

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	6 th February 2024
Report Title	Community Choices
Agenda Reference	9
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk & Services Manager

Officer's Recommendations:

1. To note the report
2. To suggest that the Community Choices theme is split between Youth (£2,500), Reducing Loneliness & Isolation Events Programme (£3,000) and use £2,000 to increase the Community Events budget.

Background

In 2023/2024 the Community Choices budget theme was split in to 'Reducing Loneliness and Isolation' (£5,000) and Youth Events (£2,500) has given us a broad range of exciting and well attended events.

Events

Reducing Loneliness & Isolation

- Haydon Wick Haven
- Limited Mobility Exercise
- Over 60s Afternoon Tea
- Murder Mystery Evening
- Indoor & Outdoor Yoga Sessions
- Reduced Price Christmas Meals
- Increased Christmas Parcels Budget

Youth Activities

- Youth Christmas Party
- BEST – Be A Better You Workshops
- Soft Play Trips
- Skate Park Jams
- Halloween Pick Your Own Pumpkin Trip

2024/2025

There was a poor response to this year's Community Choices survey and social media campaign. This year a QR code was used on the poster, and this was not easily accessible. The information was shared via social media, website, press releases and the Haydon Wick "Living" Magazine. A video was also created showing the previous years themes and encouraging the community to offer suggestions for the coming year.

A few Facebook comments gave support for local groups, but it was suggested that these local groups apply under the Community Grants process.

The suggestion from the Officers is to continue with the same budget allocation as last year:

- The £2,500 for youth can be for young people's mental health (working with BEST and/or Kelly's Foundation), the Underground Youth Project and a skate park jam.
- The £5,000 could be split 60% (£3,000) for loneliness and isolation events – Haven, Fitness Classes, Curry/Quiz Evenings, etc and 40% (£2,000) to bolster the community events budget to enable us to do a Summer and potentially a Winter event.



There are still some themes from last year that have not been completed for example a Menopause Café and Tai Chi lessons. There is already budget for Memory Café events (Fish & Chip Fridays, Summer Tea Dance, etc) and basic entertainment and refreshments for the Haven.