

Fremington Parish Council



Annual Report
2013-2014

Chairman's Annual Report - Cllr Rodney Cann

As a result of Central Government's financial cutbacks local authorities are now facing the greatest challenge that they have experienced in modern times. Sadly it is proving impossible for Devon County Council to provide and maintain services at the level we would expect.

DCC has plans to close 26 out of the 35 day centres they operate. This will impact significantly on our local community if, as expected, Oakwell Day and Respite Centre is closed.

Cuts in the Youth Service are likely to result in the closure of Fremington Youth Club.

There must be great concern at proposals to cut the highways and traffic budget by £5 million which includes cuts to gulley emptying and the lengthsman service.

Other areas of cuts/changes that would impact on Fremington Parish are:-
DCC is planning to end the current meals on wheels contract for the elderly.
The new contract for Domestic Violence services threatens the future of the Barnstaple Woman's Refuge. There are also concerns regarding future of the Records Office at the Barnstaple Library

Our local community will inevitably feel the impact of these cutbacks and your Parish Council has been campaigning vigorously to oppose loss of services and facilities in and around Fremington Parish.

Grants

Despite the difficulties we face at this time the council has been pleased to grant aid 21 local organisations within a budget of £4,000 to help ensure the continuity of our vibrant and active community.

Children s Play Area Improvements

The Bickington play area at Babbages has had a new look with the installation of a Basket Swing and Ariel Runway.

Tews Lane has seen the addition of a Basket Swing and continues to be a popular facility.

Griggs Field

In November 2013 the Parish Council, along with volunteers and pupils of the Fremington Community Primary School, planted over 200 tree whips in Griggs Field and I would like to thank Councillor Tony Wood for leading on this project, and all the volunteers that took part in the planting.

Sport

Our local football teams have been enjoying some success and the council has recognised this with plans to give Beechfield Playing Field a major facelift at the end of the football season.

The Queen Elizabeth Sports Field at Tews Lane is once again proving to be very popular and is enjoying great success. Remarkably it now has 18 teams using the two pitches including 5 disabled teams and one ladies team.

Fremington Quay Heritage Centre

The new £172,000 Heritage Centre at Fremington Quay is now open and proving very popular with both residents and tourists. The interactive displays have proven to be very popular particularly with children. The last stage of the latest development was the siting of a wooden galleon in the play area which has also proven very popular with the children.

Development

I think it is fair to say that our worst fears were far exceeded when it comes to planning applications that were given approval in our area.

This in large was as a direct result of central government policy that insists that all applications be given positive consideration. So despite the best efforts of your Councillors, both at parish and district level, and in the face of strong local opposition, planning approval was given to the following.

- Tews Lane a development of 170 dwellings
- Allenstyle a development of 50 dwellings
- Fremington Army Camp a development of 170 dwellings
- Glenwood Farm Roundswell

As we said last year we do not have adequate infrastructure for development on this scale. Our roads are already congested and medical facilities are near or at capacity. We would ask who is going to provide the new employment opportunities required with any development as jobs will be required for local people.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to the Officers of Fremington Parish Council, without their hard work and dedication we would not be able to deliver our objectives and provide a first class service to the council tax payers of the parish.

Cllr Rodney Cann
Chairman Fremington Parish Council

Tews Lane Committee - Cllr Rodney Cann

The success of Tews Lane has continued this year with the installation of a basket swing, following a request from a young resident, the erection of dugouts, and the installation of a kissing gate and dropped kerb to ease access. Through the Town and Parish Fund a picnic bench has also been provided close to the play area and it is hoped this will provide parents with somewhere to sit whilst the children are playing. I can confirm that five benches have also been ordered and are due for installation at the site in the near future.

The facility continues to be well used by the football club, other organisations and the community alike. There are approximately 18 football teams using the facility including a female and disabled teams.

Section 106 negotiations are currently underway to finish the development of the pavilion and I hope this will see community facilities such as a club house with a bar and skittle alley, there are also negotiations for additional car parking at the site. Other projects include the creation of an additional kissing gate and markers for the informal jogging track to show distances for runners.

Cllr Rodney Cann
Chairman Tews Lane Committee

Parks and Playing Fields Committee - Cllr David Harris

My first year as Chairman to the Parks and Playing Fields Committee has been an interesting and exciting experience. There have been additions to the Babbages Play Area with the installation of a Basket Swing and Aerial Runway. During the autumn the Community came together, along with pupils from the Fremington Community Primary School, to plant over 200 tree whips in Griggs Field and I would like to thank all those who took part in the event, and Cllr Tony Wood for organising the project.

The Chairman, Parish Clerk and I have met with the Byeways Bowling Club who have requested permission from the Parish Council to bury the overhead electricity cables. Byeways is a very successful bowling club with fantastic facilities, however there is a problem with birds sitting on the overhead cables and defecating on the bowling green. The Parish Council was happy to offer support for the request and the club is now looking to obtain funding for the project.

Fremington Quay continues to grow in popularity and is a place where I love to spend time. This year saw the opening of the extension to the Heritage Centre, and the installation of a Wooden Galleon and I would like to thank the Fremington Quay Environment Group for undertaking these projects. However, with the increase in popularity the area is also seeing an increase in litter and inconsiderate parking. I am happy to announce that McDonalds has very kindly provided the Parish Council with a litter bin which has been installed at the Quay, the North Devon Council has also been forthcoming in addressing the problem and has kindly added the emptying of the litter to its schedule. Despite these efforts there is still an inadequate provision of litter bins and the Parish Council is looking for a sponsor to provide one additional bin. The Parish Council is also trying to address the issues with parking, and has secured funding through the Town and Parish Fund to fill the potholes in the existing car park. The Committee is also looking at other opportunities for parking and is pleased that a planning application submitted to the North Devon Council to use the disused picnic area for an additional 22 parking spaces has been approved.

Further improvements at Griggs Field are planned for the year ahead, with phase one of the drainage due to start as soon weather conditions permit. I would like to see the paths widened, which have narrowed over time with use, and further drainage works to the field.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee and the office staff for supporting me over the last year.

Cllr David Harris
Chairman Parks and Playing Fields Committee

Finance and Personnel Committee - Cllr Brian Hockin

Would like to start by thanking the Clerk Victoria Woodhouse in her first year as Clerk which must have been a steep learning curve and has coped very well.

We have managed to keep the precept as low as possible while allowing for a reduction of grants in future years.

I would like to thank the staff for their hard work and the committee for their attendance.

Having been on this committee for the last 7 years or so I shall not be volunteering my services this year.

Cllr Brian Hockin
Chairman Finance and Personnel Committee

This Annual Report is available on the Council's website at www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and in a Large Print version.

If you would like a Large Print copy please contact the Parish Council Offices on 01271 321063, or email clerk@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Footpaths Committee - Cllr Jacqueline Flynn

The general clearance and maintenance of footpaths, bridleways and byways in the Parish has been carried out this year mainly by local contractors. This was due to the vast majority of works involving the removal of fallen trees and vegetation clearance.

The Footpaths Committee agreed to ask Mrs Liz Steer to conduct the footpath surveys, as in previous years. This has ensured a consistent, non-biased assessment of the condition of our P3 footpaths network. However, due to Devon County Council's financial constraints, we were unable to pay Mrs Steer for this service this year; many of the surveys were carried out in her own time, but with the agreement of the Parish Clerk, she has been able to carry out the remainder in work time, with a claim for mileage only from the P3 budget, which has resulted in a considerable saving on the P3 budget. However, due to budget cuts which all Councils are now facing, this could prove difficult to implement in the future. The seasons first cut of footpaths/bridleways was carried out in accordance with the specifications. This had the effect of making the maintenance and upkeep of our footpaths, bridleways and byways easier to control and, as always, has improved access for members of the Parish and general public, together with organised groups with environmental interests.

An item was raised at the Footpaths Committee meeting, held in October last year, regarding the use of the private track through Lower Yelland Farm as a permissive footpath. This would have given access from the main B3233 opposite Allenstyle, north to the Tarka Trail. However, following discussions with the landowner in January 2014, he confirmed he is not prepared to open up the track for use by the general public and therefore no further action can be taken in this matter. The P3 Grant for 2014/2015 will again be spent on maintenance work on the Parish's extensive footpath, bridleway and byway network as required.

Cllr Jacqueline Flynn
Chairman Footpaths Committee

**Fremington Parish Council
Income & Expenditure Account
1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014**

(Last) Year Ended
31st. March 2013

(Current) Year
Ended
31st. March 2014

Income

849.43	Administration	838.95
14,276.71	Parks & Playing Fields	13,551.85
51,870.52	106 Funding from NDC	0.00
10,905.00	Cemetery	8,341.00
14,276.71	Fremington Quay	26,025.23
0.00	Salaries & Inland Revenue	757.78
115.53	Insurance	0.00
390.00	Parish Paths	390.00
4,456.83	TAP Fund	6,627.40
114,106.00	Precept	116,958.65
178.55	Dog Bins	233.36
28,047.00	Grants	28,168.97
0.00	Restated	0.00
<u>243,568.23</u>		<u>201,893.19</u>

Expenditure

18,733.59	Administration	18,308.59
35,411.61	Parks & Playing Fields	46,610.39
50,270.00	106 Funding NDC	0.00
4,683.97	Cemetery	4,422.17
10,855.82	Fremington Quay	12,609.51
62,147.49	Salaries	70,869.14
4,254.53	TAP Fund	7,314.90
1,085.00	Parish Paths	346.20
4,282.62	Loans	4,282.62
5,233.06	Insurance	5,303.34
0.00	Parish Enhancements	104.75
4,347.96	Dog Bins	4,723.40
7,985.00	Grants	2,558.34
0.00	Election Costs	0.00
13,152.80	Earmarked Reserves	0.00
<u>222,473.45</u>		<u>177,453.35</u>

General Fund

67,904.69	Balance at 1st April 2013	81,882.47
<u>243,568.23</u>	ADD Total Income	<u>201,893.19</u>
311,472.92		283,775.66
<u>222,473.45</u>	Deduct Total Expenditure	<u>177,453.35</u>
88,999.47		106,322.31
<u>7,117.00</u>	Transfer to/from reserves	<u>4,200.00</u>
<u>81,822.47</u>	Balance at 31st March 2014	<u>102,122.31</u>

Parish Councillors

Cllr Mr Cliff Bell
Harepie, Tawstock
07813 622275

Cllr Mr Brian Hockin
Hillside Cottage, Bickington
01271 324913

Cllr Mr James Bell
The Conifers, 38 West Yelland
01271 860989

Cllr Mrs Carol McCormack-Hole
The Plough Inn, 7 The Hill,
Bickington, 01271 343176

Cllr Mr Frank Biederman
8 Broadway, Fremington
07595 988704

Cllr Mrs Susan Kingdom
37 Park Avenue, Sticklepath
01271 326914

Cllr Mr Des Brailey MBE
31 Maple Grove, Roundswell
01271 329796

Cllr Ms Myka Scott
3 Byeways Close, Fremington
01271 859003

Cllr Mr Rodney Cann
Kimberley, Bickington Road,
Bickington 01271 372998

Cllr Mr. Bill Sherborne
5 Woodville Close, Sticklepath
01271 344816

Cllr Mr Brian Clifton
133 Meadowbrook, Roundswell
01271 314922

Cllr Mr Chris Turner
2 Church Hill, Fremington
01271 372497

Cllr Mrs Jacqueline Flynn
7 Elmfield Road, Bickington
01271 370546

Cllr Mr Tony Wood
1 Griggs Garden, Fremington
01271 321424

Cllr Mr David Harris
30 Beechfield, Road, Fremington
07866 110810

Parish Council Officers

Mrs Victoria Woodhouse
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Mrs Eileen Badcock
Services Officer

Mrs Liz Steer
Deputy Services Officer



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