

SOUTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

As I am writing this article in February for the March edition, I am hoping that the Pond dredging took place. This was planned for Monday 23rd February. It has been a long time coming due to the weather, either too hot and dry or too wet because of the rain. It is still very wet at the moment; however, the Parish Council have agreed to hire some wooden mats to place on the Green to avoid rutting and the machinery getting stuck. We appreciate that there still might be some mess, but once the weather dries out, and the silt dries in the bund, we can relay, re-seed and make good.

I would like to let you all know that the Borough Council are starting their public consultation to ask King's Lynn residents, living within the unparished area of King's Lynn, whether they would like a dedicated Parish/Town council set up to give a local democratic voice to the people when local government is reformed across Norfolk.

As you know, the Government is looking at options to reorganise Norfolk's two-tier system of local government into one, two or three 'unitary' councils that will run all council services across larger areas. Apart from this area of King's Lynn, every other part of West Norfolk has its own Parish/Town Council, including Hunstanton and Downham Market. Across Norfolk, nearly every market Town has its own Council including Thetford, Holt, Wymondham and North Walsham.

As King's Lynn currently has no Town council, this means that when the Borough Council is replaced by the new unitary Council or Councils in April 2028, only unitary Councillors covering large areas would be representing King's Lynn, Norfolk's biggest town.

Special arrangements will also be needed to maintain King's Lynn's Mayor and proud civic traditions when the Borough Council is replaced. If a parish is established for King's Lynn, these centuries-old functions would become part of the parish responsibilities. No decisions have yet been made.

To help Borough Councillors decide next steps, the Borough Council first want to hear if residents want King's Lynn to be parished and a new Parish/Town Council set up to serve the area of King's Lynn that's currently unparished. The public consultation runs from **Monday 9 February to Friday 27 March**.

We wanted to ensure everyone is aware of the opportunity and to have your say. The Borough Council are promoting via a number of channels. Letters are being sent to every home within the unparished area – some 20,000 properties – to invite people to complete the survey on this important issue. While the Borough particularly wants to hear from residents within the unparished area, other residents, who work in King's Lynn, local community groups, surrounding parishes, businesses, partner organisations and others are also welcome to take part.

Please visit www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/kingslynncgr where there is further information and a detailed map of the unparished area. Please send your response to cgr@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Wootton Park 200 Club:

Winners for December

1st Prize – N Scott
2nd Prize - A Gay
3rd Prize – A Howard
4th Prize – P Harris
5th Prize, £20.00 – J Holman

Winners for January

1st Prize – M Sturgeon
2nd Prize – M Cakebread
3rd Prize – V Brown
4th Prize – S Scales
5th Prize – T Kirby

The Parish Office at 24 Church Lane, South Wootton, Kings Lynn, PE30 3LJ, is open to the public between 9am and 11am on each weekday morning except Wednesdays. You can leave messages on the answer phone by calling 01553 824355 or you can email us. Moira or I will respond as soon as we can.

Tracey Cornwell (Parish Clerk)

e-mail: info@southwoottonpc.co.uk

Quality Parish Council