

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	1 st April 2025
Report Title	Regular Service Provision
Agenda Reference	15
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Recommendations

1. To note the numbers are steady for the Memory Café for the next 6 months, next review October 2025 or sooner if numbers increase in line with referrals through the memory clinic.
2. To note the numbers are growing steadily for the Companions Café and there is no action necessary at present.
3. To note that the Haven is growing rapidly, and a waiting list will have to be put in place for new attendees once capacity is reached.
4. To note the increase in demand for the Community Bus.
5. To note the new venue hire arrangements for larger scale events.

Background

The success and growth of the Community Development offering within the parish is something that the Council should be proud of. The feedback from residents and general appreciation of everything that the Council is doing is good to receive as well as giving future suggestions for expanding the services.

This report details an update on each area from a services management perspective and gives Council the opportunity to note and give suggestions on future expansion opportunities.

Memory Café

The Memory Café takes place on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month between 10.30 – 12.30 at the Haydon Wick Bowls Club.

Currently, the Memory Café provision is being reviewed every 6 months. There are 50 attendees on average each session. Attendance numbers fluctuate which helps balance the numbers, this is based on a variety of factors inclusive of general health, appointments, other services/settings times clashing, respite breaks and progressing conditions meaning the person living with dementia can no longer attend or sadly the resident passes away.

Confirmed attendance is preferable by the Co Ordinator emailing out twice prior to each café, however, some still just turn up on the day. If room allows, the Co Ordinator allows them to stay and gives them the booking process for the next session. 4 regular volunteers continue to show an incredible commitment to the Memory Café and 1 regular volunteer drives community bus and has since been helping at the Haven.

On average there are 4 new couples every month and the maximum capacity at Bowls Club 60 seated. The Council has had to use three of its own tables and fold up chairs as the Bowls Club doesn't have enough and isn't willing to purchase any more.



Donations of outside of the parish are being received well, this is charged at £5 per couple each session – this helps funds the activities and entertainment. There are now only 4 couples living outside of the parish whereas previously it was predominately out of parish residents attending.

Tru Delights in Moredon is making cakes once per month to support the café free of charge.

The next review is due in October nearing budget setting. The venue and numbers are comfortable for now, but this is dependent on how quickly residents are moving the memory clinic system. If the need increases, a review will be brought back to Council sooner.

Word of mouth for the Memory Café has increased after 3.5 years of growth. Doctors and social media haven't been as successful to the audiences attending the actual Memory Café settings but has helped with attendance and ticket sales for the larger ad-hoc events such as the Summer Tea Dance and the Barn Dance.

Companions Café

The Companions Café begun in June 2024 and is steadily gaining momentum. The sessions take place on the last Thursday of every month between 10am – 12pm. On average there are 8 – 10 companions attending and entertainment is provided from Right at Home for 6 residents living with dementia. The small meeting room is now available for the companions which provides a quieter space for better activities.

Haydon Wick Haven

The Haven is expanding quickly, from January the numbers have tripled from 10 – 12 people and is now at 32 - 36 people. The sessions are held every other Monday at the Council Offices. Other room hire availability at the Council Offices is limited around other sessions and commitments so increasing the frequency of the service is not an easy solution currently.

The Community Bus must do two trips to bring people to the service which means that people are arriving slightly early for the sessions to ensure everyone is there for an 11am start. Once full capacity is reached there will need to be a waiting list which is common amongst the Over 60s groups with Haydon Wick. Also the spaces for the Over 60's events such as the Cream Teas and Fish & Chips are selling out more quickly with interest from people within the Haven. The Co Ordinator will be trying a different room layout for the next Haven to see if 36 can be increased but would like to maintain the round table the idea is socialise and talk collectively.

Given the ages of the participants, many do not have emails and there aren't enough office resources to call around to confirm attendance each time. The purpose of the Haven is a warm and safe space for people to attend without booking, however, as numbers are increasing this will need to be reviewed with a waiting list introduced. Councillor and volunteer help is required, as during the session there are multiple cups of teas to be made! Currently there are 2 volunteers from 9.45am – 1.15pm and another comes at 11.15am – 12.45pm and Councillor R Ross attends from 12pm – 1pm.

Entertainment is low cost such as quizzes, bingo, word search, jigsaw puzzles, reading and crafts if left over from Memory Café, volunteer crafting sessions and there is a small budget from Community Choices. The expectation for entertainment is higher as demonstrated in the feedback forms which were completed in December 2024.

Community Bus

The bus has its regular schedule but often must make two trips to parish services. A secondary bus can be hired from Swindon Dial A Ride for some of the events if the community bus is in use, subject to driver availability at £20.00 and fuel allowances, this is met from ticketed cost to the residents. For the Fish & Chip event as an example, two bus trips are being completed to bring everyone there.



Larger Events

For the Summer Tea Dance and the Barn Dance the Co Ordinator has hired Redhouse Community Centre as the Sports Hall at GLL has limited availability and the Council Offices and the Bowls Club is not big enough. The Co Ordinator has been investigating options for hiring North Swindon Library but as it is a public building it cannot be closed for exclusive hire; this could be a Safeguarding issue for the Memory Café audience.