

Meeting	Full Council
Date	24 th January 2023
Report Title	Community Development Matters
Agenda Reference	14
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Recommendation

1. To note the contents of the report.

1. Memory Café

Our award-winning Memory Café celebrated Christmas early on Wednesday 14th December 2022. Firstly, a choir from Haydonleigh School came along to sing carols, followed by toddlers from neighbouring Meadow Park Pre School, who brought gifts and Christmas cards with them. Attendees enjoyed making their own seasonal wreaths to take home with our very own Admin Assistant, Darry New, followed by seated exercise with Lin Jefferies. Finally, the very talented Father Christmas delighted everyone by providing musical accompaniment on the keyboard to traditional carol singing. Afterwards he handed out gifts underneath the Christmas tree and the raffle was drawn.

Following the party Meadow Pre-School contacted the Memory Café Co Ordinator to say how much the children had enjoyed coming over to the Memory Café and thanking staff for being so welcoming:

"The children had such a great time yesterday; they loved coming over to see you all! Thank you for being so welcoming. We have had so much positive feedback from our parents and even the wider community." Manager, Meadow Pre-School.

The Community Development Team is developing a relationship with the Pre-School, the Memory Café Co Ordinator is planning on organising a reading session with the children from the Pre-School, and as a way of saying thank you for the gifts and cards brought along to the Memory Café Christmas party, the Dinky Ponies will be visiting the Pre School on 20th January 2023.

The Memory Café Co Ordinator is investigating the possibility of taking a group of Memory Café attendees and their carers to the hydrotherapy pool. The pool is free to use, and people could use the Orchid Care transport if needed. These sessions would be on alternate weeks to the Memory Café schedule.

2. Christmas Meals

The Memory Café attendees, along with a group of residents over 60 who frequently use the community bus, enjoyed a festive lunch. The events were organised as part of the Reducing Loneliness and Isolation Programme, designed to help those living alone or vulnerable in the parish. Comments from around the table included:

"The opportunity to share a meal with other people is so nice, I usually eat on my own at home."

"This has been so wonderful, I'm just trying to take it all in, so I can remember when I get home. Thank you to all at Haydon Wick Parish Council who organised this for us."



Unfortunately, the quality of the food on the first event was not up to standard and a refund was given by the venue. The Manager was very apologetic, and the food on the second event was fine. A refund was given for part of the first event which has been offset to invite the attendees to a free fish & chip event in March 2023.

3. Christmas Parcel Scheme

Councillors, Staff, Volunteers, and members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (Christ's Love Assembly) worked together to pack and deliver over 140 Christmas parcels over two days. The parcels were well received, and over 30 notes and messages of thanks have been received. A feedback form was also included with the parcels, these are being collated and the information will be used to inform the contents choices for Christmas 2023. A Christmas Parcel project audit is coming to Community Development Committee in February 2023 and the staff already have some ideas, based on the feedback, to improve the service in 2023.

4. Youth and Community Update

Children's Christmas Party - This event took place on Monday 19th December 2022 at the Haydon Centre. Entertainment was provided by Razzamatazz. 70 Children attended and were provided with gifts, drinks and snacks whilst there. The feedback from parents was fantastic. There was an issue with the lack of venue staff and a double booking, but the venue has given reassurance that this won't happen again and thankfully for the quick thinking of staff the event was a huge success.

Welly Walk – This is a new event on Saturday 21st January 2023 at Mouldon Hill. The walk will be led by Neil Pullen from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, and is open to parents and toddlers. There is a suggested donation of £1.00 per family to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

Clothes Sale – Another new event, scheduled for Saturday 4th February 2023, focussing on selling pre-loved children's clothes and toys. There is a cost of £5.00 per table, which will be donated to the Swindon Food Collective.

5. Reducing Isolation and Loneliness Update

- A) Quiz night** - The next quiz night is planned for Friday 27th January 2023 and will begin with a quiz run by the Youth and Community Co Ordinator. There will also be a 'Play Your Cards Right' game session where the audience will participate, and prizes will be won. Refreshments will be Fish and Chips, provided by Thames Avenue.
- B) Warm Spaces and Ukrainian Cafe** – The Warm Spaces is continuing to be held twice a week in the large meeting room, supported by Councillors. Following our Ukrainian cafes this Autumn, we have had an enquiry from some attendees about providing informal English conversation lessons. The Community Development Officer has enquired via the Pattern Church and the Warm Welcome Team at SBC to see if this would be possible and continues to keep in touch with participants on any upcoming events that would be suitable for them.
- C) Information Hub** - The Community Development Officer has a meeting arranged with the Head of Health Improvement Services at Swindon Borough Council on 18th January 2023 to progress the idea of an information hub being held on a regular basis at the Council Offices. An update on this will be provided at the Community Development Committee in February.
- D) Community Yoga** – The Council has teamed up with a local yoga teacher from Taw Hill to provide a six-week series of introductory yoga sessions at the Council Offices. These



will start on Monday 30th January, and will be charged at £1.00 a class, payable in advance.

6. Working Towards

The team has hit the ground running at the start of this new year and is organising the events scheduled for 2023/2024. Each event takes a lot of planning, administration and advertising so thinking ahead is key. If Members have any ideas for events or availability to attend, please contact the Community Development Officer. More dates will be provided at the Community Development Committee meeting in February 2023.

Draft Schedule of Events to Easter 2023

Dinky Ponies visit to Meadow Pre School	Friday 20 th January 2023
Welly Walk for parents and toddlers at Mouldon Hill with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Saturday 21 st January 2023
Quiz/Play Your Cards Right with Fish and Chips	Friday 27 th January 2023
Yoga - 6 week introductory classes in Council Offices	Starting Monday 30 th January 2023
Children's Clothes & Toy Sale at the Haydon Centre	Saturday 4 th February 2023
BEST - Half Term enrichment sessions at the Haydon Centre	Thursday 16 th February 2023
Skate Park Event in half term	Feb-23 (TBA)
Volunteer Cream Tea at the Council Offices	Saturday 18 th February 2023
Over 60s Cream Tea at the Council Offices	Saturday 25 th February 2023
Ukrainian Café - English Conversation sessions at the Council Offices	Mar-23 (TBA)
Over 60s fish and chip lunch	Wednesday 1 st March 2023
Memory Café fish and chip lunch	Friday 3 rd March 2023
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday 8 th April 2023

7. Life Cycle Cycling lessons

Life Cycle UK is a registered charity which encourages people to take up cycling. They offer 'bikeability family sessions' to give parents and carers the tools to cycle safely with children within Bristol, Somerset and Swindon. They provide up to three hours of free training for a £5 per person deposit, which is refunded after the lesson. The Community Development Team is investigating this, and further details will be presented at the February Community Development Committee.