

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	4 th July 2023
Report Title	Community Development Officer's Report
Agenda Reference	11
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Officer's Recommendations:

1. To note the report.

The Haydon Wick Haven

Haydon Wick Haven – this is proving ever more popular. Some positive feedback has been received from recent attendees, and we regularly welcome 10 – 14 people to the café. A community navigator from Swindon Borough Council is coming along to a future cafe, and the Mayor has also been invited to attend in September.

Recent feedback forms that were circulated to regular attendees indicated that they really enjoy the company, the chat, puzzles and quizzes. Guest speakers were one of the suggestions for future activities, along with local trips on the community bus.

Due to the larger numbers attending, a rota will be drawn up to allocate a member of staff from the office team to assist the Administrator for the first hour of each café with preparing drinks as people arrive. Councillor R Ross has also been in regular attendance for the second hour at the Haven sessions. If any other Councillors can assist for the first hour of the café it would be much appreciated and free up the office team to continue with its daily tasks.

Community Yoga

The current series of community yoga classes is now in its fourth week out of six, and the Community Development Officer continues to receive positive feedback from those attending. Yoga in the Park is progressing, with a date to be set in July for a trial session for staff and Councillors.

Community Led Plan

The Community Development Team is continuing with the social media campaign to raise awareness of the Community Led Action Plan, and the progress that is being made. Recent Facebook posts have included an update on the play area inspections, and information about the ways in which the Parish Council work with the North Swindon PCSOs to keep the community safe.

Climate Change

The climate change working party consists of two Council officers and five Councillors, along with a Parish resident who is a climate change champion.

The working party is due to meet over the next few weeks to discuss a draft climate change policy, and also the change in legislation from October 2023, to ban single use plastics. The Community Development Officer and the Administrator will be carrying out an audit of the



current status of single use plastics within the Council offices and in the Parks and Open Spaces Team, and these will need to be used up before these dates.

During each event process the issue surrounding plastics is considered and alternative options to these have been sought and used wherever possible.

Community Emergency Action Plan

The Deputy Clerk and the Community Development Officer are jointly working on reviewing the Community Emergency Action Plan, which was re-introduced in 2022. The aim of this plan is to increase community resilience through developing a robust coordinated approach that will complement the plans of responding agencies.

The Community Development Officer is investigating grant funding options that could help our community to build resilience for emergency events and protect the welfare of vulnerable community members.

Press Releases

The Community Development Team is responsible for writing press releases for the Council. Recent examples include community grant recipients, the new electric vehicle in the Parks and Open Spaces Team and our young volunteer litter pickers.

Tiny Forest Update

The joint bid for Tiny Forest grant funding has been prepared for Haydon Wick, along with Central North, Swindon South and West Swindon Parish Councils.

Earthwatch, the charity who manage the Tiny Forest project, have assessed the list of sites considering deprivation and need. With this in mind they have narrowed the four suggested sites for Haydon Wick sites down to a single location at Heaton Close, as the other proposed sites (at Luna Close, Grace Walk and Voyager Drive) were in 'affluent areas with good existing canopy cover'. There is still an opportunity for our other sites to be progressed if space within the bid becomes available.

Friends of Mouldon Hill

The Community Development Officer is working in conjunction with Neil Pullen, the Swindon Conservation Lead at the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to start a Friends of Mouldon Hill group. This group will engage local communities and volunteers in carrying out important maintenance operations at Mouldon Hill, with the aim of increased biodiversity. Neil will be attending the Parks and Open Spaces Committee to talk about this on 11th July 2023.

Tender for Trent Road Refurbishment

The invitation to tender for the design and build of Trent Road play area refurbishment is due to be returned to the Council on 30th June. There is then a period of evaluation and clarification to assess the quality of the designs and ensure they are fit for purpose.

The Community Development Officer and the Youth and Community Co Ordinator are taking the final selection of designs to Greenmeadow School on Monday 17th July, where they will work with children in Year 6 (10–11 year olds) to get their feedback on the proposals.

The Community Development Officer will also carry out further engagement work with two local groups, Mums on a Mission and Benjamin Smiles, to gather their input.

The anticipated contract award date is 25th July.



First Swindon Scouts

On Tuesday 27th June the First Swindon Scouts cubs group celebrated the Holi Festival of Colours at King George V Field. This activity was part of their badge work, where they learned about a number of different religious and cultural festivals.

The cubs held a powder paint fight in the field. A £50.00 bond was secured in case of damage, and the cubs also litter picked the field after the event.