



## What a mess!

These photographs of the untidy agglomeration of signs at the Ballam Rd entrance to Lytham were passed to us by Defend Lytham. We are told by a representative of Lancashire CC that this is part of a programme of new directional signage in Lytham and St Annes which meets modern standards. The old fingerpost sign is obscured and clearly redundant. The spokesman said:

*Given the heritage value of the former directional signage we would welcome comment regarding the potential relocation of this sign as a heritage feature.*

*Should a potential site for relocation be identified we will consider this proposal with the proviso that the sign itself would not cause confusion to road users in the area.*

Now this is difficult. Can anyone suggest another spot in Lytham which is 7 miles from Blackpool and 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles from Weeton?

We see that there are two signs advertising a local supermarket and a housing development sign on this triangle too.....

**What a mess.**

## LSA CS supports local architecture student

You will be aware that our late president, Graeme Fallows (who was also a founder member in 1960), left a legacy to specifically support local architecture or town planning students. This year another bursary has been awarded to Hannah Johnson, formerly of St Bede's School, who is now studying

## WIND OF CHANGE?

### A thought-provoking alternative view from Fylde Civic Awareness Group

The Localism Act contains powers to enable local communities to change the way their Council works if they are dissatisfied with the present arrangements.

Back in 2008, at a public meeting of 200 people arranged by the Fylde Civic Awareness Group (FCAG), a resolution from the floor called for the abandonment of Fylde's Leader and Cabinet system which was said to be the underlying cause of poor decisions that had been made. The resolution advocated more openness and transparency by returning to the Committee System, and called for a return to decision-making by a majority of the full council - as opposed to the present decision making body which is a Cabinet comprising just seven of Fylde's fifty-one councillors.

Taking that resolution as our mandate, and using the powers in the Localism Act, FCAG has been, and remains, committed to seeking a change back to the Committee System.

The most recent part of this process began with a 'Democracy and Localism' seminar on 15th Feb which set out to explain the options and the pros and cons of each system. Currently, we are asking Fylde residents if they wish to support a change back to the Committee system by signing a petition calling for a local referendum on the matter.

We believe our councillors are elected to represent us equally, and it is inherently wrong that just seven of them now take all the day to day decisions. We argue it focuses power into too few hands and it is not sufficiently democratic. It is a system that lacks the capacity to ensure the breadth and depth of vision and experience available from the 51 councillors at Fylde is utilised. It disconnects rank and file councillors from decisions made in their name and thus reduces their ownership of, and commitment to, such decisions. It also fosters an aspirational culture based on patronage from the Leader which does not create a proper seedbed and nursery in which new councillors can gradually cut their teeth and develop the talents and experience necessary to become effective and experienced Councillors.

We also agree with the proposer of the 2008 resolution that these shortcomings have been the underlying cause of the problems we have experienced in recent years, (including: the Streetscene debacle, Swimming Pool closures, Heeley Road, Melton Grove, New Town Hall plans, Equitable Taxation, 'Informal' Cabinet Meetings, Exclusive Cabinet briefings by officers, and more)

We are asking those who share our views to sign a petition that will call for a change back to the Committee System that gave every councillor the right to speak, and to vote, on all the decisions made in the Council's name, not just seven of them. If you share our view, please download a petition page and support the call for a local referendum on the matter.

Further details are available from our website [www.fylde.biz](http://www.fylde.biz) or by ringing 01253 728047

Fred Moor  
Clerk

architecture at Leeds Metropolitan University.

The executors of the will and the Civic Society committee were delighted to award Hannah the bursary and have offered their support to discuss local issues and perspectives on planning to assist with her studies. They also intend to keep in touch with Hannah with the intention of updating you with her progress.

Hannah was very pleased with the bursary and said 'I want to say thank you to the Civic Society for my bursary which I have spent on a camera. It has already come in extremely handy in taking pictures of my work so far and hopefully in future projects when looking at buildings will be a vital tool'.