

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	5 th August 2025
Report Title	Community & Youth Development
Agenda Reference	7a
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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

Sk8Jam Event Report – Friday 25th July 2025

Sk8Jam brought together over 30 young skaters at Haydon Wick Skate Park for an afternoon of fun, creativity, and community spirit.

- **Skating Fun:** Kids showed off their tricks and learned new moves.
- **ATBShop Team:** Led skating challenges, limbo games, and balance skills.
- **Games & Prizes:** Lots of cheering and excitement with fun competitions.
- **Fence Art:** Colourful artwork created by both kids and adults.

Fewer children attended than usual. This may be due to the start of school holidays or other local events happening at the same time (see posters below). The event was a great mix of beginners and experienced skaters, all enjoying a day of skateboarding, scooting, and creativity.

Community

Community Bus Trips

Due to exceptional demand for the May excursion to Millets Farm, an additional trip was scheduled to accommodate all interested parishioners from the waiting list. The June destination of Burnham on Sea proved highly successful, with attendees really enjoying their day. We do not have a trip planned for August as we are offering two Barnes coach trips to Bournemouth which are inclusive to all ages.

Leisure Garden Competition 2025

This was held on Tuesday 22nd August. The judging panel comprised of Councillor Paul Park, Councillor Jacqueline Ireland, Dave New, Jackie Fawcett and parishioner Chris Watts. The standard this year was exceptionally high. Winners will be contacted in the coming weeks and invited to attend the annual meeting to accept their awards.



Community Litter Picking – Superheroes

This event was Councillor led; we supplied our community litter picking equipment and marketing.

Weekend of Words

Sadly, the trial Weekend of Words event required cancellation due to insufficient participation, with only one registration received. Following consultation with Rebecca, the event organiser, it was determined that the two-day weekend format may have presented too much of a time commitment. A planning meeting has been scheduled for August to explore alternative programme formats that will better engage the target audience and achieve higher participation rates

Yoga

We have now completed our first Yoga 12-week programme. The group has now grown to 8 attendees, all of whom have expressed an interest in returning for the September term. It was decided to pause the programme throughout August due to so many participants being on holiday. We hope to resume term 2 from the 15th of September. Instructor Ann has generously offered two complimentary sessions in August operating on a 'bring a friend' basis to increase enrolment toward the target of twelve participants. Additionally, she has volunteered her services for the Summer Event programme at no cost. Participant feedback demonstrates strong programme satisfaction and perceived health benefits, with comments including enthusiasm for continuation and notable improvement.

“I totally want to carry on. I’m really enjoying it, and I am definitely feeling the benefit”
“I really look forward to Mondays and feel so much better”.

Craft & Connect

Craft & Connect is a free creative group for Haydon Wick residents, offering a space to share skills, meet like-minded people, and enjoy crafting together. The group is limited to 16 places, but we’ve had 20 residents sign up—showing strong interest and enthusiasm. Highlights from the 6 Sessions:

- Creative Projects:
 - Mosaics and pebble painting
 - Disguising bricks as books
 - Book folding – challenging but rewarding
 - Needlework – stitching fabric hearts
 - Colourful paper art – cake case flowers and handmade gift bags
- Skill Sharing:

Talented local crafters led sessions, introducing new techniques and inspiring others to try crafts they hadn’t considered before.
- Community Spirit:

Each session was filled with creativity, conversation, and connection. Participants discovered new skills and built friendships along the way.

Next Session: Thursday 11th September at 6:30 PM

Haven

The Memory Café & Community Co Ordinator implemented a questionnaire to assess whether residents' needs were being adequately met and to identify opportunities for service improvement and enhancement. This feedback mechanism proved highly informative and valuable in shaping future programming. Based on the questionnaire results. The Haven has prioritised expanding informational resources about community services and available support networks. A diverse range of speakers has been scheduled throughout the year to address residents, including a Parkinson's nurse and healthcare providers, the ambulance service, Citizens Advice representatives, utility company advisors, digital support specialists, Hilliers funeral directors, Age UK. The feedback particularly highlighted residents' appreciation for direct access to councillors and the opportunity for meaningful dialogue with local representatives. The questionnaire findings confirmed that The Haven successfully addresses a significant gap in community support services, with residents consistently expressing that they look forward to their visits and value the positive impact the facility has on their wellbeing and quality of life.



Life at The Haven: A Thriving Community Hub

The past few months at The Haven have been remarkable, with our space consistently buzzing with activity at full capacity of thirty residents. Friendships are blossoming naturally, conversations flow freely, and there's an unmistakable sense of belonging that permeates every gathering.

Learning and Growing Together

Our diverse programme of guest speakers has brought both education and entertainment to The Haven. Historic England captivated audiences with presentations about areas where residents grew up, sparking wonderful reminiscences. A solicitor provided essential guidance on protecting finances, wills, and probate, while Age UK highlighted support services available in our community. Hilliers Funeral Service delivered a thoughtful presentation on bereavement support, and we're excited about upcoming services including basic first aid training.

Voices from Our Community

Recent feedback from our Memory Cafe and Community Co Ordinator reveals The Haven's profound impact. Residents come here for "making new friends," "keeping busy," "staying active and engaged," and "combatting loneliness."

Popular activities span from arts and crafts and bingo to day trips and educational talks, with many treasuring the simple pleasure of "chatting" over tea. The Haven's benefits are clear: "reduced my feelings of loneliness," "improved my mood," "keeping me more active," "connected me to community resources," "building my confidence," and "given me new friendships."

A Home Away from Home

Residents describe The Haven as feeling "like my second home," appreciating "the atmosphere," "friendly people," and being "always welcomed with a smile and offered a refreshment." The consistent theme is the warmth of staff and volunteers who are "always helpful."

Our community reaches us through various means – driving, walking locally, or using our minibus service for those with mobility issues. When asked what they might change, responses are overwhelmingly positive: "Jo does a really good job," "it is very well organised and a credit to Jo and the Parish Council," and "I like having a laugh and feeling like I'm part of one big family."

The Haven has become more than just a community centre – it's a lifeline, a second home, and a place where the golden years truly shine.

Plan of Upcoming Events - Summer Programme:

When	What	Where
Friday, 25 th July	Sk8Jam	Skatepark
Monday 28 th July	Wildwick art install	Sensory Garden, Rose Walk LG
Tuesday 29 th July	Bat walk with WWT 8pm	Mouldon Hill
Wednesday 30 th July	Razamatazz Family Picnic	Luna Play Park
Thursday 31 st July	Pop in and craft	HWPC
Friday 1 st August	Yoga Taster 2 sessions	HWPC
Friday 1 st August	Leisure Garden Summer Picnic	Rose Walk Site
Monday 4 th August	Bournemouth Trip	



Wednesday 6 th Aug	Seven Fields Photo Walk	Seven Fields
Thurs 7 th Aug	AM pop in and craft Over 60s Vintage Swing Dance	HWPC Red house CC
Tues 12 th Aug	Wood Carving at Thyme Close	Not for public
Thursday 14 th Aug	Thyme Close Revamp & Recycle	Residents invited (approx. 120 homes)
Saturday 16 th Aug	Summer Extravaganza	Trent Rd