

## CHAIRMANS REPORT for 2025.

The year started with the Cedars Roundabout improvement which went on longer than anyone would have liked, however, it now enables people to get into and through Barnstaple quicker than before and appears to be working well.

The play area at Ellerslie Road is now open following a significant upgrade using Section 106 funding. The delay to re-opening was caused by the weather which meant the contractors needed to sort out the ground nearby. The boat play equipment at Fremington Quay had a refurbishment and is a big improvement to the area and the Beechfield Play Area has also seen improvements to play equipment.

The “Fremington” sign at Broady strap has been much improved with volunteers from Perrigo. This is now low maintenance thanks to its new design.

Also volunteers in the parish are carrying out what is called a “60-minute Spruce” organised by the Fremington and District Community Group and supported by the Parish Council in different areas of the parish on the first Saturday of each month, and what an improvement to the area it has made. I would encourage anyone able to volunteer for one hour a month to contact either organisation for more information on how you can take part.

The Parish Council has updated its Grant Aid Policy. Each Councillor will now have an allocation of £150 to support

projects for local groups and they can apply through the councillors, there is also a central fund where community groups can apply for larger grants to support projects.

We welcomed new councillors – Dave Harris, Rhys Jones, Matt Thomas, Neil Denton, Jeff Bridgeman and we thank them for giving their time and energy in representing the people of the parish. We also welcome Eman Smlatic who was co-opted following Councillor Jim Bells resignation. We thank Jim Bell for his time on the council and wish him well in the future.

The council decided that it could no longer go on with the Neighbourhood Plan. This was for many reasons. The parish has grown so much over the course of time and surveys done at the early stages became obsolete, however, the findings from the draft Neighbourhood Plan and community consultations will be used to form a business plan for the parish council.

We look forward to the forthcoming year and pursuing further projects and activities to support our community.