

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	7 th March 2023
Report Title	Warm Spaces
Agenda Reference	12
Author	Caroline Hunt, Community Development Officer

Officer's Recommendations:

1. To consider registering the Council as a referral centre for the Food Bank and for the Community Development Officer and Deputy Clerk & Services Manager to act as the signatories for this service.
2. To note the Haydon Wick Haven project's introductory sessions on Monday 13th and Monday 27th March 2023.

Background

The Warm Spaces project was set up in anticipation for a cold and bleak winter, to assist residents whom may be experiencing financial difficulties and/or loneliness to enjoy warm refreshments and a safe space. The project has been running since 7th November 2023 and is due to end at the end of March 2023. The sessions have been mainly overseen by Councillors and the numbers of participants has thankfully been low.

The Food Partnership and Inequalities Team brought a box of items to distribute to the Warm Spaces attendees, the items included blankets, hot water bottles, gloves and draught excluders.

The Council has been welcoming a regular attendee to the Warm Spaces project for the past few weeks. Following conversations at the Warm Spaces, the Council has been invited by Swindon Borough Council to register as a referral centre for the Food Bank. It is recommended that a minimum of two officers register as signatories, and once submitted, a list of phone numbers for the centres is issued. The Council can then submit a referral by text, so that it is done in a timely and discreet manner that helps the resident that has come to visit.

Haydon Wick Haven

At the last Community Development Committee meeting, Officers were asked to make the project more interactive. Running concurrently alongside this was the Administration Assistant's aspiration to create a 'pop in and chat' style café called Haydon Wick Haven. This aspiration is also featured within the strategy for an information hub and has been easy to implement.

Residents can come along and network with other residents or talk through any local issues or general enquiries with the Administration Assistant. The idea being that residents can come into the meeting room for refreshments and be assisted with any enquiries.

The Community Development Officer met with the Head of Health Improvement Services and the Health Improvement Manager from Swindon Borough Council on Monday 27th February 2023. This was a very productive and collaborative meeting, one outcome was the offer of a Community Navigator once a month to attend the Haydon Wick Haven or a similar drop in session support and help to residents.



To begin with, two introductory sessions have been advertised to coincide with some of the Warm Spaces sessions. The dates of these sessions are Monday 13th and Monday 27th March 2023. If the project is a success a proposal will come to April's Community Development Committee to implement further dates. At this point, once numbers are known, Councillors would be welcome to volunteer their time and assist with the sessions.

It has been noted that many residents pop in when passing the building to speak with the Administration Assistant regularly for any small enquiries. It is believed that the residents like the rapport that has been built and the regular contact. Having dedicated time to pop in would help with the time of the Administration Assistant and provide a suitable time for people to call in.