

King's Lynn Unparished Area CGR – 1st Consultation Results

Charlotte Marriott
Scarlet Pettit

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Background

January 2026 Full Council resolved to undertake the first consultation required as part of the CGR process - seeking residents' views on whether a parish council should be established.

Methodology

- Consultation ran from 9th February to 27th March 2026.
- Submissions were made the following ways:
 - Online and paper survey
 - Email CGR@West-Norfolk.gov.uk
 - Letter to the Corporate Governance Team
- CGR Letter and FAQ document distributed to <20k properties within the unparished area, with the following info:
 - What is this consultation about?
 - What services would the new Parish/Town council provide?
 - How much Council Tax would I pay?
 - Who decides whether or not to create new Parish/Town councils?



Survey Questions

- Question 1 – Which of the following best describes you?
 - I live in King's Lynn
 - I work in King's Lynn
 - I own a business in King's Lynn
 - Other

Question 2

- Which of the above is your preferred option?
 - **OPTION 1** – To create a Parish / Town Council
 - **OPTION 2** – Not to create a Parish / Town Council
 - Another option
 - Don't know / not sure

Question 3

- Would you like King's Lynn to maintain its Mayoral/civic heritage?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know / not sure

Question 4

- Are you aware of any existing local community governance in the area (for example, community or neighbourhood forums, committees, resident associations etc.) which would serve the local community as an alternative to a Parish / Town Council?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know / not sure

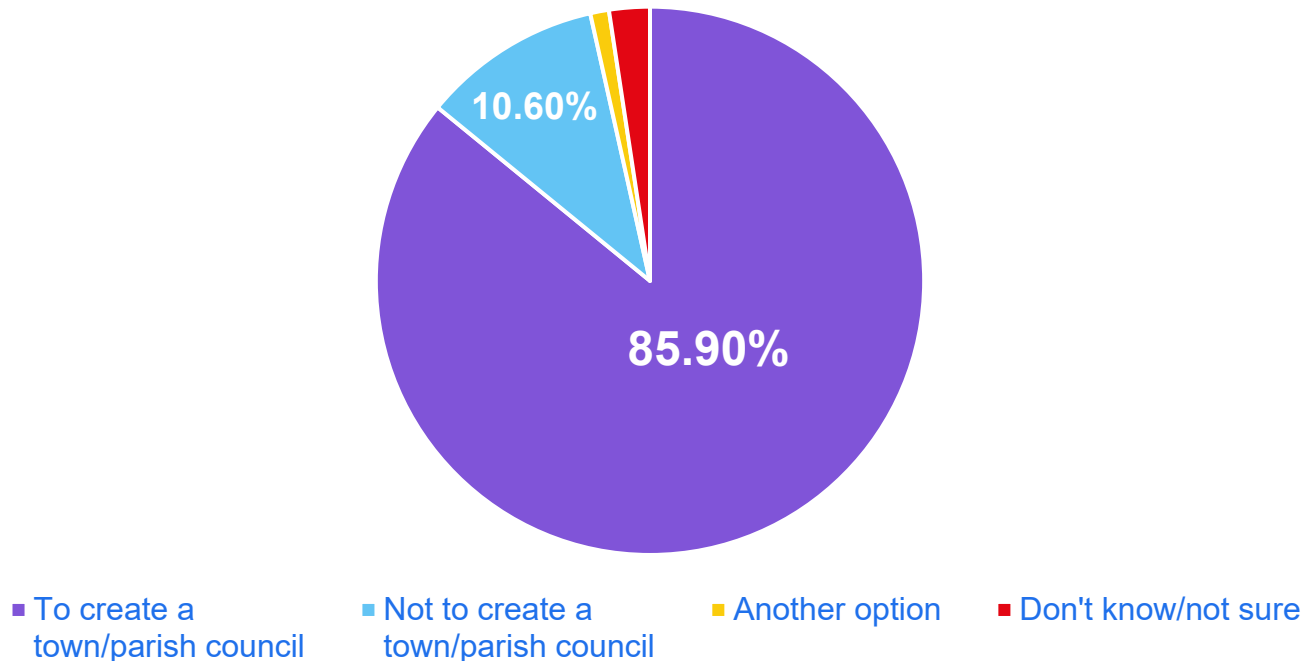


Participation Statistics

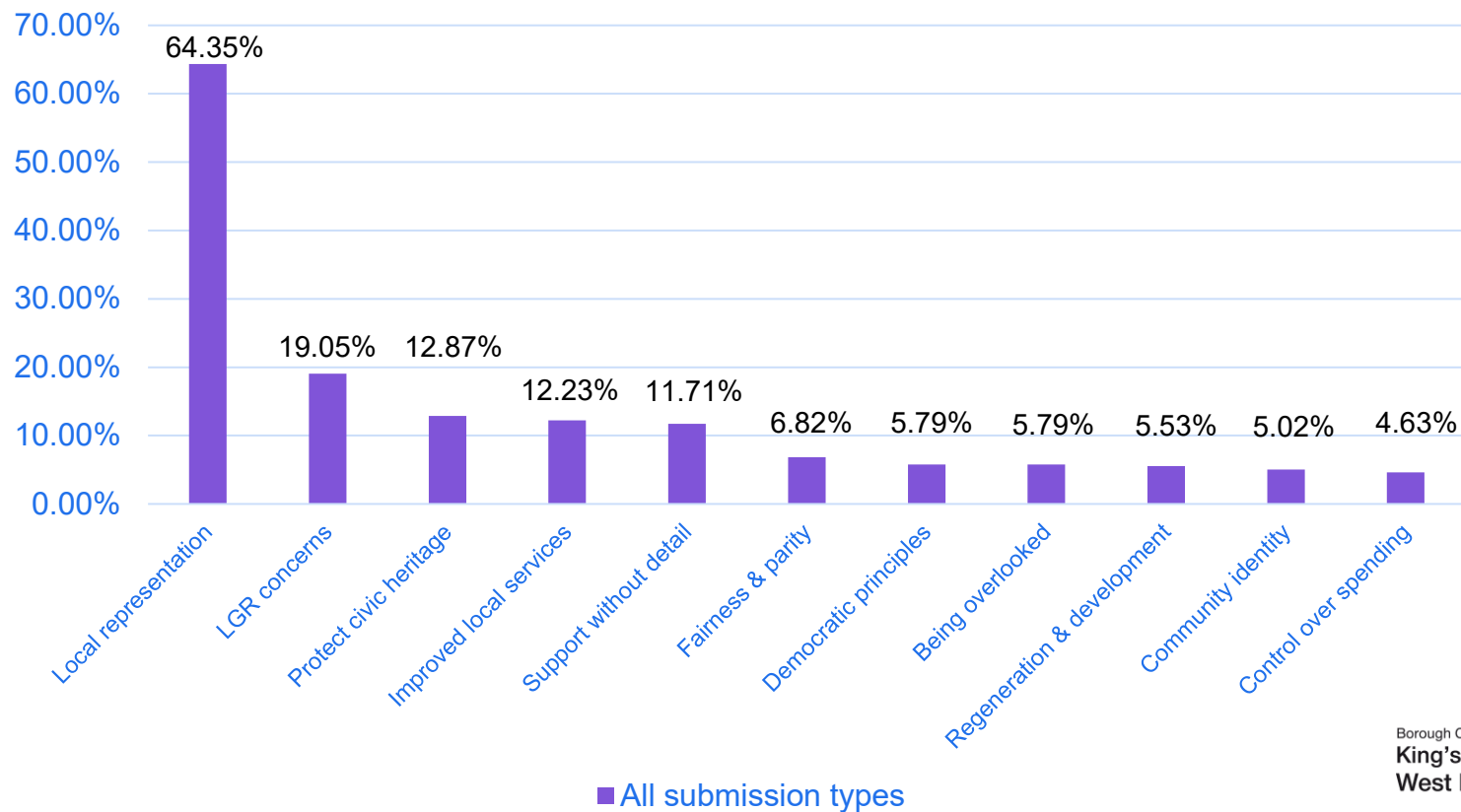
- Total number of submissions: **906**
 - Online survey submissions: 849
 - Paper survey submissions: 47
 - Written submissions: 5
 - Email submissions: 5
- Total number of respondents: **915**
(taking into account submissions made under joint names)



Summary Results – Town/Parish Council



Most Frequent Reasons – In Favour



Sentiments

Local representation & local voice

'We need decisions made locally'

'I've had enough of being governed by Norwich'

'Self-evident and long overdue that King's Lynn deserves dedicated and specific representation'

'Do not want local issues planned from a distance'

'Ensure that local voices are heard and not swept up in aggregate views'

'Opinions of everyone who lives in this area matters'

LGR concerns

'Avoid total dictatorship from one unitary authority'

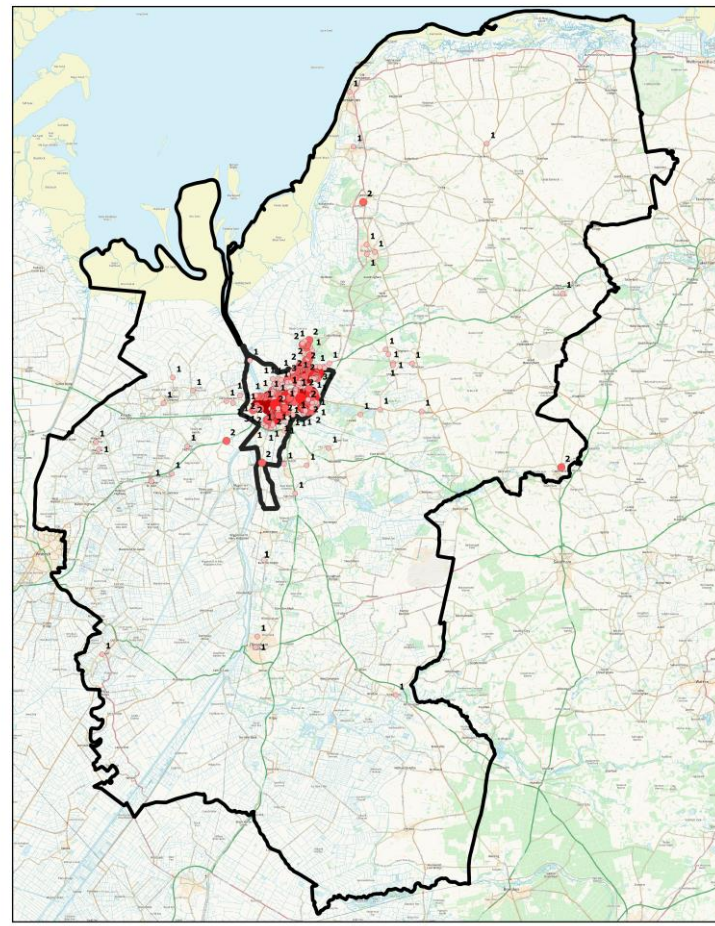
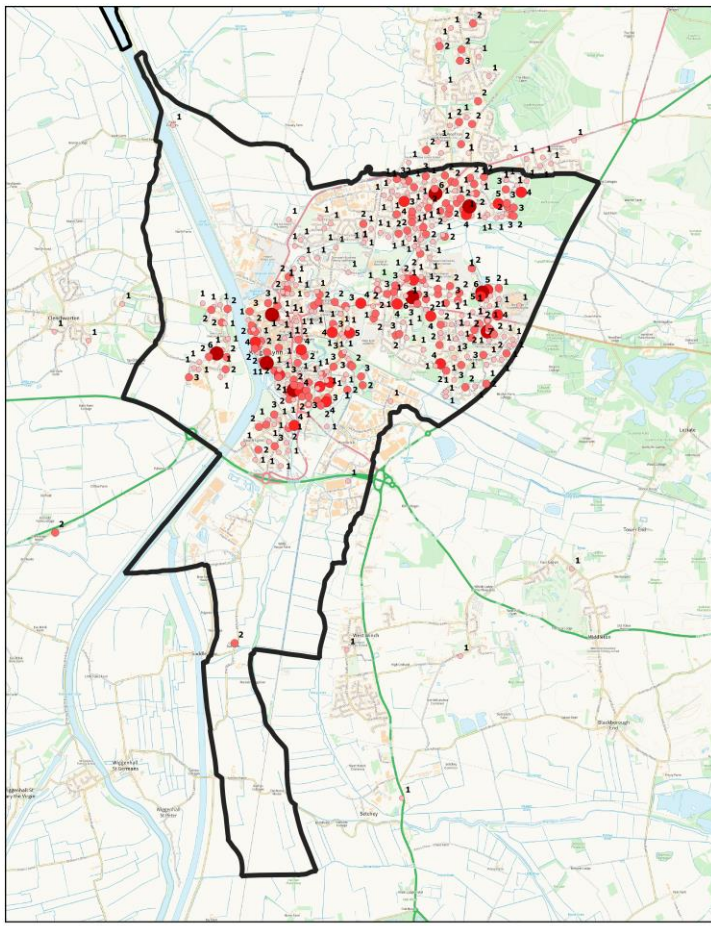
'Any kind of unitary authority would risk Lynn being sidelined'

'Retain as much independence as possible from any future unitary council'

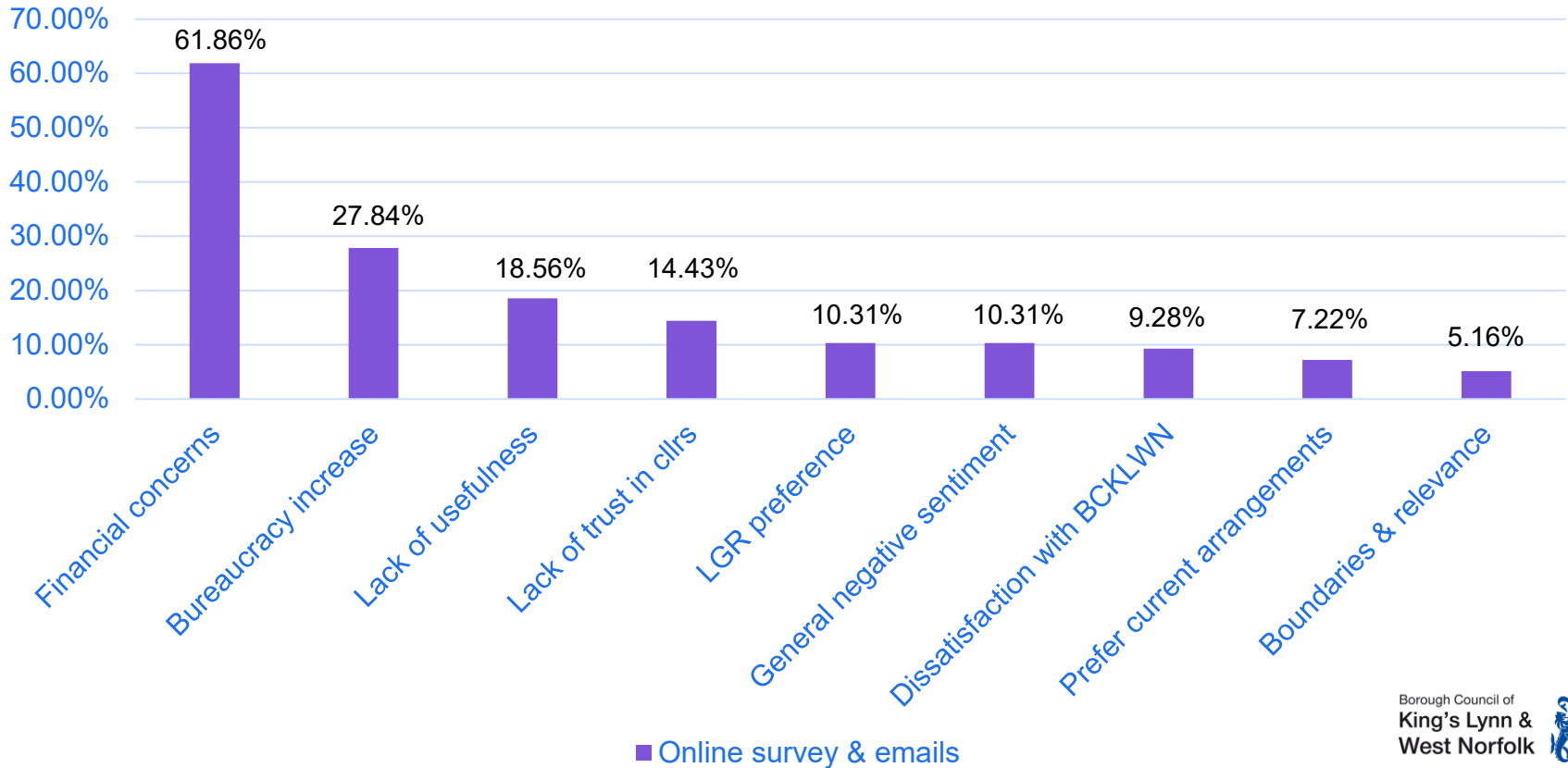
'Setting up a central council is not good for democracy or local decisions for King's Lynn'

'LGR will take away any voice we have'





Most Frequent Reasons – Not In Favour



Sentiments

Financial concerns

'Enough money is wasted'

'Council tax is already extortionate'

'Costing us more to maintain the status quo'

'Draining money from our pockets for no value'

'People struggle with rates as they are'

'Charging more money when most of us are living in poverty as is'

Bureaucracy increase

'Another layer of people to pay for'

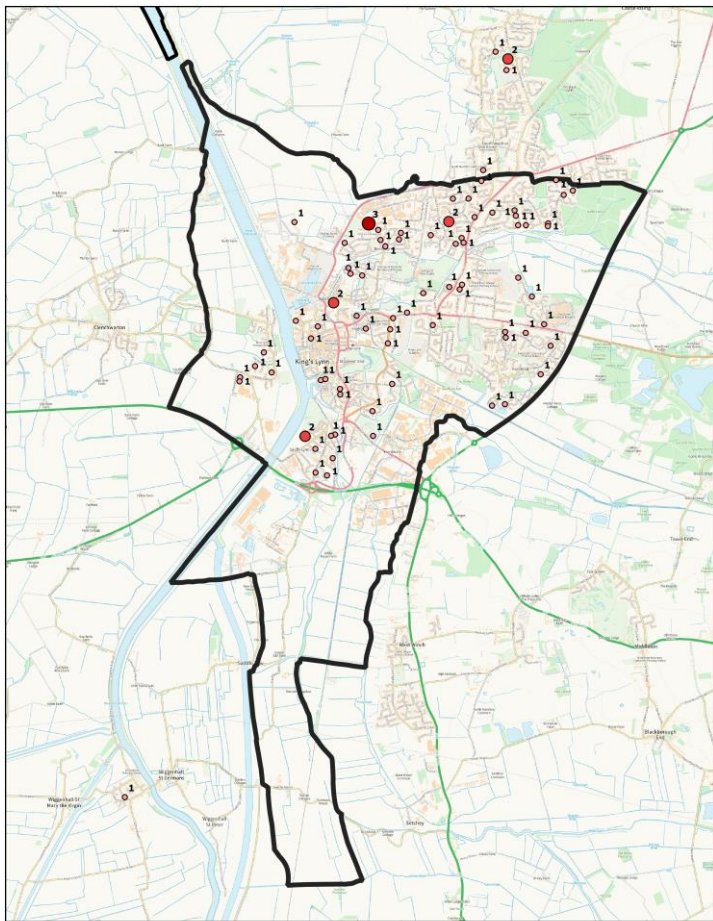
'Unnecessary extra level'

'Another layer of inefficiency'

'I vote for simplification!'

'More bureaucracy, more expense we need less politics not more'





Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk

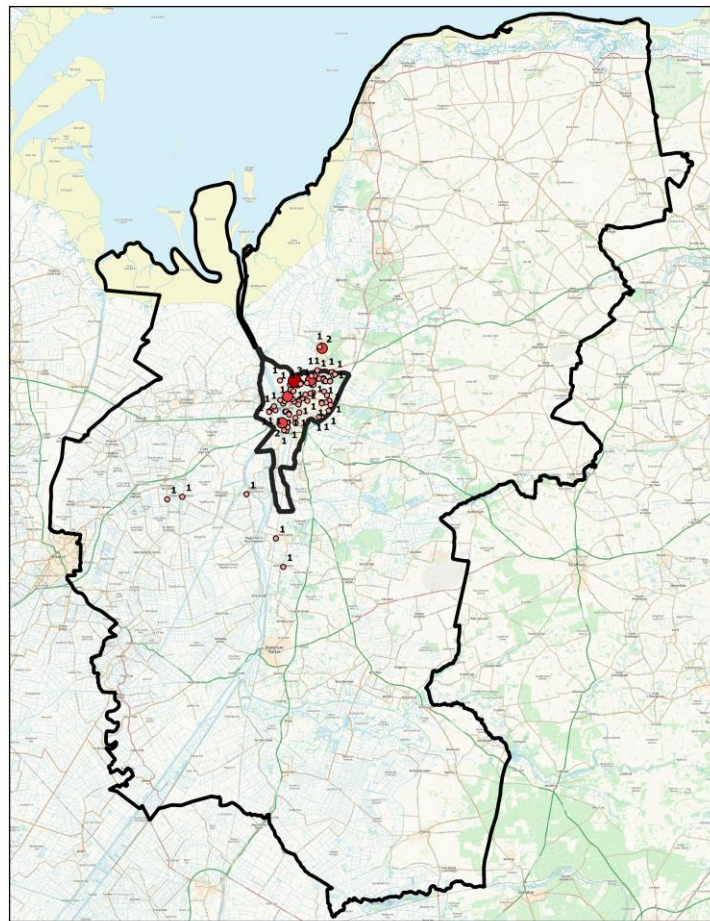


OPTION 2 - Not to create a Town/Parish Council



1:35,000
27/04/2026

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025
Ordnance Survey AC0000819234



Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



OPTION 2 - Not to create a Town/Parish Council



1:177,000
27/04/2026

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025
Ordnance Survey AC0000819234

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



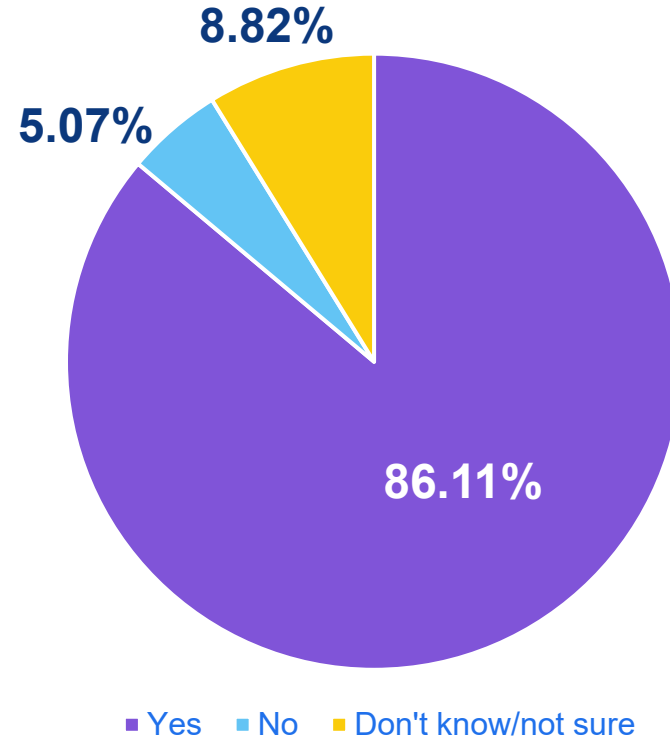
Another Option

- Boundaries & identity
 - West Lynn as its own parish
 - Confine a town/parish council to natural borders of King's Lynn town
- Alternative strategic visions
 - Seek city status for King's Lynn
 - King's Lynn is too large for a town council

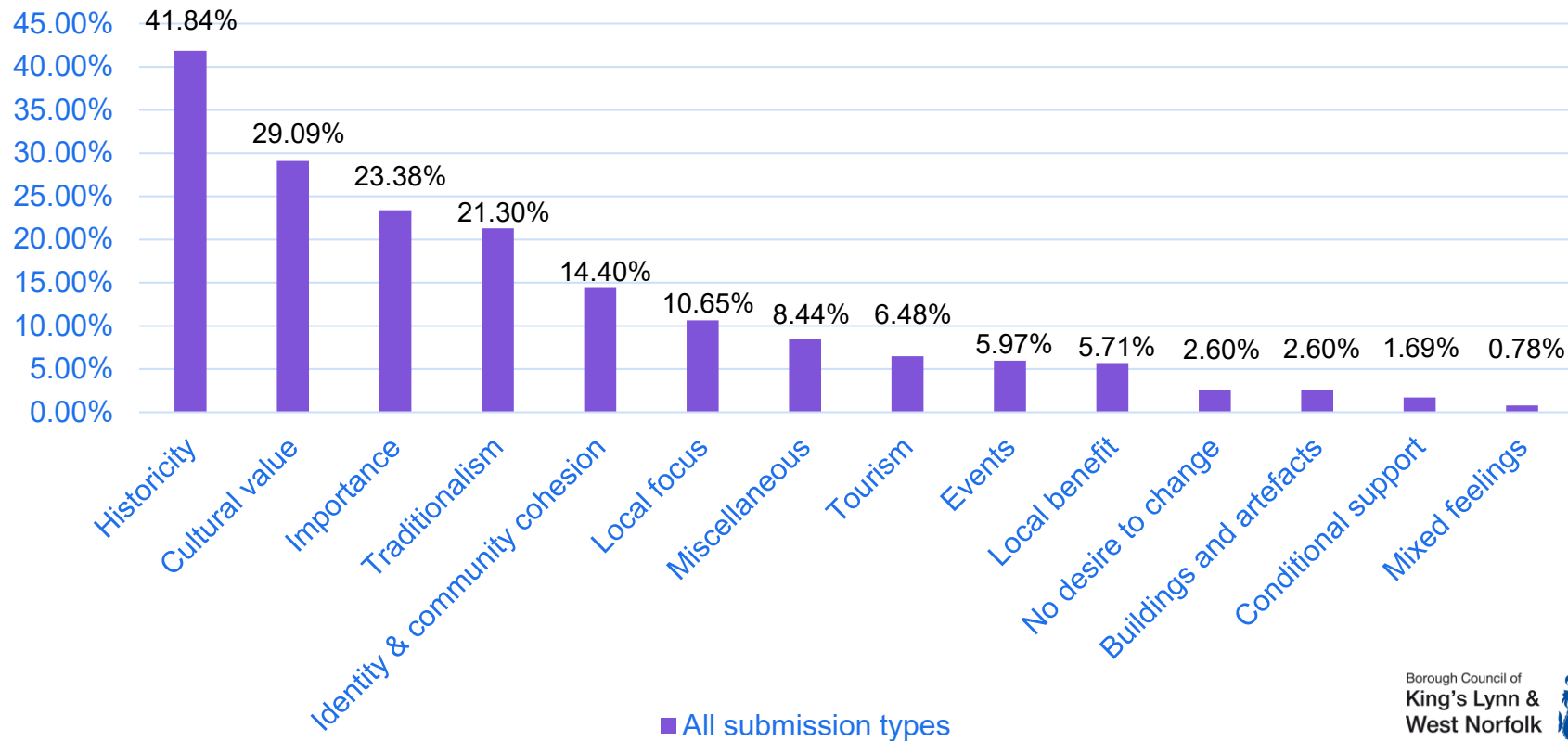
Don't know / not sure

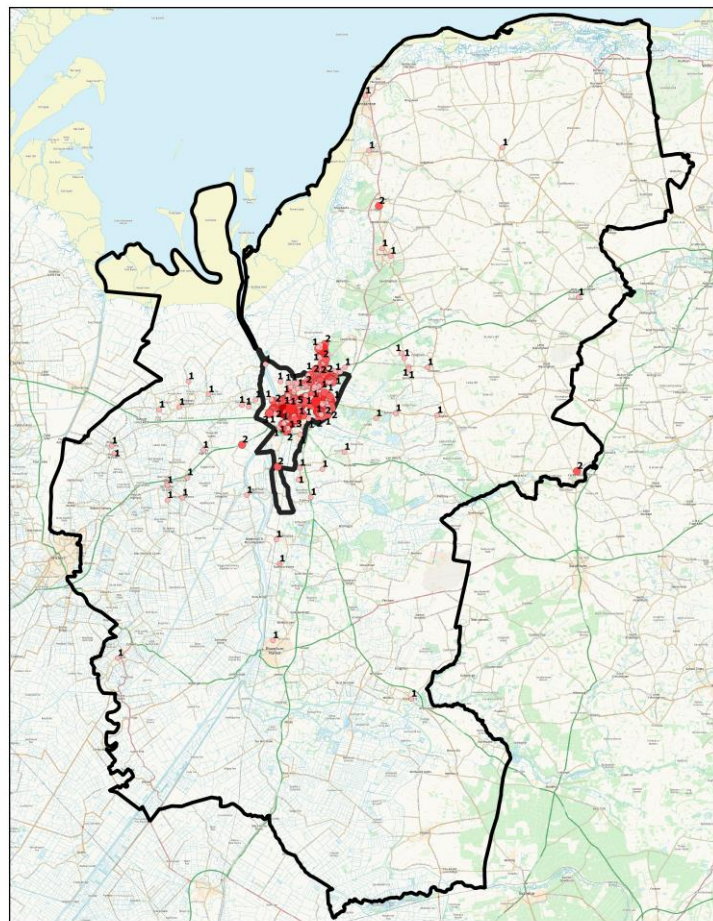
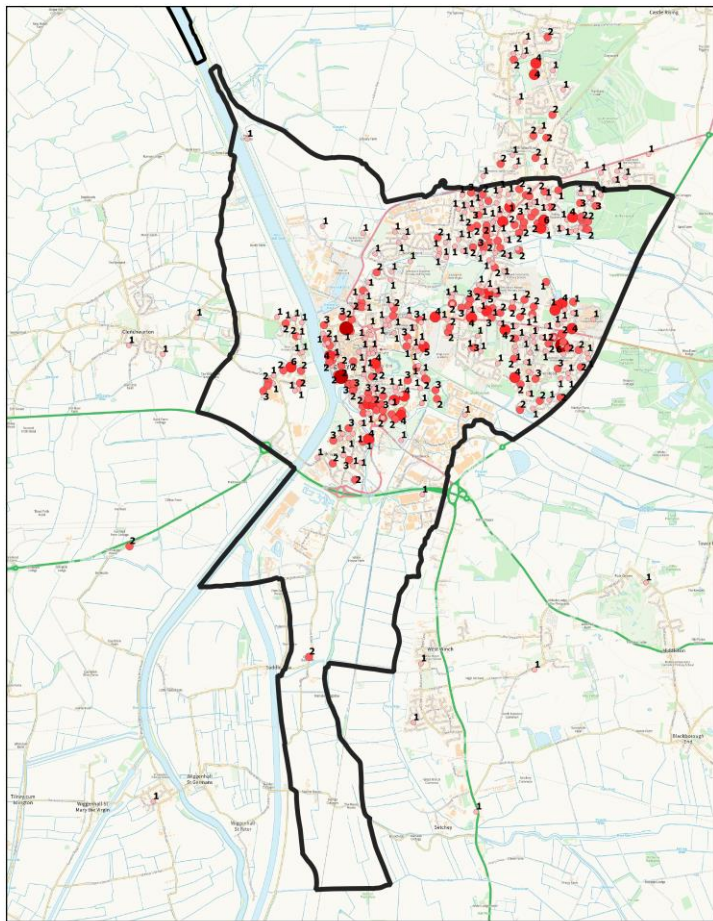
- Out of 20 responses:
 - 8 (40%) of respondents had financial concerns
 - 4 (20%) questioned the usefulness of a town/parish council
 - 3 (15%) said the consultation did not include enough information

Summary Results – Mayoral/Civic Heritage

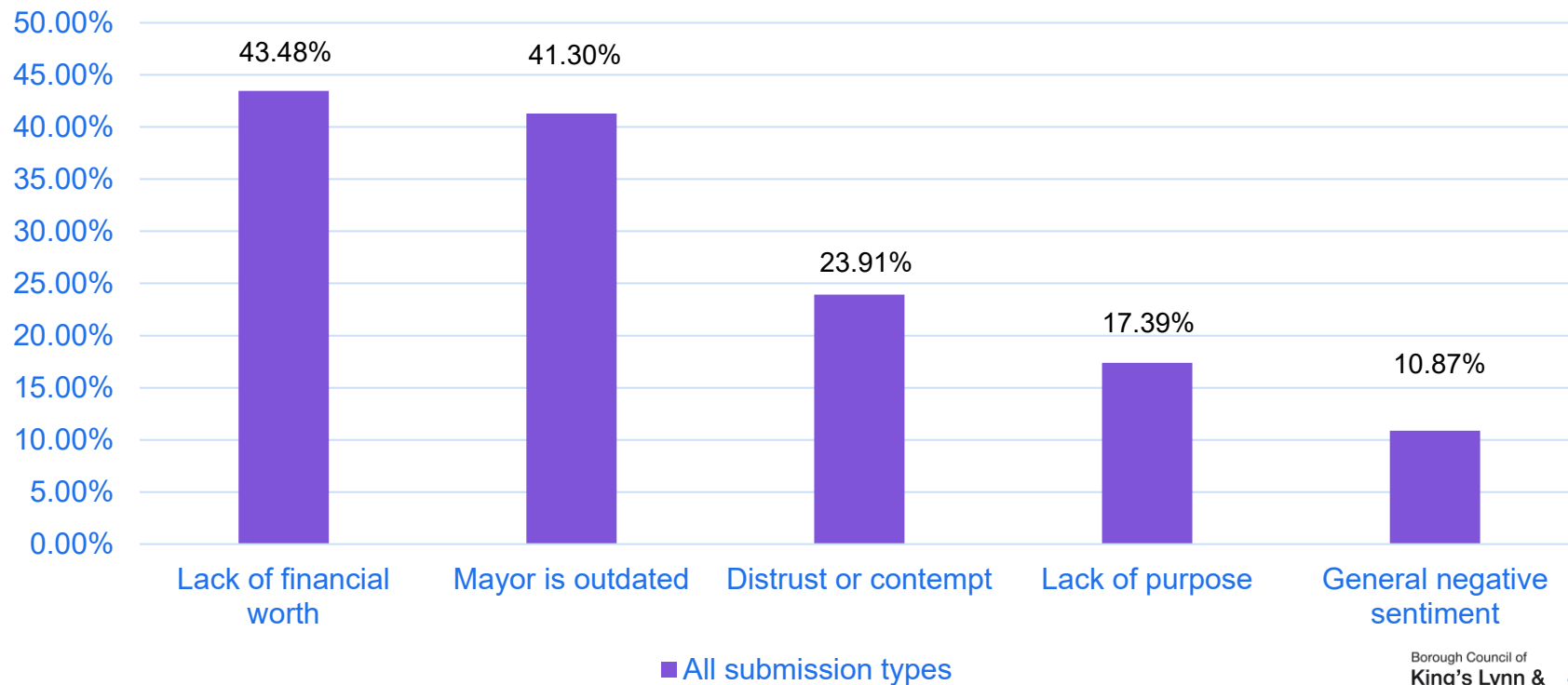


Most Frequent Reasons – ‘Yes’





Most Frequent Reasons – ‘No’



Summary results – Alternatives to a Town/Parish Council

- Across submission types, **98** respondents had knowledge of alternatives – **10.83%**

Ward Forums

King's Lynn Town Ward Forum

St. Margret's Ward Forum

Community Associations

Reffley Community Association

Other

King's Lynn Civic Society

Social Media Groups

King's Lynn Area Committee



Timeframes

CGR	
May – June 2026	Development of draft recommendations
September – October 2026 – TBC	Consultation 2
October/November 2026	Formulation of final recommendations
November/December 2026	Final recommendations and Reorganisation Order made
1 April 2027	Civil parish and parish council will come into existence
6 May 2027	Elections to new parish

SCO (and S24)

- Laid Autumn
- Made Jan 2027



Key Risks

- Timeframe – concurrent LGR legislation

- Resources

Charter Trustees can be established to preserve any historic property, privileges, rights and traditions

Provision made via
SCO

No power in respect of
functions or services

Interim arrangement



Draft Recommendations

- Developed based on resident feedback
- It is recommended that:
 - **A civil parish be created for the currently unparished area of Kings Lynn**
 - The proposed boundary reflects the existing unparished area

Only a very small proportion of respondents suggested alternative boundaries – justifies retaining the current boundaries



Draft Recommendations

- **A parish council be created to serve the newly created civil parish**
- **The civil parish be named “King’s Lynn”**

Reflects civic identity priorities raised by residents (heritage, status, identity)

Draft Recommendations

- Total number of councillors - 25
- This number reflects the size and electorate of the area

NAME OF WARD	ELECTORATE	NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS
Fairstead	4252	4
Gaywood Chase	1906	2
Gaywood Clock	2159	2
Gaywood North Bank	6381	5
North Lynn	4208	4
South & West Lynn	3612	3
Springwood	2081	2
St Margaret's with St Nicholas	3756	3

“Local representation & voice” was the dominant theme in support

Draft Recommendations

- Detailed financial modelling needed
- Financial implications were a key concern raised during consultation - council tax and value for money
- Further detail on anticipated costs and precept levels will therefore be provided during the next phase of consultation

Some considerations

- Parish Council comes into existence on 1st April 2027 – there is no shadow year, so the precept set needs to be a “real-world”
- Precept – often based on the assumption that some assets and services will transfer in the first year (and therefore need to be budgeted for)
 - No absolute guarantee that will happen

Some considerations

Services considered can include:

- Allotments – statutory allotments transfer on day 1
- burial grounds and cemeteries
- open spaces, parks and recreation grounds
- public conveniences
- litter bins
- play areas
- community centres
- crime prevention
- Events
- tourism activities and/or markets.



Draft Recommendations

- Includes provision to maintain the civic and ceremonial traditions of King's Lynn, including the continuation of a Mayor

Reflects the strong levels of support for maintaining civic heritage



Next steps

- Full Council
 - Options to consider
 - Do we progress the CGR – undertake the 2nd consultation?
- If 'Yes':*
- Approval of the draft recommendations for use during second consultation (pending financial modelling) - *Delegation*

-
- Cabinet Workshop on draft recommendations
 - KLAC briefing on draft recommendations
 - Financial modelling
 - 2nd resident consultation



Questions/Comments

