

SAVE ST ANNES

- RESULTS -

of a meeting to gauge public opinion
on a range of issues that concern
local groups and residents

HOSTED BY: *Saint Anne's on the Sea Town Council*

ORGANISERS: *Fylde Civic Awareness Group*

ISSUES: *Those contributing issue statements included:*

*Defend Lytham
Defend the Dunes
Friends of St Anne's Swimming Pool
Fylde Civic Awareness Group
Holiday Association of Lytham St Anne's
Heeley Road Hostel Group
Lytham St Annes Civic Society
Residents Opposed to Airport Regime
St Anne's Chamber of Trade
St Anne's on the Sea Town Council*

RESPONSES: *Questionnaire: 196 Residents of Fylde
Orally: An audience of over 200 residents of Fylde*

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

BACKGROUND

The origin of the meeting was a complaint to the St Anne's on the Sea Town Council that there were major developments being planned or affecting the town, and the Town Council was failing to articulate the concerns of local people with sufficient strength on these matters. Five of the seven Town Councillors were able to meet more than 20 individuals and representatives of local environmental, community and business groups who expressed concerns with some vigour. They asked the Town Council to hold a public meeting to allow public opinion to be sought more widely.

The Town Council agreed to host such a meeting in order to hear the views of the wider community, but was reluctant to organise and chair the meeting itself. It asked the groups concerned if they would undertake the organisation and administration. The groups accepted this challenge, and came together under the umbrella of the Fylde Civic Awareness Group.

The objectives of the meeting were: to allow the public a full and open opportunity to raise any issue of concern to them, to test opinion on a range of issue statements postulated by the organising groups and others, and to help raise awareness of the issues concerning the groups that had organised the meeting.

A tripartite format was agreed. First an open public session where any members of the public could raise a matter of concern to them. Second a twenty-minute session to complete questionnaires containing the issue statements. Third, a concluding session asking people to say what they thought should be done to put things right.

PROCESS

The meeting was hosted by the St Anne's on the Sea Town Council in order to hear the views of local people. It was organised and administered by the (non party political) Fylde Civic Awareness Group in the same way that Fylde Council uses volunteers and consultants for its "Listening Day" and its "State of the Borough" focus group events.

The meeting was chaired by Bob Plant, Vice Chairman of the Fylde Civic Awareness Group. He explained the background to the meeting and noted that when members of the public attended meetings of the Borough Council or Cabinet, they were allowed to observe, but not to speak. He said this meeting was specifically for members of the public to have their say, and he asked any Councillors who might be present and who wished to speak, to do so as members of the public, not as Councillors.

A time limit of three minutes per speaker was applied in order to get as many views as possible.

Comments made orally were noted for subsequent reproduction of their key components. These will be found in italic text in the second part of this report. Comments written in the freeform comments box on the back of the 'issues statement' questionnaire are reproduced 'as written'.

The strength of agreement or disagreement with each of the issues postulated in the questionnaire was totalled, and those results are in part one of the report.

Please note that the audience was not statistically selected to be representative of either St Anne's or Fylde Borough residents, thus no claim to statistical accuracy is made for the results. They are simply the views of the 200 or so people who attended the meeting.

SAVE ST ANNES

~ QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY ~

TOP STRONGEST CONCERNS

The things people said they felt most strongly about

1. Fylde Borough Council should take more notice of its electorate. (95%)
- = 2. Fylde Borough Council should save St Anne's Swimming Pool in its present location. (92%)
- = 2. Fylde Borough Council should abandon its plans to sell assets to fund a £7m Town Hall complex. (92%)
3. Trying to be a Classic Resort on one hand, and closing the swimming pool on the other, does not make any sense. (88%)
4. The Council's Cabinet system is undemocratic and producing many bad decisions. (87%)
5. St Anne's on the Sea should remain a traditional high quality resort. (86%)

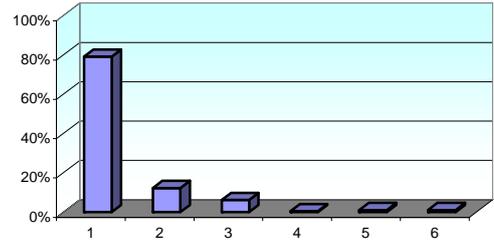
TOP OVERALL CONCERNS

The things that enjoy widest overall support - deduced by adding together the "strongly agree" and "agree" responses.

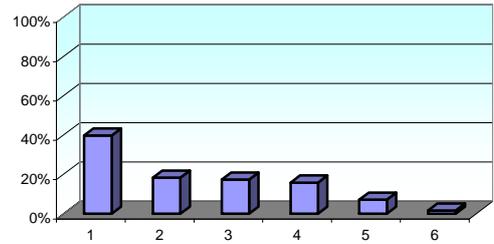
1. Fylde Borough Council should take more notice of its electorate. (99%)
2. Fylde Borough Council should save St Anne's Swimming Pool in its present location. (98%)
- = 3. Trying to be a Classic Resort on one hand, and closing the swimming pool on the other, does not make any sense. (97%)
- = 3. St Anne's on the Sea should remain a traditional high quality resort. (97%)
- = 4. The Council's Cabinet system is undemocratic and producing many bad decisions. (96%)
- = 4. I am concerned about the scale and sustainability of development schemes proposed for Fylde, including the Growth Point Bid and Queensway area (96%)
- = 4. St Anne's Chamber of Trade should continue to promote prosperity for St Anne's on the Sea (96%)
- = 4. Fylde Borough Council should abandon its plans to sell assets to fund a £7m Town Hall complex (96%)
- = 4. Any development on St Anne's Promenade should be low rise, and in keeping with the peace and tranquillity so sought after by visitors and residents (96%)

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

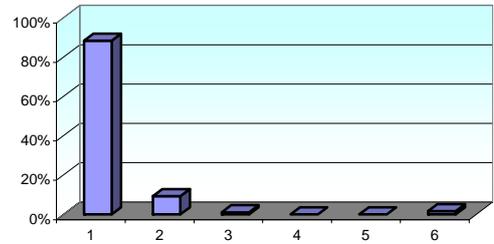
ISSUE		Number	Percent
<i>North Beach Car Park should be saved from closure for use by residents and visitors to the area.</i>	1 Strongly Agree	155	79%
	2 Agree	24	12%
	3 No Opinion	12	6%
	4 Disagree	1	1%
	5 Strongly Disagree	2	1%
	6 No answer	2	1%
	Total	196	100.00%



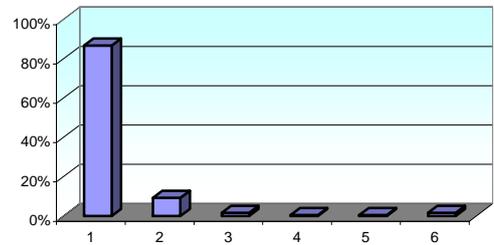
		Number	Percent
<i>I am concerned that the proposed 7-10 fold increase in the number of commercial flights from Blackpool Airport will destroy the quality of life in St Anne's</i>	1 Strongly Agree	78	40%
	2 Agree	36	18%
	3 No Opinion	34	17%
	4 Disagree	31	16%
	5 Strongly Disagree	14	7%
	6 No answer	3	2%
	Total	196	100.00%



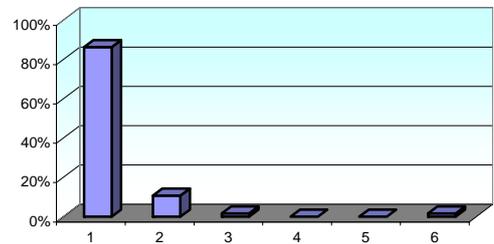
		Number	Percent
<i>Trying to be a Classic Resort on one hand, and closing the swimming pool on the other, does not make any sense.</i>	1 Strongly Agree	173	88%
	2 Agree	18	9%
	3 No Opinion	2	1%
	4 Disagree	0	0%
	5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	6 No answer	3	2%
	Total	196	100.00%



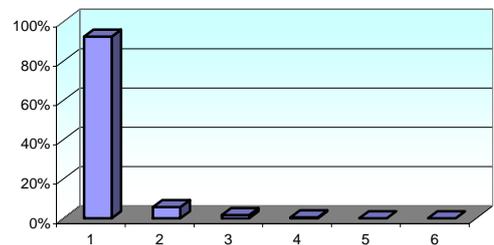
		Number	Percent
<i>The Council's Cabinet system is undemocratic and producing many bad decisions</i>	1 Strongly Agree	170	87%
	2 Agree	18	9%
	3 No Opinion	3	2%
	4 Disagree	1	1%
	5 Strongly Disagree	1	1%
	6 No answer	3	2%
	Total	196	100.00%



		Number	Percent
<i>St Anne's on the Sea should remain a traditional high quality resort.</i>	1 Strongly Agree	169	86%
	2 Agree	21	11%
	3 No Opinion	3	2%
	4 Disagree	0	0%
	5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	6 No answer	3	2%
	Total	196	100.00%

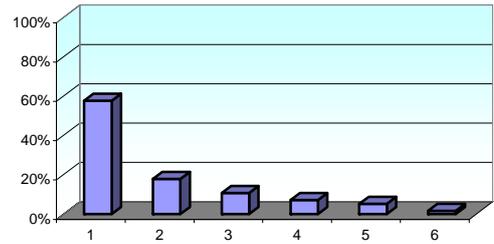


		Number	Percent
<i>Fylde Borough Council should save St Anne's Swimming Pool in its present location</i>	1 Strongly Agree	181	92%
	2 Agree	11	6%
	3 No Opinion	3	2%
	4 Disagree	1	1%
	5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	6 No answer	0	0%
	Total	196	100.00%

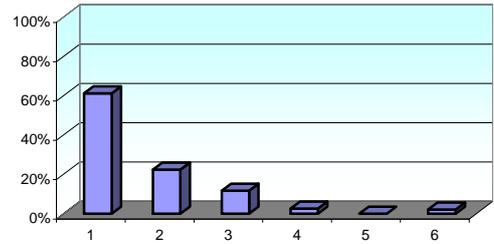


Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

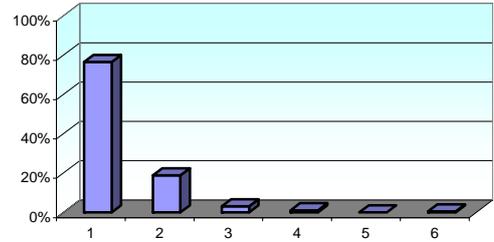
ISSUE		Number	Percent
<i>Aldi wish to demolish St Anne's Conservative Club. We should not sacrifice an attractive, high quality, and historic part of our street scene - just to increase a supermarket's real estate portfolio</i>	1 Strongly Agree	113	58%
	2 Agree	35	18%
	3 No Opinion	21	11%
	4 Disagree	14	7%
	5 Strongly Disagree	10	5%
	6 No answer	3	2%
Total		196	100.00%



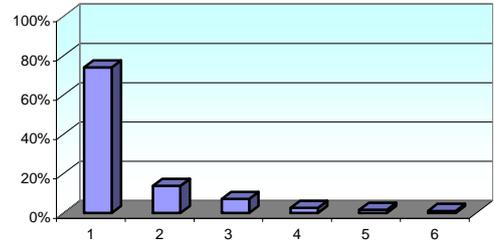
		Number	Percent
<i>I am concerned about the scale and sustainability of development schemes proposed for Fylde, including the Growth Point Bid and Queensway area</i>	1 Strongly Agree	120	61%
	2 Agree	44	22%
	3 No Opinion	23	12%
	4 Disagree	5	3%
	5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	6 No answer	4	2%
Total		196	100.00%



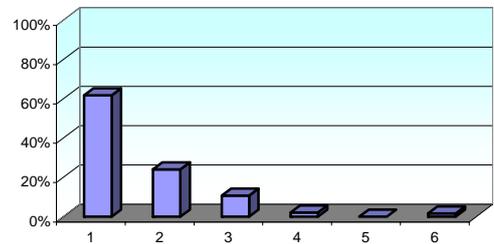
		Number	Percent
<i>Blackpool Road North Playing Fields should not be built on</i>	1 Strongly Agree	150	77%
	2 Agree	37	19%
	3 No Opinion	6	3%
	4 Disagree	2	1%
	5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	6 No answer	1	1%
Total		196	100.00%



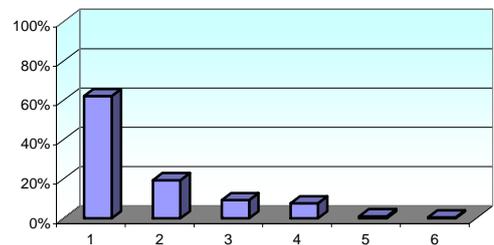
		Number	Percent
<i>The Council depot at Heeley Road should be used for employment, not for housing or a hostel.</i>	1 Strongly Agree	145	74%
	2 Agree	27	14%
	3 No Opinion	14	7%
	4 Disagree	5	3%
	5 Strongly Disagree	3	2%
	6 No answer	2	1%
Total		196	100.00%



		Number	Percent
<i>Greater urgency should be given to reviewing the sand extraction licence (to reduce adverse impact on the beach and dunes) and coastal management (to improve our natural sea defences).</i>	1 Strongly Agree	121	62%
	2 Agree	47	24%
	3 No Opinion	21	11%
	4 Disagree	4	2%
	5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	6 No answer	3	2%
Total		196	100.00%

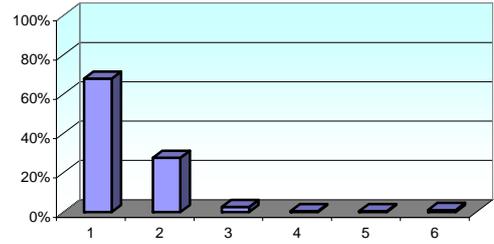


		Number	Percent
<i>Car parks used for Lowther and other gardens should be free</i>	1 Strongly Agree	122	62%
	2 Agree	38	19%
	3 No Opinion	18	9%
	4 Disagree	15	8%
	5 Strongly Disagree	2	1%
	6 No answer	1	1%
Total		196	100.00%

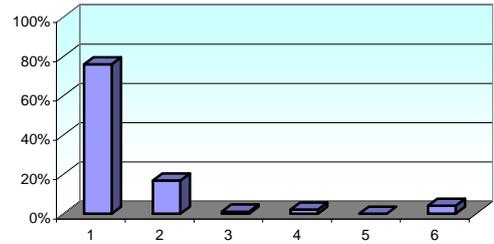


Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

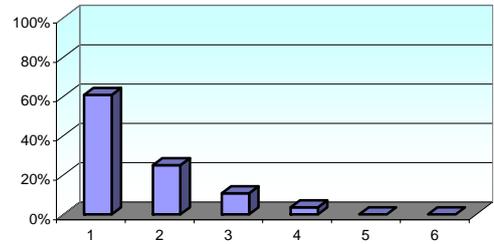
ISSUE		Number	Percent
<i>St Anne's Chamber of Trade should continue to promote prosperity for St Anne's on the Sea</i>	1 Strongly Agree	133	68%
	2 Agree	54	28%
	3 No Opinion	5	3%
	4 Disagree	1	1%
	5 Strongly Disagree	1	1%
	6 No answer	2	1%
	Total	196	100.00%



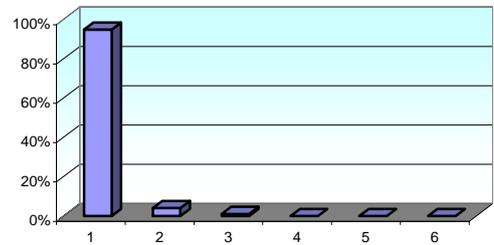
		Number	Percent
<i>St Anne's Town Council is right to speak out on local issues.</i>	1 Strongly Agree	149	76%
	2 Agree	33	17%
	3 No Opinion	2	1%
	4 Disagree	4	2%
	5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	6 No answer	8	4%
	Total	196	100.00%



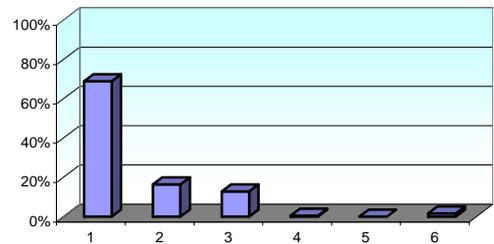
		Number	Percent
<i>The Public Offices opposite M&S, home of the first St Anne's Council, should be preserved as a heritage building.</i>	1 Strongly Agree	119	61%
	2 Agree	49	25%
	3 No Opinion	21	11%
	4 Disagree	7	4%
	5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	6 No answer	0	0%
	Total	196	100.00%



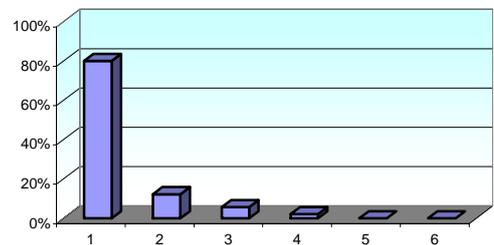
		Number	Percent
<i>Fylde Borough Council should take more notice of its electorate.</i>	1 Strongly Agree	186	95%
	2 Agree	8	4%
	3 No Opinion	2	1%
	4 Disagree	0	0%
	5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	6 No answer	0	0%
	Total	196	100.00%



		Number	Percent
<i>Attempting to re-create the original Lytham Quays project through multiple additional planning applications is wrong.</i>	1 Strongly Agree	135	69%
	2 Agree	32	16%
	3 No Opinion	25	13%
	4 Disagree	1	1%
	5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	6 No answer	3	2%
	Total	196	100.00%

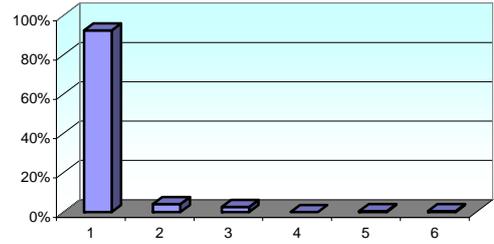


		Number	Percent
<i>Fylde should not be absorbed into Blackpool and Wyre</i>	1 Strongly Agree	157	80%
	2 Agree	24	12%
	3 No Opinion	11	6%
	4 Disagree	4	2%
	5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	6 No answer	0	0%
	Total	196	100.00%

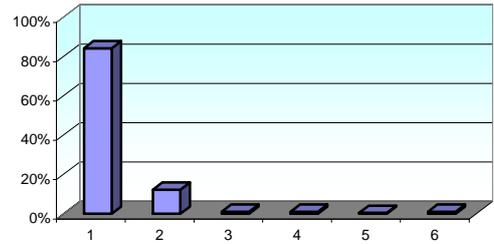


Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

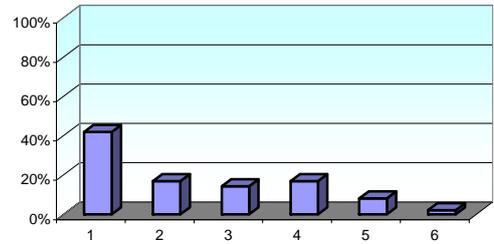
ISSUE		Number	Percent
<i>Fylde Borough Council should abandon its plans to sell assets to fund a £7m Town Hall complex</i>	1 Strongly Agree	181	92%
	2 Agree	8	4%
	3 No Opinion	5	3%
	4 Disagree	0	0%
	5 Strongly Disagree	1	1%
	6 No answer	1	1%
	Total	196	100.00%



		Number	Percent
<i>Any development on St Anne's Promenade should be low rise, and in keeping with the peace and tranquillity so sought after by visitors and residents</i>	1 Strongly Agree	165	84%
	2 Agree	24	12%
	3 No Opinion	2	1%
	4 Disagree	2	1%
	5 Strongly Disagree	1	1%
	6 No answer	2	1%
	Total	196	100.00%



		Number	Percent
<i>Expansion of Blackpool airport should not go ahead due to the airport's location within a populated area.</i>	1 Strongly Agree	82	42%
	2 Agree	33	17%
	3 No Opinion	28	14%
	4 Disagree	33	17%
	5 Strongly Disagree	16	8%
	6 No answer	4	2%
	Total	196	100.00%



The issues were postulated by various local groups and reproduced in a questionnaire. Those attending were able to choose one of the following options for each issue: Strongly Agree; Agree; No Opinion; Disagree; Strongly Disagree. The source data is contained in 196 survey forms completed by residents. To see the source data please ring 0845 456 6122

NEXT.....

The views expressed by individuals at the meeting

SAVE ST ANNES

~ COMMENTS SUMMARY ~

FBC CABINET & DEMOCRACY

- By far the greatest number of concerns (60 comments) was about the way Fylde Borough Council operates.
- Chief amongst the concerns was the Cabinet system of governance.
- A perceived lack of transparency and democracy were also cited.
- Also mentioned as concerns were financial mismanagement and criticism of 'group decisions' made in private.
- The divisive nature of overt party politics and an unwillingness to respond to public concern was also of great concern.
- Several people said they had no confidence in the present administration.
- Perhaps the comment which best summarised this aspect is "I want to know how we can get rid of this cabinet system. How do we stop the lack of transparency in decision making?"

This topic gave rise to a resolution approved nem con, which called for:

- *greater consideration to be given to public opinion and the wishes of the people through a more representative governance,*
- *the abandonment of any threat of penalties which might be imposed for voting according to conscience,*
- *a return to democratic decision-making by a majority of Councillors in full Council*
- *It also called on all Parish and Town Councils in the Fylde Borough to confirm and endorse the resolution.*

SWIMMING POOL

- Attracting 32 comments, the demand to retain the pool in its present position was the second most important item in the comments section.
- There is clear anger at what many see as a deliberate will to resist public opinion.

HEELEY ROAD HOSTEL

- With 11 individual comments, this issue generated strong views opposing the scheme, and dissatisfaction with FBC's judgement for granting the planning permission.

DEVELOPMENT GENERALLY

- This topic also generated 11 individual comments. Several people criticised plans for a 'big wheel' on the promenade as is the loss of buildings that gave the area its sense of place and character. There were further complaints about Aldi and Kensington's proposals

AIRPORT

- Just behind the general comments development with 10 individual comments was the specific plans to develop the airport. Concerns about noise and loss of green land were the main issues.

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY INDIVIDUALS AT THE MEETING

These comments arose from the Public Meeting at St Anne's YMCA 16 April 2008. Numbered views are transcribed verbatim from self completed freeform boxes on forms supplied at the meeting. Italic views are from notes taken at the meeting Where multiple issues were addressed on a single form, and sufficient diversity existed, the view has been split between two or more headings. The order of the completed forms is 'as numbered' and numbering was 'as received'.

FBC CABINET / DEMOCRACY (60 comments)

004 Very concerned that elected councillors are not being allowed to speak on matters which directly affect the people they represent. Too many decisions are being taken without transparency.

005 I am concerned about the credibility of the Council and their undemocratic attitude ignoring the needs of the people. The electorate at this meeting have no confidence. Too many chiefs.

007 Fylde Borough Council's Cabinet System is very undemocratic and leaves its members open to financial pressure from developers and others. Decisions should be made by the full council. FBC should listen to the wishes and concerns of the residents of Fylde.

012 These so called Councillors are not fit for purpose to rep[resent the?] public.

013 In view of complete disregard of the electorate, there should be a council election held within the next 3 months.

018 The Council Cabinet system is the main problem to how the Council is run. It is not democratic! Therefore decisions are creating major problems.

029 The following need 'following up':

- 1) The management of funds and overspend accountability (Audit of accounts required)
- 2) Council decision making process / lack of democracy
- 3) Lack of responsiveness to public opinion – lack of democracy / consultation
- 4) Lack of transparency re Council decision making and governance
- 5) Mismanagement of pool by Council – pool used by at least 10 schools, over 450 lessons a week – how can it not make money?!

031 I cannot believe the arrogance of FBC and their absolute disrespect of the electorate

032 Not fit to rule. Not fit for purpose. Consumers have rights.

033 FBC could not run the proverbial “-“ up in a brewery. Total disrespect of the views of the community.

034 Concerned about corruption in our local government: Financial mismanagement, Cabinet (closed) decisions, undemocratic, (prepared) plans to sell off St Anne's pool to business. This smacks of corruption and backhanders.

056a Feel it is undemocratic that essential decisions concerning vital assets are in effect taken by a small cabinet of councillors and all other councillors are subject to party whip. I feel on local issues nobody should be subject to party politics

056b I feel the town has been spoilt by the present Council and the people have been let down by the decisions they have made on many issues.

066 We are very concerned about the lack of information even when sought under the Freedom of Information Act

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

074 As a longstanding resident I have watched the slow decline of St Anne's and fear that unless it stops, St Anne's will no longer exist as it is (a select seaside resort). The Council should step down and new members elected. We are not part of Blackpool. We do not need wheels on the prom etc. Unless something is done re the parking, St Anne's will shut – is this an underlying plot.

076 Remove certain incompetent councillors from Fylde Borough Council. In fact, St Anne's Parish should look after the town!

080 The Councillors that voted to close the pool don't use it, don't understand what a big part it plays in people's well being – they are a waste of time – they don't listen to the people who voted them - John Coombes + Tim Ashton and all the other fools should be ashamed of themselves. By the way, where did the £600,000 disappear to? Perhaps we need some fresh councillors.

084 The Cabinet system is dividing all the Councillors and is not democratic.

089 Do away with the corrupt councillors who are making a complete hash of all things.

090 The Councillors are only interested in their own back pockets, like raising their expense allowances.

095 If the Borough Council are unable to meet the wishes and demands of the electorate, they should resign and seek a new mandate.

108 The Council should remember that they are our servants. The motto of the old Lytham St Anne's Borough translated as 'The will of the people is the supreme law' This obviously does not apply to modern local government.

109 The Cabinet is useless and need removing. The Committee system did work. A unitary authority of Blackpool Wyre and Fylde may be a future development. Conservatives who do not agree to a decision should abstain. These are the normal policy to be followed. I became a Conservative at 16 in 1948

110 We are disenfranchised if our Councillors are not members of the Cabinet as they are restricted in the number of questions they can ask and cannot ask supplementary questions. Decisions are taken by a minority elite not on a majority vote.

114 Cabinet system is unfair. This council does not listen to residents views. Lived here for 60 years and very sad at the demise of St Anne's through Councils mismanagement, especially through recent years.

123 For years the council have mispent our money. I think a vote of no confidence should be called for.

127 There should be a vote of no confidence in this present Fylde administration.

131 I feel the council should get off their high horses and listen to the people who voted for them

133 The 'Cabinet' system is iniquitous! How can seven individuals supposed to comprise a range of skills and knowledge relevant to the issues prevalent at any one time? What purpose do the remaining councillors serve? This makes a mockery of democracy

135 The Cabinet system is the most undemocratic method of local government ever devised. Party politics should have no part in Local Government. Voting should be as shown [?] by the electorate not by whip.

144 I believe that the 'cabinet' system employed by FBC is un-democratic and should be disbanded.

168 The focus and priorities of the Borough Council are not in-keeping with resident's wishes. They should change, as should the basis on which decisions are made. The cabinet system is a disaster for democracy.

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

174 This council seems to have "lost it" especially with regard to closing the swimming pool and allowing a hotel to spoil the view of the hotels on the prom, of which we have enough. Also peculiar comments about Fairhaven Lake and Lowther Gardens.

175 The Cabinet system is disastrous, the portfolio holders gross incompetents, namely Tim Ashton. They are only interested in their own positions not the public of St Anne's. Under their control St Anne's will end up as tacky as Blackpool. They should not be allowed to build a new Town Hall a waste of public money.

177 The elitist cabinet need to be removed for the benefit of council harmony and community improvement. All responsible for financial mismanagement should lose their jobs and any financial severance benefits.

180 Get rid of the Cabinet system it is not democratic.

193 People take time to voice their opinions and concerns over the changes which are taking place in St Anne's. I have lived in St Anne's all of my life (52 years) and feel that the residents concerns are ignored.

194 I have extreme concerns after learning about the apparent breach of the Data Protection Act by our Council. This refers to the petition to save St Anne's pool being left on the bar at Fylde Rugby Club!

195 Have our councillors totally lost their minds. We need a local public swimming pool whether or not it pays for itself. We have a fantastic town hall. If it's not within regulations, renovate it. Stop selling off all our land to developers for flats or hotels, just provide us with a decent place for families to live.

[responding to a brief comment about DPA on the 'big wheel' plans] The Data Protection Act didn't stop FBC leaving a petition of contact details on the bar at the rugby club after the 3 March Council. FBC guilty of total mismanagement of funds, No proper financial control, undemocratic process, arrogant disregard of electorate summed up as "don't care what you think we're going to do what we want anyway". Very undemocratic. What can we do to stop them?

Town Hall – I would like FBC to assure us they will stay in the town hall.

Don't want to be associated with Blackpool

If workers are being delegated to other councils, why do we need a new town hall at all?

Fundamental Problem is cabinet government, how can we allow ourselves to be ruled by six or seven. That's the fundamental problem.

FBC is a total shambles. Many councillors not allowed to speak. Cabinet makes all decisions. Needs people to stand for election next time. Put names on the slips if you're interested and let organisers know

Lack of transparency, lack of information, Asset stripping going on. Whole series of problems. Don't let them get away with it. We're seeing cuts in services and sale of assets. Make sure they know we are unhappy

Cabinet is a bad system and party politics shouldn't come into it. The whip rules. Asset sales can only be done once then they're gone. Need to stop now.

Is there a mechanism for a Council to be impeached by the electorate?

At the Cricket club meeting someone called for an injunction to stop the bad administrative and financial management. Can anything like this be done?

I wrote an open letter to Councillors asking for them to deny rumours of bad financial management. I asked about the sale of land 7under the pool, what would it be used for. No reply yet. I want to know what we can do to solve this and get rid of the present administration.

FBC has a lack of concern for the community. Example is CAB closing. People can't afford to travel to Kirkham

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

CAB in Kirkham is still open, but one stop shop there has closed altogether since last week. Elderly people in tears because they can't pay bills there any more, have to go to St Anne's one stop shop.

Back in 70s and 80s St Anne's lost the Ashton Pavilion and Open Air Baths. Had been lots of urban/rural division. In the 90s the Borough became one again but now that has gone into reverse, and people are trying to open up divisions. There's no democracy, no sense. Councillors used to be volunteers now they're all paid. Need to keep the borough together. The present administration want power, they don't care about people. Taylors and Whitbread have some control at the Island, but Land and Building Company have a large say because they own the site. Write to Land and Building Company and tell them how you feel.

I was agent for Barbara Pagett. Proud to have done this. We are now ruled by just seven people on the Cabinet. The Cabinet system is iniquitous. It was depressing to see all the Conservative hands go up together at the March 3 Council meeting. I also support the Otters lady. If the pool closes it will never open again. It shouldn't close at all.

FBC is not fit to run a raffle, let alone a pool

80% of present administration is put there by local people. Only way to get rid of them is by having candidates to stand at the next election. We need 51 Councillors voting with their consciences.

I want to know how we can get rid of this cabinet system. How do we stop the lack of transparency in decision making?

Why are we complaining here? What we need to do is to make life hell for those Councillors that are going against our wishes. Tell them at every opportunity. Make their lives unbearable, that's what we can do. Please get at them. Make sure they know they represent you!

The problem is that FBC's financial problem is caused because they have too many chiefs and not enough indians. Until senior personnel are drastically reduced, finances will still suffer.

Heard views and concerns of many and their disquiet at some of the decisions which have been and are being made. Councillors in the majority party obeying the cabinet which requires unswerving obedience. Many matters have caused concern and have been aired at this meeting.

These are but SYMPTOMS of the underlying malaise, namely this pernicious governance incorporated in the cabinet.

I am therefore putting forward a RESOLUTION which in my belief would rectify many of the ills being aired tonight

This meeting, representing many hundreds of Borough residents of all parties, interests, creeds and beliefs hereby declares that it has NO CONFIDENCE in the present cabinet of Fylde Borough Council and

(1), calls for greater consideration to be given to public opinion and the wishes of the people through a more representative governance, with the abandonment of any threat of penalties which might be imposed for voting according to conscience, enabling a return to democratic decision-making by a majority of Councillors in full Council and

(2), calls on all Parish and Town Councils in the Fylde Borough to confirm and endorse this resolution.

SWIMMING POOL (32 comments)

006 If Kensington are offering £2.5 million to build a new swimming pool why can't this money be used to keep the present pool open, or have Kensington got plans to take over the swimming pool site.

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

010 Please get more people swimming

013 The swimming baths must remain open

041 Re: Swimming pool, on FBC website there is a link to visitythamstannes.co.uk. Only a few days after the demonstration to save the pool there was no mention of St Anne's pool on the site. Had it ever been on? If it was and was removed so quickly wasn't this a bit premature as visitors as visitors up until its closure in July might have wanted to use it.

056b The closure of the swimming pool will be a great loss to many in the area – it is well used and the decision to close it is a disgrace.

062 The pool should be saved (a priority) in its present location.

065 I think the Councillors who voted to close St Anne's swimming pool should be named and shamed. I would personally like a list of who voted for and against for my personal reference when the local elections come round. Sack the fools, save the pools.

075 The pool is used by many different age groups, babies, children, elderly people, learning disabilities, old age pensioners use the pool in the mornings and find it a great use of reflexology.

091 Doctors are telling people to swim for health, no chance with these councillors.

092 Keep swimming pools open for all ages to keep using. It's only 20 years old. Ridiculous!

104 I am on the committee of Fylde Otters. We will be forced to disband if the pool is closed. There are no facilities for hoist assisted swimming elsewhere and 20 years work will be gone. It must stay where it is.

112 St Anne's swimming pool must be kept open.

123 Why build new when there is a building there already eg Swimming pool and Town Hall.

127 I think the proposal to have a fund to save the pool and I would be willing to pay the £15

129 I am not against building a new pool, although it makes no sense, but the existing one must be kept open until a new one is ready.

153 St Anne's swimming pool should be kept open. Children need to be able to swim and it is an important part of the community! for the young who can't vote!! for the disabled, elderly etc. Doctors say swimming is the best form of exercise as it is gentle on the body. I would be interested in being part of Fylde Council – I've lived here al my 28 years of life.

155 Please keep St Anne's swimming pool open.

166 The pool should not be there for a profit but for the people of St Anne's and visitors to St Anne's to use. That is why we pay Council Tax

181 I will put the details of the poll onto the prescriptions from my surgery and put up a notice in the waiting room. You might want to ask other surgeries in the town if they will do the same.

187 Madness to get rid of the pool. Put the prices up.

Planning conditions deny use except for sport and recreation.

I went to FBC meeting to protest at pool closure. Told by Cllr Renwick it wouldn't make any difference. The pool was probably going into "storage" and schools were going to Palatine but that was a problem for bus travel time and extra cost. Has written to Ombudsman but they said complain to FBC first!

Fylde Otters committee member. Voluntary organisation. Fleetwood will be nearest pool with the right facilities. We really need to fight to keep this pool open. Need a campaign to keep it in St Anne's, on the Promenade, where it is accessible and has good transport links.

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

I emailed every councillor about the pool and only had three replies.

Swimming pool means so much to people. We must do our best to save it. I liked the idea I read about of each house giving £10

We already pay £10 its called Council tax. Problem isn't the money; it's that FBC don't want to keep the pool anyway

The £10 - £15 contribution suggested would be paid to a separate fund or trust.

I'm a regular swimmer. I want to ask people to go swimming. Numbers are dropping. Need to persuade more people to join in.

Opinions show how badly FBC is running things. Pick up point from another meeting about War Memorial not being properly maintained. That lists the people who gave their lives for democracy in this country, and we all need to remember the sacrifice they and the suffragettes made. We've organised a Parish poll, so we also need your hard won vote. There won't be pool cards. Ballot is 1 May. Tell your friends to go out and vote. Its open 4pm to 9pm.

Voice of youth. Kids can't vote but you can. On behalf of us kids, please go out and vote to save the pool

What can we do? I' prepared to volunteer to deliver leaflets about the parish poll, is anyone else? We need to do something to stop the pool being closed.

Express article says Kensington will give £2.5m to build a new pool. None of us really wants the housing, but if the plan does go through, the money should be used to keep the present pool open.

HEELEY ROAD HOSTEL (11 comments)

055 Heeley Road could be used for low cost housing (for first time buyers)

072 Policing – or lack of! Local youngsters running riot in Heeley Road and surrounding area, demolishing bus stops etc.

082 The hostel is a terrible idea which will bring no good whatsoever for the surrounding residential area + St Anne's as a whole – or is it "hole" This council should be united in its resignation so St Anne's can move forward. I would gladly stand as a Councillor.

134 The proposed building of a hostel on a site which is surrounded by a large number of residents is a huge mistake. I feel that the amount of opposition (almost 700 people) has shown it will not be welcomed. I also fear for the safety / integration who are immediately resented by the local community. Is there nothing we can do to stop it?

156 Town councillors should not be Fylde Borough Councillors. There must be conflicts of interest in some areas eg Heeley Road Hostel.

When 700 people have objected why did Council approve plan for hostel?

How many councillors who decided lived in the district?

The meeting at Lowther was early morning when people couldn't get because of work and school, Councillors don't care about us. Only way is to vote them out at an election.

I have strong concerns

FBC website says there were no objections to the hostel but there were over 600

Someone has just been murdered at the same supported housing in Preston.

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

DEVELOPMENTS GENERALLY (11 comments)

011 There is much concern that inappropriate developments are taking place. St Anne's Road East – knocking down houses to build flats, the care home on the site of the old Headroomgate Clinic. The old Kwik Save buildings should have been retained for shoppers or other local facilities.

068 If more houses are built there are no secondary schools. When we returned three years ago, we were told that our three teenagers would have to go to Tulketh in Preston. We chose to educate them privately as we did not think it was fair to have to go so far away to school. We are not wealthy but we felt we had no choice.

114 Too many buildings of good architecture being demolished for flats.

133 What can be done about the number of empty run-down shops in and around the square? They make a wannabe high quality resort desperately shabby.

147 On a personal issue, I strongly object to the development of anything other than low rise, quality construction along the promenade. St Anne's has built its reputation on being different from Blackpool – we should be aiming for elegant developments suitable for young families and more discerning or older visitors. People who feel safe in tranquil environs.

156 There are too many charity shops and shops selling tat in the square.

161 Building and redevelopments in the sand dunes should be resisted.

178 If I wanted an extension with a window overlooking a neighbouring property, planning would turn me down on the grounds of privacy. How then can a 60' wheel be passed when all passengers on this will be able to look into peoples living and sleeping quarters.

180 Residents live in St Anne's because of its appeal but [the] way things are going its just going to be part of a larger authority down the coast.

192 The new Town Hall is not needed- why not make use of the buildings at Wesham

Promenade – I'm trying to object to big wheel development. Only 56 people told about it by planners. Told data protection act precludes contact details for objections being published.

AIRPORT (10 comments)

001 Blackpool airport noise must be better controlled. Quoting an average noise level is a nonsense – night flights can be extremely disruptive, with 100+db and this impact is ignored in an average.

001The World Health recommendations are for no night flights and Fylde BC should ensure this is fulfilled.

001The green belt must not be sacrificed.

016 The airport is in a residential area any aircraft accident etc. Needs room to land etc as has previously happened at other areas. Plus green area football cricket etc children playing need to be considered. Fumes. [?] green land is built ie proposed redevelopment Leach Lane

022 The airport development is crucial to the borough's well being and prosperity.

025 St Anne's is much noisier than it was even 5 years ago due to commercial jet aircraft, helicopters, test flights from B Ae and emergency vehicle sirens. It is time this was controlled.

044 I am concerned that the airport could operate 24 hours a day (flights) as it is classed as an 'historical' airport. Is there nothing that can be done about this?

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

062 The airport could be extended to suit the area – not over extended (within limits)

160 Article 4 direction is essential to stop the airport development

173 With regard to the airport it is really necessary to establish the size of aircraft to be accommodated no the number of flights. Large jets should not be allowed.

KENSINGTON DEVELOPMENTS (6 comments)

061 Kensington developments appear to be taking over Lytham St Anne's. Far too many flats being built

062 Keep "Kensington" out of our town

128 Stop Kensington Developments taking over the area.

145 Very concerned about Queensway development, especially all the flooding.

177 We are not to be renamed Kensington On Sea

Came here 14 months ago. Always wanted to live here. Found it a town under siege. My concern is that FBC is working with league with Kensington to plug the hole in its finances. FBC are the only people here who want to build houses. I'm going to do my utmost to stop them.

ALDI / CONSERVATIVE CLUB (4 comments)

007 I wish to point out that if St George's Road has any more traffic re Aldi – with Sainsburys, the new block of flats, the auction rooms, the police - we will be unable to hold funerals or weddings at our lovely United Reform Church.

173 Serious danger of traffic gridlock in the area of St George's Road / Clifton Drive North near Woolworths / The Square (St Anne's) if an Aldi store is built in St George's Road.

Concerned about the infrastructure of St Anne's. Buildings of quality being lost. Worried about the Conservative Club being demolished. This is part of our quality buildings and is in a conservation area. Been told that the application will go through on the nod. People should oppose the demolition for use as a supermarket.

All Porritt properties should have a preservation order on them.

BLACKPOOL ROAD NORTH PLAYING FIELDS (4 comments)

019 With reference to the planning consent recently given to locate a 40 ft shipping container on Blackpool Road playing fields at the Fieldway entrance. Why is it necessary to situate this in a pleasant (up until now) residential area and of high value properties? It will be an eyesore in this location and will affect property values in the immediate area. I appreciate that from a strictly planning point of view it would be difficult to refuse permission, but from a visual point of view it is a disaster and will encourage the area to be used as a public toilet and for drug taking in the shelter provided.

145 Very concerned about Blackpool Road Playing Fields

160 I strongly oppose the siting of a 40' container on Blackpool Road Playing Field – Its turning the area into an industrial site. Also when holding football tournaments on the field the coaches

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

should be parked only on a coach park and not on the road opposite housing. A coach park would have facilities for the emptying of their chemical toilets – not the road. Even though I have reported this – nothing has been done to clear the mess!!

190 Fylde Borough Council must not sell the playing field on Blackpool Road. We have enjoyed hosting many tournaments with teams from all over the country for many years. The Council said that these tournaments may be held at St Anne's High school. It has been tried but was not successful. There was just not enough pitches and the children were waiting too long to play their matches and it became very late. The children were mainly overwrought. We must save our playing field now.

ASSET SALES GENERALLY (3 comments)

004 Extremely concerned that 'the family silver' will be sold off without any of the concerns of voters being heard or listened to.

131 I feel the council should get its finances in order before selling any assets

180 St Anne's is a relaxing holiday town and should remain so, it is not a selling off pot.

NORTH BEACH CAR PARK (2 comments)

003 North beach car park should be saved in conjunction with the development of North Beach as a major venue for valid sporting and leisure activities. Sand yachting should be encouraged to resume and the cost of maintaining its clubhouse should be shared by various sporting bodies eg kite flying, surfboarding, sandyachting and beach volleyball.

005 It's currently underused because many visitors don't know it's there

TRANSPORT / ROADS / HIGHWAYS (2 comments)

038 More use should be made of public transport. No protruding of gardens shrubbery onto public footpaths.

184 Car Parks – don't necessarily believe car parking should be free. Cheap yes, but not free. Maybe free for first hour then pay for rest of the time.

ST ANNE'S TOWN COUNCIL (2 comments)

094 The Town Council has a unique opportunity to be a voice in St Anne's and a force to promote the best interests of the town. This chance must not be wasted.

180 Town Council - keep up the pressure

OTHER (AND VERY MIXED)

002 Facilities for young people - not enough - causes juvenile nuisance. No allowance in last year's budget for replacement [play] equipment in any local parks

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

105 I am very concerned about the new plans for Ashton Gardens. I don't like what has already been done in the gardens. We want more public meetings. The lodge at St Georges Road is not adequate.

130 As a holiday town which has a good percentage of elderly residents, surely there should be more public toilets.

139 Can I suggest more public meetings which I feel after this successful event will surely make the public more aware of what is happening behind closed doors.

142 I would like to help this group.

154 Why are the residents of the nearby Heeley Road Park applying for a Lottery Grant to improve this park? What about the £60 we are being charged for this purpose? Where is that money going?

157 When are they going to put the Ashton Institute Garden Pavilion up

178 The sand issue is getting totally out of hand. The footpaths on North Promenade are an accident waiting to happen. The beach is a disgrace and not cleaned enough.

180 Lets keep Ashton Gardens as it is, we nearly lost it 10 years ago.

196 The state of St Annes. There is rubbish everywhere. People arriving at St Annes Station must think they have arrived at public rubbish, there is litter under the hedge, by the station etc. As for the steps leading from Whiteside to the Crescent, everything is there, vomit, condoms, even wild life (cats)

Local MP not doing enough to curb excesses of Council

Parish poll – Lytham can't vote in the poll, its only St Anne's residents because Lytham isn't parished. Boundary is St Paul's Avenue, Smithy Lane and Northhouses Lane.

FYLDE CIVIC AWARENESS GROUP www.fylde.biz

RESOLUTION RESULT as at November 2008

The 'Save St Annes' public meeting of 16 April 2008 at St Annes YMCA was attended by over 200 people. At the conclusion of that meeting, speaking from the floor, David Meldrum proposed, and Bill Whitehead seconded, a resolution that was approved without dissent by all those present vis

"This meeting, representing many hundreds of Borough residents of all parties, interests, creeds and beliefs hereby declares that it has NO CONFIDENCE in the present cabinet of Fylde Borough Council and

(1), calls for greater consideration to be given to public opinion and the wishes of the people through a more representative governance, with the abandonment of any threat of penalties which might be imposed for voting according to conscience, enabling a return to democratic decision-making by a majority of Councillors in full Council and

(2), calls on all Parish and Town Councils in the Fylde Borough to confirm and endorse this resolution. "

The result of the reference to Town and Parish Councils is set out below.....

	Population represented*	Decision	Supporting	
Town and Parish Councils having considered the resolution				
Elswick PC	1,057	Supported	1,057	
Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton PC	462	Not Supported		
Kirkham TC	7,127	Supported	7,127	
Little Eccleston-with Larbreck PC	374	Supported	374	
Medlar-with-Wesham TC	3,245	Not Supported		
Newton-with-Clifton PC	2,680	Supported	2,680	
Ribby-with-Wrea	1,489	Not Supported		
Saint Anne's on the Sea TC	25,699	Supported	25,699	
Singleton PC	877	Supported	877	
Staining PC	2,312	Not Supported		
Weeton-with-Preese PC	1,096	Not Supported		
Westby-with-Plumpton PC	1,107	Supported	1,107	
TOTAL	47,525		38,921	82% of those who considered the resolution

Town and Parish Councils not, or not yet, having considered the resolution

Bryning-with-Warton	3572			
Freckleton	6045			
Treales, Roseacre and Wharles	447			
TOTAL	57,589		38,921	68% of those able to consider the resolution

Unparished areas not able to consider the resolution

two thirds of Park Ward	2,802			
one third of Fairhaven ward	1,376			
Lytham	11979			
TOTAL	73,746		38,921	53% of the whole of Fylde population

Population based on 2001 census

Public Meeting, St Anne's, 16 April 2008

LOCATION OF RESPONDENTS

Although it was hosted by the St Anne's on the Sea Town Council, the meeting was not a Parish Meeting, but a public one. It was therefore not restricted to residents of St Anne's. Respondents to the questionnaire were invited to provide contact details. There follows a geographic analysis of those who did. Of the 196 completed forms, 117 gave addresses. Of these, 99 (85%) were from St Annes. 15 (13%) were from Lytham, and 3 (2%) were from elsewhere in the Borough.

<u>STREET / ROAD</u>		<u>STREET / ROAD</u>		<u>STREET / ROAD</u>	
ST ANNES		St Davids Road North	3		
Ambleside Road	1	St Davids Road South	1		
Beach Road	1	St Patricks Road	2		
Beverley Road North	1	St Patricks Road South	1		
Blackpool Road North	1	Summerfields	3		
Brighton Avenue	1	The Boulevard	2		
Cartmell Road	2	The Hawthorns	2		
Chatsworth Road	3	Tudor Road	3		
Church Road	3	Vicarage Close	1		
Clarendon Road	1	Westgate Road	1		
Clifton Drive South	1	Wood Street	1		
Clifton Drive North	2				
Clitheroe Road	1	LYTHAM & ANSDELL			
Clive Avenue	5	Calf Croft Place	1		
Collingwood Avenue	1	Cherrywood Avenue	1		
Curzon Road	2	Clifton Drive Ansdell	1		
Dalton Street	2	Derby Road	1		
Dorset Road	2	Edwinstowe Rpad	1		
Duncan Close	2	Finsbury Avenue	2		
Filey Road	1	Forest Drive	1		
Harwood Avenue	1	Lawson Close	1		
Haymarket	4	Oakwood Avenue	1		
Headroomgate Road	2	South Park	3		
Heeley Road	4	Tewkesbury Drive	2		
Highbury Road East	1				
Hove Road	1	ELSEWHERE IN FYLDE			
Jellicoe Close	2	Oxley Close, Kirkham	1		
Kingsmere Avenue	2	Richmond Avenue, WG	1		
Leach Lane	1	Canberra Way, Warton	1		
Leamington Road	1				
Lime Grove	1				
Margate Road	1				
Nateby Close	1				
Newbury Road	3				
North Promenade	1				
Pilling Avenue	1				
Ramsgate Road	1				
Ripley Drive	1				
Roseacre Place	1				
Rosendale Road	1				
Sandhurst Avenue	3				
Sandringham Road	1				
Scarborough Road	1				
South Promenade	3				
St Albans Road	2				
St Annes Road East	3				

FYLDE CIVIC AWARENESS GROUP



*What's going on?
Who's making decisions?
Can you make a difference?*

What's it all about?



We help people understand....

- ◆ What Local Government is all about
- ◆ How priorities are decided
- ◆ What your money is spent on

We work with local groups....

- ◆ To encourage participation and foster co-operation
- ◆ To provide tactical and strategic support
- ◆ To share information and ideas, encourage alliances where appropriate, and
- ◆ to provide support and experience without loss of autonomy

WWW.FYLDE.BIZ

0845 456 6122