

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	Tuesday 2 nd August 2022
Report Title	Murder Mystery Evening Report
Agenda Reference	10
Author	Kate New, Youth and Community Co Ordinator

Officer's Recommendations:

To note an Autumn event will be held with a similar Murder Mystery format to be organised as part of the Council's Isolation and Loneliness Programme. A communications plan to be drawn up to ensure any last-minute changes are communicated to all Senior Officers and our insurance cover in the event of cancellations will be investigated.

Background

Haydon Wick Parish Council planned to host a murder mystery evening to be performed by Purton Amateur Dramatic Society on Friday 15th July 2022, 7.30pm in the function room of the Haydon Wick Club.

The Youth and Community Co Ordinator has performed with Purton Amateur Dramatics for many years, as well as being involved in several murder mystery evenings, all of which have been very successful. This event was an initiative to complement and introduce the Council's Isolation and Loneliness programme.

Event Details

Two days before the event one of the members of cast tested positive for Covid19. It was planned for the Youth and Community Co Ordinator to step in and fill his part. However, another two members of the cast tested positive on the morning of the event, therefore the performance had to be cancelled. The Youth and Community Coordinator contacted all attendees, to explain the situation and gave them the option to still attend the event with a ploughman's supper (which had already been purchased in the morning), raffle and quiz, instead of the murder mystery performance, or to not attend and instead receive a refund.

40 out of 54 attendees were still happy to attend, therefore the evening went ahead. The night ran very smoothly, and we received some fantastic feedback. The event attracted some people who may not have gone out otherwise. Upon speaking to attendees, they



were grateful for this type of event as they were new to Haydon Wick and wanted to meet new people. During the breaks people mingled with other tables and chatted, which was great to see.

From the list of original attendees, 65% were from Haydon Wick Parish. In the two weeks leading up to the event, we opened this up to people outside of the Parish to sell the remaining tickets. Of those who still attended the amended event, 64% were Parish residents.

After liaising with the Council's Finance Officer, a partial refund of £2.00 was offered to all attendees to compensate for the change of plans, and a full refund of £12.00 was offered to all those who chose not to attend. Due to not having to pay for Purton Amateur Dramatics and giving refunds, the event still turned out to be cost neutral and they are keen to reschedule another event later in the year, as were all the attendees who came to the event.

Financial Summary

ITEM	COST	PO RAISED	INVOICE RECEIVED	PAID	TOAL COST
Hire of The Haydon Wick Club	£75.00				£75.00
Ploughmans (approx £3.50 per head) x 60	£238.08				£238.08
Prizes for the winning team	£34.00				£34.00
Misc.	£63.29				£63.29
			Total		£410.37

Ticket sales (after all refunds were given) generated £426.00.

Raffle

Generous donations were received from:

- Happy Cod, Taw Hill
- Cooperative Food, Taw Hill
- Cooperative Food, Purton
- Kelly's Cakes Rock
- Manor Garden Centre
- Toomers Garden Centre



- One Stop, Purton
- La Flambe, Sutton Benger
- Kev Dettmar
- Power Wash contractors
- Gemma PT Sessions
- Lloyds Pharmacy, Purton

Ticket sales on the night raised £150.00 for UNICEF to help Children in Ukraine.

Considerations

A future event will be planned in the original murder mystery format later in the year. It will be held in the Autumn and with a meal such as a chilli (meat or veg) served in the interval to be less labour intensive. This would be an opportunity to invite parish residents out to socialise during the colder months as well as being an introduction to Halloween at the end of October.

It was acknowledged by Senior Officers that it was the swift thinking of the Youth and Community Coordinator which enabled the event to proceed. However, a communications process must be implemented to ensure that any last-minute changes to events are communicated to all. Additionally, the impact of potentially cancelling an event of this nature and recouping any financial outlay on our insurance must also be investigated.