



PRESS RELEASE

Housing Crisis in Fremington Parish

Fremington Parish Council seeks to clarify its previously Press Release in respect of the housing crisis in the Parish, which is due to Parishioners being unable to find suitable accommodation in the local community

This causes:

- Families to be disconnected
- Support networks to be disrupted or broken
- A loss of community cohesion
- Loss of continuity and access to health care
- Detrimental to mental health on residents and their children
- A disruption to the education of affected children
- Local businesses being unable to find workforce especially in the care and hospitality sectors

The cost of housing within the Fremington Parish has risen significantly in the past decade with the average cost of a three bedroom property in 2024 being £310,000. The cost, and more importantly the limited availability of rental properties, means local families are having to move out of the area to find suitable accommodation.

The situation is made more complicated as it is the Parish Council's belief that the capacity for further large developments within the Parish has reached saturation point, not least due to the already strained local infrastructure – roads, medical facilities and schools etc.

The Parish will be working with North Devon Council to seek solutions to the housing issues identified above. The solutions are as we see them a lack of funding from central government to build smaller bespoke developments that provide:

- Social housing
- Affordable housing to purchase
- Shared ownership

Such developments would seek to reduce the current 212 people on the Devon Homes waiting list, who are looking for a property in Fremington Parish.

Also, we will continue to:

- Support individual landlords in providing good quality affordable long lets.
- Identify and use the local authority's full powers to bring back empty and abandoned houses to use for people with local connections.
- Encourage land availability for self-build properties as well as identifying sites for carbon neutral park homes and to support the setting up of Community Land Trusts (CLT's)
- Lobby the government to reinstate the housing authority's power to pay housing benefits directly to landlords.
- Close the loophole that allows owners of 2nd homes to register them as small businesses and claim business rate relief.

*** ENDS ***

Further information:

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