

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	7 th April 2026
Report Title	Community Project – Cleaning Street Name Signs
Agenda Reference	7
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk, HR & Services Manager

Officers Recommendations:

1. To receive the update on this Cleaning Street Name Signs community project.

Project Overview

A local resident, Fraser, has proposed a community project to clean weathered and moss-covered street name signs within the Haydon Wick Parish.

The initiative aims to improve the visual appearance and readability of street signs while creating positive, community-focused social media content highlighting local improvements.

The project will be carried out free of charge, with safety and preservation of signs as key priorities. Fraser plans to document the process with “before and after” videos for social media platforms, crediting the Parish Council where appropriate.

Objectives

- Improve visibility and appearance of street name signs in the local area.
- Encourage community pride through volunteer-led maintenance.
- Share positive community content on social media to raise awareness of local improvements.

Proposed Location

Fraser initially intended to start near his home in Taw Hill and the streets around Morrisons. After consultation, the Parish Council suggested beginning in the Greenmeadow area, near Emmanuel Church, as this is one of the oldest areas in the parish, and the signs there are heavily affected by moss and fungus.

Safety and Operational Plan

Fraser outlined a comprehensive plan addressing safety and cleaning procedures:

- **Working at height:** None; all work will be done from ground level on public footpaths.
- **Cleaning materials:** Soft cloths or microfibre cloths, warm water, mild non-abrasive cleaning solution (e.g., soapy water), and waterless wax. No harsh chemicals or pressure washing will be used.
- **Personal safety:** Fraser will wear a high-visibility vest and avoid obstructing pedestrians or working near traffic.
- **Sign preservation:** Only surface dirt will be removed to improve visibility; no damage to signs is expected.



Permissions and Governance

Haydon Wick Parish Council confirmed awareness that street name signs are typically the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council but expressed support for the community initiative.

The Council requested clarification to ensure the project is not used for political purposes. Fraser confirmed the project is non-political and community focused.

Parish council staff will provide guidance on which signs would benefit most from cleaning based on visual impact and current condition.

Communication and Reporting

- Fraser will provide links to social media content, which may be shared by the Parish Council.
- Updates from the project will be presented at the Community Development meeting on 7th April 2026, where Fraser is invited to attend.
- Fraser intends to credit the Parish Council in all social media posts relevant to the project.

Next Steps

- Procurement of cleaning materials by Fraser.
- Commencement of cleaning in Greenmeadow area.
- Social media documentation and sharing of “before and after” results.
- Presentation/update at the Community Development meeting on 7th April 2026.

Conclusion

The project is a positive community initiative supported by the Parish Council.

With adherence to safety measures, careful cleaning methods, and transparent communication, it is expected to enhance the local environment while promoting community engagement and pride.