

Petition first for a pioneer

By Chris Dixon

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THE first person to propose Fylde Council should return to a committee system of governance was the first to sign a petition launched last week.

David Meldrum suggested the authority move away from its cabinet system and back to a committee system back in 2008.

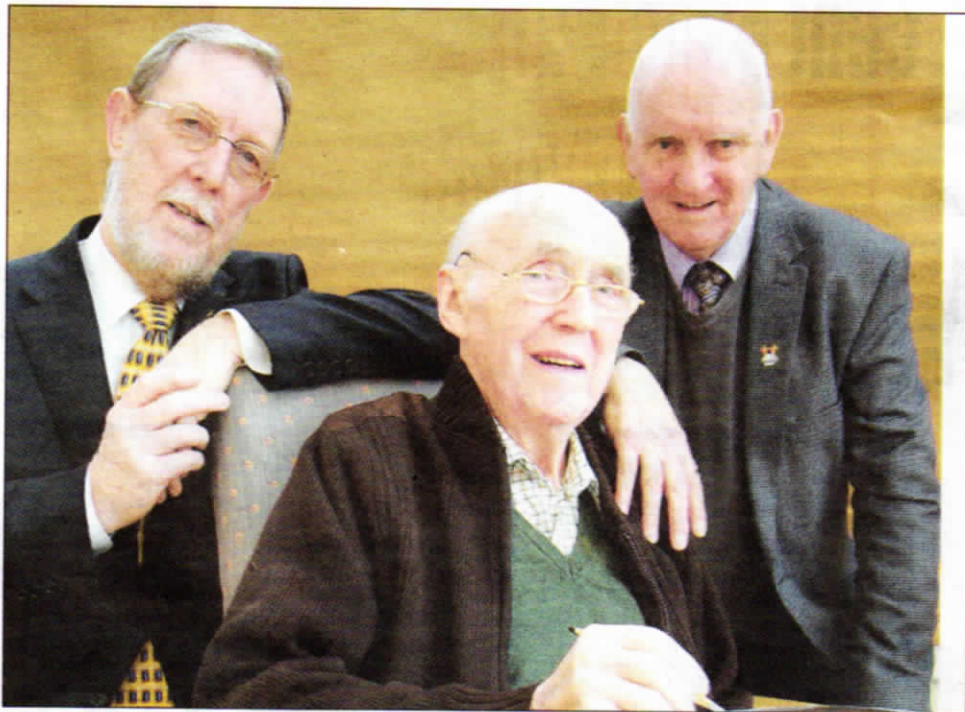
A spokesman for Fylde Civic Awareness Group (FCAG) said: "David has waited patiently since that time for the Council to act.

"David has been unwell of late, but remains sprightly in mind and spirit and he is following developments with interest through the pages of *The Express*."

The petition was launched following a seminar that attracted interest from across the country, with a view to making councils change their system of operation.

Opponents of the scheme believe the leader and cabinet system to be undemocratic.

However, supporters of the scheme say there



John Bainbridge (left) and Jon Harrison (right) of Fylde Civic Awareness Group with David Meldrum as he became the first person to sign a petition aimed at forcing Fylde Council into changing its system of governance

is enough scrutiny in the system to ensure democracy, and that it is a cheaper alternative to committees.

The FCAG spokesman added: "Early news on the petition is positive.

"One lady took six forms from the seminar on Friday and returned

three completed on Monday having taken them to church on Sunday.

"The same lady asked her husband to sign it - only to be told he had done so earlier that morning at the local paper shop."

The group needs at least 4,000 signatures

to ask Fylde to change its governance system, made possible by the new Localism Bill that gives residents more say on how their area is run.

More than 20 shops are stocking copies of the petition.

See www.lythamtoday.co.uk for a full list.