

CHAIRMANS REPORT for 2024

This year seems to have passed so quickly and we have Easter on the horizon already.

We have finally been able to open the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on Riverside Park (the former army camp) and is being very well used already.

The St Andrews planning appeal was refused at Appeal as North Devon Council currently has a five-year land supply. For once the appeal went our way.

The Tews Lane and Finance and Personnel Committee undertook a survey of Roundswell residents in the Autumn of 2023. The results showed that the majority of respondents did not support the expansion of the existing building at the Queen Elizabeth II Sports Field, Tews Lane. After reviewing the results, the Tews Lane Committee decided not to proceed with the community building, after considering the Section 106 funding deadlines and allocations within the agreements and the priorities the Committee agreed to finish off and enhance the current building on site by adding a porch and storage (along with a fenced off area for goal posts) for both the football club and Parish Council. It is still an aspiration to address the drainage on the football pitches when funds allow as this has been a major problem over the years.

We have also refurbished two play areas in the parish using Section 106 money – one at the Beechfield Centre and the other at Ellerslie Road although this latter is not open yet as the contractors are unable to make good the area due to the weather. Hopefully the weather will improve so that the play area can be opened. The youngsters in the area are very keen to start using the equipment.

Finally work started at the Cedars Roundabout to install traffic lights. This work started in January and is due to go on until July. This is because the utilities have to increase the depth of the cables. This has caused delays in traffic movement and is causing frustration to the drivers. They say patience is a virtue and it is certainly needed at the moment. The traffic lights will allow traffic from Bickington, Fremington and Yelland to move forward and reduce the time travelling from these areas into Barnstaple.

On the 31st January we had a celebration to celebrate the opening of the 200th Air Ambulance landing site at the Queen Elizabeth Playing Field, Tews Lane. This means we have two night time landing sites in the parish with the other at the Beechfield Playing Field, Fremington.