



Borough Council of
King's Lynn & West Norfolk

King's Lynn Unparished Area Community Governance Review

First Consultation Results and Analysis



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1. Background

Following Full Council on 29 January, 2026, the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk has agreed to initiate a community governance review for the unparished area of King's Lynn. At present, King's Lynn is the only area of West Norfolk that is unparished. This is consequential of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). LGR will see the creation of three new unitary councils within Norfolk, replacing existing District and Borough Councils, City Council, and the County Council with a single tier model.

When the new West Norfolk unitary council is in place on Vesting Day, 1 April 2028, the Borough Council will be dissolved, and there will be no lower tier of local government for King's Lynn below that of the new unitary authority. This may affect residents' democratic representation, and the way local services are provided.

Special arrangements would also be needed to maintain King's Lynn's Mayor and associated civic traditions and duties when the current Borough Council is replaced. Creating a civil parish is one of the ways to maintain these historic functions in light of LGR.

The purpose of the consultation was to gather the thoughts and opinions of King's Lynn residents to establish whether there is a desire for the emparishment of the King's Lynn area and the suitability of a Parish/Town Council for King's Lynn. Given the context of LGR, this was an appropriate and timely opportunity.

Following the conclusion of the first consultation, Officers developed draft recommendations to be presented to Full Council for approval. These recommendations take consultation responses into account, along with statutory criteria, government guidance and best practice. Council will then determine whether to proceed to a second consultation phase.

2. Methodology of the Consultation

The first consultation opened on 9 February 2026 and closed on 27 March 2026. Full Council agreed to extend the consultation period beyond the council's Consultation Standard of 4-6 weeks to further increase the opportunity for public participation around such a significant proposal.

The Borough Council welcomed representations from any person, household or body who wished to submit a response or comment on any matters included in the Review. Submissions could be made by those who live in King's Lynn, work in King's Lynn, or have a business within King's Lynn.



The consultation benefitted from a full communications plan. Multiple communication avenues were utilised, including a page on the Borough Council's website, press releases, posters, a video featuring the Leader, news articles, and reminders on social media. Every effort was made to reach the maximum number of residents within the unparished area.

A letter containing information on the consultation and the ways residents could make submissions was distributed to every residential property within the unparished area – 19,673 properties.

An FAQ document was provided alongside the resident letter. The document included information on the following questions:

- 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?

Submissions to the consultation were made in the following ways:

Online: A dedicated online survey hosted on the [King's Lynn Unparished Area Community Governance Review](#) page on the Borough Council's Website.

Paper survey: Paper forms were present in the reception areas of King's Court and Lynnsport.

By Email: cgr@west-norfolk.gov.uk

By Post: Corporate Governance Team, Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX

The paper survey was equivalent to the online survey. While the formatting was not identical, the questions and wording were unchanged between the two mediums. All questions (except those asking for personal information) on the online survey were mandatory. Not all paper survey responses answered every question. Paper survey responses will be analysed separately to online survey responses.

Letters and emails received by the Council in response to the consultation will be analysed separately.



2.1 Online and Paper Survey Questions

Question 1
Please state which of the following best describes you?
Answer Choices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I live in King's Lynn • I work in King's Lynn • I own a business in King's Lynn • Other (please specify)
Please state your postcode

OPTION 1 – To create a Parish / Town Council

OPTION 2 – Not to create a Parish / Town Council

Question 2
Which of the above is your preferred option?
Answer Choices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPTION 1 – To create a Parish / Town Council • OPTION 2 – Not to create a Parish / Town Council • Another option • Don't know / not sure
Please tell us why you chose that option, or provide details of your other option

Question 3
Would you like to see King's Lynn maintain its Mayoral and civic heritage?
Answer Choices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don't know / not sure
Please tell us why you chose that option, or provide details of your other option

If the eventual decision is not to create a new Parish / Town Council then to preserve the historic property, privileges, rights and traditions presently enjoyed by the residents of the area, then new arrangements to establish a Charter Trustee area in the unparished parts of the town would need to be introduced. The trustees have the power to carry out ceremonial functions, but they are not intended to act as administrative units and will have no power in respect of general functions or services.



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?

Answer Choices

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / not sure

Please tell us why you chose that option

If you would like to be kept informed on the Community Governance Review and involved in any future developments of draft recommendations following this initial consultation, please provide your name and email address below:

Question 5

Full name

Question 6

Email address



3. Participation

3.1 Submission Statistics

Total number of submissions	906
Total number of duplicate submissions (more than one similar response from the same person/s)	0
Number of submissions to the online survey	849
Number of paper survey submissions	47
Number of written submissions	5
Number of email submissions	5

3.2 Respondent Statistics

Total number of respondents included on submissions	915
Number of submissions made under a joint name	9
Total number of respondents who submitted a duplicate submission	0



4. Analysis Methodology

Due to the volume of responses, individual responses will not be listed in full.

4.1 Thematic Analysis

The consultation aimed to gather the thoughts and opinions of King's Lynn residents to determine the suitability and desire for a Parish/Town Council. The consultation allowed respondents to include their thoughts, reasoning, concerns and suggestions in all response avenues.

4.1.1 SURVEY

The online and paper survey were analysed separately, but the same approach was used due to both formats featuring identical questions.

A qualitative coding method of analysis was determined as the best approach to analyse the themes and sentiments within the responses. Coding is the process of categorizing excerpts within the qualitative data to determine themes and patterns. Codes were not pre-set. Codes were created from a broad review of the raw data and detecting emerging patterns, allowing for deeper and more accurate insights into residents' thoughts and concerns.

All responses for a given choice to a question were examined individually and coded to specific emergent themes. Responses generally ranged between 1-5 codes. Responses could have multiple different codes, but not the same code multiple times. Each theme has several sub-themes, and if a response met any one of the sub-themes, it was automatically coded under the parent theme.

All given responses were coded, including filler responses or those without justification.

The total quantity of each code was then used to determine the frequency of each theme, providing insight into what reasons were most prevalent for residents in making their choice and converting qualitative analysis into quantitative figures.

Given the paper and online surveys had identical questions, the same codes were used in analysis. The overall proportion of a theme within the two mediums was then calculated.

A broad sentiment within each theme was then determined. A sentiment could be categorised as Minor, Moderate, Medium, Strong, and Very Strong based upon the wording used in responses. A minority theme could be determined as having strong sentiment if emotive language was used across multiple responses. By determining a broad sentiment, deeper insights could be gained into the feelings behind a particular theme, and whether any theme was more important to residents than others.



4.1.2 OTHER SUBMISSION TYPES

Written and emailed responses were analysed after survey responses with the same coding method. Based upon a review of responses given through these avenues, the broad themes were similar to those determined for survey responses. The same codes were therefore used in the analysis.

4.2 Postcode Analysis

Throughout the consultation, residents were requested to provide their postcode in their response. Entering a postcode was a dedicated question on the survey, and the Borough Council website specifically requested that a postcode be provided if a resident chose to respond through a letter. The majority of surveys and written responses provided a postcode. Email responses were the only avenue where most respondents did not provide a postcode, however, the small number of lost postcodes did not significantly impact the results of the overall analysis.

With the postcodes residents provided, an analysis was conducted to determine the proportion of responses inside vs outside the unparished area, allowing for insights into the location of the highest frequency of a certain response. All postcodes provided by residents were inputted into QGIS geographic mapping software to create a heatmap, providing clear visualisation of where responses originated.



5. Summary Findings

The total response to the consultation included 906 submissions. These included submissions made to the online survey, paper survey, written responses received, and emails received.

When considering submissions made in joint names, there were 915 respondents in total.

Across all submission types, the majority of respondents favoured the creation of a town/parish council. Of 915 total respondents, 786 favoured a town/parish council – **85.90%**

Not counting for submissions under joint names, 777 submissions favoured creating a town/parish council.

The most frequent reasons cited in favour of a town/parish council across all submission types were:

- Local representation & local voice (**64.35%**)
- LGR concerns (**19.05%**)
- Protect civic heritage, culture and traditions (**12.87%**)
- Improved local services (**12.23%**)

Across all submission types, a total of 97 respondents were not in favour of a town/parish council – **10.60%**

The most frequent reasons cited against a town/parish council were:

- Financial concerns (**61.86%**)
- Bureaucracy increase (**27.84%**)
- Lack of usefulness (**18.56%**)
- Lack of trust in councillors (**14.43%**)

Across **most** submission types, the majority of respondents were in favour of maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage. A majority of respondents to the online and paper survey, and written submissions, were in favour.

Not all emails and written submissions expressed a preference on maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage. Of 5 emails and 5 written responses, 1 of each expressed a preference. Only those that indicated a preference were included in the overall calculation.

Of 907 individual respondents (excluding those that did not indicate a preference), 781 favoured maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage – **86.11%**.



Not counting for submissions made under joint names (and excluding those that did not indicate a preference), 772 submissions favoured maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage.

The most frequent reasons cited in favour of maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage across all submission types were:

- Historicity (**41.84%**)
- Cultural value (**29.09%**)
- Importance (**23.38%**)
- Traditionalism (**21.30%**)

Across all submission types, 46 total respondents did not favour maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage – **5.07%**

The most frequent reasons cited for those not in favour of maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage were:

- Lack of financial worth (**43.48%**)
- The Mayor is outdated, archaic or redundant (**41.30%**)
- Distrust or contempt (**23.91%**)

Across all submission types, the majority of respondents did not have knowledge of or propose an alternative to a town/parish council. A total of 98 respondents had knowledge of alternatives.

Of the alternatives suggested, the most frequent were:

- Community associations (**21.43%**)
- Ward forums (**17.35%**)

Key stakeholder responses to the consultation included:

- 1 borough councillor (online survey)
- 1 previous Mayor (online survey)
- South Wootton Parish Council (written response)
- King's Lynn Neighbourhood Board (email)
- King's Lynn Business Improvement District (email)

Such responses will receive a more detailed analysis in Appendix A. No response was received from Norfolk County Council, or any other resident groups, organisations, or local councils.

5.1 Survey

Overall answer percentages (online and paper survey):



Q2 – Which of the above is your preferred option?	
OPTION 1 – To create a town / parish council	86.08%
OPTION 2 – Not to create a town / parish council	10.39%
Another option	1.10%
Don't know / not sure	2.32%
Q3 – Would you like to see King's Lynn maintain its Mayoral / civic heritage?	
Yes	85.97%
No	4.97%
Don't know / not sure	8.84%
Q4 - 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	10.83%
No	59.67%
Don't know / not sure	29.50%

5.2 Other Submission Types

5.2.1 EMAIL

The email CGR@West-Norfolk.gov.uk received 9 unique responses.

Of those, **5** directly answered the consultation.

Within the 4 responses that did not answer the consultation, 2 were from the King's Lynn Neighbourhood Board and the King's Lynn Business Improvement District. While those emails did not express a preference, they will be analysed in Appendix A.

Summary results of email submissions:

On a Town / Parish Council	Quantity (/5)	Proportion
In favour of a town/parish council	1	20%
NOT in favour of a town/parish council	3	60%
Don't know / not sure	1	20%
On Mayoral/civic heritage	Quantity (/5)	Proportion



In favour of maintaining mayoral/civic heritage	0	0%
NOT in favour of maintaining mayoral/civic heritage	1	20%
No preference expressed	4	80%

5.2.2 WRITTEN RESPONSES

The consultation received 5 written responses.

Summary results of written responses:

On a Town / Parish Council	Quantity (/5)	Proportion
In favour of a town/parish council	5	100%
NOT in favour of a town/parish council	0	0%
Don't know / not sure	0	0%
On Mayoral/civic heritage	Quantity (/5)	Proportion
In favour of maintaining mayoral/civic heritage	1	20%
NOT in favour of maintaining mayoral/civic heritage	0	0%
No preference expressed	4	80%



6. Results of Online Survey Submissions

6.1 Summary and analysis of responses – Online survey

Number of responses submitted	849
Number of responses submitted by an individual	842
Number of responses submitted in joint names	7
Total number of respondents	856

6.2 Question 1 Response Statistics

1. Please state which of the following best describes you?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	I live in King's Lynn (please state your postcode below)		88.46%	751
2	I work in King's Lynn (please state your workplace postcode below)		3.65%	31
3	I own a business in King's Lynn (please state your business postcode below)		0.24%	2
4	Other (please specify):		7.66%	65
			answered	849
			skipped	0



6.3 Analysis of Question 2

6.3.1 Question 2 Response Statistics

2. Which of the above is your preferred option?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	OPTION 1 - To create a Parish / Town council		85.39%	725
2	OPTION 2- Not to create a Parish / Town council		11.07%	94
3	Another option		1.18%	10
4	Don't know / not sure		2.36%	20
			answered	849
			skipped	0

6.3.2 Individual Response Analysis

OPTION 1 – TO CREATE A PARISH / TOWN COUNCIL

Of 725 responses, 11 broad themes and several sub-themes were determined.

1. Local representation & Local voice - *Residents want King's Lynn to have local decision-making power and to be governed by people who know the area*

Sub-themes:

- Local decision making and accountability
- Local councillors familiar with the area
- Concern about decisions being made far away from King's Lynn

Examples: "give representation to local people", "I don't want to see all the decisions made in Norwich", "voices heard from local councillors who know the area".

2. Democratic principles - *Residents feel a town council protects or improves local democracy*

Sub-themes:

- Without a town council there would be a democratic deficit
- Belief in local democracy
- Greater democratic engagement

Examples: "we would be facing a democratic deficit", "enhance local democratic engagement", "closer democracy".



3. LGR concerns - *Opposition to LGR, fears about being absorbed into a larger system, King's Lynn's individual voice being lost, a need for individual decision making*

Sub-themes:

- a. King's Lynn being governed by a unitary council/Norwich
- b. Loss of lower-level representation
- c. Local issues not properly addressed by a unitary council
- d. Need for King's Lynn to have independence from the unitary council

Examples: "reorganisation moves local powers away", "lost in the change", "current council format is changed".

4. Being overlooked or forgotten - *Residents feel King's Lynn is forgotten by larger authorities*

Sub-themes:

- a. King's Lynn being a 'forgotten town' or afterthought
- b. Historic under investment
- c. Bias toward Norwich/being the 'poor relation'

Examples: "forgotten town", "overlooked and ignored", "low down on the pecking order".

5. Civic heritage, culture and events - *Residents express a desire to maintain local civic heritage, traditions, ceremonies, events, mayoralty or recognise the historic nature of King's Lynn*

Sub-themes:

- a. Keep local traditions
- b. Preserve King's Lynn's heritage and history
- c. Civic engagement activities
- d. Protect and enhance local events

Examples: "maintain the heritage", "keep local traditions", "unique historical features".

6. Community identity - *A town council would preserve and enhance a sense of local identity*

Sub-themes:

- a. Civic identity and pride
- b. A separate identity from other towns, villages or surrounding areas
- c. Community cohesion

Examples: "keep its own identity", "better sense of community", "encourage community spirit".



7. Fairness & parity - *Residents feel it is fair that King's Lynn have a town council to be equal with other towns and villages within West Norfolk*

Sub-themes:

- a. Questioning why King's Lynn does not have a town council when other towns do
- b. Comparisons to other towns (Downham, Hunstanton)
- c. Perception of unfairness or inequality that King's Lynn does not have a town council

Examples: "represented like the rest of the district", "all other areas in West Norfolk", "same democratic way as other local areas".

8. Regeneration and development - *A belief that a town council would aid in town centre regeneration, improved living standards and infrastructure*

Sub-themes:

- a. Town centre regeneration
- b. Planning consultation
- c. Infrastructure maintenance and improvement

Examples: "projects for King's Lynn", "improve my quality of life", "stimulate local economic development".

9. Improved local services - *Residents feel a town council would provide improved quality of service with targeted delivery*

Sub-themes:

- a. Better maintenance of local facilities and amenities
- b. More efficient services
- c. Services specific to the area and its needs
- d. Quicker responses and greater flexibility

Examples: "enhanced services", "local focus on some services", "meet the needs of residents".

10. Control over spending - *Residents express a desire for a town council that would allow King's Lynn greater control over local spending and improve financial transparency*

Sub-themes:

- a. Control over council tax
- b. Spending decisions made locally
- c. Financial transparency
- d. Grants and funding

Examples: "better funding", "decisions on spending money", "more of a say as to what council tax pays into".



11. Support without detail - Vague or nonspecific expressions of support

- a. Nonspecific support ('best option', 'better', 'because I want one', etc)
- b. Filler ('N/A', 'Option 1', 'X', etc)

Coding results

Theme	Quantity (/725)	Proportion (/100%)	Sentiment
Local representation & Local voice	466	64.28%	Very strong
Democratic principles	42	5.79%	Minor
LGR concerns	139	19.17%	Very strong
Being overlooked or forgotten	40	5.52%	Minor but intense
Protect civic heritage, culture and traditions	90	12.41%	Medium
Community identity	39	5.38%	Minor
Fairness & parity	48	6.62%	Medium
Regeneration & development	36	4.97%	Minor
Improved local services	84	11.59%	Strong
Control over spending	33	4.55%	Minor
Support without detail	88	12.14%	Medium

The leading reason provided by residents in favour of a town/parish council was that such a council would provide representation for residents from other local people, and a locally focused voice for King's Lynn, which residents don't feel they currently enjoy.

In electing local town/parish councillors who are familiar with the King's Lynn town area, residents feel a town/parish council would provide them with stronger democratic representation that is more reflective of residents' needs. Residents express in their responses they would like decisions about the town be made by local people, who are more familiar with and better equipped to address local issues. Within the LGR context, once the new unitary is established, residents want to preserve specific King's



Lynn town-focused representation where they feel their voices are heard and accounted for in service delivery and decision making. A town/parish council is one method residents feel would be effective in achieving this aim.

Residents do not feel that a larger authority focused on a wider geography would be able to represent them democratically at the same level as a town/parish council. Nor that it would be able to deliver services or address issues specific to King's Lynn town as effectively as a town/parish council. Residents wanted to avoid being governed solely by a distant larger authority, that, by nature of being a larger authority, would be less concerned with local King's Lynn specific matters. Residents express wanting to avoid being absorbed into a larger structure, or King's Lynn voices being aggregated with others in a wider system throughout the LGR process. Within such responses is a perception of bias toward larger authorities in terms of funding or decision making. Some responses feel that King's Lynn is the 'poor relation' or an afterthought in comparison Norwich. Residents point out historic underinvestment into King's Lynn from larger authorities, which negatively impacts residents' quality of life and overall condition of the town.

Responses under local representation & local voice include phrases such as:

- *"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"*
- *"Local voice for local people"*
- *"...ensure that local voices are heard and not swept up in aggregated views"*
- *"...opinions of everyone who lives in this area matters"*

Responses that had concerns about LGR included phrases such as:

- *"...avoid total dictatorship from one unitary authority"*
- *"Norwich will just drown us out even more"*
- *"Any kind of unitary authority would risk Lynn being sidelined"*
- *"...retain as much independence as possible from any future unitary council"*
- *"King's Lynn should not be governed by Norwich"*
- *"Norwich or elsewhere haven't a clue what goes on here"*

For the timeframe the consultation was open (9 February to 27 March), the decision from the Secretary of State on the future Norfolk model had not yet been announced, therefore residents did not know the scope of the new unitary that would be covering West Norfolk. While distinct councils will be created for West Norfolk and Greater Norwich following the decision, residents' concerns about being sidelined under a larger authority remain salient.



OPTION 2 – NOT TO CREATE A PARISH / TOWN COUNCIL

Of 94 responses that selected this option, 9 broad themes and several sub-themes were determined.

1. **Financial concerns** - *Concern around funding, cost, or value for money of a town council*
Sub-themes:
 - a. Concerns around lack of a precept cap.
 - b. Perceptions of a town council being a waste of money.
 - c. Concerns around council tax increases.
 - d. Lack of transparency around funding and expenditure.
 - e. Desire for council tax rates to be left with central Government

2. **Bureaucracy increase** – *Concern about a town council creating another level of unneeded or confusing bureaucracy*
Sub-themes:
 - a. A desire for a reduced number of councils, or simplification
 - b. Duplicated work/inefficiency
 - c. Extra administrative burdens
 - d. Too many councillors/more officials for the public to support

3. **Lack of usefulness** - *Respondents who perceive a town council as adding little value for King's Lynn, not responding effectively or implementing change*
Sub-themes:
 - a. Residents see no benefit in creating a town council
 - b. Town councils achieving little in comparison to a larger council
 - c. Lack of evidence of improved services in return for greater costs
 - d. A town council would not be able to deliver what a unitary authority would not already deliver

4. **LGR Preference** - *Residents expressing preference for LGR, a desire for a unitary authority, or are of the opinion that a town council is unneeded in light of LGR*
Sub-themes:
 - a. Issues relating to King's Lynn would be more effectively handled by a unitary authority
 - b. Creating a town council defeats the purpose of LGR
 - c. Decision making will be quicker and more streamlined with a unitary authority



5. Lack of trust in councillors - *Residents expressing concern or reservation that the town council would attract councillors of good quality*

Sub-themes:

- a. Lack of professionalism seen in other town councils
- b. Town councillors would be repeated Borough councillors
- c. Perception of Town councillors as power hungry or entitled
- d. Lack of trust in councillors to properly deliver

6. Dissatisfaction with the Borough council - *Residents expressing dissatisfaction or frustration with the Borough council that is not resolved by the creation of a town council*

Sub-themes:

- a. Poor service delivery by the Borough council
- b. Lack of efficiency
- c. Inability of the Borough council to address residents' concerns that a town council would not be more equipped for

7. No problems with current governance arrangements - *Residents are satisfied with the current Borough council and governance arrangements and express no desire to change*

Sub-themes:

- a. 'Why fix what isn't broken' sentiment
- b. Services delivered by the Borough council are satisfactory

8. Boundaries & relevance - *Residents express doubt that a town council would be relevant and suitable for the size and layout of King's Lynn*

Sub-themes:

- a. King's Lynn is too big an area for a town council
- b. The parish model is better suited to villages
- c. The proposed boundary is irrelevant

9. General negative sentiment - *Residents express general or vague negative sentiment*

- a. Sentiments such as 'Not needed', 'Nope', or 'Don't want one'

Coding results

Theme	Quantity (/94)	Proportion (/100%)	Sentiment
Financial concerns	57	60.64%	Very Strong
Bureaucracy increase	26	27.66%	Very Strong



Lack of usefulness	17	21.28%	Strong
LGR	10	10.64%	Medium
Lack of trust in councillors	14	14.89%	Medium
Dissatisfaction with Borough council	9	9.58%	Minor but intense
No problems with current governance arrangements	7	7.45%	Minor
Boundaries & relevance	5	5.32%	Minor
General negative sentiment	10	10.64%	Medium

Financial concern sentiments were clearly the strongest out of all broad themes. Residents provided several reasons that sit under this theme:

- Concerns about how much a town/parish council would cost amidst the current cost-of-living
- Council tax is already too high and residents want it reduced; any increase to council tax is unacceptable
- Council tax is not delivering visible benefits to residents' quality of life or the condition of the town
- No cap on the rate the precept could increase year-on-year

Clarification that the parish precept did not have a yearly cap was included in the initial consultation documents that were distributed to all households within the unparished area. Residents picked up on this point, with concerns about 'how high that could go'. Responses under this theme included phrases such as:

- *'Enough money is wasted'*
- *'Council tax is already extortionate/bloated'*
- *'Costing us more to maintain the status quo'*
- *'Council tax will inevitably increase!'*
- *'Draining money from our pockets for no value'*
- *'People struggle with rates as they are'*

An increase in bureaucracy and layers of government was the other theme with the strongest sentiment. Residents feel the current two-layer arrangement is confusing



and wasteful, and creating a town/parish council would maintain the same level of bureaucracy and inefficiency. Responses under this theme included phrases such as:

- 'Another layer of people to pay for'
- 'Unnecessary extra level'
- 'Another layer of inefficiency'
- 'I vote for simplification!'

Don't know / not sure

Of 20 responses that selected this option, 7 broad themes were determined.

1. Financial concerns - *Funding, cost or value for money of a town council*

Sub-themes:

- a. Uncertainty around how much a town council will cost
- b. Concerns around council tax increases/a desire to pay less council tax
- c. Cost of living being too much of a burden

Examples: "uncertainty of the cost", "cost us extra", "pay less council tax".

2. Lack of usefulness - *Respondents who perceive a town council as adding little value for King's Lynn, not responding effectively or implementing change*

Sub-themes:

- a. Questioning how much authority a town council would have
- b. Whether a town council would be able to follow through on/achieve what it promises

Examples: "not sure they would have much authority to do anything", "very little is achieved".

3. Councillor quality - *Residents expressing concern or reservation that the town council would attract councillors of good quality*

Sub-themes:

- a. Councillors not following rules or 'doing what they want'
- b. Setting up a town council is a way for councillors to 'keep their jobs'
- c. Concern over councillors' moral character and background

Example: "some people with unsavoury hobbies running for this".

4. Investment & living standards - *Residents mentioning a desire for a better kept or better funded town*

Sub-themes:

- a. Questioning if a town council would attract more funding into King's Lynn
- b. A desire for a cleaner and more presentable King's Lynn with reduced noise levels
- c. Questions of if funding would be centralised into the town centre



Examples: “more investment into the town”, “a cleaner King’s Lynn”.

5. Fairness - *Residents express concern over whether a town council would overlook certain areas*

Sub-theme:

- a. Concern about where the majority of funding would go

Example: “funding would be focused at the town centre”.

6. Lack of Information - *Residents do not feel they enough information to be able to decide*

Sub-themes:

- a. Not enough information was supplied
- b. There is not enough data on the differences a town council would make

Examples: “not enough data”, “not given sufficient specific information”.

7. Miscellaneous

Off-topic responses or those that provide no detail

Coding results

Theme	Quantity (/20)	Proportion (/100%)	Sentiment
Financial concerns	8	40%	Strong
Lack of usefulness	4	20%	Moderate
Councillor quality	3	15%	Moderate
Investment & living standards	2	10%	Minor
Fairness	1	5%	Minor
Lack of information	3	15%	Minor
Miscellaneous	2	10%	Minor

The theme of financial concerns was consistent across those who did not select Option 1. Multiple responses that selected ‘Don’t know / not sure’ included concerns about the cost of a town/parish council as the main reason why the respondent was unsure.

Responses that had financial concerns included phrases such as:

- *‘I think a Parish / Town Council has many benefits but I’m reluctant to agree to the creation of one because of the uncertainty of the cost.’*
- *‘I’d like to pay less council tax, what is the better option to me?’*
- *‘It sounds expensive!’*



- *'I would like to create a parish but with the cost of living adding on £10 extra it's just not doable.'*

Other options, suggestions and comments

Of 10 responses that selected 'Another option', 6 themes were determined.

1. Boundaries & Identity - *Residents suggest making West Lynn a parish, or separating parish boundaries across geographic lines*

Sub-themes:

- a. West Lynn has its own identity and has a case for being a separate parish or aligned with Clenchwarton
- b. Arguing for a town council to be confined to the 'natural borders' of King's Lynn and not include surrounding areas
- c. West Lynn and King's Lynn as distinct from each other and deserving of their own autonomy

2. Opposition to LGR/Devolution - *Residents express opposition to local government reorganisation and a unitary authority for Norfolk*

Sub-themes:

- a. Wanting to preserve the status quo
- b. Fears of a Norwich-centred unitary authority
- c. Concerns about the political ramifications of devolution

3. Financial concerns - *Residents understand the benefits of representation but are not convinced to support a town council due to financial concerns.*

Sub-themes:

- a. Concerns about increasing precepts
- b. Worry about a town council's reduced restrictions increasing the precept

4. Alternative strategic visions - *Residents question the suitability of a town council or the parish model for King's Lynn, and suggest different governance approaches*

Sub-themes:

- a. Suggesting King's Lynn seek city status
- b. King's Lynn is too large and complex for a town council
- c. Desire for higher thinking than 'market town' status

5. Limited town council support - *Residents support a town council under certain conditions*

Sub-themes:

- a. A town council based upon natural borders



- b. Supporting a town council on the condition West Lynn becomes its own parish
- c. View of a town council as the most tolerable option in light of LGR

6. Consultation process concerns - Residents express frustration or distrust with the consultation process

Sub-themes:

- a. The consultation is premature
- b. Residents did not receive consultation documents in the past
- c. The consultation is encouraging people to support a certain option

There were no miscellaneous or off-topic responses.

Coding results

Theme	Quantity (/10)	Proportion (/100%)	Sentiment
Boundaries & identity	4	40%	Moderate
Opposition to LGR/Devolution	3	30%	Moderate but intense
Financial concerns	1	10%	Minor
Alternative strategic visions	2	20%	Minor
Limited town council support	1	10%	Minor
Consultation process concerns	1	10%	Minor

Alternative boundaries & identity suggestions included:

- West Lynn as its own parish or aligned with Clenchwarton
 - *‘Some areas, like West Lynn, should be their own Parish (...) West Lynn is very distinct to King’s Lynn and deserves its own autonomy.’*
 - *‘Option 1 with the removal of West Lynn into its own Parish’*
 - *‘West Lynn should have its own parish or join Clenchwarton.’*
- Confine a town/parish council to the borders of King’s Lynn town



- *'Create a parish/Town Council, but confined to the natural borders of Kings Lynn (...) The Town of Kings Lynn should mean the town of Kings Lynn.'*




Alternative strategic visions included:

- *'...we should be aiming higher than thinking of King's Lynn as a market town.'*
- *'Seek City Status for Kings Lynn to unlock funding'*

Given the low percentage of respondents that selected this option (1.18% of survey respondents, 1.10% overall), alternative suggestions are unlikely to receive extensive consideration through this Review.

6.4 Analysis of Question 3

6.4.1 Question 3 Response Statistics

3. Would you like to see King's Lynn maintain its Mayoral and civic heritage?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		85.63%	727
2	No		5.06%	43
3	Don't know / not sure		9.31%	79
			answered	849
			skipped	0

6.4.2 Individual Response Analysis

YES

Of 727 responses, 14 broad themes and several sub-themes were determined.

1. Importance - Residents feel mayoral/civic heritage hold importance to King's Lynn

Sub-themes:

- a. Irreplaceability
- b. Personal importance

Examples: "important part of the Town", "heritage, once lost is irreplaceable", "history is important".

2. Historicity - Residents feel mayoral/civic heritage are part of King's Lynn's historical makeup

Sub-themes:

- a. Historical continuity
- b. Keep history alive

Examples: "so much history", "part of our town's history", "traditions that go back hundreds of years".



3. Tourism - *Unique heritage attracts tourism and visitor spending to King's Lynn*

Sub-themes:

- a. Generates outside interest
- b. Historic artefacts attracting visitors

Examples: "attracts visitors", "many visitors each year", "generate interest in the town".

4. Cultural value - *Mayoral/civic functions make up culture and heritage, making King's Lynn a unique place to live*

Sub-themes:

- a. Individuality from surrounding areas
- b. A way of life
- c. Heritage should be maintained

Examples: "uphold our heritage", "nothing like any other place", "civic heritage is essential".

5. Identity and community cohesion - *Mayoral and civic heritage foster a sense of local identity and enhance community cohesion*

Sub-themes:

- a. Generate local pride
- b. Civic engagement

Examples: "central to the identity of the town", "having pride in our town", "contributes to community cohesion".

6. Events - *Residents want to see local events and ceremony preserved*

Sub-themes:

- a. Mayor attending local events
- b. Keep events going
- c. Pageantry and ceremony

Examples: "mayoral role can give support to events", "pageantry is still important", "historic ceremonies".

7. Buildings and artefacts - *Residents recognise historical buildings, artefacts and regalia and want to see them maintained*

Sub-themes:

- a. Preserve character buildings
- b. Historic buildings supporting King's Lynn's image
- c. Preserve artefacts

Examples: "beautiful historic buildings", "town regalia aren't museum pieces".



8. Traditionalism - *Residents want to see traditions and traditional values associated with mayoral/civic functions maintained*

Sub-themes -

- a. Traditionalism amidst modernisation

Examples: "ancient traditions", "tradition is good".

9. Local focus - *Residents want mayoral/civic functions to be managed locally or feel a larger authority would not deliver such functions*

Sub-themes:

- a. Concerns about LGR or governance changes
- b. Local representation
- c. Mayor links residents to the council

Examples: "mustn't lose this in the LGR", "local Mayor who would be more hands on", "Mayor keeps a link with people".

10. Local benefit - *Residents point out benefits mayoral/civic functions may bring to King's Lynn*

Sub-themes:

- a. Mayor's charities
- b. Local investment and development
- c. Improves the image of King's Lynn

Examples: "bring in tourism and investment", "shows town in positive light", "shining a light on local charities".

11. Conditional support - *Support for preserving mayoral/civic heritage but with certain conditions*

Sub-themes:

- a. No significant cost implications
- b. Scope is reduced

Examples: "heritage as a non-paid / non-expensed role", "not at the expense of residents", "on a reduced scale".

12. No desire to change - *Residents are satisfied with current mayoral/civic arrangements*

Sub-themes:

- a. 'Why fix what isn't broken' sentiment

Examples: "don't need changing", "keep same".

13. Mixed feelings - *Residents express a desire to preserve certain aspects mayoralty/civics but not others, or don't perceive a town council the right method to do so*



Sub-themes:

- a. Preserve civics but not the mayor
- b. Preserve heritage but not with a town/parish council

Examples: "Not all traditions are beneficial", "mayoral maybe going too far".

14. Miscellaneous/support without detail

- a. 'N/A', 'X', 'Yes', etc.
- b. Vague responses

Coding results

Theme	Quantity (/727)	Proportion (/100%)	Sentiment
Importance	178	24.48%	Strong
Historicity	304	41.82%	Very strong
Tourism	46	6.33%	Medium
Cultural value	207	28.47%	Strong
Identity and community cohesion	106	14.58%	Strong
Events	38	5.23%	Medium
Buildings and artefacts	16	2.20%	Minor
Traditionalism	155	21.32%	Strong
Local focus	72	9.90%	Medium
Local benefit	41	5.64%	Medium
Conditional support	12	1.65%	Minor
No desire to change	20	2.75%	Minor
Mixed feelings	6	1.24%	Minor
Miscellaneous/support without detail	59	8.12%	Minor

Overall sentiment of the responses given was very strong. Residents that selected this option expressed a desire to see the historical continuity of the Mayor preserved, with some pointing out the role as being centuries old. Some responses expressed a desire to preserve the Mayoralty for future generations. Responses that included the theme of historicity included phrases such as:

- *'Such rich history needs to be kept.'*



- *'Years of heritage must NOT be swept under the carpet and forgotten'*
- *'What a shame it would be to lose something that's been part of our town's history for over 700 years!'*
- *'It's our local history and it would be criminal to wipe it out for future generations'*
- *'If a town loses its heritage and history it loses its soul.'*

Those with conditional support emphasized the need for the Mayoralty and civic heritage to not be at increased expense to the taxpayer:

- *'...retain its Mayoral heritage but at a hugely reduced costs.'*
- *'History is important as long as its not at the expense of the residents.'*
- *'[Mayoral and civic heritage] should be maintained all be it on a reduced scale.'*
- *'...the burden of the cost would need to be clearly presented'*
- *'...needs to work practically.'*

Those who had mixed feelings said:

- *'...mayoral heritage maybe going to far not sure its needed. Heritage is different and must be helped to maintain'*
- *'I think the role of Mayor should be enhanced... As for the heritage aspect, I guess it has its pageantry value, but there is a danger that it reinforces an us and them division?'*
- *'I do not believe that establishing a Parish or Town Council is the only way to do this (...) King's Lynn can still honour its history while still ensuring value for money'*

No

Of 43 responses, 5 broad themes and several sub-themes were determined.

1. **Lack of financial worth** - *Residents do not view the role of mayor as worth the expenditure, or feel the cost would be better suited to other areas*

Sub-themes:

- a. Unnecessary expenses
- b. Money would be better spent on services
- c. Frustration with cost of living

Examples: "unnecessary expense", "cost-of-living crisis", "money into more important things".

2. **Mayor is outdated, archaic or redundant** - *Residents feel the role of mayor is outdated or express a desire for modernisation*

Sub-themes:

- a. No use for the mayor in the modern age
- b. Ceremonial roles not fit for changing governance arrangements



- c. Confusion in light of LGR

Examples: “pointless”, “just ceremonial”, “old and outdated”.

3. Lack of purpose or benefit - *Residents struggle to see a purpose in the mayor or feel the role brings no benefit to the town of King's Lynn*

Sub-themes:

- a. Residents are unsure on the actual role of the mayor
- b. Lack of visibility to residents
- c. The mayor does not deliver substantive benefits

Examples: “do not generally serve much of a purpose”, “nothing for the interests of kings lynn”, “never seen him”.

4. Distrust or contempt - *Residents perceive the role of mayor as pompous, self-important, unwanted or elitist*

Sub-themes:

- a. The mayor serving only the elite
- b. Unwanted ceremony
- c. The mayor as entitled or unrepresentative of residents

Examples: “vanity projects”, “trying to dictate and represent me”, “pompous official”.

5. General negative sentiment - *Filler or responses without substantive justification*

- a. Filler responses
- b. Nonspecific responses

Coding results

Theme	Quantity (/43)	Proportion (/100%)	Sentiment
Lack of financial worth	18	41.86%	Strong and intense
Mayor is outdated, archaic or redundant	19	44.19%	Strong
Lack of purpose or benefit	8	18.61%	Medium
Distrust or contempt	11	25.58%	Medium but intense
General negative sentiment	5	11.63%	Minor



Mayor is outdated, archaic or redundant sentiments included:

- *'I think it is pointless, archaic and expensive.'*
- *'This is an out of date tradition which gives few benefits.'*
- *'This is an old and outdated and should be abolished.'*
- *'Governance is in need of full modernisation.'*

Within this theme was concern amongst residents about confusion caused by preserving a King's Lynn civic mayor amidst proposed future governance arrangements. In some residents' views, the Mayoral Combined County Authority headed by an elected mayor across Norfolk/Suffolk counties leave the King's Lynn civic mayor redundant, and as a cause of confusion for residents. There was a desire for modernisation of governance arrangements, with the Mayor perceived as an unnecessary expense on a ceremonial role.

Similarly to Question 2, concerns about the cost or financial worth of Mayoral/civic heritage were a prevalent theme. Responses stated preserving Mayoral/civic heritage would be too expensive amidst the current cost-of-living or that the expense to maintain a mayor would be better utilised on services or other areas. Sentiments included:

- *"...waste of public money on cars, expenses etc"*
- *"Funds could be better spent on services like housing, roads, or social care"*
- *"Waste of taxpayers' money"*
- *"More expense for no gain"*
- *"...we can't continue to pay for positions that are not necessary"*
- *"I do not support paying extra taxes for ceremonial traditions during a cost-of-living crisis"*

Distrust or contempt tied in with concerns about the cost of preserving the mayor. Certain responses expressed indignation about utilising public funds to maintain a mayor amidst people struggling with the cost of living. Additionally, certain responses perceived the position of mayor as pompous, entitled or unwanted.

Such sentiments included:

- *"Too much pomp and ceremony"*
- *"...a Mayor swanning about in gold chains carrying out pointless functions is crazy"*
- *"...just an excuse to dress up in old clothes, go for free rides"*
- *"...some local busybody trying to dictate and represent me"*
- *"...no interest in paying for some pompous official to waltz around"*
- *"Pomposity in essence"*



DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE

Of 79 responses, 9 broad themes were determined.

- 1. Unsure of mayoral/civic purpose** - *Residents are unsure of the purpose or role of the mayor or civic functions*

Sub-themes:

- a. Mayor lacks visibility for residents
- b. Residents don't know what the mayor's role is
- c. More information is needed

- 2. Financial concerns** - *Concern about the financial implications of preserving the mayor, but may not express a definitive preference*

Sub-themes:

- a. Preserve the mayor if there are no significant financial implications
- b. Keep the precept low
- c. Unsure of value for money

- 3. No strong feelings** - *Residents express they that have no strong feelings toward preserving the mayor or civic heritage either way*

Sub-themes:

- a. No opinion
- b. Indifference
- c. No perceived personal impact

- 4. Mixed feelings on heritage** - *Mixed or conflicting feelings on the worth of preserving the mayor, heritage and/or civic functions*

Sub-themes:

- a. The mayor is outdated
- b. Heritage is important to maintain
- c. Preserve civic functions but not the mayor

- 5. Unsure of differences** - *Residents are unsure if preserving the mayor or not would have a noticeable difference for the town of King's Lynn*

Sub-themes:

- a. Unsure about what the mayor does for the town
- b. Unsure if anything would change if the mayor was kept
- c. Unsure if preserving the mayor would deliver benefits for King's Lynn

- 6. No desire to change** - *No desire to change from current governance and civic arrangements*

- a. Continue with arrangements as they are



7. Governance confusion - *Uncertainty about the governance process*

Sub-themes:

- a. Lack of understanding of how a town council relates to a mayor
- b. Uncertainty about the change process

8. Political distrust - *Distrust of the political process or traditions*

Sub-themes:

- a. Tradition as a barrier or mask for corruption
- b. Special interests

9. Miscellaneous/filler/nonspecific responses - *Filler, vague, nonspecific, or off topic responses*

- a. 'N/A', 'X', 'I don't know'

Coding results

Theme	Quantity (/79)	Proportion (/100%)	Sentiment
Unsure of Mayoral/civic purpose	14	17.72%	Medium
Financial concerns	14	17.72%	Strong
No strong feelings	14	17.72%	Medium
Mixed feelings on heritage	10	12.66%	Medium
Unsure of differences	10	12.66%	Medium
No desire to change	4	5.06%	Minor
Governance confusion	3	3.78%	Minor
Political distrust	3	3.78%	Minor
Miscellaneous/filler	22	27.85%	Medium

Responses coded under financial concerns included phrases such as:

- 'As long as it isn't a lot of wasted money... what happens now is ok'
- 'If you base your cultural heritage on the taxes that I pay, I want to pay as little as possible'



- *'It depends how much public money is spent on it. It's basically just a figurehead.'*

Responses coded as being unsure of Mayoral/civic purpose included phrases such as:

- *'I don't really know what the mayor or civics do'*
- *'I'm not sure about their role currently and don't see them/their work'*
- *'Need to understand the concept more'*

6.5 Analysis of Question 4

6.5.1 Question 4 Response Statistics

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?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		10.72%	91
2	No		58.89%	500
3	Don't know / not sure		30.39%	258
			answered	849
			skipped	0

6.5.1 Individual Response Analysis

Question 4 responses were coded for specific community governance suggestions, opposed to thematic coding used for Questions 2 and 3.

Alternative organisations or bodies suggested by respondents include the following:

Suggestion	Number of mentions (/91)	Proportion (/100%)
Ward Forums	16	17.58%



King's Lynn Area Committee	2	2.20%
Community Associations	19	20.88%
King's Lynn Civic Society	6	6.59%
Social Media Groups	3	3.30%
Other	8	8.79%

Named ward forums

Forum type	Number of mentions	Proportion (/16)	Overall proportion (/91)
King's Lynn Town Ward Forum	7	43.75%	7.69%
St. Margaret's Ward Forum	2	12.50%	2.20%
West Lynn action group	1	6.25%	1.10%
Neighbourhood policing forum	1	6.25%	1.10%

Named community associations

Community association	Number of mentions	Proportion (/19)	Overall proportion (/91)
Reffley	7	36.84%	7.69%
Gayton Road	1	5.26%	1.10%
Fairstead	1	5.26%	1.10%
South Lynn	1	5.26%	1.10%

Every suggestion classified as 'Other' had 1 mention. These include:

- King's Lynn Town Board
- Vision King's Lynn
- Rise King's Lynn
- Volunteer initiatives (unnamed)
- Business groups (unnamed)
- Community transport



- North Wootton, South Wootton and Castle Rising parish councils

Due to the wording of the question not specifically asking for names of alternatives, some information was lost. Additionally, certain respondents found the input box unnecessary after selecting 'No'. The inclusion of both 'No' and 'Don't know / not sure' as options possibly made the question more confusing for residents, as responses to both answer choices were similar.



7. Results of Paper Survey Submissions

7.1 Summary and analysis of responses – Paper survey

Number of responses submitted	47
Number of responses submitted by an individual	45
Number of responses submitted in joint names	2
Total number of respondents	49

7.2 Analysis of Question 2

OPTION 1 – To create a Parish / Town Council

OPTION 2 – Not to create a Parish / Town Council

Question 2
Which of the above is your preferred option?
Answer Choices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPTION 1 – To create a Parish / Town Council • OPTION 2 – Not to create a Parish / Town Council • Another option • Don't know / not sure
Please tell us why you chose that option, or provide details of your other option

97.2.1 Question 2 Response Statistics

Response option	Responses	%
OPTION 1 – To create a Parish / Town Council	46	97.87
OPTION 2 – Not to create a Parish / Town Council	0	0
Another option	0	0
Don't know / not sure	1	2.13
Total	47	100



7.2.2 Individual Response Analysis

Paper survey responses will be analysed using the same codes as the online survey, as emergent themes from both response avenues were similar.

Coding results

Theme	Quantity (/46)	Proportion (/100%)	Sentiment
Local representation & Local voice	33	71.74%	Very strong
Democratic principles	2	4.35%	Minor
LGR concerns	7	15.23%	Strong
Being overlooked or forgotten	4	8.70%	Strong
Protect civic heritage, culture and traditions	8	17.39%	Strong
Community identity	0	0%	N/A
Fairness & parity	4	8.70%	Moderate
Regeneration & development	5	10.87%	Moderate
Improved local services	10	21.74%	Strong
Control over spending	2	4.35%	Minor
Support without detail	2	4.35%	Minor

Similar to the online survey, the most frequent reason residents cited in support of a town/parish council was local representation & local voice. It emerges as the overall most frequent reason why residents favour a town/parish council across response types. Sentiments include:

- *'We need local voices with local knowledge'*
- *'Distant authorities incl the other side of the county are unaware of local issues'*
- *'keep as much local representation as possible'*
- *'Local action for local problems'*



There were no paper survey submissions that selected Option 2, or Another option.

The only response that selected 'Don't know / not sure' cited a lack of information provided by the consultation and concerns about the financial implications of a town/parish council within the current cost-of-living climate as the reasons why.

7.3 Analysis of Question 3

Question 3
Would you like to see King's Lynn maintain its Mayoral and civic heritage?
Answer Choices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don't know / not sure
Please tell us why you chose that option, or provide details of your other option

7.3.1 Question 3 Response Statistics

Response option	Responses	%
Yes	43	91.49%
No	2	4.26
Don't know / not sure	1	2.13
No response given	1	2.13
Total	47	100

7.3.2 Individual Response Analysis

Coding results

Theme	Quantity (/43)	Proportion (/100%)	Sentiment
Importance	2	4.65%	Minor
Historicity	18	41.86%	Very strong
Tourism	3	6.98%	Minor



Cultural value	17	39.54%	Very strong
Identity and community cohesion	4	9.30%	Moderate
Events	8	18.60%	Strong
Buildings and artefacts	4	9.30%	Moderate
Traditionalism	9	20.93%	Strong
Local focus	10	23.26%	Strong
Local benefit	3	6.98%	Moderate
Conditional support	1	2.33%	Minor
No desire to change	0	0.0%	N/A
Mixed feelings	0	0.0%	N/A
Miscellaneous/support without detail	6	13.95%	Minor

The paper survey was majority in favour of maintaining civic heritage. Opposed to the online survey, more respondents were in favour of a town/parish council than preserving civic heritage, although both were over 90% in favour.

Of the four responses that did not select 'Yes', it is important to note:

- One response left Question 3 blank, under the reasoning the respondent perceived the continuity of the mayor as unlikely to change.
- One response did not provide any reasoning.
- One response potentially selected 'No' in error, when considering their individual response. However, the statistics present answers as they appear on the responses.
- The only other response that selected 'No', cited a waste of money.

Given the content of these responses, the sentiments behind those who did not favour maintaining civic heritage were more minor than the response statistics would suggest.



7.4 Analysis of Question 4

If the eventual decision is not to create a new Parish / Town Council then to preserve the historic property, privileges, rights and traditions presently enjoyed by the residents of the area, then new arrangements to establish a Charter Trustee area in the unparished parts of the town would need to be introduced. The trustees have the power to carry out ceremonial functions, but they are not intended to act as administrative units and will have no power in respect of general functions or services.

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?
Answer Choices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don't know / not sure
Please tell us why you chose that option

7.4.1 Question 4 Response Statistics

Response option	Responses	%
Yes	7	14.39%
No	33	70.21%
Don't know / not sure	6	12.77%
Total	47*	100

*One response left the question blank.

Alternative organisations or bodies suggested by respondents include the following:

Suggestion	Number of mentions (/7)	Proportion (/100%)
Ward Forums	1	14.29%
King's Lynn Area Committee	0	0%
Community Associations	2	28.57%



King's Lynn Civic Society	0	0%
Social Media Groups	0	0%
Other	0	0%

The only alternatives suggested by residents were:

- St. Margret/St. Nicholas Forum (**1** mention)
- Reffley Community Association (**1** mention)

Similarly to the online survey, the low proportion of suggestions made in response to this question mean they are unlikely to warrant extensive consideration by the Review.



8. Other Submission Types

8.1 Emails

Number of responses submitted	5
Number of responses submitted by an individual	5
Number of responses submitted in joint names	0
Total number of respondents	5

On a town/parish council:

In favour of a town/parish council	1
Not in favour of a town/parish council	3
Don't know / not sure	1

On Mayoral/civic heritage:

In favour of maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage	N/A
Not in favour of maintaining Mayoral/ civic heritage	1
Does not mention Mayoral/civic heritage	4

Of the 1 response in favour of a town/parish council:

- No substantive reasoning was provided/support without detail

The most prevalent reasons cited by those not in favour:

- Financial concerns – **3 (100%)**
 - 1 of which thought a town/parish council was a good idea but expressed reservation at the precept.
- Lack of usefulness – **2 (66%)**
- **1 (33%)** thought a town/parish council would not provide greater democratic representation

Of the remaining response, the respondent favoured a town/parish council in principle but felt there was not enough information on a town/parish council's functions to make an informed decision. Potential benefits cited by this respondent were:

- Local representation & local voice
- Democratic principles



- LGR concerns
- Being overlooked or forgotten
- Improved local services

Of the 1 response that was not in favour of maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage, the respondent cited a waste of money, feeling that the Borough Council would better be able to promote King's Lynn without one.

No other response expressed a preference on maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage.

8.2 Written Responses

Number of responses submitted	5
Number of responses submitted by an individual	5
Number of responses submitted in joint names	0
Total number of respondents	5

In favour of a town/parish council	5
Not in favour of a town/parish council	0

In favour of maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage	1
Not in favour of maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage	N/A
Does not mention Mayoral/civic heritage	4

One written response was from South Wootton Parish Council chairman, writing on behalf of the organisation. The response will be analysed fully in Appendix A.

Written response coding (town council)

Theme	Quantity (/5)	Proportion (/100%)
Local representation & Local voice	1	20%
Democratic principles	1	20%
LGR concerns	2	40%
Being overlooked or forgotten	1	20%
Protect civic heritage, culture and traditions	2	40%



Community identity	0	0%
Fairness & parity	1	20%
Regeneration & development	2	40%
Improved local services	1	20%
Control over spending	1	20%
Support without detail	1	20%

Important to note:

- One respondent cites experience of living in a locality where borough and district councils were merged into a larger city council. The respondent says such an experience is always to the detriment of smaller councils.
- The only response that included a preference on Mayoral/civic heritage was from South Wootton Parish Council.



9. Postcode Analysis

Postcodes provided by residents were inputted into QGIS geographic mapping software to generate heatmaps according to given responses. Due to error or invalidity, not all postcodes could be mapped, and percentages were calculated using the number of valid postcodes that could be mapped.

Heatmaps can be found for each answer option.

Q2 – Which of the above is your preferred option?

- **OPTION 1** – To create a Town Council
- **OPTION 2** – Not to create a Town Council
- Another option
- Don't know / not sure

OPTION 1

Number of mapped postcodes	761
Number of postcodes within the unparished area	684
Proportion of postcodes within the unparished area	89.88%

The majority of respondents that selection Option 1 were within the unparished area. Given the high of level of responses that selected this option, this indicates strong support from the residents who would receive representation from the proposed town/parish council. Responses were strongly concentrated toward King's Lynn town centre, Gaywood, and South Wootton below the Low Road unparished area boundary. Outside the unparished area, the highest concentration of responses was within the Woottons. The consultation received a letter from South Wootton Parish Council in support of a town/parish council, suggesting support for the proposal amongst South Wootton residents.

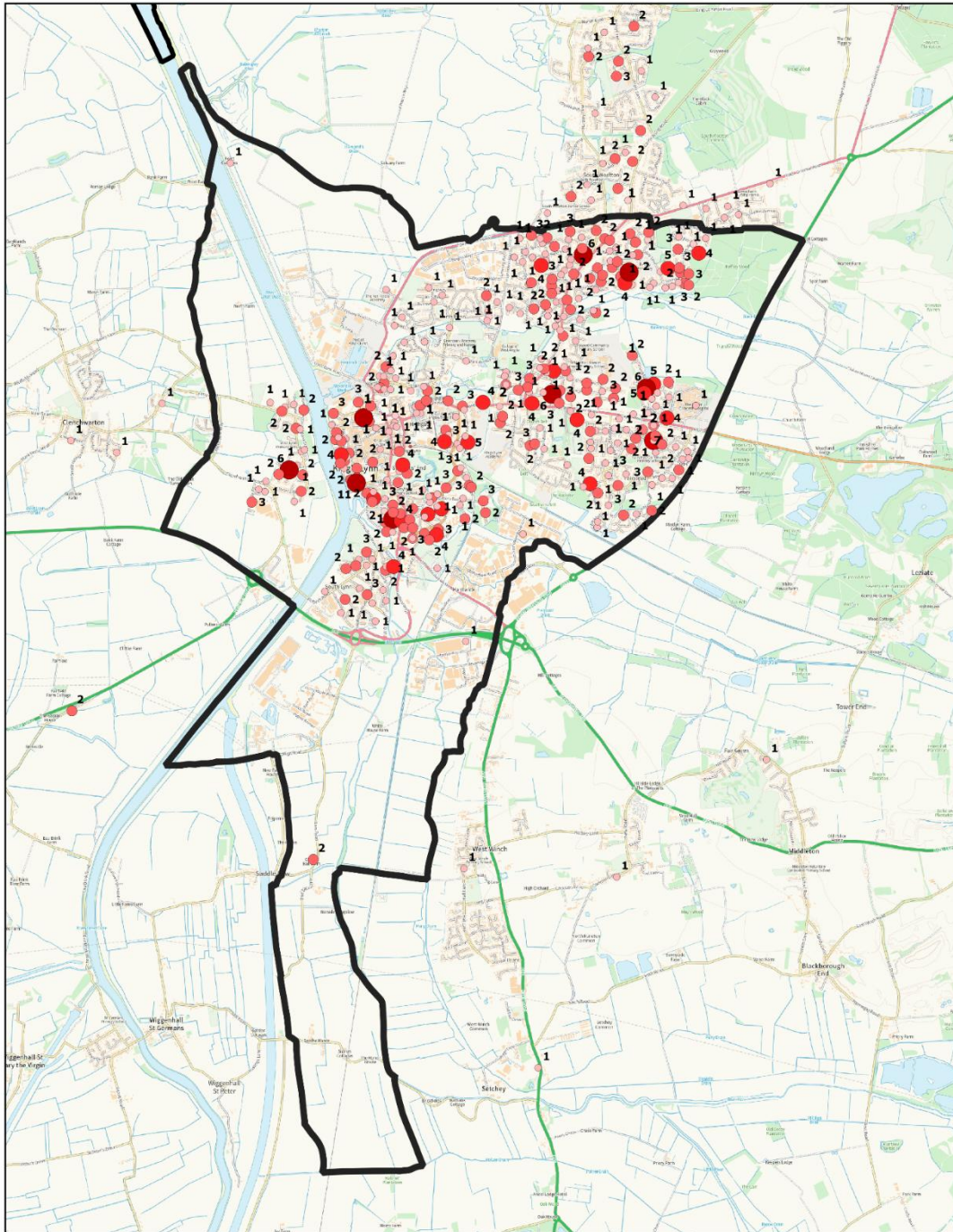


Figure 1.1 - Closeup of the unparished area (outlined in black) for responses that selected Option 1. Points have a number next to them showing how many responses gave that postcode. Darker points indicate a higher frequency of postcodes.

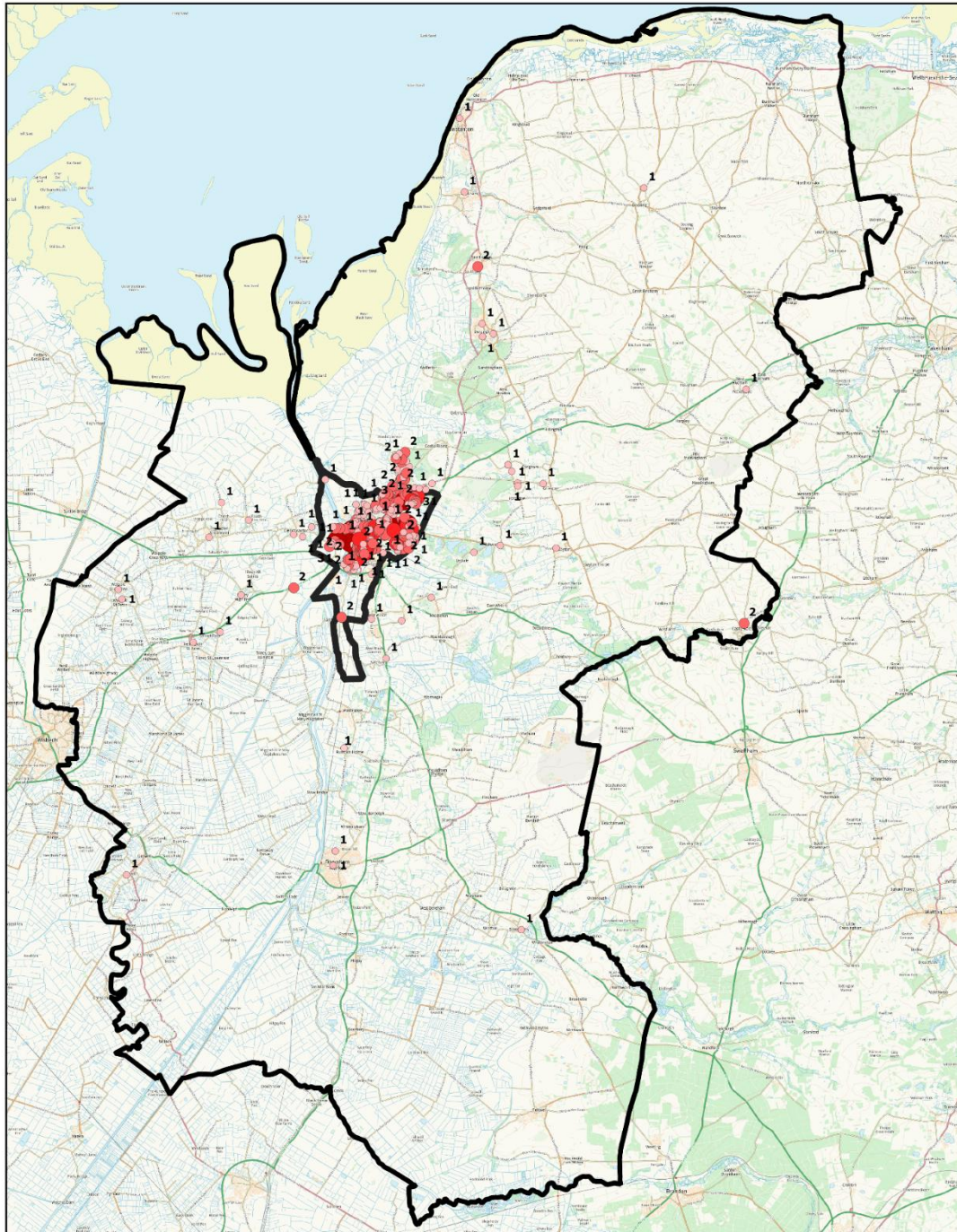


Figure 1.2 – A view of the whole West Norfolk borough for responses that selected Option 1.



OPTION 2

Number of mapped postcodes	89
Number of postcodes within the unparished area	79
Proportion of postcodes within the unparished area	88.76%

Residents that selected Option 2 were more dispersed in location within the unparished area. The highest concentration of responses was below the Low Road boundary, toward Reffley and North Lynn.

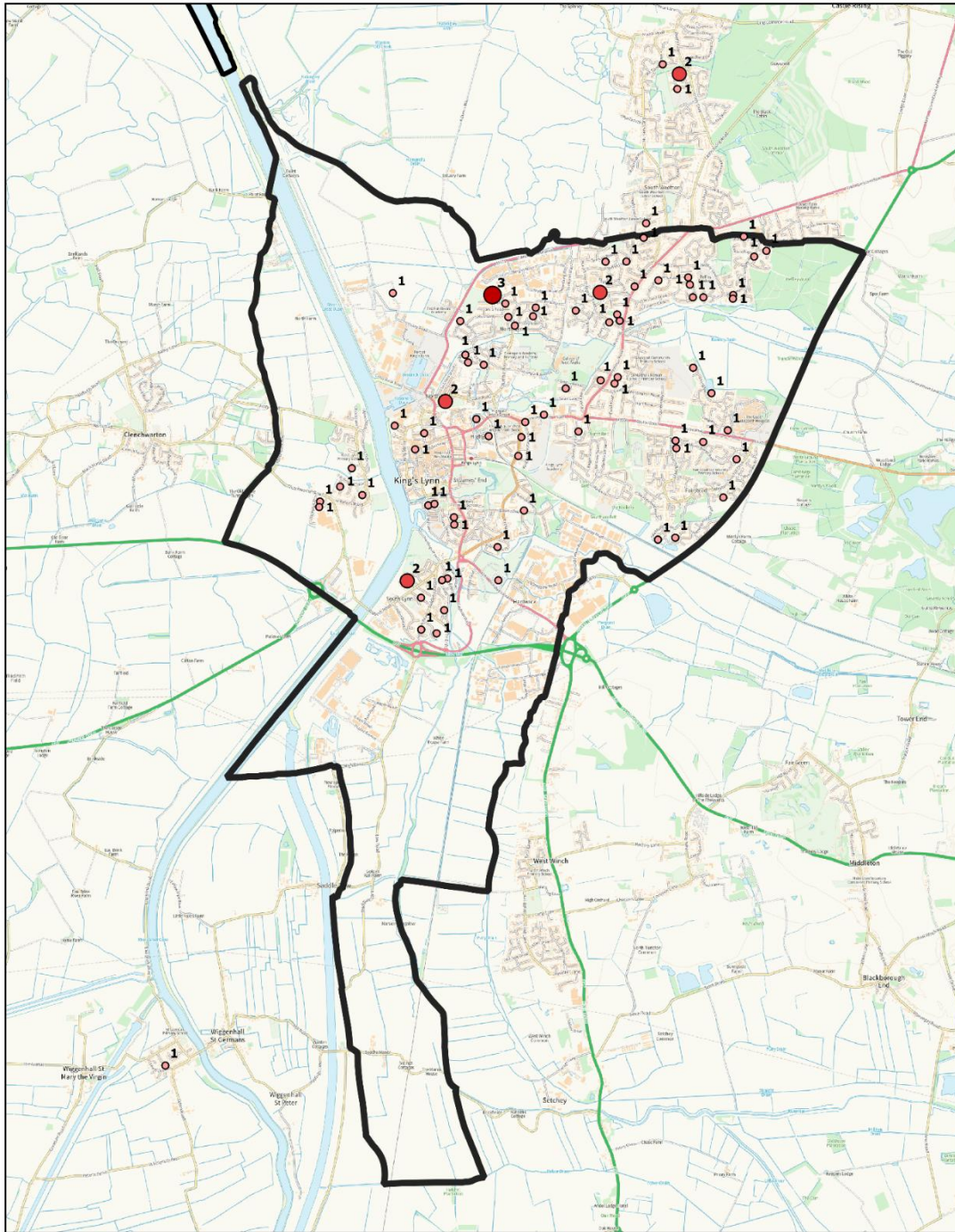


Figure 2.1 - Closeup of the unparished area (outlined in black) for responses that selected Option 2. Points have a number next to them showing how many responses gave that postcode. Darker points indicate a higher frequency of postcodes.

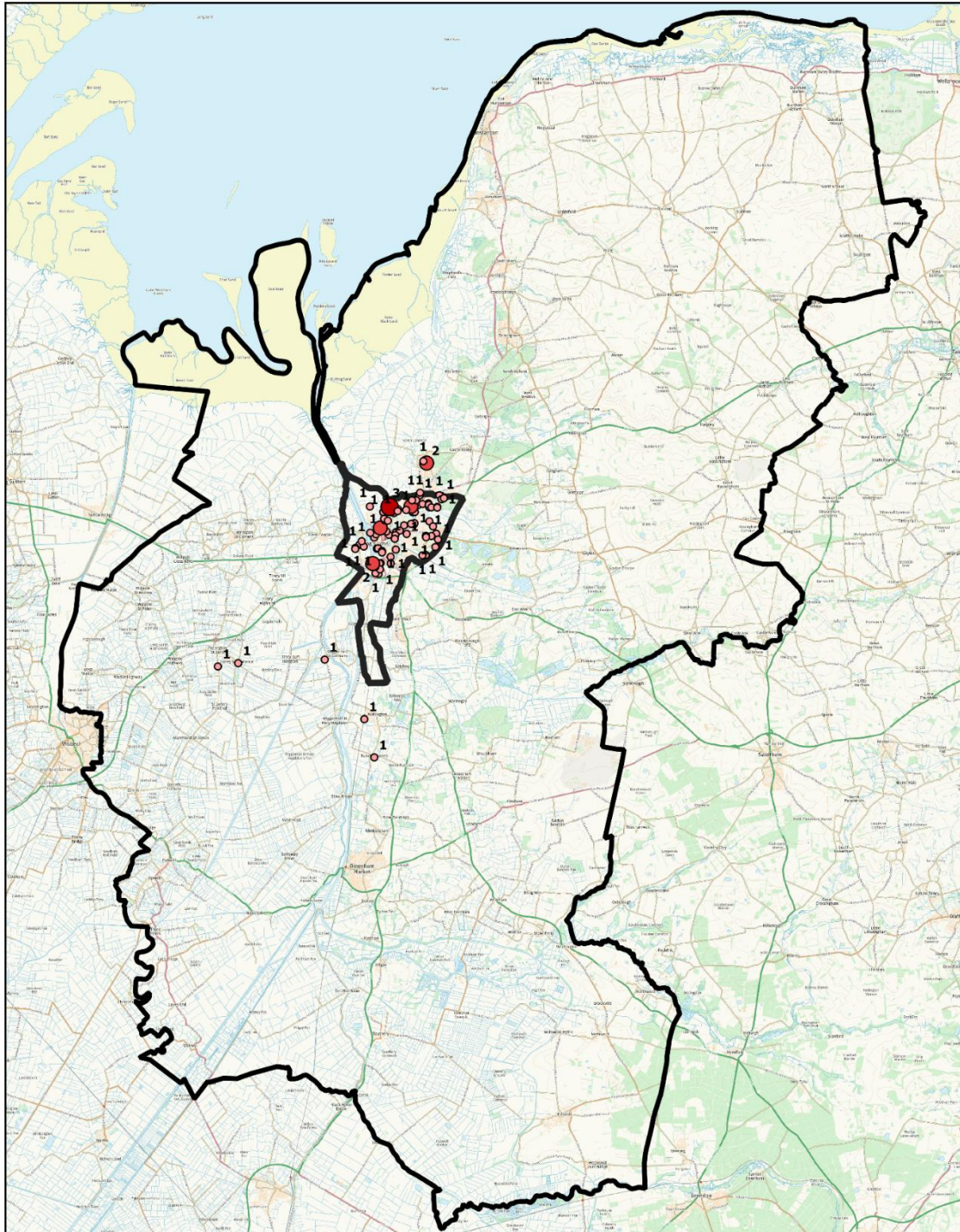


Figure 2.2 – A view of the whole West Norfolk borough for responses that selected Option 2.



ANOTHER OPTION

Number of mapped postcodes	10
Number of postcodes within the unparished area	8
Proportion of postcodes within the unparished area	80%

DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE

Number of mapped postcodes	20
Number of postcodes within the unparished area	19
Proportion of postcodes within the unparished area	95%

Given the relatively low number of respondents that selected 'Another option' or 'Don't know / not sure', responses are strongly dispersed across the unparished area. Therefore, these responses are not indicative of any strong location trends.

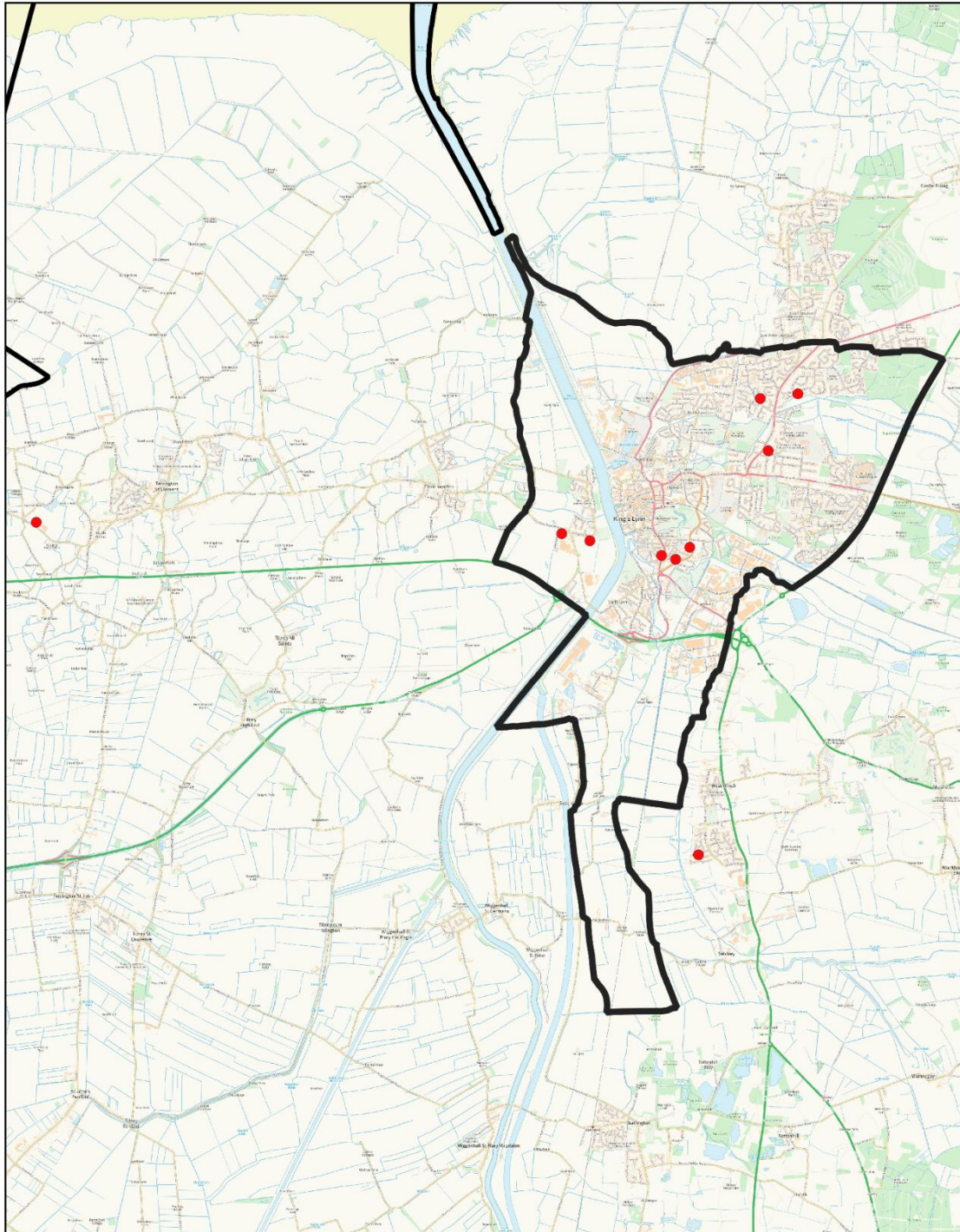
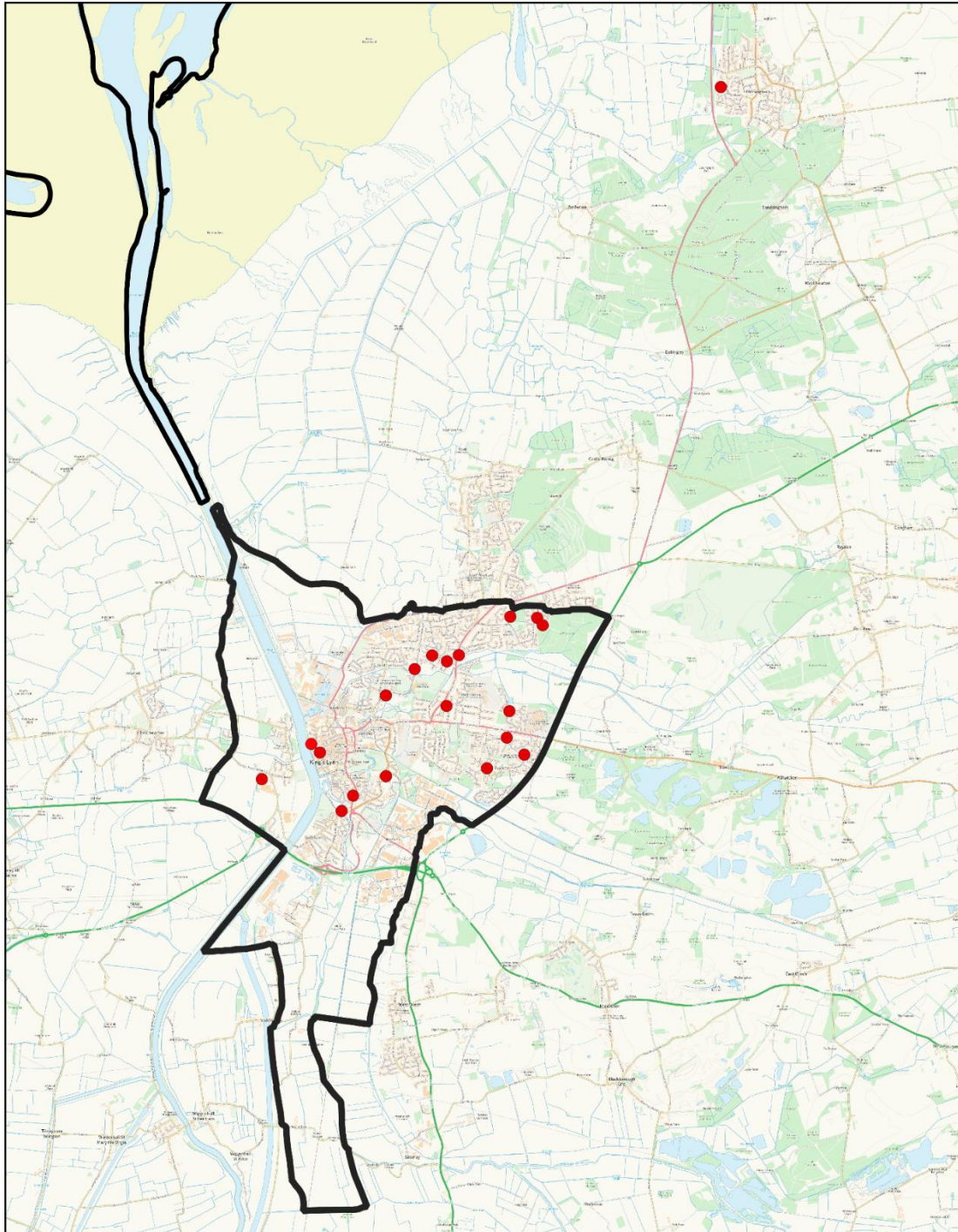


Figure 3 – All responses that selected 'Another option'. All points represent a single postcode. Only 2 responses sit outside the unparished area (outlined in black).



Don't know / not sure



Figure 4 – All responses that selected 'Don't know / not sure'. All points represent a single postcode. Only 1 response sits outside the unparished area (outlined in black).



Q3 – Would you like King's Lynn to maintain its Mayoral/civic heritage?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / Not sure

YES

Number of mapped postcodes	749
Number of postcodes within the unparished area	665
Proportion of postcodes within the unparished area	88.79%

A greater proportion of responses that expressed a preference for maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage were within the unparished area. Similar to Question 2, the highest frequency of responses was focused on the town centre, Gaywood and South Wootton. The greatest proportion of responses that provided the same postcode were concentrated toward central King's Lynn and towards the riverfront.

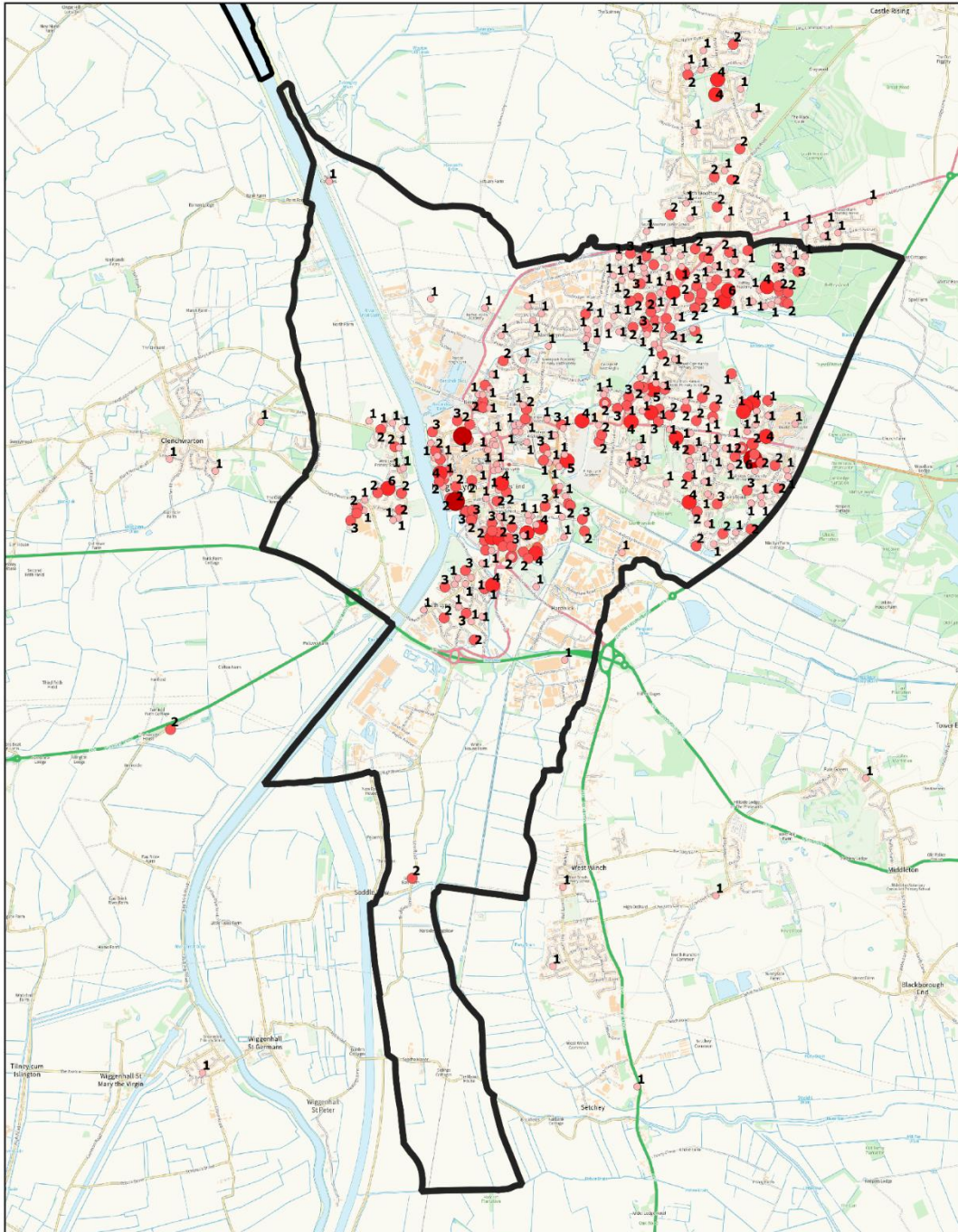


Figure 5.1 - Closeup of the unparished area (outlined in black) for responses that selected 'Yes'. Points have a number next to them showing how many responses gave that postcode. Darker points indicate a higher frequency of postcodes.

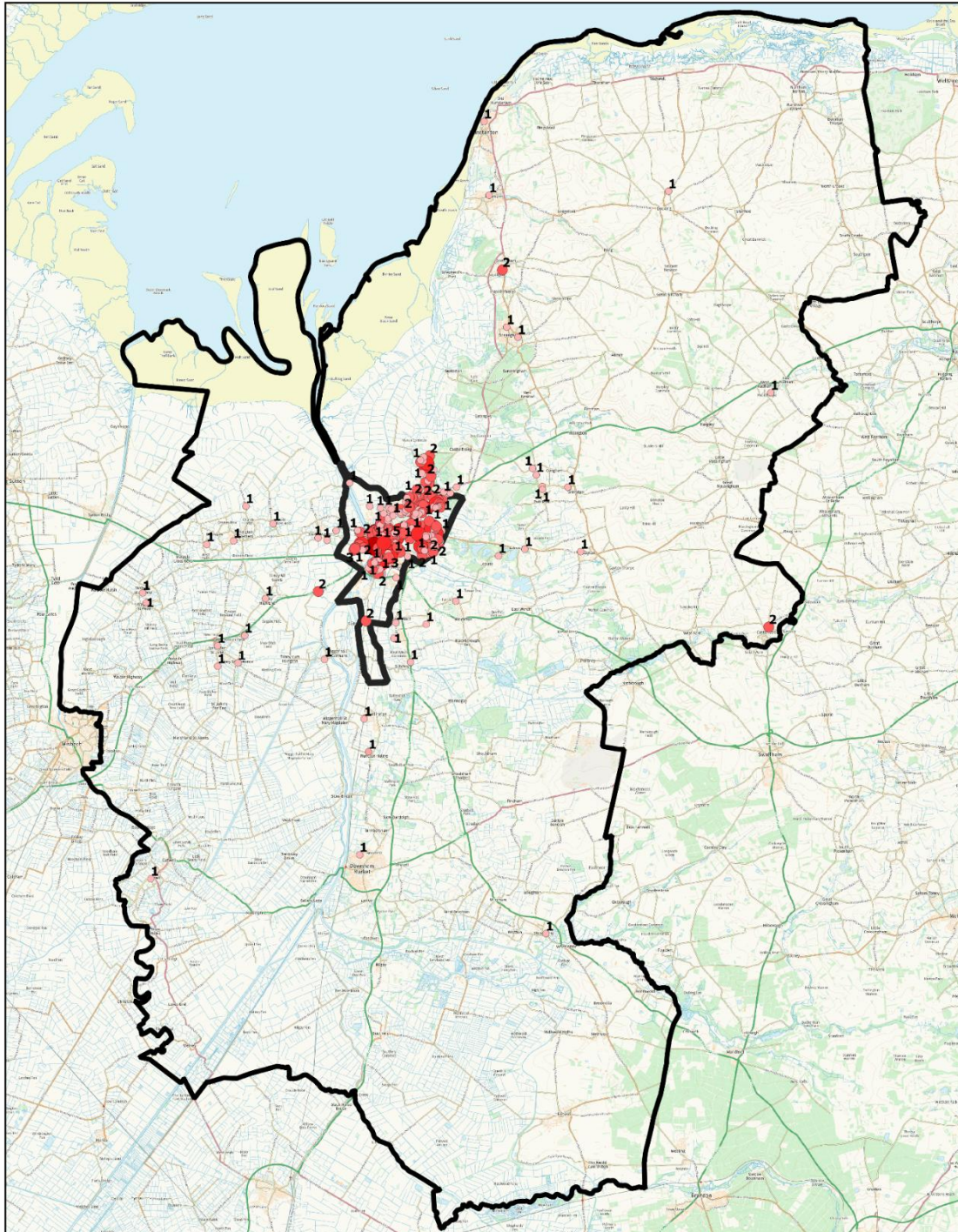


Figure 5.2 – A view of the whole West Norfolk borough for responses that selected 'Yes'.



No

Number of mapped postcodes	44
Number of postcodes within the unparished area	41
Proportion of postcodes within the unparished area	93.18%

Those who selected 'No' to Question 3 were strongly dispersed across the unparished area, with fewer responses concentrated towards the riverfront or town centre.

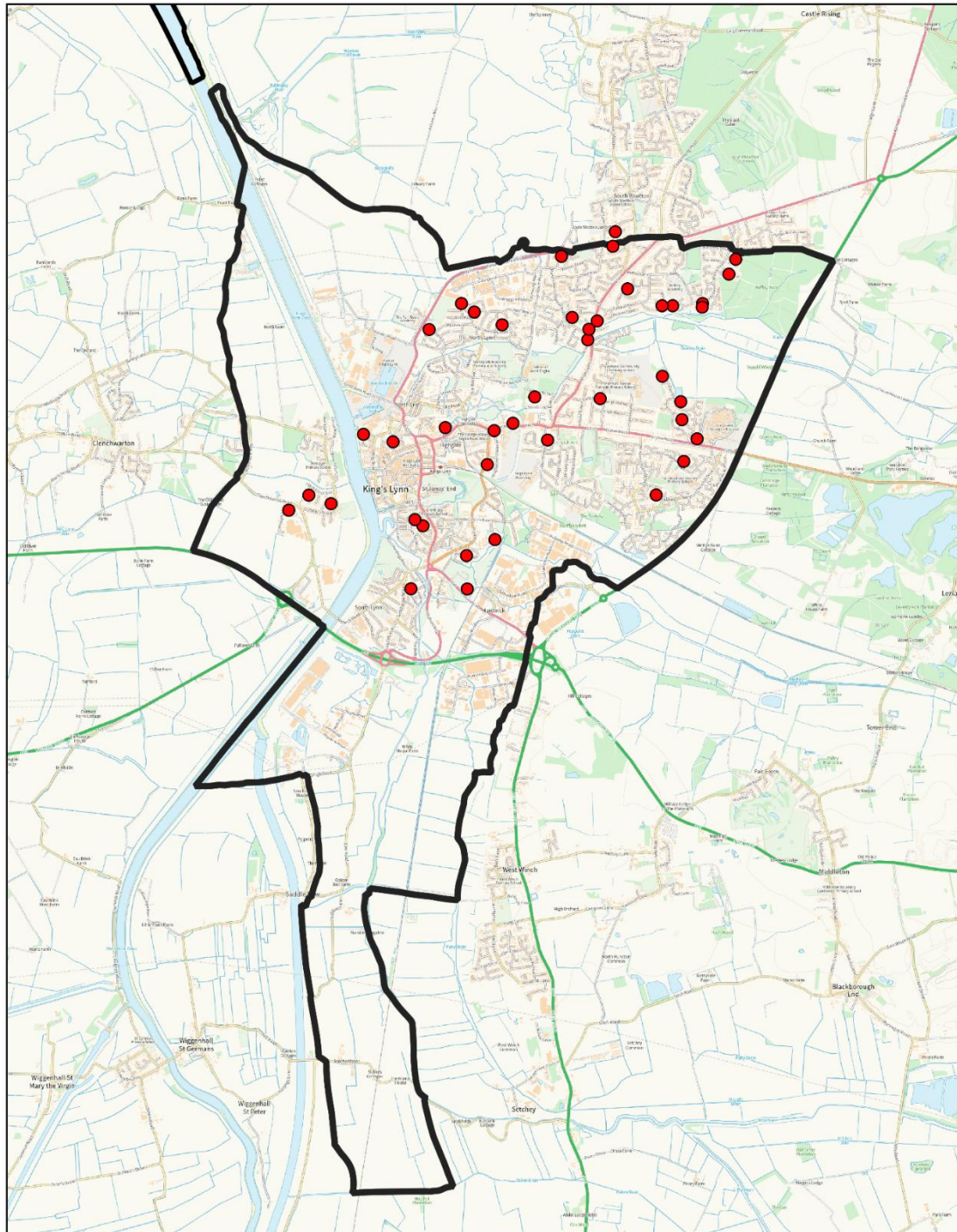


Figure 6.1 - Closeup of the unparished area (outlined in black) for responses that selected 'No'. All points represent a single postcode.

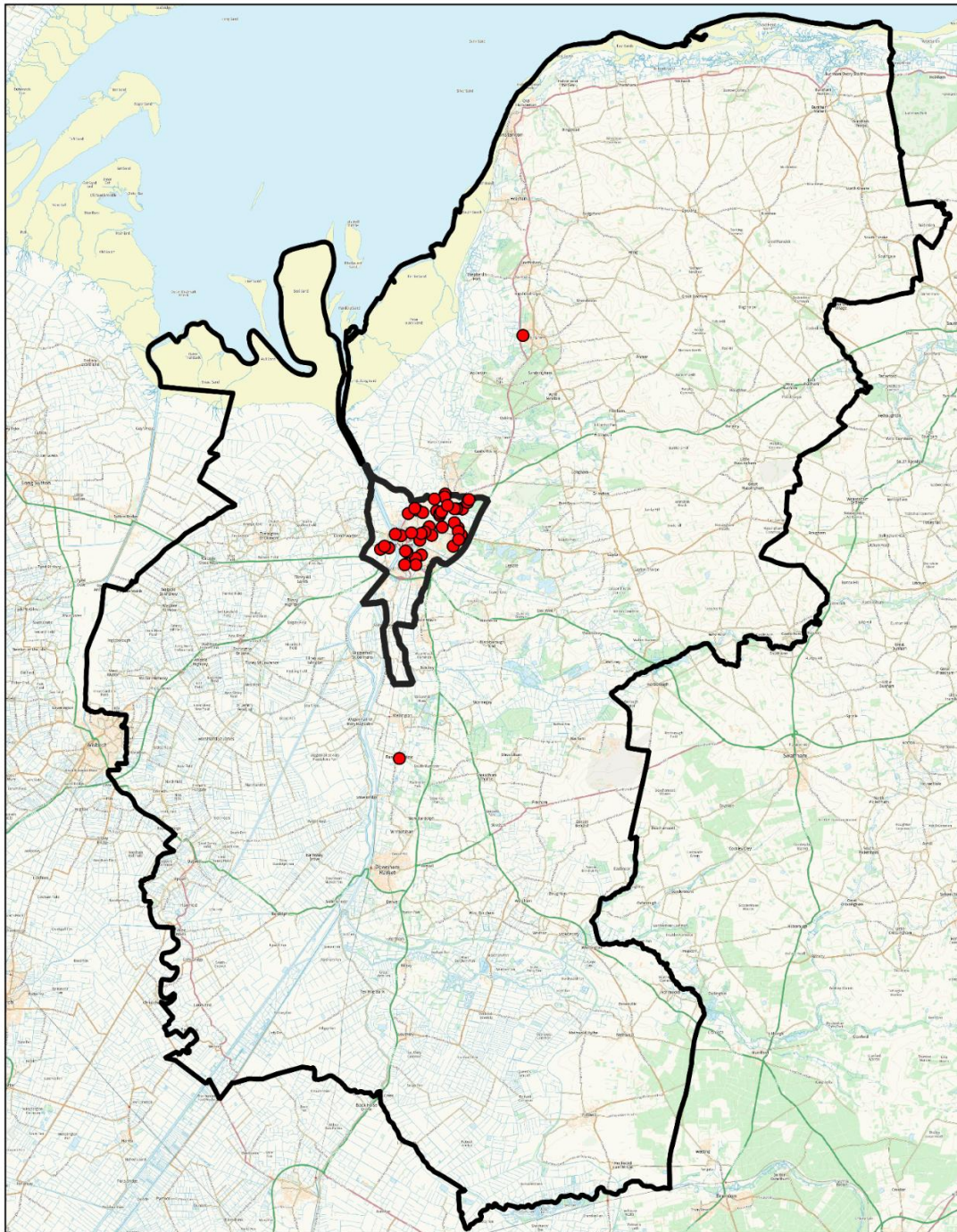


Figure 6.2 - A view of the whole West Norfolk borough for responses that selected 'No'. All points represent a single postcode. Only 3 responses sit outside the unparished area.



DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE

Number of mapped postcodes	78
Number of postcodes within the unparished area	76
Proportion of postcodes within the unparished area	97.44%

Those who selected 'Don't know / not sure' to Question 3 were also strongly dispersed across the unparished area.

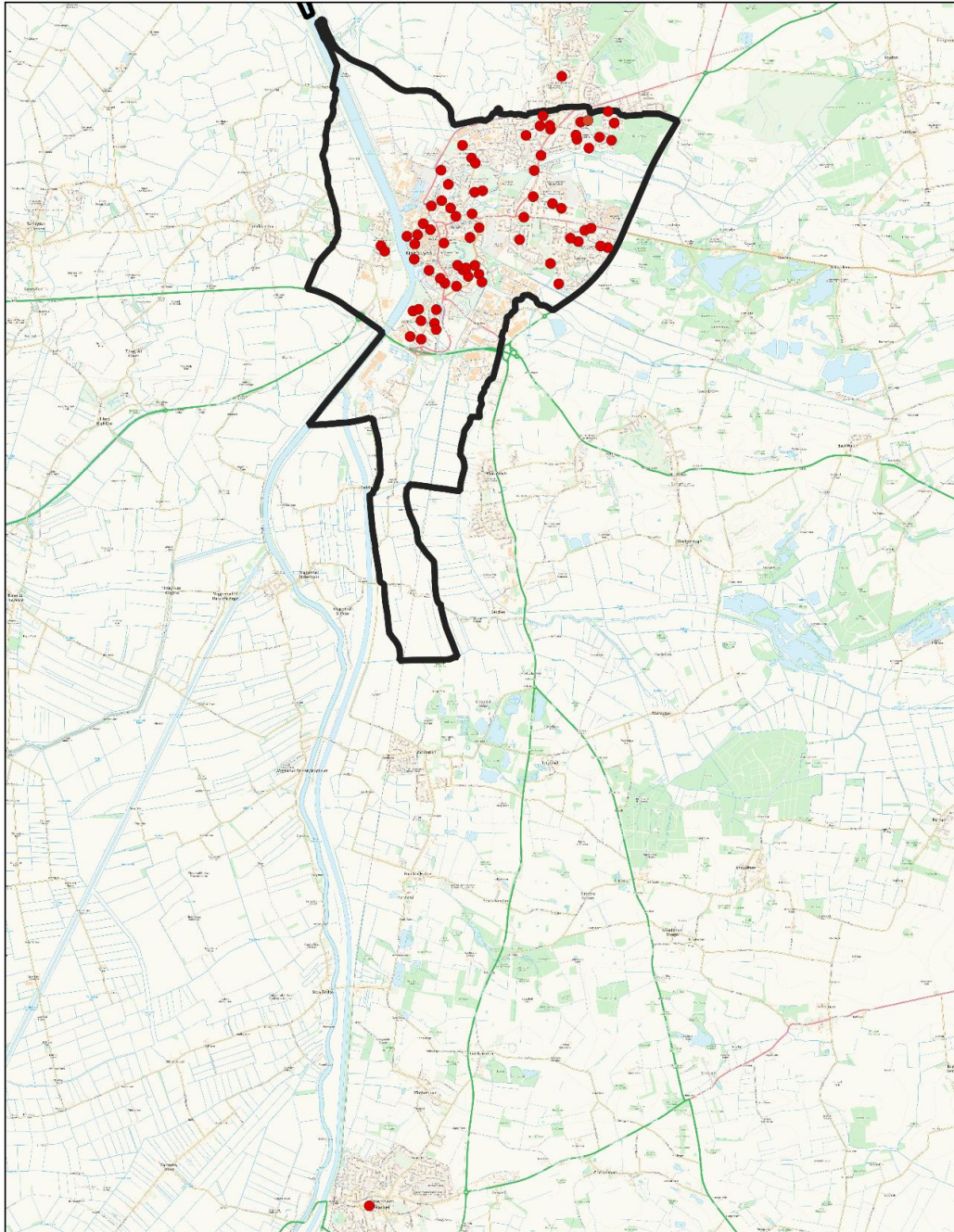


Figure 7 - All responses that selected 'Don't know / not sure'. All points represent a single postcode. Only 2 responses sit outside the unparished area (outlined in black).



Appendix A

Key Stakeholder Response Analysis

Of the responses received, key stakeholders included:

- 1 borough councillor (survey)
- 1 parish councillor (survey)
- 1 previous mayor (survey)
- South Wootton Parish Council (written response)
- King's Lynn Civic Society (written response)
- King's Lynn Neighbourhood Board chairperson (email)
- King's Lynn Business Improvement District manager (email)

The consultation did not receive a response from any other key stakeholder, including Norfolk County Council, community groups, councillors, services or other.

Survey Responses

All three survey responses from key stakeholders were in support of a town council and maintaining Mayoral/civic heritage.

Reasons cited by such stakeholders included:

- Democratic principles
- Protect civic heritage
- Fairness & parity
- Improved local services

Written Responses

SOUTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

The consultation received a letter from the South Wootton Parish Council chairman on behalf of the Parish Council. The letter was strongly in favour of the creation of a town/parish council, as well as the maintenance of Mayoral/civic heritage. Reasons cited by SWPC includes the following:

- **Local representation** – 'give a local democratic voice to people'
- **Fairness & parity** – 'citizens in unparished areas within King's Lynn no local representation, enjoyed by the rest of West Norfolk.'
- **LGR concerns** – 'Local Government Reorganisation may leave us with a single Unitary Authority.'
- **Protect civic heritage** – 'enabling the continuation of the historic mayoralty and proud civic traditions.'



KING'S LYNN CIVIC SOCIETY

On 6 April, after the conclusion of the first consultation, the King's Lynn Civic Society issued a letter to the local media urging residents to support the creation of a town council.

As the letter was issued after the conclusion of the consultation, it will not influence the quantitative data, however the Civic Society's reasoning will still be analysed.

Sentiments contained in the letter issued by the Civic Society are overall strongly in favour of a town/parish council. The letter touches upon all previously determined themes:

- **Local voice and representation** – 'Many of the Borough Councillors represent wards far from Lynn and have little detailed knowledge of issues affecting the town.'
- **LGR concerns** – 'LGR is expected to reduce the number of councillors (...) these changes will leave King's Lynn (...) as the worst represented part of Norfolk.'
- **Being overlooked or forgotten** – 'indirect discrimination toward Lynn, or at least a reluctance to champion the town and its needs above other areas.'
- **Fairness and parity** – 'different to Lynn, they all have their own long-established Town Councils'
- **Improved local services** – 'It would make sense for operation and management of these important facilities to be run and managed by local people.'
- **Regeneration and development** – 'King's Lynn town consistently suffers from not having 'official' local representation on planning and design issues.'
- **Control over spending** – 'They can work to obtain grants and funding for a range of town-focused initiatives.'
- **Protect civic heritage, culture and traditions** – '[Town/parish councils] are responsible for planning and running events in the town – including heritage events.'
- **Democratic principles** – 'The main benefit of having a Town Council must surely be to ensure good local democratic representation.'

Other notable arguments in favour of a town/parish council made by the Civic Society include:

- Town/parish councils manage and support town facilities, buildings, open spaces, and volunteer run events.
- Town/parish councils engage and communicate directly with residents in a way a unitary council would not – 'It would literally conflict with their mandate to represent the whole area.'



- Town/parish councils have dedicated planning committees and would act as local representation on planning matters, which KLCS feel King's Lynn has suffered from a lack of in the past.
- A Civic Society does not have the same authority to represent residents that a town/parish council would have on planning matters.
- A town/parish council would offer support to existing community organisations, such as the BID, Freebridge, and the KLCS.

The letter also strongly disagrees with arguments made in opposition to a town/parish council, namely that it would be expensive to set up and maintain and would introduce further levels of bureaucracy. The letter is of the opinion that;

- Both arguments are reductive
- It is not clear that a unitary would deliver the same services as a town/parish council for a reduced cost
- A unitary council would not provide the same level of local focus
- Town/parish councils are generally good value for money

Emails

The emails received from the King's Lynn Neighbourhood Board chairperson and the King's Lynn BID manager stated neither body felt it appropriate for a representative to comment on the consultation. However, both emails expressed the respective organisation's desire to work alongside a town council, should one be created, to further the objectives of each organisation.