

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	7 th April 2026
Report Title	Mental Health Awareness Week
Agenda Reference	15
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Officers Recommendations

- 1) To note the Council's events and activities during Mental Health Awareness Week 11th May – 17th May 2026.

Background

In January 2026, local parish councils and community groups received an email from Swindon Borough Council's (SBC) Public Health Team, inviting recipients to take part in **Mental Health Awareness Week (11–17 May)** by contributing activities that support men's mental health.

The organisers aim to create a programme of inclusive, informal sessions across Swindon that encourage men to connect, learn, and improve their wellbeing. They are asking whether organisations already suitable activities must promote or would consider running men-only sessions during that week. The organisers were looking for a range of activities that support mental, social, or physical wellbeing—such as sports, walking groups, or mindfulness—and emphasise accessibility and diversity.

Haydon Wick Parish Council submitted its plans during this week and is now reliant on external providers to confirm their availability.

Suggested dates/activities

- **Monday 11th May tbc** - Evening Outdoor Gym Session for men only - aimed at all ages delivered by a local Personal Trainer, who was present for the Outdoor Gym Opening. Awaiting confirmation from PT.
- **Monday 11th or Friday 15th May tbc** - 10am - at Swindon & Cricklade Railway - Historical talk and refreshments - aimed at retired/seniors looking for connection with likeminded seniors, an opportunity for the railway to discuss volunteering too. SCR have confirmed presentation, all other event plan tbc.
- **Saturday 16th May – EUFEST Resident Initiative at Haydon Wick Skate Park**
This community-led event is being held in memory of a local young man who tragically passed away by suicide. They are partnering with **ATBShop** and have engaged **Owen's World** to help shape the day.

The **Swindon Advertiser** has kindly offered to run a youth writing competition on the theme "*What makes our community great?*" with winners announced during the event. We have also invited our mental health partners, the **Kelly Foundation**, to provide additional support and resources.

With food vendors, live music, and a range of activities aimed at young people, the event creates an ideal space for conversations, connection, and positive engagement.



Haydon Wick Parish Council will host a stand and will support the event's licensing and logistics to ensure it is safe, well-organised, and welcoming for all.

The Parish Council also introduced local groups such as the Worthy Hangout and Kelly's Foundation to SBC's Public Health Team to try and drum up external support in the community for this initiative.

Since the programme will be promoted through SBC channels and involves mental health support, SBC require additional safeguarding information. Therefore, the Parish Council has been asked to share its safeguarding policy, DBS check details, public liability insurance, risk assessments, and any relevant staff qualifications – for the Parish Council or the partners in which it is promoting. The documentation is available to be shared.