

One of the distinguishing features of Chartism in Leeds, was a policy of contesting local elections, at this time in Leeds, there were a number of bodies that comprised of elected members. Prior to municipal reform in 1835 these bodies had acted as alternative foci of political struggle between the Whigs and Tories. Even after 1835, elections to these bodies could provide a platform for the raising of political debate by proxy and whilst these bodies themselves may have had little practical influence, they were able to provide a political platform.

On 5th April 1845 the Northern Star carried this report

SURVEYORS OF HIGHWAYS OF LEEDS

The Chartists of Leeds have elected the following persons surveyors of highways for the ensuing year;

William Brook, tea dealer, Kirkgate
George Hobson, butcher, Merrion Street
George Wood, butcher, Shambles
George Brantham, flour dealer, West Street
Josh. Howitt, shoemaker, Chapel Yard, York Street
John Shaw, fishmonger, Plain Street
Henry Morlay, innkeeper, Black Cow, Campfield
John Barrett, hatter, Kirkgate
James Thornton, bootmaker, Green Row, Mabgate
Edward Blundell, general dealer, West Street
John White, plasterer, Busfield Street, Leylands
Samuel Baslinforth, painter, Wingham Street, Roundhay Road
Thomas Clarkson, shoe dealer, Central Market
Charles Waterworth, hairdresser, York Street
John Airey, innkeeper, Briggate
Nicholas Dunn, poulterer, Hope Street
William Roberts, shoe dealer, Upper Cross Street, Bank
Samuel Bootham, bricklayer, Accommodation Place
William Lonsdale, tailor, Mill Street