 gigabits per second, which is faster than virtually all home WiFi networks, is on a par with the best business services and puts Wetherby in the same league as cities such as York and Edinburgh.
This means users can enjoy ultrafast access to the internet via their phones, laptops and computers without running up large bills for data usage. Depending on device, an HD feature film could be downloaded in less than a minute using the network:
_wetherbyfreewifi'.

IntechnologyWiFi, the Harrogate-based provider of robust next-generation digital infrastructure, is managing the free public WiFi on behalf of Wetherby Town Council and there was no cost to the taxpayer, or the Council, in setting the project up.

The roll-out will support local businesses such as market traders, retailers, food and beverage operators and self-employed entrepreneurs and it is hoped that it will encourage visitors to spend more time in the town centre and its attractive open spaces.

The Town Council is delighted that IntechnologyWiFi is investing in Wetherby to increase access to the digital economy. Whilst the Council appreciates that we have a charming, historic town it also recognises that technology is always moving forwards and creating new opportunities for business and tourism.
The Council hopes that free public WiFi will attract more people into the town centre and be a real advantage for residents and local businesses."

Local businessman Jamie Coulthard Hullah, director of Sports Telecomms, introduced the opportunity to IntechnologyWiFi. He said: "WiFi is very important for everyone and so many people rely on it for their day -to-day business and leisure. Free public WiFi in Wetherby will help bring the town together around the centre."

Leeds City Council supported the project by providing access to street furniture, to provide a network which covers the area shown in the image to the below.

WELCOME TO WETHERBY

The Welcome to Wetherby committee has continued its work to promote Wetherby and encourage visitors to the town.

It has met nine times over the past year to discuss the following initiatives:

- Setting up Welcome to Wetherby 4 Business as an information sharing platform with local business, communicating via a regular newsletter, e-mail bulletins and a facebook group.
- The production of shopping bags to sell. Two designs were commissioned; one featuring an A-Z of Wetherby designed by students from Wetherby High School and another photographic images of the Town.
- Reprinting the Welcome to Wetherby leaflet. After being updated funds were secured from the Ward Councillors to facilitate printing 10,000 copies.
- Sending copies of the visitor leaflet to coach companies across Yorkshire and the UK with a view to encouraging more tours to make Wetherby a destination.
- Beginning to prepare for Wetherby's role as the start of one of the para-cycling races in the World Road Race Championships on 21st September 2019. More information about this event is available at worlds.yorkshire.com

Christmas Window Dressing Competition

Welcome to Wetherby also helped to make Wetherby a fantastic place to shop in December 2018 with the annual Christmas Window Dressing Competition. The aim is to complement Wetherby's wonderful Christmas lights by having some stunning window displays, all of which encourages our local residents and visitors alike to spend time and, hopefully, money in the town over the festive season.

The overall winner of the Welcome to Wetherby trophy was Nicolla Florist on Bank Street.

The 6th year of the competition coincided with the recent launch of Welcome to Wetherby 4 Business, a new information sharing service for local shops and businesses, and it was fitting that Nicolla Florist who'd been the first winner of the competition in 2012 was also the first to be presented with a newly updated 'Welcome to Wetherby' trophy.

Chair of Welcome to Wetherby, Councillor Cindy Bentley, commented that 'the winning window with its Father Christmas diving headfirst down the chimney had impressed all of the judges. All 28 entrants have produced some stunning displays and the marking was extremely close. Congratulations to all of the businesses who took part and supported the Welcome to Wetherby team's aim of attracting more business to the town.'

Judges from the local community and pupils from Wetherby High School and Crossley Street Primary School spent time looking at all the record breaking 28 entries. Criteria used to score the windows included creativity, relevance to the festive season, 'enticeability' for customers, imaginative use of stock and other materials and the overall impression of the window.

The members of Welcome to Wetherby also awarded a special commendation to newly expanded business 'Frances Liddle Eyecare' whose staff had gone to great lengths to create and present an eye-catching display of paper snowflakes and sparkling gift-wrapped items in their first window, even taking paper crafts home to iron them to ensure a crisp finish!

Welcome to Wetherby was delighted to have secured over £800 of advertising to give as prizes to the winning entries with contributions from Excelle Magazine, Tempo FM, Handpicked Wetherby and Wetherby Now all acting as an incentive for shops to enter and create amazing designs.

Overall Winner - Nicolla Florist
Senior Judges Winner - Nicolla Florist
Junior Judges Winner - C'est Chocolat

Welcome to Wetherby - Whole Town Open Day

Building on the previous success of events such as 'Tour in the Town' in 2017 and Wetherby Education Trust's 'Wetherby Activities Days', Welcome to Wetherby arranged a 'whole town open day' on 13th October 2019.

The event was a resounding success with over 40 local organisations and venues taking part in a programme of free activities which included:

- A community showcase in the Town Hall featuring over 25 groups, clubs and societies from the local area.
- The grand opening of the Town Council's 3 refurbished playgrounds.
- Police station open day with mascots, children's activities, mounted section, local officers and off-road vehicles.
- Children's trail around the town with a prize draw for completed entries.
- A special concert programme in the Horsefair Centre featuring five of the best Wetherby and district ensembles.
- Taster sessions of rugby, football, tennis and petanque.
- Guided bike rides led by members of Wetherby Bike Trails.
- Wetherby Camera Club's photography exhibition in Wetherby Town Hall.
- Fire station open day.
- Coffee mornings at the Georgian Bath House (Jubilee Gardens), the Methodist Church (Bank Street) and in Wetherby Town Hall.
- Lego workshop for children at the library.
- First aid training with St. John Ambulance as part of the 2018 'Restart a Heart' campaign.

LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Grant Funding
During the 2018/19 Financial Year the Town Council was pleased to be able to make three grant awards, totalling £550.

£50 was given to Deighton Gates Primary School's PTA to assist with costs incurred in putting on their summer fair and helping to make it a more sustainable event.

£250 was given to Wetherby Festival to assist with their publicity and website costs.

£250 was given to the Riverside Bandstand Trust to assist with their annual programme of 22 concerts played on Sunday afternoons in the summer.

Wetherby in Bloom
The Council's York Road Depot continues to be used by Wetherby in Bloom volunteers as a base for storage and water facilities.

The Town Council was pleased to give permission for a new archway to be erected at one of the entrances to the Garden of Rest, commemorating the late Chairman of Wetherby in Bloom, Geoff Humble. The archway provides a fitting tribute and entrance off North Street.

Wetherby Twinning Association
The Town Council was pleased to allocate £250 of funding to the Twinning Association during the 2018/19 financial year.

Town Council representatives were a part of the Group who visited Wetherby's twin town, Privas, in June 2018. On their return they reported on a very successful visit. Wetherby's representatives were made to feel welcome, particularly at a reception event when civic gifts were exchanged. A book of historical photos of Privas has been handed over for safekeeping in the Town Hall.
Councillor Harrington had delivered a well received speech on behalf of the Mayor of Wetherby, Councillor Galan Moss.

40 Faces of St. Gemma's Hospice
During the summer of 2018 Wetherby Town Hall hosted a pop-up exhibition to mark the 40th anniversary of the local hospice.

The Royal British Legion – Wetherby & District Branch
In 2018, as in previous years, the Town Council worked with representatives of the Royal British Legion to organise the Remembrance Sunday parade, wreath laying at the war memorial and service at St. James' Church.

Outer North East Parish and Town Council Forum
The Outer North East Parish and Town Council Forum provides an opportunity for the parish and town councillors from Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby Wards to:

- Receive presentations and hold discussions on issues of common interest;
- Share information and good practice;
- Raise any issues of concern;

The forum meets quarterly, with Wetherby Town Council being represented by Ward Members and Councillor Harry Chapman who reports relevant information to the following meeting of the Council.

JUBILEE AWARD

The Jubilee Award is presented each year to an individual under the age of 20 who has shown kindness beyond the call of duty, ambition to achieve, carried out work in the community, been brave, adapted to unexpected changes or shown other deserving qualities.

Eight very special Wetherby youngsters were nominated for the 2018 award, which culminated in an award ceremony on 19th December. After hearing why each of these young people had been nominated by their school teachers or youth group leaders Charles Thompson, age 11 from St. Joseph's Primary School, was declared a worthy winner.

Councillor Galan Moss, Mayor of Wetherby, had headed the panel which considered the nominations and said that it had been "inspiring to learn about the efforts and achievements of these young people". He also commented that choosing a winner and runner up had been a difficult task for the panel but that Charles' nomination had stood out because it was about helping other people.

Charles had been nominated by his teacher, Jayne Ward, who said that he is:
"An extraordinary boy who stands out for so many reasons, all of which are rooted in his inherent desire to serve people through his actions.
Not only does Charles make a difference in school, in church and in his wider community but he also makes a huge difference at home. Charles is such a caring, sensitive and considerate young man who really does care for everyone!
Charles really is a wonderful young role model man who gives his own time so freely to others which is an inspiration to all – he gives without taking and if more children and adults were like this, the world truly would be a better place for it!"

The 2018 runner up was Jess Scruton, 15, who helps at East Keswick Guide Unit each week.
Jess explained that as well as enjoying helping to organise and provide a wide variety of activities she also acts as a role model setting a good example to the younger girls who attend, helping the unit leaders who had nominated her.

PC Tom Goringe, Wetherby Ward Officer, who presented Charles with his winner's certificate commented that the Jubilee Award is a "fantastic showcase of what the young people of Wetherby have to offer. Each nominee is a credit to their community. Well done!"

Nominations

Archie Whitton	Support for Wetherby High School charity week's fundraising through participation in all three events of a mini-triathlon.
Ben Cole	A regular volunteer and coach at the Lower Wharfe Canoe Club.
Charles Thompson	Voluntary and charitable work through school and in wider community.
Harry Hemmingway	Success as the 2018 Junior European Trials Bike Champion.
Imogen Lawrence	A brave and resilient 6 year old who is a role model for others who are facing difficult times and shows the importance of mental health issues.
Jess Prentice	Sporting achievements and participation at both school and local level and membership of the Air Cadets.
Jess Scruton	A valued Young Leader at East Keswick Guides who has not let partial hearing loss stop her from contributing to the unit.
Zach Kelley	A positive role model, involved in extra-curricular activities and a principle member of the Air Cadets.

OTHER INFORMATION

It is difficult to condense all the work that Wetherby Town Council carries out in a year in to a single document.

Other points of note during the 2018/19 Civic Year were:

- The work of the Council's Paths Partnership on helping to develop proposals to improve signage on the Harland Way. Town Council representatives have met with Leeds City Council officers on a project that also has the support of the Ward Councillors. It will see new signs erected at each entrance to the well used routes as well as new and increased direction boards at key locations.

- The campaign to keep car-parking free in Wetherby. The Town Council accepted that improvements could be made to parking arrangements in Wetherby, but objected to a proposal to charge for parking in the Wilderness car park, put forward by Leeds City Council, on the basis that they were not evidence based and did not form part of a wider strategy for parking in the town.

- The Council's ongoing monitoring of causes for concern through the issue log which is tabled at each Full Council meeting. The log tracks communications and progress with issues which can often be highways related and outside of Wetherby Town Council's control, but of interest to Councillors and parishionners. Current issues being monitored include safety at the junction of Hallfield Lane and York Road, progress with the implementation of the West Yorkshire Low Emissions Strategy and attempts to achieve a ban on non-essential HGV traffic using Wetherby Town Centre.

- For the third year running the Council took part in Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean Campaign'. Councillors took part in a town-centre clear up operation on 23rd March 2019, resulting in over 20 bags of litter being collected.
The Council's attention has now turned at looking at how to prevent the problem and how representatives can work with Ward Councillors and Leeds City Council on improving the town centre.

- Representatives of the Town Council attended two site meetings to discuss measures to improve safety at the weir after numerous reports of dangerous and anti-social behaviour during the hot summer of 2018.

- Responding to two consultations on proposals to implement 20mph zones in many of the residential areas of Wetherby. This is part of Leeds City Council's drive to create safer streets, particularly for children, through reduced speed limits. The Town Council commented on several details of the proposals but agreed broad support for the initiative.

- The Town Council has continued to operate the outdoor Thursday market and in February 2019 took over the running of the weekly antiques fair in the Town Hall. The strategic management of the fair will be managed by the Council's markets committee.