

## **NEWSLETTER**

**NOVEMBER 2019**

*The **Better Wetherby Partnership** 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. A current focus is our concern about the negative impact on the Town and local area resulting from large-scale house building.*

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

**A reminder** - as reported in the October newsletter, a Public Inquiry into a planning application by Stockeld Park and Hallam Land Management to build 210 houses on the North Yorkshire side of the boundary with Wetherby, starts in the Harrogate Civic Centre on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

**Better Wetherby** will be participating in the Inquiry working in support of Harrogate District Council in contesting the appeal by the developers. To strengthen our case, **Better Wetherby** has commissioned the services of an expert landscape visualisation consultant to provide reports and give evidence at the Inquiry. Other work is also being carried out by **Better Wetherby** in advance of the Inquiry.

### **FUNDING APPEAL**

In our October newsletter, **Better Wetherby** launched an urgent appeal for financial support to help pay for expert consultants and other actions being taken. It is gratifying that a number of people responded swiftly by making generous donations so, a very big 'thank you' for that essential support. But, as we approach the start of the Public Inquiry in Harrogate, 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 further information at: <https://www.betterwetherby.com/donations-page.html>

### **RACECOURSE APPROACH**

As previously reported, despite strong objections from **Better Wetherby**, Leeds City Council Plans Panel recently approved an outline planning application by Taylor Wimpey to build 800 houses on land adjacent to Racecourse Approach. A further 300 houses are to be subject of a separate application by another developer.

Serious concerns remain about this application. These include the site's isolation, lack of public transport and the prospect of considerable further traffic from the development compounding Wetherby's existing highways problems of congestion, lack of parking spaces and concerns about road safety. Moreover, the development will place further pressures upon already overstretched local services.

*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.*

### **RACECOURSE APPROACH (Cont.)**

With these issues in mind, **Better Wetherby** contends that the site is unsustainable and, in many respects, largely contradicts the requirements of the Leeds Climate Emergency declared in March 2019. Actions are continuing to highlight the issues and we will keep you informed as events unfold

In this context, we have twice requested a meeting with Councillor Lisa Mulherin, Leeds City Council Executive Board Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development; to discuss issues relating to sustainability. Unfortunately, our requests have not even been acknowledged. This is particularly disappointing and appears to question the level of commitment being applied to this increasingly important subject area.

### **AIR POLLUTION**

In developing the evidence-base regarding health damaging air pollution in Wetherby, monitoring and measurements in several air pollution 'hot spots' in the town continue to take place by representatives of **Better Wetherby**. We have also managed to convince Leeds City Council to locate official pollution measurement meters at four specific 'hot spots':

- Pedestrian Crossing High Street/Horsefair
- Crossley Street School
- Westgate/Crossley Street
- North Street/St James Street

Currently a Leeds Climate Change Consultation is taking place. In spite of the circumstances noted at the the end of the previous section above, **Better Wetherby** encourages everyone to take part. It can be accessed at: [www.leeds.gov.uk/climateconversation](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/climateconversation)

### **BETTER WETHERBY WEBSITE**

A new website has been developed 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.