Character Break-Down

Most characters are guilty of committing most of the Seven Deadly Sins, but each appears to have a dominant vice (capitalized), and in some cases, a few secondary, but prominent vices (lower-case).

Lady Billows --> ANGER, pride, lust
Florence Pike --> ENVY, pride, lust
Miss Wordsworth --> LUST, sloth, pride
Vicar --> LUST, sloth
Mayor --> PRIDE
Superintendent --> lust? (He's actually not so bad, compared to his peers...)
Sid --> All-around hedonist; SLOTH, LUST, envy, anger
Nancy --> LUST
Mrs. Herring --> GREED, anger, pride
Kids --> GLUTTONY

(Albert’s activities after he drinks the spiked lemonade are not included in this analysis.)
PRIDE

...everybody, at some point

-Mayor's obsession with punctuality and his watch's proper time
-Lady B's obsession with "her" town
-Lady B, "I am a very disappointed woman," a recit line with the weight of an aria; every little thing she says is important
-Committee tells Albert "Au revoir"...and why in the world would the grocer's son know French? Show-offs...
-Mrs. Herring bragging that her son is May King
-Ms. Pike's big to-do over how hard she's been working to organize the May Day festival in Act II.
-Miss W fussing over her singers...and then singing with them herself. (One of those music teachers who would rather be the star herself than the teacher?)
-Mayor refers to himself as "his Worship" when looking for his seat at the banquet.
-Mayor's speech: excited about the fact that Loxford is the FIRST to have a May King, boasts about a water purification project
-All town members become "Sherlock Holmes" and think they can be "the hero" to find Albert.
ENVY

-Ms. Pike's "wish" to be part of the upper class (which is why, even as a servant, she talks, dresses, and acts like an elite, and why she needs so desperately to be in the photograph for the paper with her Lady).

-Mayor, "Urban District Concillors, all over Eastern Suffolk, envy little Loxford on the first of May..."

-Not sure what Sid has against Albert...is it envy? Homophobia?

-Sid gets jealous when Nancy kisses Albert (even though it is a kiss of acceptance and not romance).
GLUTTONY

- Harry stealing way more apples than he needs
- THE FEAST; "cakes, jellies and other good things;" "sandwiches;" "pink blancmange;" "seedy cake" with icing; "treacle tart, sausagey rolls, trifle;" "chicken and ham, cheesy straws, and marzipan;" lemonade (and rum), chocolate dates, fruit salad, cream-filled pastries, almond favors, and sirloin.
- The food at the feast is incredibly decadent/saccharine/fattening.
- The kids are particularly gluttonous; would rather eat than sing.
- Alcohol
LUST

-The promiscuous girls of the town
- Nancy and Sid flirting, PDA in the street, running off to the Commons, sharing peaches...
- Lady B and Ms. Pike constantly talking about the town's lax sexual morals...and are unusually knowledgeable on these topics for women who claim to be "innocent, pure, and virtuous"

  -Similarly, the Superintendent condemns "Joyce Mary and her (twin) sister" for committing devious acts...but at least he has the decency not to repeat them.

- Vicar's efforts to garner Miss W's affections: asking her to sit with him at the meeting, quoting the "Song of Solomon" to her, subtle flirting and a piqued interest in her at the May Day proceedings...

- Miss W's excitement when singing to Albert on May Day (subtle, but in the Glyndebourne production, her "Albert! Albert! Albert!" revealed erotic desire)...besides her relationship with the Vicar. (So she's turned on by apparent virtue?)
ANGER

-Lady B's quick temper when the room smells bad, when she hears something foul at breakfast and breaks her cup, when none of the nominees are virtuous, when her agitation over sin makes her drop her speech notes, etc.

-Lady B's inclination to "teach the girls a lesson" is more important than praising Albert for virtue

-Sid punishing Harry

-Mrs. Herring with her son

-Lady B's fury in reaction to Albert's disappearance and her determination to bring him back "dead or alive" for disrespecting his position.

-The elites' reaction to Albert reappearing at the end of the opera
-Lady B believes her monetary prize for Albert will "make virtue attractive, exciting, desirable for young people," therefore her entire scheme depends on the youths' greed.
-Vicar comparing virtue to precious jewels also assumes the value of these jewels based on greed.
-Harry stealing apples. It wasn't enough to just get his ball back...
-Mrs. Herring is more interested in the prize money than her son's happiness.
-Mrs. Herring is a penny-pincer who remembers exactly what the frame with Albert's picture cost.

Similar to greed: SELFISHNESS
-Mrs. Herring bemoans that she bore Albert "with such pains."
- **Miss W** happy to leave school? (and too lazy to sit?)
- **Sid's** references to gambling, hunting, drinking, womanizing...he doesn't seem to talk about work much.
- **Sid's** late to set up for May Day because he was scheming?
- **Vicar** and **Miss W** avoid consoling Mrs. Herring when she's beside herself about Albert's disappearance.
OTHER Sinful Deeds Worth Mentioning

HYPOCRISY
- Vicar/Miss W quoting the "Song of Solomon"
- Sexual tension between these two characters: While the Vicar is not Catholic and is not required to remain abstinent, it is unusual to see these two characters subtly flirting when they ought to have greater ambitions than sex in mind.
- The entire May Day celebration of "virtue" turns into a day full of vice.
- Reactions to Vicar's sermon on "Living Chaste for the Hereafter" both "solemn-faced" and "laughing." (One's view of the Vicar/the est of the Church determines which reaction is more hypocritical.)
- Lady B the most adamant about erasing sin and distaste, yet she can't shut up about all the "dirty" things in life.
- The elites "delighting in (Albert's) sin."

GOSSIP
- The whole town

DISRESPECT
- Committee Members constantly interrupting each other

STUBBORNNESS
- Lady B despises anything new or modern (expect fingerprinting for forensics)

DISHONESTY
- Harry stealing
- "We'll tell his dad, 'Sid from the butcher's knocked Harry about.'" ... That's not the whole truth...
- Sid lies about why he is late to May Day
- Sid and Nancy's rum prank

HUMILIATION
- Sid teasing Albert
- The whole town making a spectacle of Albert, which is the last thing he wants
- Cis' embarrassment
- The elites' insistence that they hear Albert's whole story of his escapades.

NOT ACCEPTING FORGIVENESS
- Lady B to Albert's apology in Act III