

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	25 th September 2023
Report Title	Murder Mystery & Curry Evening Audit
Agenda Reference	12
Author	Kate New, Community Development Officer

Officer's Recommendations:

1. To note the report.

Background

The Murder Mystery & Curry Evening was organised as part of the Community Choices programme with an aim to reduce loneliness and isolation. The Council subsidised part of the cost to enable residents to be able to afford to attend and receive a meal which would otherwise cost over double the ticket price.

Feedback from the event was very positive and suggested as a whole, the event was a great success.

Post Event Learning Points

Here are the learning points to consider for events in the future:

- **Advertisement of the Event:** The event was advertised on the notice boards, social media and handed out to attendees of other initiatives such as the Haydon Wick Haven and on the Community Bus. The event sold out one week before the event. This event was advertised four weeks before the event and this seemed to be a good amount of time so people didn't forget about it.
- **Entertainment:** The murder mystery was performed by Purton Amateur Dramatic Society. The evening ran very smoothly, however feedback given was that some of the performance was hard to follow. But overall we were told it was a wonderful evening and "it was lovely to spend the evening doing something different".
- **Fundraising:** A raffle was held to raise further funds for the Council's chosen charities. All prizes were donated and in total £102.80 was raised.
- **Venue:** The event was held in the function room of the Haydon Wick Club. The Council has used this venue for a number of events now and are always extremely happy with how helpful the staff are. On this occasion they had double booked the second room. They were very apologetic and couldn't do enough to help us make our event a success. The Council already receive a discounted rate for the hall hire and they knocked a further 33% off price. It would be suggested to use the venue again for future events as we have built a great rapport with them and we are helping to keep the economy within the parish.
- **Uniform:** The Haydon Wick Club's staff uniform consists of a black polo shirt which meant the Council's staff uniform blended into this. For future events the purple 'Events Team' T shirt would be a better option.



- **Refreshments:** The food was supplied by Chennai Dosa, Swindon. The Council has previously used this supplier and the food was highly rated by previous attendees. At this event the caterers arrived over 15 minutes late however, this gap was filled by the drawing of the raffle. Feedback suggested everyone really enjoyed the food and people who had dietary requirements were also very happy. Other feedback suggested that it may have been easier to collect starters and main course at the same time rather than return twice. It was also suggested that providing snacks on the table from the beginning of the event may have been a nice touch as some attendees arrived hungry.
- **Set up:** The Community Development Officer and Finance Officer arrived at the venue an hour before the event to set up and arrange the tables and seating as required. This proved to be ample time for them to run through the event plan and briefing.
- **Finance:** The aim of the event is to help reduce loneliness and isolation in the parish and Council uses its Community Choice budget to help subsidize the cost of the event.

Tickets sold	55
Income	£550
Expenditure	£1163.53
From Budget 4629/402 (Community Choices)	£613.53