

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	25 th July 2023
Report Title	Community Development Officer's Report
Agenda Reference	10
Author	Caroline Hunt, Community Development Officer

Officer's Recommendations:

1. To note the report.

Haydon Wick Haven

The Haven held on the 24th July 2023 welcomed 13 guests, who enjoyed a picture quiz, a game of 'guess what's in the box', word searches and some true or false facts, along with some delicious home-made cakes donated by Councillor R Ross.

A new volunteer dropped in and helped the Administration Assistant with serving refreshments and activities.

The Community Development Officer attended for the first hour and spent some time chatting to the attendees. Two memorable conversations included the comments below:

"I love coming to the Haven, if I wasn't here, I'd be sat at home looking out of my window, and no one ever comes to see me. I really enjoy the company here."

"When I first came to the Haven one of the volunteers (a Councillor) asked me if there was anything the Council could do for me. I have never been asked that before, and I was so impressed with this, I feel very lucky to live in Haydon Wick."

The attendees were asked to vote on a location for a community bus trip in August, and Hilliers' Garden Centre in Lechlade was the favourite.

Councillor R Ross continues to support the Haven by coming along for the second hour of the sessions. If any other Councillors can assist for the first hour of the café it would be much appreciated and would free up the office team to continue with its daily tasks.

Community Yoga

The first two Yoga in the Park sessions have been held, and so far, the weather has not been favourable. There has been minimal attendance at both sessions. One of the outdoor sessions (6.30am on Wednesdays at Trent Road Playing Field) may be postponed and used to expand upon the indoor yoga sessions in the autumn/winter months. The yoga instructor who takes the Oakhurst classes (11.30am on Sundays at Voyager Drive Play Area) will be liaising with the Community Development Officer and Wiltshire and Swindon Sports Partnership to advise on applying for grant funding for Park Yoga next year.

Haydonleigh School

Haydon Wick Parish Council was lucky enough to be invited along to see the pupils from Year 6 receive their Junior Good Citizens Award on 13th July 2023.

Junior Good Citizen is a multi-agency event, aimed at equipping young people with the life skills and knowledge to cope in an emergency or a potentially dangerous situation.



The award supports the personal, social, health and economic (PHSE) aspect of the national curriculum.

The Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Wilkinson, was on stage to present the award, which was accepted by the three Year 6 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors during a special assembly at the school. Along with the Chairman of the Council, the Community Development Officer and the Youth and Community Co Ordinator, other guests included people from the local media and the Wiltshire and Swindon Police.

Thirty-four schools took part in the competition across Swindon.

Tiny Forest Update

The Tiny Forests bid has been submitted, and Earthwatch have confirmed that as there was sufficient capacity, all four of Haydon Wick's proposed sites at Heaton Close, Grace Walk, Luna Close and Voyager Drive have been included.

The Community Development Officer will be attending a meeting next week with the three other Parish Councils and Earthwatch to discuss next stages of the project and community involvement. A decision on the bid is expected by November.

Friends of Mouldon Hill

The Community Development Officer is working in conjunction with Neil Pullen, the Swindon Conservation Lead at the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to start a Friends of Mouldon Hill group. This group will engage local communities and volunteers in carrying out important maintenance operations at Mouldon Hill, with the aim of increased biodiversity. Neil attended the Parks and Open Spaces Committee on 11th July, and Members confirmed their support for the group.

Tender for Trent Road Refurbishment

The Community Development Officer and the Youth and Community Co Ordinator, along with Councillor Manro and Councillor Hailstone took the final selection of designs to Greenmeadow School on Monday 17th July, where they worked with children in Year 6 (10–11 year olds) to get their feedback.

The Community Development Officer is also in conversation with two local groups, Mums on a Mission and Benjamin Smiles, to gather their input.

The anticipated contract award date is this month.

Council Offices Defibrillator

The defibrillator at the Council Offices has now been installed and is registered. A maintenance regime and risk assessment are held by the Office. Instructions on how to use are with the defibrillator. A press release with members of the RCCG Church was recently circulated and the Church has been invoiced for the installation.