

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	7 th April 2026
Report Title	Community & Youth Development
Agenda Reference	11A
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Recommendations

1. To note the report.
2. To note a minimum flat £5.00 fee has been introduced for the local monthly bus trips.

Background

The Community Development Team has been busy facilitating the regular events such as the Community Bus Trips, Craft & Connect, Yoga and Youth Activities, as well as ad hoc events from the Council's agreed events programme. The following update is of activities which have taken place since the previous committee meeting held on the 3rd February 2026.

Community

1. Community Bus Trips

- In February, the monthly trip visited Dobbie's Garden Centre in Cirencester. Following a last-minute driver cancellation, the administrator stepped in to transport passengers and worked remotely on-site for the duration of the visit. The March trip went to Lechlade Garden Centre, with Marlborough scheduled as the destination for April.
- A minimum flat fee of £5.00 has now been introduced for local monthly bus trips.
- Volunteer Driver Recruitment: One volunteer driver has been successfully recruited and is currently awaiting completion of their MIDAS training. Two further candidates are also being considered, with the administrator scheduled to meet both in the coming weeks to conduct trial assessments and evaluate their suitability for the role. Should both candidates proceed, this would significantly strengthen the volunteer driver team, safeguarding the service for the foreseeable future and potentially creating capacity to expand the number of trips offered.

2. Yoga - Term 4

- There are still 10 regular attendees which ensures the group remains cost effective. The next 6-week booking has been set up for April / May 2026.

3. Tuesday Art Club Art Exhibition

- The art exhibition welcomed 150 attendees, plus those who joined the preview evening, representing a slight increase on the previous year. A total of 95 paintings were on display, of which 14 were sold during the exhibition, with a few visitors purchasing works as Mother's Day gifts.
- The group expressed their sincere gratitude to all those who supported the event. They were extremely grateful for their continued support and the grant they received, which is instrumental in enabling them to hold the exhibition.



4. Volunteer Thank You Brunch

- The volunteer community were invited to attend a Thank You Brunch — a refreshed format on our traditional cream tea. It was designed to better engage with the diversity of our volunteers. The event was well attended, with 26 volunteers present, and received a lot of positive feedback. Attendees enjoyed a selection of breakfast refreshments, including bacon rolls, fresh fruit, and pastries.

5. Charity Curry Night – 11th March

Officers, staff and a Councillors supported the penultimate fundraiser for The Kelly Foundation. Joined by residents 24 diners in total raising an impressive £415.00 of much needed funds.

6. Craft & Connect

- Popular fortnightly sessions with an average attendance of 16 participants per session. Age range is mid-30s to mid-70s and currently all females. Demand is growing with many residents hoping to join the next 6-week block.
- See proposal to continue running the Craft & Connect session in Agenda Item 10C.

7. Easter Wreath Making – 31st March

- At the time of writing this session is fully booked with 16 residents coming together to enjoy a welcoming evening of seasonal wreath making, conversation, creativity and charcuterie.

8. Great British Spring Clean Overview 13th – 29th March 2026

- As part of the Great British Spring Clean (13th–29th March 2026), Haydon Wick Parish Council pledged to collect 200 bags of litter, in line with previous years' targets. The campaign was promoted across the Council's social media platforms, with invitations extended to all registered litter picking volunteers, as well as local Guide, Brownie, and Scout groups. Grounds team operatives were also asked to log any additional green bags collected by volunteers during this period.
- To date, approximately 20 bags have been collected. Whilst participation from the youth organisations did not materialise this year, efforts to engage the wider community are ongoing for the remainder of the campaign

Youth

1. February Half Term Activities

- **Sk8Jam – 18th February.** Another successful event delivered from ATB Shop. Estimated numbers 25-30 skaters from 4yrs to 16yrs attended and enjoyed skate challenges and party games, with the opportunity to win prizes and show off their skills. A low in staffing resource and average cost per attendee is £10, the session showcases the parish's Skate Park and develops skills of those participating, ensuring they become safer skaters.
- **Bugs & Birds Crafts – 19th February.** Two sessions of very different crafts. Morning session 29 residents make a variety of birds including ladybirds using materials already in stock. In the afternoon 27 residents took on the challenge of print making and embossing. Over 50 residents including parents and children enjoying the crafts and socialising. These were internally managed events with assistance from Councillors in the afternoon. Minimal material costs: approx. £20 plus our own staffing and venue mean these sessions remain favourable to run.



- **Lego Friday with Abes Brick Corner – 20th February.** The first time the Council has held Lego activity sessions, facilitated by Abe's Brick Corner. This was a very popular new addition to our half term family engagement offer. Another free event for residents with 34 booked on for the Lego kit building morning. This was a huge success with children and parents working together to complete sets before selecting new sets. In the afternoon we held a 'Quiet Hour' with random Lego pools set out on the floor for exploring and freestyle building, this session was designed for small groups (approx. 12) to enjoy without the busy atmosphere of the larger groups. The final session attracted 25 residents enjoying the freestyle set up and socialising over a crate of Lego. These sessions were hugely successful engaging. Approximately 62 participants across the day, with internal staff resource, volunteer and Councillor support.

2. Easter Activities

- **Edible Crafts: 31st March.** At the time of writing this report we are fully booked for both afternoon sessions - 27 and 29 residents, respectively .
- **Easter Egg Hunt: 1st April.** To date, we have 152 children signed up for the event. Easter Eggs have been purchased with Morrisons arranging the order and giving a sizeable discount. One of our volunteers and a councillor are helping the administrator with the event.
- **Thyme Play Park Bear Hunt & Family Picnic: 9th April.** At the time of writing this report we are fully booked with 52 residents attending.

Upcoming April & May Activities

When	What	Where
Community Bus Trip	Wednesday 1 st April	Marlborough
Easter Egg Hunt	Wednesday 1 st April	KGV & QED
Thyme Close Bear Hunt Picnic	Thursday 9 th April	Tyme Close Play Park
Charity Chocolate Bingo	Friday 10 th April	Shield and Dagger
Great Crested Newt	Wednesday 15 th April	Grace Walk
Puzzle Pals Group Taster	Thursday 16 th April	Haydon Wick Parish Council
Community Bus Trip	Wednesday 6 th May	Lacock
Mental Health Awareness Week	11 th -17 th May	Various (TBC)
Great Crested Newt	20 th May	Queen Elizabeth Park
Dog Park Opening	Sunday 24 th May	Goodearl Dog Play Park
May Half Term	26 th – 29 th May	Various (TBC)
Fish & Chip Friday	Friday 1 st May	Haydon Wick Parish Council
HWPC Craft & Connect	Thursday's bi weekly	Haydon Wick Parish Council