

Lytham Voice 2024

Happy New Year to all Lytham residents and business owners.

Starting the year in a very chilly January reminds us of the importance of looking after our neighbours, the wider community and the towns community facilities.

Since the establishment of Lytham Voice some 6 months ago we have made remarkable progress, establishing that, working together, Lytham residents can be heard and can influence better outcomes for the town. Lytham Voice have been delighted with the level of support and offers of help and are encouraged by the recognition received.

However, we have also uncovered the depth of feeling on numerous issues and the challenges we face in ensuring these issues are addressed appropriately and in a timely manner. Our work load is growing!

Lytham Voice still believe a legally recognised body, with elected representatives as an integral part of the town's governance, is the most effective way to protect Lytham's interests and reflect the democratic will of the residents.

With this in mind, we look forward to the consultation approved by the Fylde Council Executive Committee at their meeting on 5 December 2023 into the establishment of **Town (Parish) councils for both Lytham and Ansdell**. The consultation material to be provided by the council is to include information on the powers of the new Town/Parish Councils along with the likely precept (cost) which will be set for the first year. Lytham Voice has offered its help to the council and will publicise the consultation as soon as it is available.

The protection and maintenance of **the Green** for the enjoyment of residents and visitors continues to be raised as a concern as does the protection of established **Rights of Way** and the **enforcement of planning** regulations. These and other matters fall under the strongly held principle, endorsed by attendees at our first public meeting, that the rule of law is important and must be upheld. Lytham Voice is committed to following up on these matters.

The most contentious project, **Clifton Street tree replacement**, remains at the top of our 'watch list'. In September 2023 the public became aware that 'Fylde Council is working hard for the Clifton Street Improvement works to be underway by January 2024 ...'.

In response, to the resulting public outcry, on the 27 September 2023 Fylde Council released a statement '**to provide clarification**' on the status and goals of the Lytham Clifton Street Public Realm Project, particularly regarding the proposed replacement of the trees'. In it they said 'The proposed scheme is not ready for public consultation. Once the scheme is confirmed to be viable with regards to local landowners, a public consultation will allow residents to view the working plans and make their voices heard.'

Lytham Voice is following up progress on this commitment with the Council.

Planning is underway for our **third public meeting**, provisionally to be held in the spring when the days are a little longer and the weather warmer.

Finally, we wish all our supporters a healthy, happy and prosperous 2024 and look forward to seeing you and hearing your views.

Lytham Voice