

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	24 th July 2023
Report Title	Christmas Activities Report
Agenda Reference	13
Author	Caroline Hunt, Community Development Officer

Officer's Recommendations

1. To proceed with Christmas Parcel and Christmas Card Competition using the allocated budget 4212/402. Total budget £1,500.00.
2. To note there will be a Youth Christmas Event, an Over 60s Christmas Event and a Memory Café Christmas Event using other allocated budgets within /402.
3. To note sponsorship discussions of the Community Christmas Tree are ongoing.

Christmas Parcel Scheme

For the past 30 years Haydon Wick Parish Council has provided Christmas parcels for members of our community who are over 70 years old and live alone. The allocated budget for this is £1,200.00 and the Council receives sponsorship from local businesses and RCCG Church. The average amount of parcels is 150.

The Community Development Team would like approval to continue with this project for Christmas 2023.

The 2023 Christmas Parcel Scheme's project timeline would be as follows:

- Application appears in the Autumn Issue of the magazine, deadline September 2023, with delivery during November.
- Deadline for applications Wednesday 6th December.
- Packing Friday 15th December
- Delivery Saturday 16th December, between 10.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The assumption is that this will be a volunteer activity, as in previous years.

Administration, shopping for parcel items, making up the parcels will be undertaken by the Administration Assistant, with support from the other staff, as required.

Christmas Card Competition

The Council has previously organised a Christmas Card Competition. The winning design will be made into Christmas cards for the winner, with their design also being printed onto some novelty gifts such as a stocking and a tea towel. This design will also be included in all the Christmas Parcels, if that is something the Council decide to proceed with this year.

Community Christmas Tree

The Community Christmas Tree has previously been sponsored by McDonald's for the past two years. The Community Development Officer will begin negotiations again for sponsorship for 2023. The Community Christmas Tree is a 10ft real tree which placed outside the Council Offices and decorated with lights on between 4pm – 9pm daily.



Community Christmas Activities

There will be a Youth Christmas Event such as a party at GLL Haydon Centre which will be free for children to attend, this has previously been very successful and a sellout event.

The Memory Café will organise a separate Christmas Meal which is paid for by the Memory Café budgets.

The Over 60s will also have a meal, but the costs are met by those who wish to attend. A small gift and some crackers are purchased from the events budgets to make the events more special.

These items will be reported to the Community Development Committee in the following months for any Councillors who wish to attend.

Full Council 12th December

Following Full Council on the 12th December 2023, Councillors and Officers are invited to partake in a Christmas buffet. The food is ordinarily brought in by Councillors who will receive a suggestion of what to bring, any missing items are organised by the Officers. This typically lasts 45 – 60 minutes and is a nice way to end a year of collective hard work.

Office opening times and Parks & Open Spaces services will be discussed at Full Council nearer to the time.