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| <b>Meeting</b>          | Community Development Committee                                                  |
| <b>Date</b>             | 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2023                                                       |
| <b>Report Title</b>     | Review Mobii Table Usage                                                         |
| <b>Agenda Reference</b> | 13                                                                               |
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### Recommendations:

1. To review Mobii Table usage.
2. Then either: -
  - Develop a strategy to increase usage.
  - Increase the advertising for external hire to a wider audience.
  - Review in 8 months' time (October 2023) when budget setting to have a general feel for the income generated within a normal financial year (where no pandemics have arisen) and if it has been used to its full potential.

Or

- Sell the Mobii Table (resale value currently unknown) releasing funds for other projects within the Memory Café.

### Reasons for Recommendation

When the Mobii Table was originally purchased in early 2020, it was an aspiration of the Council, that the Mobii Table would be used by the Parish Council for internal projects i.e. the Memory Café, but also be used to generate income by being hired out to external organisations i.e. schools, care homes and other parish councils.

It is worth highlighting that the Mobii Table was purchased in the height of the Covid-19 lockdown and therefore the hiring and demonstrations of the Mobii Table were not possible as the target audience (in care homes) were shielding. Also, at this time the Memory Café hadn't been running so it was unknown how much usage the table would get.

Therefore, it is a sensible time to review the usage of the Mobii Table to ensure that this is still an asset and not just gathering dust and taking up space in the storage room.

### Memory Café Usage

The Mobii Table is not being used by the Memory Café as anticipated (once out of the two sessions per month) one of the reasons for this are the amount of space it took up in the Council Offices meeting room. However, there is slightly more floor space in Haydon Wick Bowls Club, but setting up the table requires a dedicated volunteer to operate.

As there are different stages of Dementia and Alzheimer's, it is important to note that the current Memory Café attendees are still young and able bodied, and their concentration levels are still where they can take part in creative seated activities. Most prefer musical activities or interaction within the group taking part in the organised activities and therefore have shown little interest in the interactive table. Using the Mobii Table requires one to one attention, so this can also isolate people away from the other members of the group.

The Memory Café Co Ordinator checks the attendance list before each session to check on the capabilities and if an attendee would benefit from one to one time with the Mobii Table and the volunteer or carer. The Memory Café Co Ordinator also checks the feedback forms regularly to check what the attendees like about the café and what they would like to do in future sessions.



The general feel about the Mobii Table is an impressive piece of kit but may be more suitable in a care home type environment than a busy Memory Café session.

### **Other Internal Usage**

The table could also be available for the Warm Spaces/ Haydon Wick Haven initiative to make use of the game's suite.

### **Consideration of Less Interactive Memory Café Sessions**

It could also be that due to the known lack of previous interest there could be reluctance to run the table during the sessions and therefore favouring external facilitators.

The vast range of activities that are put on each time making the table less exciting. Perhaps if there were less activities it may become more popular and cut down on the preparation administration for each session?

### **External Hire**

The Memory Café Co Ordinator has contacted local care homes (Maple Court Care Home, Orchid Care Home, Fessey House, Rose Cottage, Haydon Court and James Wilkes House) and other parish and town councils that run Memory Cafés (Highworth Town Council, Wroughton and Central Swindon North) but the uptake has been poor as both have their own interactive tables. Highworth TC was interested and came in for a demo with a resident of their café, they did not respond to follow up calls and have since purchased their own equipment in December.

In October, the Memory Café Co Ordinator has also tried Riverside School for children who are vulnerable, have anxiety and autism spectrum conditions. Riverside School confirmed they were going to make contact if it was something they could get funding for.

The Memory Café Co Ordinator has been liaising with the Youth & Community Co Ordinator to try to get sessions available at the schools and has offered to conduct 30-minute demo sessions.