

Fremington Riverside Park and Water's Edge Residents' Association (FRPWERA) – March 2021 Update

The FRPWERA was set up in late autumn 2020, which was around the time the last homes on the development were completed and sold. The estate has been constructed on the old army camp behind the Parish Church and comprises 277 homes made up of both owner occupiers and housing association units. As part of the planning conditions the estate has a number of facilities provided by the developer, including a football pitch, community buildings, play areas and a Multi-Use Games Area.

The Residents' Association was set up following a survey of all the households on the estate to which over 44% responded. Of these 98% were supportive of the need for a Residents' Association. Volunteers to form a committee were asked for and 7 residents came forward and meet regularly to take forward issues raised in the survey. Once the current restrictions are removed a meeting of all residents will be held to formalise the current arrangements.

The primary aim of the Residents' Association is to work with the Management Company, who have been appointed by the developers, to ensure that the service charge levied on each and every property, for the maintenance of the public areas, is fair and provides value for money.

Alongside working with the Management Company, the Residents' Association want to work closely with the Parish Council to address the other issues identified by the residents in the survey, that are small matters that are provided in the other areas of the wider parish area and covered by the parish precept.

The Residents' Association applied for grants from both the Parish Council and the District Council to cover the setting up and ongoing running costs, which include a website, other avenues of communications and their associated costs. The Parish Council has kindly agreed a grant of £100 and we have recently heard that the District Council will help towards the cost of setting up a website. We have also been successful in seeking support from the two main developers towards these costs and other projects we want to progress. The Parish Council had also agreed to meet some of the costs associated with putting up a Notice Board on the estate which both organisations can use.

An area of immediate concern for residents is the ownership and running of the Multi-Use Games Area, which is an outstanding facility which we hope can be to the benefit of all parish residents. The Residents' Association is currently in communication with Parish Council, District Council and developer to understand what the choices are and the financial implications for residents. We hope we can work with the Parish Council to find an equitable solution.

Everyone is hoping that as the current restrictions are removed and we return to normal, the Residents' Association can take on other initiatives to improve the environment in which we live. The open spaces on the estate, for which the residents meet the cost of maintenance, are already used by many members of the public, who reside both on and off the estate. The pathway through to the Tarka Trail is already a well-worn route, especially when the other routes become very muddy and difficult to negotiate during the winter months. We look to working with the Parish Council to see how we can further enhance this experience for the benefit of all.