

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	7 th April 2026
Report Title	Community Choices Overview of 2025/26 and future plans for 2026/27
Agenda Reference	14
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk, HR & Services Manager

Recommendations

- 1) To receive an overview of the Community Choices programme in 2025/2026.
- 2) To note the budget allocated for 2026/2027 is £7,500.00 with a split for £5,000.00 for community and £2,500.00 for youth.
- 3) To note the Community Choices 'call for ideas' consultation for the proposed themes for 2026/27 will begin in May after the elections. The proposals will then be presented back to Council and the Community, ahead of finalising the programme.
- 4) To note the proposed theme is promoting a 'Healthy Inclusive Community'.

Background

The Council has run its Participatory Budgeting Scheme (Community Choices) since 2021. Previous themes have been 'Tackling Loneliness and Isolation', 'Improving Mental Health' and 'Building Community'.

The theme for 2025/2026 was 'Celebrating Community'. Community Choices updates were taken throughout the year to Committee in April, June and October.

The programme has been varied:

- **Community Art Projects:** Tree Sculpture at Thyme Close, variety of art and craft sessions, painting events in play areas, craft and connect activities), wreath making events
- **Play Area Refurbishments:** Painting, tidying, building new benches, events at Thyme Close as per resident consultation.
- **Events:** VE Day 80 event at Mouldon Hill
- **Leisure Gardens:** Events, networking, news bulletin
- **Youth Events:** Skate Park, arts and craft, outdoor events, performing arts with local partners i.e. poetry competition, BEST sports events, Lego
- **Dog Play Area:** Which was part funded by Muddy Squad
- **Thermal Imaging Camera**
- **Community Transport Hire – Trips & Bringing People to our Events**
- **Yoga, Tai Chi, Seated Exercise**

The funds have also been able to be a contingency buffer for other parish related activities and ticketed event shortfalls:

- £250.00 Bournemouth Contingency
- £250.00 Christmas Carnival
- £150.00 Annual Parish Meeting
- £250.00 Haydon Wick Haven Refreshments & Activities
- £150.00 Easter Egg Hunts
- £30.00 Annual Parish Meeting Refreshments
- Building the Events Kit for future use and continued use for popular sessions
- Outdoor Gym Opening

**Proposed Theme for 2026/2027**

The proposed theme for 2026/2027 is Healthy Inclusive Community. A consultation will start in late May – early June to gather some information on the ideas from the community. Previously the themes are then captured, and a programme of the ideas is presented back to the community for agreeing the top activities or priorities.

There is a Community Choices Working Party, so once memberships have been confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting in May further discussions can take place.