
Wetherby Civic Society

Spring Newsletter

May 2004

LIME TREE AVENUE

In the Society's Winter Newsletter we were proud to announce that we had sufficient funds to make a start planting trees to form an avenue following the foot path which crosses the field which we now know as Hudson's Field. Very quickly we had raised sufficient money to complete the project and by early March all 36 trees had been planted.

Little did we realise how our efforts would challenge the ingenuity of local hoodlums! Within days seven trees had been vandalised and then a couple of days later another ten had been criminally damaged.

Fortunately, suitable trees were available and with the planting season window still being open Andrew Pullan and his crew replaced the damaged trees and also carried out additional protection measures. This seemed to have the effect we

were seeking but just a few weeks ago the idiots struck again but this time only one tree suffered. Once again we have to thank Andrew Pullan for restoring the situation. Andrew had kept back some of the least damaged trees and being at the same stage of growth as the others he was able to use one as a

Barleyfields Road entrance to the avenue. However, at the request of a local family, we have placed memorial plaques which they supplied beside one of the trees.

Since the Society was formed, we have planted very nearly 400 trees and shrubs on publicly owned land. Sometimes trees have failed to thrive but this is the first time we have ever suffered losses through vandalism. Let us hope this is not repeated.

In all this we have been encouraged by support for our efforts from the local press and from ordinary members of the

public who appreciate what we have been trying to do. We must also thank Andrew Pullan and our tree convenor, Peter Maun, for all the extra time and effort they have had to put in.

SUMMER EVENTS

Our remaining summer events are detailed below. All those who have returned the original booking form will be asked to confirm their attendance at each event in good time beforehand. If you have not already advised the Secretary that you wish to attend a particular event please contact him as soon as possible as there may be vacant places still available

Thursday 10th June
River cruise from Boroughbridge

Wednesday 7th July
Guided Tour Stump Cross Caverns

Monday 20th September
Guided Tour Duncombe Park, Helmsley

replacement.

Our sad experience made us think again about the wisdom of placing memorial plaques beside individual trees. With the agreement of those who donated sufficient funds to purchase a tree, we shall now have a communal plaque at the

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

Boston Road. Although long converted into dwelling houses, the former Inn is a listed building and the Society is concerned that any development must be in sympathy with the building.

The proposal to build a new veterinary surgery on the existing site attracted a great deal of press

comment. Although reputedly an old and historic building it is not within the Wetherby Conservation Area, and more importantly, it is not listed and therefore does not enjoy any special protection. The Society raised concerns about the impact of additional commercial activity and vehicle movements within

Planning Applications

Just two applications for planning approval have attracted the attention of our Planning Working Party since January.

It commented on a second application for a new house in the grounds of the old Drovers Inn on

what is now a predominantly residential area.

The decision not to allow the demolition of Bridge House and its replacement with an apartment block was appealed against by the owner. The appeal was upheld.

Traffic Management

The opening of the new Morrisons store restarted the debate on traffic management within Wetherby. There always seems to be something to delay the implementation of the promised traffic management scheme within the town.

First it was the reconstruction of the first bypass bridge, then it was the redevelopment of the Morrisons site and now it is the re-alignment and upgrading of the A1 north and south of the town.

The relentless growth in motor vehicle numbers is not dependent on the conclusion of any of the above events and the problem what to do with them both on the

move and at rest still has to be faced.

In Wetherby it is where to put motor cars that exercises many of us. Some months ago it was confidently stated that the Hallfield Mansion's site was going to be developed for car parking. That now seems a more remote possibility.

Parking is a zero sum game - if I park my car where you want to park, you lose. Parking has to be managed to ensure that nobody is either a perpetual winner or loser.

At the moment if you want to park for a couple of hours then, except at the busiest times, you will not encounter many problems. Anything longer is more difficult.

The Society keeps pressing Leeds City to come up with its promised solutions.

Conservation Area

The historic centre of Wetherby is a designated Conservation

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 10th to 13th September 2004

Heritage Open Days are sponsored by English Heritage and the Civic Trust. During the weekend buildings and sites closed to the public or only open for a fee or by special arrangement are open without charge. Leeds Civic Trust publishes a booklet giving details of buildings and attractions participating in the event within the

Leeds City boundary. Copies are usually available at the Library.

Wetherby Civic Society is offering a guided walk on Saturday 11th September starting at 2.00pm from the Wilderness Car Park bandstand. This year we shall be putting on an exhibition at the restored Georgian Bathhouse in the grounds of

Area. Owners of properties within a conservation area are encouraged to maintain their properties in keeping with the traditional materials from which the buildings are constructed.

In addition stricter planning controls are in force for new building and permission has to be obtained for any demolitions or felling of trees.

So what are we to make of a public utility when, after laying new cables, it leaves a patchwork of new tarmac and paving slabs where it has been at work. This hardly encourages occupiers of nearby properties to comply with the spirit of the Conservation Area guidelines.

The Society has made representations to the Highway Authority to ensure that the footpath outside Wharfedale Lawn is restored to its previous condition. Please keep us informed of anything similar which you may know about.

Wharfedale Lawn. This will be from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Sunday 12th September.

From mid July details of all events in England & Wales will also be on www.heritageopendays.org.

Enjoy the summer!

WETHERBY CIVIC SOCIETY
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