

EDMUND PARK SITE NEWS – DEC 2022

(To contact us please email: edmund.park.frome@outlook.com - any and all feedback is welcome.)

Ongoing reminder:

If you have any questions/issues regarding your house and what lies within your boundary you should contact Persimmon or NHBC; if anything relates to the open spaces, street lighting, play area or the estate roads, contact Remus using salisbury.admin@remus.co.uk. Remus will action these items appropriately and are still looking to put everything back to Persimmon that is their responsibility to resolve.

HANDOVER OF THE ESTATE

This remains very quiet. I asked Remus whether they are aware of anything and received:

The Persimmon man on-site advised that he had a meeting with a senior site surveyor to review the points raised by us and other residents. We don't yet know what came of this and we have nothing further to report.

Mistakenly, I also sent my query to the Neighbourhood Project Officer of MDC but received a useful response:

I can give you nothing from the Council's side as we are not looking to adopt anything on your estate. When you are ready, I will just need to be involved with adding your bins to our contractors' emptying schedules.

(See later regarding Bins)

TRAVEL PLAN (see www.edmundparkfrome.com/travel-plan)

The ongoing issue has been the removal of the Frome Town Council notice board for community posters. Persimmon offered me keys to the two notice boards recently installed for Travel Plan notices, so I tried to clarify my position as follows:

I'm a bit worried as the two recently installed notice boards are, please pardon the phrase, 'nothing to do with me'. Their purpose is stated in the S106 Appendix 1 Approved Travel Plan where it states: 6.2.9 Two Travel Plan Notice Boards, with minimum dimension of 1m x 2m, will be installed in prominent positions to be agreed with the Council. Bus timetables, pedestrian and cycle route information, details of free car days etc. will be displayed. These will be updated on a regular basis by the TPC.

The TPC (Travel Plan Co-ordinator) is within Jubb - hence copying this concern to them.

My involvement/connection with a notice board for the estate was purely my liaison with Frome Town Council for the installation of one of their community notice boards and gaining permission from Permission for FTC to install it - hence my frustration at its recent removal. My wife and I have regularly updated the notices on that board, having collected new community notices each week from the FTC office.

Please would you liaise with Jubb regarding the Travel Plan Notice Boards; my only quest is to have the FTC board reinstalled so that I can return to focussing solely on that with respect to Frome community notices.

Persimmon responded quickly and positively with:

I am tracking down the removed notice board for reinstallation. If this has been scrapped, it will be replaced. You are welcome to have keys or not have keys to any of these noticeboards. I do not claim to know how involved you are with the information placed on these boards. Please do not feel

obligated to have any keys that you do not wish to keep. We will ensure all keys are held by those that need them.

And followed quickly with:

Grass Valet have the notice board. It needs some TLC where they cut the posts to remove it from the ground and from where it was transported back to their yard. I will do everything possible to ensure it is refitted next week.

And, lo and behold, the board was reinstated, without further delay, on Friday 25th and, as you have no doubt noticed (no pun intended!), we've now filled it with Frome community notices. What happens with the other boards is down to our TPC - and the absence of attention is clear. I will try giving them a nudge.

SCHOOL

At the end of October I asked Frances Gully, of Somerset County Council, for an update. I received the following

I am in a different role at present but I have forwarded your request to my colleague who will respond with information from Schools commissioning. Frome Town Council will not be involved in the school site specifically, so it is best to contact us.

(Frances' colleague being Louise Martin.)

I emailed Frances and Louise to say:

As there are many residents here with very young children and families in mind, any information regarding the plans for a school here is of major interest and desperately wanted. I note your comment regarding FTC and will continue to contact you. If there is anyone in Frome who is involved in some way we would like to meet or make contact with them simply to hear about 'what sort of thing is going on locally', and which can be relied upon.

However, on the 4th November, I had a very interesting email from one of our residents:

I live in Edmund Park. My mum has been investigating about the school due to be built on the estate. This is the reply she had from Somerset County council. It doesn't look as though we will get our school.

The reply was from Wendy Kerslake of Schools Commissioning, Education Partnerships:

Further to your contact form submitted to Mendip District Council, concerning school and nursery provision in Frome. The planning application for Edmund Park was submitted in August 2013 and approved in December 2014. The Local Authority secured a school site because pupil forecasts at that time indicated that additional first school places would be required to meet the demand for place from this development.

However, the birth rate has been steadily falling since 2015 and the neighbouring schools have been able to accommodate the children from the Edmund Park development and therefore a new school has not yet been required in this area.

The Local Authority is keeping a very close eye on pupil numbers in Frome, especially with the large number of dwellings expected to be built over the coming years and additional places will be commissioned in Frome as soon as pupil forecasts indicate that they are needed.

Lichen Road is within the Christ Church C of E First School catchment area and the nursery at this school has temporarily closed this term; but in the New Year the school will become an academy and will be part of The Bath and Wells Diocesan Academies Trust and I understand that the Trust is very committed in re-opening the nursery. I would suggest contacting the school to express an interest to attend the nursery in the future.

Depending on your granddaughter's age there are other nurseries in Frome and contact details of local childcare providers can be found through this website.

<https://beta.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/early-years-and-childcare/find-childcare-providers/>

If you wish any further support in finding a nursery place, there is a Childcare Finder Service by completing an online form and provide further information regarding any childcare requirements.

I responded to the resident, saying:

Thanks for sharing. The important bit is where Wendy Kershaw says that a new school has not yet been required but a large number of dwellings are expected to be built over coming years so the demand will increase. We all hope the school will be built especially as another 45 or so houses will be built in its place if it isn't. It's crystal ball stuff and all we can do is keep our fingers crossed. As the school site is now owned by Somerset it's totally their call and that doesn't help at all 😞 I wish I could be more positive.

Having heard nothing more from Frances nor from Louise, of SCC, I emailed Louise on 27th November for an update but to date I've had no response.

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER

I've just had the following email from Shane Collins, our Mendip Councillor, which is good news indeed:

Just to let you know meeting next week between MDC 106 officer and FTC to get things moving on the footbridge. Money is in from Persimmon, just waiting for legal to clear initial payments.

LITTER BINS & DOG POO BINS ON THE ESTATE

On 21st November I met with Rob Holden, Frome Town Council Environment Manager, and we walked around the estate discussing waste and dog bins. Rob emailed me that afternoon:

Good to meet you this morning and discuss the ideas around installing bins on the new estate. I have contacted Mendip District Council and the next step would be to explore options for installation with them together and in consultation with their contractor. I have copied in Sue Church who is the district council's Neighbourhood Project Officer and who can advise further on this (thanks Sue). Perhaps John you could write to Sue and explain the situation?

Sue Church then emailed me straight after receiving Rob's email:

I have been asked to contact you to confirm Mendip District Council position over the provision of dog and litter bins.

We have in place a policy of which type of bins we would empty on behalf of the Town or Parish councils, we have extended this arrangement to the odd Community group. The bins are made by Glasdon UK, please see attached document which contains links to their website.

As far as I am aware there are no plans for Mendip District Council to adopt any land on your estate therefore we would normally suggest you ask if your Town council can help purchase the bins, however I believe you are looking to do this as a Community group.

Mendip District Council prior to your purchase of the bins if preferred, require a map from yourselves (or the town council) of the intended locations; this I will send to our contractor asking if they are suitable locations, bearing in mind access for parking a vehicle nearby would be required and the bin is not located too far from this, as when the bin bag is full can be quite heavy to carry.

You then notify us once you have the bins installed and we will instruct our contractor to add them to their bin emptying schedule and empty them once per week on your behalf with no charge to yourselves.

On the odd accession due to ever rising costs, we have considered for some Parish Councils, (where they have a lower footfall) to use and trial the Glasdon Jubilee or Topsy Royale litter bins, but in deciding to these alternative options you need to be mindful that these are not metal and may be at risk to fire damage, these can also be found on the Glasdon uk website.

I believe you are thinking of installing Dog bins, another thing you may wish to consider is whether a litter bin would be better in the odd area if you get a litter problem as well, as litter bins can be used for both litter and dog waste whereas Dog bins can only be used for Dog waste.

I hope this is helpful for you to make your decision process easier.

I responded as follows:

Many thanks Sue - your email is very much appreciated.

Our estate Management Company is dormant at present as we're still waiting for Persimmon to hand over the ownership of the public spaces, roads etc within the estate. I've copied this email to Liam Button, of Remus, as the estate maintenance has been passed to them and they are being really helpful. I am one of a small number of homeowners who have expressed an interest in becoming Directors of the Management Company and who are keen to 'help make things happen' in a constructive way; the situation regarding bins being a prime example.

Our first task is to canvas residents to establish where it is felt that bins are needed so that we have a plan that can be refined and then achieved. This is where liaison with MDC will be of great value right from the start. When we have a draft of a map I'll make contact again.

I then emailed all residents on our Site News mailing list and posted in our estate Facebook page giving an overview of what we need, ie suggested bin locations.

I've had 12 responses from residents, which were fortunately pretty consistent, and the following map shows where they proposed the bin locations. Please bear in mind that our remit is only our estate so Castiel Road, down to and including Asda, is out of our scope.

Please see the next page for the map. Our next step is to check with Remus regarding its likely acceptability to MDC.

That's it for this month.

Best regards to all

John Corfield

(Note: all Newsletters and Site News are available on www.edmundparkfrome.com)



- 1 – At the entrance to the estate, beside the Notice Boards.
- 2 – At the entrance to the path around the upper SUDS area.
- 3 – Along the hoggin path above Asda.
- 4 – With the two trees between the pavement and the road.
- a – Existing bin, which is secured on pivots and can be tipped (and has been!). Replacement advisable.
- b – Existing bin, same as 'a' which is damaged and has also been tipped. Replacement advisable.
- 5 – At the start of the path to the play area, close to the roads.
- 6 – On the road restriction that narrows the road to one lane.
- 7 – At the end of Iris Road which is also the NCN24 Cycle Path.
- 8 – Where the zig-zag joins the cycle path. Almost certainly not acceptable due to no vehicular access.
- 9 – At the top of the zig-zag.
- 10- At the top of the lower SUDS area.

Note: Bear in mind that vehicular access near to a bin is important and dog poo can be put in litter bins.