



Fremington Parish Council



The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington, EX31 3DD
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******PRESS RELEASE******

Council Declares a Housing Crisis in Fremington Parish

Fremington Parish Council has declared a Housing Crisis due to Fremington Parishioners being unable to remain in the 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
- A detrimental effect on volunteer groups that do excellent work within the community supporting all ages
- Local businesses being unable to find workforce especially in the care and hospitality sectors

Cllr Helen Walker, Chairman of the Environment & Community Committee, said “with the cost of a family home in Fremington Parish now between £350,000 and £650,000 and very little private rental property extremely limited, housing in Fremington is unaffordable for people who work in the area. This Declaration shows we are committed to working with upper authorities to make sure everyone in Fremington Parish has a decent affordable home”.

Fremington Parish Council has requested that North Devon Council apply their target of 30% affordable housing on larger developments. This should include:

- Social housing
- Affordable housing to purchase
- Shared ownership

To continue supporting individual landlords in providing good quality affordable lets.



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To identify and use their full powers to bring back empty and abandoned houses to use for people with local connections.

To 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.

To lobby the Government to reinstate the Housing Authority's power to pay housing benefits directly to landlords.

To close the loophole that allows owners of second homes to register them as small businesses and claim business rate relief.

Cllr Sue Kingdom, Chairman of the Parish Council, said "It is indeed unfortunate that with all the developments happening in Fremington Parish that we have to make this Declaration. Adequate housing for all in need is a fundamental right so we join with other local councils in the fight to make this happen".

*** ENDS***

Further information: Contact Executive Officer on 01271 321063 or
Email: admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk