

Lytham Voice March 2024

Welcome to the Lytham Voice update. We are already in March benefiting from the first signs of spring and a little more daylight, both in the literal sense of longer days and with encouraging signs of good progress and on a number of fronts. With sincere thanks for all the work of our group and supporters.

Clifton Street Tree Replacement

Fylde Council have confirmed to Lytham Voice that the tree replacement project has suffered delays due to resource issues, resulting in a requirement to focus on the delivery of other priorities in the Borough.

The Council were planning to recommence the project activities during the first quarter of 2024. An update on the project will be provided by the Council when the resources have been re-mobilised.

Fylde Council have also confirmed that any proposals will be subject to full public consultation.

Liggard Brook

On 15th February United Utilities announced that work would begin soon on improvements which promise sustainable benefits for wildlife and the local community. Lytham Voice trust that this work will resolve the issues raised.

Clifton Square Unauthorised Building and Development

Lytham Voice wrote on 15 February to Fylde Council (Planning and Legal) raising issues of unauthorised building and developments in Clifton Square. A response to the paper was received on 15 March, confirming Fylde Council have sought to re-engage with the operators of businesses from February 2021 in order to secure removal of the unauthorised structures and continues to work to secure compliance.

Lytham Voice looks forward to Fylde Council securing full compliance with the enforcement notices.

The full response received is being reviewed.

The paper was also sent to our four Lytham East and West councillors who have confirmed they have raised the matters in the paper with the relevant Fylde Council officials.

We will share corrections and further update when available.

Lytham Green Protection

Concerns raised during Lytham Voice public meetings regarding damage being inflicted on the Green and the potential abuse of this free open space. Specific questions have been raised regarding the protective covenants and safeguards established by the Clifton family when the space was gifted to the Council.

Work continues to research the history and legal status of the sea shore and to clarify with the council how this iconic beach front can continue to be enjoyed in its entirety by the towns residents and visitors.

We will share a further update when available.

Granny's Bay 'Ice Cream Kiosk' - Project 'Vento'

“A new project at Granny's Bay will see the construction of a brand-new ice-cream kiosk and cafe to replace the old existing structure, enhancing the amenity space for visitors and residents, and helping promote Granny's Bay as a tourism destination in its own right. Planning permission was granted on 6 March 2024 and the next steps will be to tender for the works.” Fylde Council.

Although beyond the boundary of Lytham, Lytham Voice expressed concern at the proposed new 'ice cream kiosk' at Granny's Bay to be built and paid for by Fylde Council. Our objection was focussed on the poor precedent set by the proposal in terms of building on the sea shore / free open beach space, the building of new premises for a single private business and the use of scarce council funds, particularly give the challenges of maintaining services and limiting council tax increases.

Additionally, it seems the operator for the new building may not be openly available to any business with a 'preferred' business to be granted a tenancy of '7 years less 1 day' and in addition to ice cream will both offer hot food and likely to apply for an alcohol license.

Following the granting of planning permission on 6 March, Lytham Voice look to the Council to ensure **both** the tender for the construction works and the tender of the facility operator will be fully open and transparent and made available to all.

A further updates will be shared as this project continues.

Cumulative Impact Policy Lytham

On 13 March Fylde Council Licencing Committee considered the requirement for a Cumulative Impact Policy for Lytham town centre. This relates to the number of existing and future alcohol licenses.

In preparation for the meeting Fylde Council, amongst other activities, reviewed data on reported alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour and ran a consultation. The level of reported crime and anti-social behaviour is low, although the consultation results demonstrated strong support from residents for the introduction of a Cumulative Impact Policy requiring all future alcohol licenses in the Lytham town centre area to be considered on their own merits, rather than the current assumption of being granted.

The Licensing Committee concluded that there was insufficient evidence of **reported** alcohol related issues and as a result a Cumulative Impact Policy was not justified.

However, the Licensing Committee encourage residents and business owners to report issues to ensure a future review will have information that is as accurate and comprehensive as possible.

The information, including the consultation results are available on the Lytham Voice web-site.

Lytham & Ansdell Parish (Town) Council consultation

Lytham Voice are delighted that on 13 March Fylde Council launched a public consultation on the formation of Parish council(s) for Lytham and Ansdell.

We 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.

We strongly encourage residents to complete the questionnaire which is available on-line, in hard copy and at 4 pop up events, to ensure your views, whether for or against a Parish council, are heard.

The consultation is available until Tuesday 23 April 2024.

Public Meeting #3

Planning is underway for our 3rd public meeting which will be held in the coming weeks. The agenda will include the latest updates and specifically provide information and help on completing the Town Council consultation. The invitation to the meeting is extended to all Lytham and Ansdell residents and business owners.

Details of the date, time and venue will be advertised as soon as they are confirmed.

We look forward to seeing you.

Since the establishment of Lytham Voice we have, with your help, made remarkable progress, establishing that, working together, Lytham residents can be heard and can influence better outcomes for the town. We continue to be delighted with the level of support and offers of help we have received and are encouraged by the recognition given to Lytham Voice by residents, businesses, Fylde Council and Councillors.

Working together for a better Lytham

Lytham Voice
Contact us: hello@lythamvoice.co.uk