

Public Meeting #3

The third public meeting hosted by Lytham Voice was held at St Bede's School on Wednesday 17 April 2024.

The meeting provided residents and business owners with an update to the various concerns raised over the past year and supported the Fylde Council consultation into the establishment of Parish (Town) Council(s) for Lytham and Ansdell.

Around 130 participants were welcomed to the meeting by Anne and Debbie, with a particular warm welcome to the many residents of Ansdell & Fairhaven who were present.

Andy reflected on the journey he had personally taken and shared some of his experiences and learning from his involvement in Lytham Voice, before providing a general update on a number of matters.

Retired judge Simon Newell guided the audience through the current status of the unlawful planning developments in Lytham square¹. Simon then briefed on Lytham Voices application for a 'Cumulative Impact Policy' for Lytham which the Licencing Committees considered in March 2024 and decided to 'do nothing'². If implemented, the Cumulative Impact Policy would have provided positive management of the number of licensed premises.

Both Andy and Simon stressed the importance of reporting issues and taking part in formal surveys, consultations and polls as this is the only effective way to ensure an intelligent and comprehensive picture is built for the police, Fylde Council and our councillors to respond to.

This message was then reiterated by John as he carefully led the meeting through an explanation of the Parish (Town) Council consultation that is currently being run by Fylde Council. Links to the online consultation were highlighted³. See John's speaking notes below

The presentations were followed by a very interesting open dialogue. Key safety and health issues particularly concerning Skew Bridge in Ansdell and Liggards Brook were raised.

The community police's 'open meeting' held the previous week at Park View playing fields, was highlighted as a welcome initiative and at which Lytham Voice represented the key issues being brought to our attention.

The Clifton Street tree replacement project was a particularly lively discussion, highlighting the level of misunderstanding and confusion that exists and the importance of this matter to the towns residents. The meeting encouraged residents to fully participate in the promised consultation when it is launched.

Views on the establishment of a Parish (Town) Council were shared and advice provided on how to access web links to the consultation. There was a strong demand for copies of the paper consultation survey from those wanting to encourage friends and neighbours to have their say. As a reminder, the consultation closes on Tuesday 23 April 2024.

¹ <https://lythamvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Clifton-Square.1.pdf>

² <https://lythamvoice.co.uk/cumulative-impact-policy-lytham>

³ <https://new.fylde.gov.uk/council/governance-and-legal/parish-councils-for-ansdell-and-lytham/>

Summing up Anne thanked everyone for attending and for the constructive discussion throughout. She concluded by reminding the audience that they should raise their concerns by formally reporting issues as they arise.

Attendees were encouraged to follow the Lytham Voice website which would be updated with the latest news and contains links to surveys, consultations and advise on web-sites and phone numbers for reporting.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.

LYTHAM TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL (LTC)

DO WE REALLY NEED ANOTHER LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT?

Yes We do!

a) It need not be political. It would be better if the Councillors were independent and particularly not also FBC councillors

All the LTC counsellors can be independent and represent the two Lytham Wards. The selection of Counsellors for LTC ultimately rests with the Lytham electorate

b) District Councils like FBC are being taken out so in the next few years there may be no FBC. Lancashire County Council is based in Preston. Somerset eg now has no District Councils so it is more important that more happens here in Lytham and that is up to us to ensure we have a LTC

WHY DO WE NEED LYTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

We need LTC because our voice as residents is not being heard AND that is why we started Lytham Voice

We have the JEWELS within the district of FBC namely

- 1 THE GREEN
- 2 LYTHAM HALL
- 3 LOWTHER GARDENS
- 4 CLIFTON SQUARE AND MARKET SQUARE
- 5 THE WINDMILL

There are no proposals to transfer power/responsibilities from FBC to LTC in respect of the maintenance and upkeep of these ASSETS but a LTC can keep FBC on its toes in regard to matters concerning them

LYTHAM TOWN COUNCIL CAN PROTECT THESE ASSETS FOR THE BENEFIT OF RESIDENTS AND DEAL WITH THE ISSUES RAISED BY LYTHAM RESIDENTS

a) LTC would be a formally recognised body within the established Governance of FBC ensuring Residents opinions are heard and appropriately considered by decision makers.

b) LTC would be a statutory consultee.

The most common issues it would deal through its designated officers (EXPLAIN) would be planning and licensing, complaints (FBC) crime, social disorder (police) forecourts and highway matters (Lancashire Highways)

c) It would have the ability to negotiate with and the power to influence the final decision makers (such as FBC, Lancashire Highways, Police and other relevant authorities)

d) It would prepare and have a Neighbourhood/Town Plan which would be prepared by the LTC with consultation with the Lytham residents

e) it would meet monthly and have regular public meetings to obtain the views of Lytham residents

f) recently Lytham Voice have raised issues such as CIP re licensing with FBC which if there was a LTC in place the concerns of residents could have been better marshalled through an organised complaints procedure

HOW WILL LYTHAM TOWN COUNCIL BE FUNDED AND HOW MUCH WILL IT COST US?

a) Funding comes from 2 areas The Precept and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Precept is funding through the Council Tax on Lytham residents. FBC have a provisional figure of c £110000 for Lytham which is raised by an approximate figure of £30 for a D band council tax