

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	7 th October 2025
Report Title	Community Choices 2025/2026
Agenda Reference	9
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Recommendations

- 1) To note the interim update on the Community Choices projects.

Background

During April's Community Development Committee, Council reviewed the survey results from the Community Choices Survey and agreed to splitting the Community Choices budget between a wide variety of projects and themes to further enhance the community development offering.

In June, another interim update was given to Community Development Committee to track the Council's progress. This report is available here - <https://haydonwick.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Agenda-9-Community-Choices.pdf>

Since June, plans have been developed, and the timelines have been announced to the public via press releases. A Haydon Wick "Living" Magazine article will also be put in the winter edition ready for delivery in early November. and on social media in June. Some material items have been purchased and tracked to offset against each project as can be used across most events throughout the year.

As per the budget monitoring report for the end of Month 5 (August) shows the budget is 48% spent. The below table shows estimated costs as a supplementary document to give further information and tracking on specific projects.

The theme is 'Celebrating Community'.

(Y) = Youth (C) = Community

Proposed themes	Estimated Cost	Update
1. Various Community Art Projects (e.g. a street art mural and a commemorative wood carving sculpture)	£1,000.00 (Y) NOW SPENT, minus £400.00 underspend	The tree sculptor visited Thursday 14 th August, the cost was £600.00, and he created an impressive display modernising some older sculptures and creating new wildlife creatures on the bird's nest (a squirrel and an owl).
2. Budget to boost the existing Community Events (e.g. VE Day Event 80)	£1,000.00 (C) NOW SPENT.	Completed. The VE event was received well and was a perfect community celebration. £350.00 was rolled over to the Summer Event.
3. Wild Wick Community Garden Development/ Enhancing Community Open Spaces	£500.00 (Y)	Some of the funds have been utilised with the Leisure Garden youth events and the Skate Park fence weaving event. There have also been several art events such as the Luna Close Big Art and the pop in & paint sessions upcycling rubbish and junk modelling.



4. Performing Arts/Community Theatre Performances	£500.00 (Y) Met through community grant scheme	Some money has been applied to arts/ theatre through community grant scheme, there is a poetry weekend "world of words", another poetry event is being planned as the first one there wasn't much uptake. The £500.00 has been put back in the budget as met through grant scheme.
5. Thyme Close Play Area Revival	£1,500.00 (C)	There were two Thyme Close consultation and craft sessions which have been well received, and the rest of the play area equipment has been painted. The comments from the consultation are further on in this report. So far, the repairs/refurbishments have been low cost, there is still budget to be spent.
6. Dog Play Area	£3,000.00 (C) £1,500.00 revised cost as £1,500.00 sponsorship has been received from Muddy Squad	The area has been costed up for fencing, signage and maintenance. There are potential sponsorship funds coming in to offset the bulk of the costs.
7. Celebrate our Community - Festival of Stories	£250.00 (Y)	Unspent, plans to be developed. Story time included Bat Walk but this was free of charge. Further plans to be developed and maybe host a session at the library.
8. Community Safety Initiative	£500.00 (C) NOW SPENT, minus £77 underspend	The knife bin cost £423.00 and is awaiting delivering. A bleed kit has also been donated by Owens World.
Other ideas:		As there is an underspend on some of the project these have been used: £250.00 Bournemouth Contingency £250.00 Christmas Carnival £150.00 Annual Parish Meeting £100.00 Haven Refreshments Budget could be available for enhancing the Community Led Action Plan consultations, Christmas Parcel Scheme, Remembrance Display if sponsorship should fall short. Other ideas are welcomed so please feedback to the Community Development Team to capture suggestions in the programme.



Thyme Close Playground Consultation Data Analysis

Summary Statistics

- **Total Responses:** 20 entries
- **Response Rate to Willow Den Question:** 65% (13 responses)
- **Support for Willow Den:** 85% (11 Yes, 2 No)

Top Requested Features (by frequency)

Most Popular Requests

1. **Swings** (5 mentions)
 - More swings for children
 - Swings for younger children
 - Multiple requests for additional swing equipment
2. **Climbing Equipment** (13 mentions)
 - Climbing frame (4 mentions)
 - Climbing nets (2 mentions)
 - Up & over net (2 mentions)
 - Balance net (1 mention)
 - Pyramid climbing frame (1 mention)
 - Blocks/stepping stones (3 mentions)
3. **Seating & Picnic Areas** (7 mentions)
 - Benches (3 mentions)
 - Picnic benches/tables (4 mentions)
 - More seats (1 mention)
4. **Zip Line** (2 mentions)
 - Consistently requested feature
5. **Fencing & Safety** (2 mentions)
 - Fencing all around with entry gate
 - Soft mats under swings

Other Requested Features

- Slide (1 mention)
- Trampoline (1 mention)
- Trim trail equipment (1 mention)
- Football goal (1 mention)
- Play/mud kitchen (3 mentions - mixed support)
- Sensory panels (1 mention)
- Platform (1 mention)
- Rubbish bin (1 mention)
- Puzzles/blocks for kids (1 mention)
- Cut through in bushes (1 mention)

Key Themes

1. Active Play Equipment

Strong demand for varied climbing and physical challenge equipment suitable for different ages and abilities.

2. Safety & Boundaries

Multiple requests for fencing, gates, and safety surfacing indicate parent/carers concerns about security and injury prevention.

3. Family-Friendly Amenities

High demand for adult seating and picnic facilities suggests the park is used for family outings and social gatherings.

4. Age-Appropriate Equipment

Specific mentions of equipment for "younger children" indicate need for age-differentiated play areas.

5. Natural/Imaginative Play

Support for Willow Den shows interest in natural play structures, though mud kitchen received mixed feedback.

Specific Improvement Suggestions



Structural Changes

- Replace high net by tree with pyramid climbing frame
- Move benches to better locations
- Make Willow Den accessible from both park side and roadside
- Create walkthrough in bushes for better connectivity

Safety Enhancements

- Install fencing around perimeter
- Add entry gate
- Place soft mats under swings
- Install rubbish bins

Recommendations

High Priority (Most Frequently Requested)

1. Add more swings, particularly for younger children
2. Install varied climbing equipment (frames, nets, stepping stones)
3. Increase seating and add picnic benches
4. Install perimeter fencing with secure gate
5. Retain and improve Willow Den access

Medium Priority

1. Install zip line
2. Add trim trail equipment
3. Install sensory panels
4. Add football goal
5. Improve safety surfacing under equipment