

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	6 th October 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 Memory Café, Companions Café, Haven, Community Bus Trips and the ad hoc events from the Council's agreed events programme.

Events and Sessions

Youth

Free Pop in and Crafts Thursdays – 31st July & 7th August & Thyme Close Pop by & Paint 21st August

Overview

Three successful Pop In & Craft sessions brought together over 120 residents from across Haydon Wick, with participants ranging from toddlers to teenagers.

Session One: Haydon Wick Parish Council Office

Residents enjoyed:

- Fidget monsters (flour-filled balloon varieties were the most popular)
- Flower power creations
- Pipe cleaner snakes

Session Two: Haydon Wick Parish Council Office

This session offered both indoor and outdoor activities:

Indoor: Monster shakers and pipe cleaner bug creations in a calm, mindful crafting space

Outdoor: Splat attack canvases, hula hoop easels, and WILDWICK banner painting. Participants embraced messy play, using hands, arms, knees, and feet to create art.

Session Three: Thyme Close Play Area

Due to popular demand and the beautiful outdoor location, an additional Pop by and Paint event was held at Thyme Close Play Area. Perfect weather and a magical atmosphere for:

- Paint-splattered creature shapes
- Fence weaving
- Windmill construction
- Outdoor creative activities



This session marked the finale of the WILDWICK Summer Activities programme, bringing families together before the return to school.

All three events were well attended with returning families and friends.

Free Yoga Taster – 1st August

The yoga taster session, originally targeted at teenagers, revealed different demographic appeal, ultimately engaging adults in the 30-45 age bracket and father-daughter participants, highlighting the importance of flexible programming approaches.

Capture the Wild – Seven Fields – 6th August

Event Overview

The WILDWICK Summer Programme photography adventure took place on Wednesday 6th August, 1pm-2pm at Seven Fields Nature Reserve. The guided walk brought together budding photographers to explore the Local Nature Reserve, with participants discovering three of the seven meadows and capturing the natural beauty and biodiversity of this precious community space.

The event was led by Councillor Leanne Stevenson and Councillor Jacqueline Ireland, with support from the Deputy Clerk. Resources for the session were kindly created by Councillor Leanne Stevenson.

Community Engagement

The event was open to all skill levels, from photography professionals to casual smartphone users. Participants met at Kennet Avenue/Stour Walk Car Park and were guided through the most picture-perfect spots in the reserve, with leaders sharing fascinating insights about the plants and wildlife. A parallel photography competition was also launched for those unable to attend the guided walk, allowing broader community participation. Competition entries were judged by the community at both the Summer Extravaganza and Haydon Wick Haven events.

The session was so well-received that participants are already planning an autumn meetup to document seasonal changes in the nature reserve.

Competition Winners

- Wildlife Wonder – Insect Shot. Ki Hazley for capturing stunning ladybird detail
- Flora Focus – Most Stunning Plant/Flower. Stephen Ireland for showcasing a beautiful lone Knapweed hidden in Seven Fields
- Landscape Magic – Breathtaking Scenery. Ieva Purinasa for revealing the sweeping natural beauty of woodlands at Seven Fields Nature Reserve

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Councillor Leanne Stevenson for creating the session resources and to Councillors Leanne Stevenson and Jacqueline Ireland for hosting the sessions.

Thyme Close Revamp & Recycle – 14th August

Project Background

Following the annual Community Choices consultation, residents voted to allocate £1,500 of budgeted funds to the Thyme Close Play Park Revival project. The initiative received overwhelming support from the community, making it the clear favourite for investment.



Project Activities

Wood Carving Session (Tuesday)

Professional wood carver Rob completed artistic enhancements to the play park, including:

- Transformation of wooden slabs into carved animal figures (snail, owl, and squirrel)
- Modification of an intimidating wizard face carved in a tree trunk to feature a friendly, smiling expression
- Preparation of preloved benches and ride-on equipment for restoration

Public Consultation and Community Paint Day (Thursday)

A public consultation session attracted strong resident attendance, with community members sharing ideas for play area upgrades and improvements.

Children's Activities:

- Painting on hanging easels
- Umbrella decoration
- Fence weaving
- Sanding the snake trim trail

Renovation Work:

- Application of first coat of new vibrant colour scheme across play equipment
- Preparation for second coat and finishing touches

Community Engagement

The event successfully combined consultation with hands-on community participation. Councillors and office staff joined residents in the painting activities, fostering community spirit and collaboration. Refreshments were provided throughout the session.

Next Steps

A follow-up session was completed in late September, during which members of the Community Development team:

- Applied a second coat of paint to play equipment
- Added decorative touches throughout the play area
- Applied wood preserver to the newly carved wooden features to ensure longevity

Community

Community Bus Trips

During this period, minibus excursions were organized to Burnham-on-Sea and Pewsey Garden Centre. To ensure fairer access, a revised booking system has been implemented whereby individuals on the waiting list receive priority allocation for subsequent trips.

Volunteer Drivers

Driver availability presented challenges throughout the summer months due to health-related absences affecting two members of our driving team. While volunteers and staff provided additional support where possible, it was necessary to cancel transportation for five events during this timeframe. A recruitment campaign is currently underway to address capacity needs, particularly as a long-serving driver will be stepping down from the role in December.

Bournemouth Coach Trips - 4th & 18th August 2025

See event audit: Community Trips to Bournemouth 2025 report

Yoga - Term 2

We have begun our next 10-week Yoga cohort and will continue to renew it on a term-by-term basis depending on numbers. All previous attendees have enrolled again.

Craft & Connect 2

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. The first session explored acrylics on canvas. Creating some beautiful artworks. Second explored fabric bead making with some very intricate detailing. Each session explores different types of crafts chosen by the group. The group currently has 14 residents and 2 staff members which allows this to be a relaxed environment where everyone has a chance to be heard and share experiences.

Next Session: Thursday 25th September at 6:30 PM exploring paper folding decorations and flowers

Tea, Toast & Talk Tuesday

This group started Tuesday 23rd September. Marketing materials went out on social media, noticeboards, direct to schools and via the BBC Wiltshire radio interview on with Cllr Vinay Manro.

The weekly sessions offer a relaxed, no-pressure environment where participants can enjoy a hot cup of tea and toast while engaging in genuine conversations with others who understand the daily challenges of parenting and caring responsibilities. The initiative welcomes all mums, dads, grandparents, and carers, regardless of background or circumstances.

The initiative recognises that community connection is fundamental to wellbeing. By creating a consistent, accessible meeting point, the program aims to foster lasting friendships and support networks that extend beyond the weekly sessions.

The first session became a trial run with no attendees. The room was set up easily using the Tuesday Art Club room layout for quick room hire change over. All refreshments were stored or frozen allowing use the following week.

We aim to increase the awareness through face-to-face marketing.

Upcoming Winter Activities

When	What	Where
Community Bus Trip	Wednesday, 1st October	Cirencester
Annual Plot Holders Meetings	Monday, 7th October	Haydon Wick Parish Council
Mental Health Quiz	Friday, 10th October	Haydon Wick Club
Craft & Connect – Diwali theme	Thursday, 22nd October	Haydon Wick Parish Council
October Half Term. 23 - 21 October		
Autumn Crafts	Tuesday, 28th October	Haydon Wick Parish Council
Multi Sport Event	Thursday, 30th October	GLL Haydon Centre
Tricks, Treats & Pumpkins	Friday, 31st October	Haydon Wick Parish Council
Christmas Carnival Workshop Families	TBC	Haydon Wick Parish Council
Community Bus Trip	Wednesday, 5th November	Bampton Garden Centre
Remembrance events & Poppy Display	Tuesday, 11th November	Various
Christmas Shopping Activity morning - Youth	Saturday, 29th November - TBC	Youth Club?



Community Bus Trip	Wednesday, 3rd December	TBC
Christmas Extravaganza '25 Carnival	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	TBC	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