

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	3 rd February 2026
Report Title	Community & Youth Development
Agenda Reference	8
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Recommendations

1. To note the report.
2. Suggestions on the recruitment of volunteer community bus drivers.

Background

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

Events and Sessions

1. Christmas Wreath Making – 17th December

Following on from the success of the Easter Wreath Making Workshop, the appetite for another was a clear requirement from parishioners. The workshop was fully booked very quickly. Nineteen residents took part. Paying £15.00 each. This event was cost neutral. We were able to investment income into tools for future workshops – such as wire cutters and secateurs. All materials and refreshments were provided.

Reuse and recycle principles applied:

- Greenery: The Parks & Open Spaces team collected a brilliant selection of greenery from the hedgerows around Haydon Wick.
- Materials: Metal rings supplied to allow for seasonal reuse. Ribbons and decorations recycled from other projects.

Feedback:

Brilliant value for money. Appetite for more: Easter / Autumn / Christmas

2. White Eagle Outdoor Gym event – Sunday 11th January 10am-11am

Event Overview

The official launch of White Eagle Outdoor Gym took place this morning and achieved an exceptional attendance level. Despite adverse weather conditions, community members demonstrated strong engagement and participation.

Key Contributors

The event benefited from the expertise of specialist fitness professionals and industry representatives:

- **Tim Howe** (@thelongevitygames) organised local PT **Johnny** from Everlast Gyms to support the event and provide professional expertise. This support was kindly provided at no charge.
- **Nikola** from Harlequin Playground Equipment was present to answer questions regarding equipment specifications and generously provided refreshments including treats and branded water bottles.



- **Councillors** and **Longevity Games representatives** demonstrated the equipment's capabilities for group use through timed circuits, ensuring every piece of equipment was showcased.

Recommendations

Tim Howe recommended the implementation of regular sessions to increase community engagement and demonstrate how the equipment can be incorporated into a consistent, healthy approach to outdoor exercise. **Jonny** suggested an all-weather cover for the chain link on the rings to reduce to chance of catching fingers.

Conclusion

The launch event marks the beginning of community fitness initiatives planned for 2026. The facility is designed to support community health and wellbeing throughout the year ahead.

Youth

Christmas Party

Attendance and Booking Management

This year marked a significant improvement in attendance management through the introduction of a commitment charge at the point of booking. This measure proved highly effective in reducing no-shows, a challenge experienced in previous years.

Attendance figures:

- 104 children booked
- Only a few absences on the day due to unavoidable circumstances

The commitment charges successfully ensured that families who booked were committed to attending, resulting in more accurate planning and resource allocation.

Challenges and Response

Entertainer Arrival Issue

Despite several confirmation calls in advance, Razzamatazz (the entertainment provider) misread their booking start time as 5:00pm instead of the scheduled time of 4pm. They arrived at 3:55pm to begin setup, with entertainment starting at 4:20pm.

Event Team Response

The event team demonstrated excellent adaptability and quick thinking in managing this unexpected delay. Children were welcomed and kept engaged through impromptu dance competitions during the setup period, ensuring no disruption to the guest experience and maintaining a positive atmosphere throughout.

Event Execution

Party Bag Distribution

A proactive approach was taken to party bag distribution this year. Each child received their party bag upon entry rather than at departure. This strategic change successfully addressed previous issues where children leaving early had been missed, ensuring all attendees received their gift.

Entertainment Programme

Razzamatazz delivered the full two-hour entertainment programme as contracted, providing a varied and engaging experience for the children:

- Interactive games
- Dance competitions
- Magic performances with live dogs
- Snow foam activities



The entertainment was well-received and kept children engaged throughout the duration of the party.

Recommendations

For 2026: Consider implementing a refreshed Christmas Youth Event format to maintain engagement and excitement for returning attendees.

Community

Community Bus Trips

- **Monthly Trips:** In December, we organised a trip to Tewkesbury that included visits to the Cotswold Designer Outlet and a local garden centre. No trip was scheduled for January due to unpredictable weather conditions during this period. All trips for the coming year have now been decided.
- **Volunteer Driver Recruitment:** After four years of dedicated service, Vic has stepped down from his role as a volunteer driver. Despite ongoing recruitment efforts throughout the past year, we have been unable to secure a replacement. We have reorganised existing driver schedules to maintain service continuity for most trips, though this has necessitated the cancellation of several dates.
- **Fare Adjustment:** The fare increase implemented in September 2025 has been well received by passengers, who have accepted the revised pricing structure.

Yoga - Term 3

Attendance remains strong, with ten regular participants. Sessions are scheduled to continue through to 30th March. Recognising that the term renewal coincided with the Christmas period, we introduced flexible payment options of either six or twelve weeks to ease the financial burden. The group's cohesion was evident when all members attended a Christmas meal arranged by the instructor, highlighting the programme's value in fostering both physical wellbeing and meaningful social connections.

Craft & Connect

The year 2026 has begun positively for the Craft and Connect group, with increased participation numbers showing strong community interest. The group currently comprises 20 members, including 6 new participants joining 14 returning members.

The demographic makeup consists entirely of female participants spanning a broad age range from mid-30s to 70 years old, representing diverse backgrounds. This diversity contributes to the group's welcoming character, which is marked by a relaxed, friendly atmosphere with a strong emphasis on inclusivity. Members appreciate the opportunity to socialise while sharing their creative skills and learning from one another.

Two sessions have been successfully completed thus far. The first session focused on decorative bottle crafts, while the second explored creative collage techniques incorporating paint and pastel illustration. Looking ahead, weeks three and four will introduce participants to both wet felting and needle felting pattern techniques. Following this, the group will engage in revamping plant pots in preparation for spring planting.

The sessions maintain an environmentally conscious and economical approach by primarily utilising existing materials. Participants are also encouraged to bring items from home to share with the group, fostering a collaborative spirit.

Beyond the creative activities themselves, the Craft and Connect group has proven valuable in building meaningful relationships among members. These connections have extended beyond the



sessions, with participants increasingly contributing to volunteering initiatives and providing support for community events.

Upcoming February & March Activities

When	What	Where
Community Bus Trip	Wednesday 4 th February	Cirencester
HT S8JAM with ATBShop	Wednesday 18 th February	Skate Park
HT Bugs & Birds Crafts	Thursday, 19 th February	Haydon Wick Parish Council
HT LEGO activity day with Abes Bricks	Friday 20 th February	Haydon Wick Parish Council
Volunteer Cream Tea	Saturday 21 st February (TBC)	Haydon Wick Parish Council
Community Bus Trip	Wednesday 4 th March	Lechlade
Curry 4Kelly Charity Event	Friday 6 th March	The Kop Bar
Tuesday ART Club Exhibition	Monday 9 th March to Friday 13 th March	Haydon Wick Bowls Club
HWPC Craft & Connect	Thursday's bi weekly	Haydon Wick Parish Council