

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	3 rd October 2023
Report Title	Haydon Wick Haven
Agenda Reference	11
Author	Darry New, Administration Assistant

Officer's Recommendations:

1. To note the report detailing the success of the Haydon Wick Haven.

Background

The Haydon Wick Haven was set up continuing from the 'Warm Spaces' initiative to welcome people in to a warm and welcoming space to enjoy refreshments and the opportunity to relish some quiet time or have a chat and meet new people. Since the Haven began the numbers have increased from around six people and now has more than twenty regular attendees at each session. The sessions are really making a difference to all that attend. There are new friendships being made which is so rewarding to watch and really shows the Haven is having the effect the Council is aiming for.

Over the past few sessions, attendees have enjoyed a trip to Hillers at Lechlade and spent a few hours there experiencing the lovely garden centre and café, a trip to the Council's sensory garden at the Goodearl Leisure garden site, and many a game of Bingo, wordsearches and exciting quizzes.

On Monday 13th September, Madame Mayor visited the Haven and joined in with the fun. From an exciting quiz, to indulging in some yummy cake and a cup of tea. The Haven's wonderful attendees appreciated asking Madame Mayor lots of questions about her role in Swindon and the process she went through to become Mayor.

Along with the above, another of the Council's wonderful services it has on offer now is its Limited Mobility Exercise Classes with Lin. Every so often dates of this and the Haven clash and they come together to join in in the fabulous activity. A 'clash' doesn't necessarily sound positive, however, in this instance, it is! The amount of laughing and happiness that radiates from the room is fabulous.

Some of the feedback from attendees is as follows:

"What a lovely lady our Mayor is, I felt really privileged to meet her and share our morning with her".

"I had a wonderful time and loved meeting Madame Mayor".

"I enjoyed the Haven as I always do, and it was even more special because we got to meet our Mayor".

"I look forward to every Haven, it brightens my day and I go home feeling so much better".

