

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	2 nd November 2025
Report Title	Community & Youth Development
Agenda Reference	7
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Recommendations

1. To note the report.

Background

The Community Development Team has been busy facilitating the regular events such as the Community Bus Trips, Craft & Connect, Yoga and Half term Activities and the ad hoc events from the Council's agreed events programme.

Events and Sessions

Mental Health Awareness Day - Quiz/Bingo Event

10th October, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Supporting Cllr Adam John and Cllr Rebecca Ross in marketing and facilitating this community event, raising funds for the Kelly Foundation. Managing ticket sales, resources and games. This evening was a successful collaborative event raising over £500.00.

Youth

Autumn Crafts - 28th October

2 sessions: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm & 2pm – 3pm Fully booked at: 29 residents booked in each session.

Overview

2 sessions fully booked within days of sharing on social media. We have a regular cohort of returning families which indicates that there is appetite for this type of activity for our community. An opportunity to explore crafts in a different setting, often friends and family making the effort to book together. These craft sessions always foster a recycle, reuse approach guiding families in the art of making something from regular household or natural resources and exploring this.

Residents enjoyed making:

- Bat pegs
- Dream catchers
- Spider pops
- Pinecone hedgehogs

October Half Term FREE Multi Sports Session - With BEST

GLL Haydon Centre Sports Hall SN25 1QQ

30 October @ 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

The BEST (Be a Better You) multi-sports event was successfully delivered, offering participants a diverse programme of activities including inline hockey, boxing, football and playground games. The event attracted 31 participants, representing a reasonable attendance rate.



Of the 44 individuals who registered, 13 did not attend: 7 were absent without notice, 2 were unable to attend due to illness, and 4 had cancelled their spaces in advance.

The financial cost to HWPC for each session comprised £83.40 for GLL room hire and £120.00 for BEST provision, totalling £203.40 (plus administration time). Based on actual attendance, this equated to a cost of £6.56 per child. We could look at incorporating a small administrative fee to offset some of our outgoings / or research different providers.

Tricks, Treats & Pumpkins

31 October @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

49 pumpkins were purchased and carved by our very enthusiastic younger community. We hosted two one-hour sessions which gave our creatives time to carve their pumpkins and to decorate biscuits and make marshmallow skeleton treats. The sessions ran smoothly with minimal incidents, requiring only two plasters. The decision to use bin bag workstations proved effective in protecting carpets and tables from damage.

Morrisons provided valuable support by securing the pumpkins and offering a 10% discount on the bulk purchase. Additionally, Mandie's Magic Brushes contributed to the event's success by providing complimentary face painting services for nearly all attendees.

Feedback from participants was positive, with comments including "We had a great time thank you" and "Thank you for a fab morning."

Drop & Christmas Shop Afternoon – Cancelled

Saturday 15th November – 2pm

This event was promoted through social media, word of mouth at half term events, HW Living magazine and noticeboards unfortunately we only had 10 bookings and 3 were Highworth residents. This initiative was going to be trialled in the North Swindon Library; the next trial event will be the Annual Parish Meeting in March.

Lantern Workshop

20th December 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm (2 sessions)

4.30pm – 5.30pm session fully booked (oversubscribed)

5.30pm – 6.30pm – 10 booked (for some families this time doesn't work around bedtimes etc) recommend 2 earlier times on separate days next time.

Over 30 crafters attended the two sessions. Ages ranged from babies to seniors. They all joined in and had a go at transforming simple plastic bottles into STUNNING lantern masterpieces.

The creativity was fantastic; all attendees took their lanterns home to bring back to the Christmas Carnival where we will display them during the Carols by Lantern Light.

Community

Community Bus Trips

Two community bus trips were delivered during this period, to Cirencester and Bampton. To ensure fair access, individuals on the waiting list continue to be given priority and are offered first refusal on upcoming trips.



Volunteer Drivers

The advertising campaign to recruit volunteer Community Bus drivers remains ongoing. The departure of a long-standing volunteer at the end of December will create a vacancy for Monday trips. Paul Cook, who supports activities at the Haven, has agreed to aid when available for these sessions. However, a driver is still required to fulfil the Monday afternoon Over 60's group commitment on a regular basis.

We also had volunteer Daniel from Phoenix Enterprise who accompanied the driver as a 'drivers' mate', helping carry shopping and collecting/ taking back trollies. This was well received and Daniel received monetary tips from the service users.

Yoga - Term 2

The next 10-week Yoga cohort has commenced and will continue to operate on a term-by-term basis, subject to attendance levels. The majority of participants from the previous cohort have re-enrolled, and two new members have also registered. The group has independently organised a Christmas meal following their final December session, demonstrating the strong social connections that have developed within the group.

Craft & Connect

Led by the Community & Office Administrator and Marketing & Events Co Ordinator on rotation. Craft and Connect started back on Thursday 11th September a mix of new and existing attendees. Sharing skills and conversation this has become a popular group with regular attendance from group members. During the last 3 sessions we have worked together creating 115 Christmas decorations to add to the Christmas Parcels. The group really took to the challenge with some preparing and finishing decorations at home to help. There is huge appetite to continue this group in the new year. Next Session: TBC Spring

Tea, Toast & Talk Tuesday

The group commenced on Tuesday 23rd September following a comprehensive marketing campaign. Promotional materials were distributed through social media channels, noticeboards, direct school communications, and a BBC Wiltshire radio interview featuring Councillor Vinay Manro.

To date, the group has not attracted any attendees. Further promotional efforts have been undertaken, including outreach at family events and a second round of communications through schools. Feedback from schools identified several potential barriers to participation: the timing of sessions, the distance from school locations, and the number of working mothers, which may be a significant factor in the low uptake.

A possible alternative approach could be to offer a monthly session on Thursdays, which would allow for an extended session duration and may better accommodate participants' schedules.



Upcoming December & January Activities

When	What	Where
Community Bus Trip	Wednesday, 3rd December	TBC
Christmas Carnival '25	Friday, 5th December 2025	Haydon Leisure Centre + Car Park
Christmas wreath making	Thursday, 18th December 2025	Haydon Wick Parish Council
Haydon Wick Haven Christmas Event	Monday 22 nd December	Haydon Wick Parish Council
Christmas Parcel Packing & Deliveries	Saturday 13th December	Haydon Wick Parish Council
Memory Café Christmas Event 17/12 extra	Singer /Raffle /Santa	Haydon Wick Bowls Club
Youth Christmas Party	Monday 22 nd December	Haydon Centre
New Year, New Opportunity...	White Eagle Outdoor Gym Launch with Harlequin – Sunday 11 th Jan tbc	White Eagle Outdoor Gym
HWPC Craft & Connect	Thursday 22 nd January TBC	Haydon Wick Parish Council