

## **Parish Vote for King's Lynn Residents**

The residents of King's Lynn have long been denied the benefits of a first tier Parish authority.

In 2004 it was agreed that a Parish authority would be introduced, following a referendum, but this did not come to fruition.

However, on Thursday evening Cllr David Collis submitted a motion to the Borough Council for the enfranchising of the electorate of King's Lynn to elect Parish Councils within the boundaries of the unparished area. Hence ensuring that representation would be available throughout the Borough and that all residents would have equal rights of access to a first tier authority.

Council agreed that the motion be referred to the Cabinet for progressing, before returning to Council for debate.

The reduced representation in the non-parished areas is an important omission, for there are substantial issues about which there has been no debate in Council and no discussion with residents who are affected by decisions taken in Council.

My first concern is the imposing of Special Expenses within the non-parished areas of Lynn without the knowledge of and debate with the people of Lynn. Such expenses have resulted in 30% increases in Council Tax.

Such expenses are permissible under 1992 legislation, but there is no debate as to size, implementation or apportionment, as there would be in the case of Parish precept.

Secondly, I am being continually being made aware of Parish Councils being able to review and make recommendations in respect of planning applications. There is no opportunity for such contributions in the non parished areas; with the relevant forms simply recording a "Not Applicable". Many of us believe that it is applicable and that the people in the non-parished areas should have the opportunity to comment.

Thirdly, I would draw your attention to the need for discussion and debate on local issues. The prime example at present being the construction and operation of an incinerator at Saddle Bow. Another development in South Lynn, about which the residents new little or nothing.

Waste disposal is a very important issue, but a debate on the needs for Re-use and Re-cycling is of vital importance to all and local communities must have the opportunity to understand and to make further contributions to a developing programme. Some raw materials will not be available for ever; hence re-use and re-cycling are vital to the future of us all.

The Cabinet and our Borough Council must understand that our communities need to have full representation and I would urge you to support the proposal for the full Parishing of our Borough and enfranchising of our residents.