Chairman's Report for 2026

During the last year the Parish Council has filled two vacancies via co-option and has welcomed Nick Tamlin and Oscar Kelly as Councillors for Fremington Parish.

As some of you may already know the Parish Council has a further vacancy following the tragic loss of Neil Denton who recently passed away following a brave battle with cancer. We were also saddened to learn of the passing of a former Chairman, Chris Turner, and our sincere condolences have been extended to both families.

The Parish Council is pleased to have been able to secure a further lease with the landowner for the Muddlebridge Allotments and is hopeful that the transfer of the new allotment site at Tarka Ridge will take place in the next few months.

I am pleased to report that the extension to the changing facilities in the pavilion at the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field, Tews Lane have been completed and funded using Section 106 money. The Parish Council would like to thank Pearce Construction, the Contractor, for their workmanship and Woodward Smith Chartered Architects for their diligence throughout the project and managing of the contract. The Parish Council is in the process of organising an open day in the near future to showcase the new improved facilities.

The Parish Council is continuing its commitment to the Climate Emergency and increase in biodiversity and has continued to maintain, enhance and introduce ecological opportunities throughout the parish. The wild flower area at the end of Ellerslie Road has had additional seeds scattered so we should see an abundance of flowers later in the year, wild flower areas have also been introduced at Tews Lane and Riverside Park along with habitats for native wildlife such as bug hotels and toad abodes. I would like to thank our Contractor for the reinstatement and maintenance carried out to the pathway around Griggs Field which has helped with some access to the field. The field itself continues to be managed for wildlife.

The Parish Council has continued to work hard over the last year to represent the community. This was evident during North Devon Council's recent Community Governance Review when a neighbouring Town Council submitted proposals to alter the boundaries which would have negatively impacted on Fremington Parish. Thankfully the Parish Council and wider community fought hard to ensure the parish's best interest remained at the core of the review and these proposals did not proceed any further.

Looking to the future I am sure you have heard by now that the Government is in the process of reorganising Local Government. The Parish Council is working hard again to represent the interest of the parish and secure assets that the Parish Council leases and/or manages on behalf of the North Devon Council. The Parish Council has agreed to support the refurbishment/rebuild and/or demolition of the Tomlin Hall to provide an improved community facility with available Section 106 funding and is also in the process of agreeing a Strategic Plan for the Parish Council reviewing its aims and objectives for the next five years.

Cllr Sue Kingdom
Chairman Fremington Parish Council