

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	5 th September 2023
Report Title	Haydon Wick Haven
Agenda Reference	11
Author	Darry New, Administration Assistant and Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk & Services Manager

Officer's Recommendations:

1. To note the report detailing the success of the Haydon Wick Haven.
2. To consider an email from Swindon Borough Council asking if the Parish Council is going to host the Warm Spaces initiative this year.

Background

The Haven is running twice a month now on a Monday, which runs the opposite Monday to The Over 60's Club at Haydon Wick Working Men's Club, to enable residents to attend both. The Haven is going from strength to strength, with the attendees up to 17 people, which return regularly.

The Haven has replaced the previous Warm Spaces initiative that was put in place last winter to offer residents a warm and safe environment to enjoy refreshments during the cost of living rises and the bleak winter months. The Haven project is very much the same as is open to all and no booking is required, and spaces are available. The Haven is set to continue throughout the winter and could continue to be advertised as a warm, safe and friendly place to enjoy warm refreshments. However, Council should consider how this could change the demographic and dynamic of the Haven and that there is some vulnerability amongst current attendees.

The Haven now has a regular volunteer called Becky who is coming to all the sessions that she can. Feedback is that she is very welcoming and has good communications skills with the attendees. There is also a regular donation and support from Councillors.

Activities

Most of the time the attendees are more than happy just to pop in to have a chat, cup of coffee and a biscuit or slice of cake. Attendees have begun to bring their own refreshments in to share with friends which has helped with the small budget per session. There is usually a printed quiz, wordsearch and there is a separate puzzle table. The Administrator has also come up with some free activities such as 'guess the famous quotes' and 'guess the items in the box' which always sparks conversation and gets a giggle.

The Haven hosted a trip out to Hilliers Garden Centre, and everyone really enjoyed the day giving wonderful feedback and suggestions of future trips. If everyone in the Haven wanted to attend this may have to be done under separate trips as there is only spaces for 14 on the Council's Community Bus. Swindon Dial A Ride do hire out buses at a cost of £20.00 plus mileage which could be met from the Community Choices Loneliness & Isolation budget to enable everyone to attend together.



As things seem to be going well and progressing naturally, there is not much time requirement to task plan or set aside regular activities. Regular feedback from the attendees helps and it is always extra special if it is an attendee's special birthday or an upcoming theme such as Easter, the Jubilee, Halloween and Christmas.

The next Haven on the 12th of September will receive a very special visit from the Mayor of Swindon, Councillor Barbara Parry.

Tangible Evidence

The statement below shows how these sessions enrich people's lives and how the initiatives provided by the Parish Council support the older residents and give them a sense of community and belonging. These events align to the community led plan in several ways, such as categories within the *Haydon Wick: Kind & Caring Place* category. The initiative also aligns with Community Choices' aim to reduce loneliness and isolation within the community.

"I just want to say mum had an amazing time, I want to thank you again for our prior conversations, as she was very nervous this morning and I think it was touch and go of whether she would attend. I am proud that she did go and when she came back, she said everyone was lovely and she was super excited that she won the bingo. Mum also mentioned the upcoming trips and really likes the idea of attending these."

Pictures

