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Celebrating the end result of plans to update the Stratton Audley playground after years in the pipeline

Celebration over village play area

Fundraising project sees
Stratton Audley facilities
given complete overhaul

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AFTER four decades bringing joy to generations of village children in Stratton Audley the area's playground has had a complete overhaul.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of villagers and the parish council more than £30,000 was raised to fund the long-running project.

For years in the village, a campaign to raise money has been gathering pace and finally reached a positive conclusion.

In a fitting salute to the area's history the new park was unveiled during its 40th anniversary year.

Stratton Audley parish council chairman John Honsinger said: "We have been saving for a new playground over a number of years, then last year we applied for a grant from WREN which secured the project £25,000 plus the £9,000 we had already pulled together from our own money.

"So we officially opened the new playground with myself cutting the ribbon and a lot of people turned out about 60 people to support us.

"It was quite nice really that it also coincided with the 40th anniversary of the original play area which opened in 1976."

Tabitha Clark, seven, said: "It is really good, I have been very excited about the playground opening"



By 2015, the parish council had managed to raise more than £30,000 to revamp the old play area and now children are checking out its revamp



at before and after pictures the change is substantial.

"The reaction from parents has been absolutely positive and everyone has been saying it is better than they expected.

"Although it is a not an enormous space the new design and extra equipment has made it look much bigger also.

"I think more children have used the park in the last ten days than they have in a long time."

The £25,000 came from WREN – the environmental body funded by the landfill tax and set up to support community projects – which the parish council secured through a successful grant application.

This process was helped by a

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The newly revamped play area in Cherry Street has been completely redesigned to include many natural features, such as wooden equipment.

The last time any new additions were made to the park was in 2000 so the overhaul is a welcome addition to the village.

A new rotator, swings, basket swing and impressive climbing frame for all ages are just a few



of the new features.

But as a touch of nostalgia, the horse and spring camel from the original playground have been restored and brought back to their former glory to keep them in the redesigned area.

Mr Honsinger said: "Looking

the environmental body funded by the landfill tax and set up to support community projects - which the parish council secured through a successful grant application.

This process was helped by a village survey whereby people pulled together their thoughts on the existing park and what they would like to see replace it.

The £9,000 generated up through both the parish council and fundraising came from many village events, plus initiatives such as a new homes scheme in which the council tried to put aside a little money every so often, to save up.