

## **NEWSLETTER**

**JANUARY 2020**

Welcome to the first **Better Wetherby Partnership Newsletter** of 2020. The organisation is a consortium of local people from a variety of organisations who contribute to initiatives designed to help make Wetherby and the surrounding villages better for the community of both present and future generations.

### **RACECOURSE APPROACH**

**Better Wetherby** continues to have serious concerns over this proposed development of 1100 (initially 800 followed by 300) houses at this location. These concerns are highlighted following the content of information to be considered at the next Leeds City Plans Panel.

One major condition imposed as part of the approval from Leeds City Council was provision of an access on to York Road. This is also a requirement from the Government Inspector, when approving inclusion of this site in the overall Leeds Site Allocations Plan (SAP). A report for the next Leeds City Plans panel indicates that the developers are having difficulty in securing the stipulated access, and are currently wishing to reduce the extent of this obligation.

The Panel meeting is on Thursday, 30 January in the Civic Hall, Leeds starting at 1:30pm. However, Racecourse Approach is tucked away as the 5<sup>th</sup> item on the agenda so may not start until after 2:30 pm. We urge supporters to attend this meeting if possible and also to submit comments via the Planning Portal – details can be found on our [website](#)

Separately, further detailed research ([see here](#)) by **Better Wetherby** has also identified that the risks of flooding and possible subsidence appear to have been significantly understated by the developers. This suggests the provision of necessary mitigation measures will be overlooked. We are aware that flooding is being experienced at the nearby current Templars Chase development on the opposite side of the A1(M).

**Better Wetherby** continues to contend that the site is unsustainable and urges members to assist by remaining vigilant on all matters relating to this proposed development and provide any information and support to our email address below.

### **SPOFFORTH HILL/STOCKELD PARK – PUBLIC INQUIRY**

You will be aware that this Public Inquiry related to a planning application by Stockeld Park and Hallam Land Management to build 210 houses on the North Yorkshire side of the boundary with Wetherby,

**Better Wetherby's** contribution to the Inquiry in December 2019 was significant ([see details here](#)). We now await the Government Inspector's Report on the outcome, expected in mid February 2020.

*Working to ensure that the physical character of Wetherby and District is protected and developed for the benefit of the community of both current and future generations.*

### **WETHERBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Just a reminder that a referendum on this plan is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020. If approved, Wetherby will benefit from 25% [rather than the standard 15%] of the revenues from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This is a charge on new developments to improve local infrastructure.

**Better Wetherby** recommend that supporters and their friends to vote in favour of the plan to send a message that we **REALLY** are interested in the future of Wetherby. Please cast your vote at the normal polling stations.

### **AIR POLLUTION**

**Better Wetherby** are now starting to monitor results from the recently installed official pollution measurement meters at four specific ‘hot spots’ in the town. We are also urging that more meters are installed at other ‘risk’ locations. These actions are aimed at raising the profile of this subject, which is increasingly responsible for adverse health issues.

### **FUNDING APPEAL**

We make no apologies for repeating this item. A large proportion of our funds was used in connection with paying expert consultants to support us at the Stockeld Park Inquiry. This was only possible through the generous donations received. A very big ‘thank you’ for the essential support so far. However, as can be seen from the above, similar support may be required as the proposed development at Racecourse Approach proceeds. We continue to need further funding to help our efforts to protect our community. If you can assist, please consider making a donation to:

Name: . . . . . **Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd**

Sort Code: . . . . . **402312**

Account Number: **22537907**

See this link [Donation Request](#) further information.

### **BETTER WETHERBY WEBSITE**

Our new website has now been operational for a few months and is intended to keep people updated about the efforts and activities of **Better Wetherby**.

Please see link <https://www.betterwetherby.com/>

### **CONTACT US**

We welcome further volunteers and supporters to assist our efforts. Please contact us with any comments and queries. If you wish to be included on our mailing list please send a request by email to [betterwetherby@gmail.com](mailto:betterwetherby@gmail.com). Please feel free to share this newsletter - the more people that are aware of these important issues, the better.