01793 722446
info@haydonwick.gov.uk
www.haydonwick.gov.uk

Haydon Wick
Parish Council

Haydon Wick Parish Council
Thames Avenue
Haydon Wick
Swindon
SN25 1QQ

Meeting	Community Development
Date	7th February 2023
Report Title	Warm Spaces
Agenda Reference	11
Author	Caroline Hunt, Community Development Officer

Officer's Recommendation

1) To note the contents of the report.
2) To discuss upcoming Warm Spaces sessions and whether these should be more interactive.

Background/ Purpose

At Community Development Committee on 6th September 2022, it was agreed to proceed with the programme of events aimed at reducing isolation and loneliness within our community. One such event was to make space available in the office for people who are struggling with the cost of heating their homes, and hence to keep warm.

Warm Space Project

The Council Offices have been opening its downstairs meeting rooms for two hours a day, between 11 am to 1 pm, on Mondays and Fridays. During this time, hot drinks and snacks are available free of charge. Staff and Councillors have been available during these times to help prepare the refreshments and engage with the participants.

The total number of residents who have used the Warm Spaces up until now has been three.

Members are asked to consider future Warm Spaces events and whether the sessions could be more interactive i.e. incorporate an activity.

Other Warm Spaces Projects within the Parish

The Haydon Centre opened their Warm Space in December, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1-3pm. So far, they have had three residents call in to make use of it. They offer free Wi-Fi, tea, coffee, and biscuits. The Community Development Officer met with the Manager of the Haydon Centre to compare attendance at their Warm Spaces, and he reported that only one person had made use of their space.

Financial Implications

The cost of the project so far has been minimal as refreshments have been utilised from the staff larder, and subsequently not used. The time from the Councillors has been very valuable and hasn't interrupted the office staff.

The room has had to be heated using the air conditioning units for 30 mins prior to the event to warm the room up and then the two hours during the events. This is up to 5 hours extra per week, approximately costing £2.92 in electric.