

# 'Scrap the Cabinet'

## say pressure group

**A NON-POLITICAL group has taken the first steps towards forcing Fylde Council to return to the committee system of governance**

Fylde Civic Awareness Group is holding a democracy and localism seminar with the aim of gathering enough support to force the authority to abandon its current cabinet system of government.

The Government's Localism Bill gives residents of areas the ability to ask a council to change the manner in which it runs, and it is thought around 4,000 names on a petition will be enough to request the change.

Back in 2008, shortly after St Annes Swimming Pool closed,

the group held a meeting with 200 people which led to a vote of no confidence in Fylde's cabinet system, and a call to return to the committee system, which would allow more of the borough's councillors to take part in decisions.

Fylde Civic Awareness Group chairman, Jon Harrison, said "In 2008 we held a public meeting. It called for the abandonment of the Leader and Cabinet System and a return to more open and democratic governance with decision-making by a majority of councillors in Full Council, not by a group of just seven acting as a cabinet."

The group believes that meeting gave them a mandate for change, and the seminar in February will kickstart a process to ask local

people about whether they are happy with the way Fylde Council is run at present.

Mr Harrison added: "If enough people support change, it will happen."

The Democracy and Localism Seminar will be held on February 15 at the Glendower Hotel in St Annes.

Chris Blanchett, from the Parliamentary Outreach Service will talk about how people can get involved with policy at a national level.

John Bainbridge will explain the options that the Localism Act provides for councils to be run in different ways and show how local people can petition for change – back to the former council and

committee system for example.

Then former Fylde Council leader Coun Paul Hayhurst, who has 34 years' experience as a councillor at Fylde, will speak about 'The Leader and Cabinet System - before during and after'

His talk will compare the pros and cons of how Fylde has been run in recent years and how it might be run in the future.

The final session is an 'open mike' where anyone attending can present their view or ask a question, and there are expected to be some surprise guest speakers doing mini-presentations.

More details of the seminar are available at [www.fylde.biz](http://www.fylde.biz) or by calling (01253) 728047 or by email from [clerk@fylde.biz](mailto:clerk@fylde.biz).