



Fremington Parish Council

The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington, EX31 3DD

Telephone: 01271 321063

Email: admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



PRESS RELEASE

NEW NIGHT LANDING SITE AT FREMINGTON

Fremington Parish Council is proud to announce that it has successfully completed a project to establish a community landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance helicopter. This will add to the increasing number of parish landing sites used 'during the hours of darkness' throughout Devon. This community landing site at Beechfield located behind the newly build Beechfield Centre, will enable a more rapid response for local parishioners in need of urgent medical attention. It also means that:

- the Devon Air Ambulance can reach local residents until midnight every day (and beyond when the DAAT extend their operations in the future).
- The Devon Air Ambulance can convey patients to the most appropriate hospital for their needs not necessarily the nearest (DAAT did this for 33% of the people they airlifted in 2017)
- the highly skilled paramedics can deliver enhanced prehospital clinical care to those people facing more complex medical conditions or trauma
- people living nearby, or those involved in collisions on the nearby roads, can be brought there for treatment / onward transfer

Cllr S Kingdom, Chairman of Fremington Parish Council said "Fremington Parish Council is pleased to be part of the network of landing sites in North Devon. We have been very happy to support this with the help of a grant and financial help from Councillor Biederman. Hopefully this will enable speedier medical help for local residents should the need arise".

The funding to facilitate this essential landing site was raised by the Parish Council with grants from Local County Councillor, F Biederman and Devon Air Ambulance Trust. Cllr F Biederman said “I am delighted to support this scheme from my Devon County Locality Budget, its nice to know that should anyone need airlifting to a hospital in the region, it can now happen 24 hours a day and this will speed up them getting to the right hospital in the quickest possible time”.

Toby Russell, Community Landing Site Development Officer, said “It’s great news that the community landing site at the football pitch at Beechfield is now operational, and it means we can reach patients until 2am every day. Our thanks to Fremington Parish Council for enabling us to use the site and ‘piggy-back’ on the floodlighting already in situ and to Cllr F Biederman for funding the work involved. This site adds to a growing network of night landing sites in North Devon and is now one of 142 in operation across Devon”.

*** ENDS ***

Further information:

Contact Kate Graddock, Clerk on 01271 321063 or email:
admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Also attached:

- Picture 1: Left to right. Cllr F Biederman (County Councillor), Cllr S Kingdom (Chairman of Fremington Parish Council) and Mr T Russell, Community Landing Site Development Officer – Devon Air Ambulance Trust.
- Picture 2: Left to right. Cllr S Kingdom (Chairman of Fremington Parish Council), Cllr F Biederman (County Councillor) and Mr T Russell, Community Landing Site Development Officer – Devon Air Ambulance Trust.