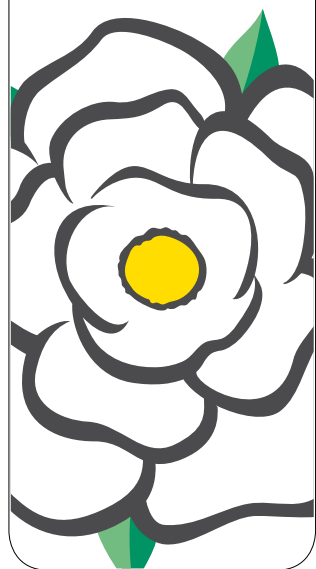


# Your feedback

*At the heart of life in Leeds*

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## YOUR SAY

### Private cars not in Clean Air Zone proposals

**Coun James Lewis**, Executive board member for resources and sustainability, Leeds City Council

RE comment in the YEP (Friday August 10) "Punitive charges are not enough to change pollution".

While we understand the opinion that Clean Air Zone charges are unfair—and welcome the fact that the article raises awareness of the council's consultation — we do have concerns about the statement: "Consultation ends on Sunday for the proposed Leeds Clean Air Charging Zone, which could involve taxing motorists up to £50 a day to enter certain parts of the city."

We're concerned that many of your readers will interpret this as meaning that we have plans to (or are considering plans to) charge private car drivers up to £50 a day for entering the Clean Air Zone.

This is not the case. Private cars have never been included in our Clean Air Zone proposals. Our plans have always been to only charge the worst polluting HGVs, buses, coaches, taxis and private hire vehicles.

We've always known the charging Clean Air Zone that the Government have asked us to implement is not the only measure that we need to address air quality across the city, and we will continue to develop and deliver a programme of other schemes.

### Close shops on Armistice centenary

**John Barstow**, Member of Urdaw Executive Council

FIVE senior peers including two senior former military officers have this month called for retail closure across the UK for Remembrance Sunday 2018 which falls exactly on November 11 (Armistice Day) exactly 100 years since the guns fell silent.

The imperatives are to enhance the peace, decorum and reflection inherent in Remembrance Sunday and for more working people and their families to get the chance to partake in the Remembrance



**TRANSPORT:** Philip Crowther says it's time to act to improve public transport.

## Stop waffling and act on transport

**Philip Crowther**, by email

COUNCILLOR Neil Buckley's letter ('Let's think big on transport', August 10) has one thing in common with the full page transport revolution article on August 6 he refers to, waffle!

The continuous talking, ideas, consultations etc achieve one thing only, nothing.

Both Leeds and Bradford have big ideas but miniscule amounts of money to further their urgent need to move away from crowded, inadequate road systems and potholes. That can

only be achieved by good public transport, for both areas it is too far in the future at present progress.

Some new trains will appear on the London service and refurbished trains on TransPennine by the end of the year, but locally little progress will be made without wholesale electrification and increasing line capacity, and that will not happen until Government opens its eyes and pockets. As for buses, we have a service designed primarily to serve shareholders not the general public. So politicians, stop waffling and act.

Sunday events in their communities. (Retail would benefit as more goods would be brought prior to the one day closure and on reopening).

Kate Hoey MP with support of MPs across parties has put down EDM 1036 calling for this one day closure.

The Urdaw conference called for the one day closure on a unanimous vote. A Tesco delegate reminded conference that Tesco owes its very

corporate life to HM Forces. Jack Cohen the Tesco founder was rescued at sea by the Royal Navy in 1917.

MPs and Peers would win huge respect by putting Brexit arguments aside for just five minutes and come together as one to legislate for retail closure across the UK for Remembrance Sunday, November 11 (Armistice Day), 2018.

### Backing Labour despite leadership

**Jim Kirk**, Middleton

THE arrogance of reader James Bovington (YEP Letters August 8 'Reverse Brexit and win me back').

He claims the vast majority of Labour voters were against

Brexit, yet offers no statistical evidence to back it up. And why is it always a 'vast' majority?

If so many Labour supporters were in favour of a remain vote, then 17.4 million is a lot of non Labour supporters.

A former party member he claims to be, and one time chair of the Horsforth branch of Pudsey CLP, but when true democracy was shown in a statement of national sovereignty he turned against his own party and voted Lib Dem.

Now he claims he will make a triumphant return should Labour go against the will of the people and offer a second referendum.

Mr Bovington, nobody cares if you wrote to Corbyn or not. As a true Labour voter who still backs the party despite its woeful leadership I know what loyalty is.

No politician has ever been begged by the people to go into politics, it's a career choice

**One has to ask why the Wakefield district MPs are still happy not to object to the scheme?**

HS2

and the people decide how far they go. No politician should ever forget that.

Corbyn won't be holding his breath for your second coming.

### Smart meters' compatability

**Andrew Mercer**, Guiseley

GIVEN the controversy over smart meters, can a politician task an engineer with coming up with a device that is compatible with all energy suppliers?

If not, it makes a mockery of attempts to get people to switch to keep bills in check.

### MPs should oppose HS2

**Paul Dainton**, Altofts

THE report about the salaries of HS2 staff, and that a quarter earn over £100,000, comes only weeks after a leaked report claimed that the scheme was "fundamentally flawed" and that the costs may exceed its budget by as much as 60 per cent.

Objectors in Altofts have



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**Phone:** Call **0113 238 8152** (lines open 24 hours) Text **YEPcomment** then a max of 150 characters to **81800**. Or, fax **0113 238 8563**

Please keep letters to a maximum of 300 words. Letters cannot be published without a name and postal address. Also include a daytime phone number if possible. We reserve the right to edit any letter.



## YOUR PICTURE OF THE DAY

Valley Gardens at Harrogate, by John Gilleghan.



If you have an image for 'Picture of the Day', send your hi-res JPEG file to [picture.desk@ypn.co.uk](mailto:picture.desk@ypn.co.uk)

long since criticised the fact that consultation days on HS2 are costing approximately £10,000 a day to stage.

These days are only to tell you what HS2 is planning to do as its officers appear to refuse to take back any ideas, suggestions or objections to the scheme.

These open days are often

not even in proximity to the actual rail route.

One has to ask why the Wakefield district MPs are still happy not to object to the scheme?

Why do they think it is okay for the route to destroy our wildlife, environment and housing when the train will not even stop at Wakefield?

### Get in touch

THE Yorkshire Evening Post wants you to share your views with other readers. Email [yep.newsdesk@ypn.co.uk](mailto:yep.newsdesk@ypn.co.uk) or write to The Editor, Readers' Letters, Yorkshire Evening Post, No 1 Leeds, 26 Whitehall Road, Leeds LS12 1BE. Please keep letters under 300 words.

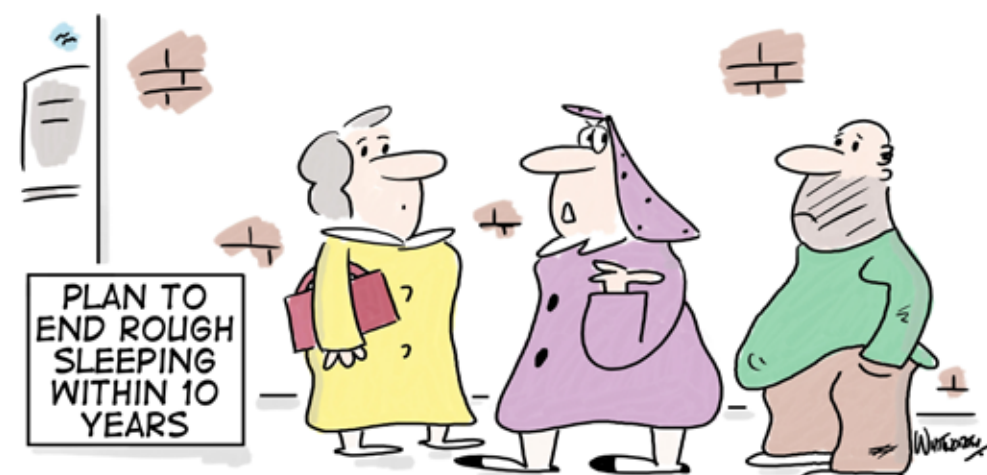
### THEY SAID IT...

"Nobody should have to sleep rough and that's why we must do all we can to help the most vulnerable in our society get the support they need. But we recognise this is a complex issue - as well as ensuring people have somewhere to live, we have to deal with underlying problems and ultimately help people turn their lives around" - **Prime Minister Theresa May announcing a plan to end rough sleeping.**

"I had no pencil and paper, but I could write in my head. I wrote my first book, Taken On Trust, in my head. I was chained up for 23 hours and 50 minutes a day. I had no books or papers and no companionship. I slept on the floor. The only way I could survive was to keep myself mentally alive. I didn't ever feel the close presence of God. I felt alone" - **Author Terry Waite recalling his years of captivity in Beirut.**

"Don't believe the HYPE" - **Actor Idris Elba responds to speculation that he will be the new James Bond.**

## THE FUNNY SIDE OF LIFE...



"DOES THIS MEAN I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH HIS TOSSING AND TURNING FOR ANOTHER DECADE?"

YORKSHIRE  
Evening Post

#championingleeds

## COMMENT

## We can't just build and wait for them to come

LEEDS HAS got to build homes for the future, ensure we've enough housing for now, and develop the city carefully so it does not swallow up neighbouring towns and cities and spoil the appeal of individual areas on the edge of the city, or the countryside.

So far, so simple, but of course it is a hugely complex issue which cannot be achieved by town planners alone.

Today the YEP reports on the housing situation in our city, highlighted from a huge piece of research by the BBC data unit - research one of our own reporters Aisha Iqbal has been heavily involved with.

In Leeds the main bones of housing contention have been how many we build and where. A stated council aim to put up 70,000 new homes by 2028 was recently revised, on the advice of Government, down to 52,000 by 2023. Conservatives want this to be even lower.

On the hugely emotive greenbelt issue Coun Richard Lewis, cabinet member for regeneration, transport and planning, believes the current planning system and what he calls "fetishisation" and politicisation of the greenbelt are the biggest problems.

"I think we need to sweep away the current planning system and come up with something that is radically different," he says. He also argues for the cap on local authority borrowing to be removed so that councils like Leeds can build public housing. He's got a point. On paper Leeds looks in a pretty good place. Set against Government assessments (Whitehall says they are not targets) Leeds is hitting 84% of its target by one metric. But, are they the right homes in the right place?

Local property expert Jonathan Morgan, of Leeds-based City Living, comments today on a recent economic report which suggests around 47,000 new jobs could be created in the city centre by 2015. We have to provide housing for these new workers - accessible and affordable housing in the city centre so we're not solving a housing issue and adding to others, like transport. But he's positive too, saying the city is in a good place to do that with some of the projects already onstream.

We can't just take the "build and they will come" attitude - we know they are coming but what and where we build is crucial. Housing the future generations is an exciting challenge but needs creativity, investment, involvement from multiple sectors, careful planning and constant re-evaluation.

PLACE YOUR COMMENTS AT  
YORKSHIREEVENINGPOST.CO.UK