

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	1 st September 2026
Report Title	Community Choices Consultation Analysis
Agenda Reference	16
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk, HR & Services Manager

Officer's recommendation:

1. To note the consultation findings.
2. To approve the usage of the funds as detailed in the table below.

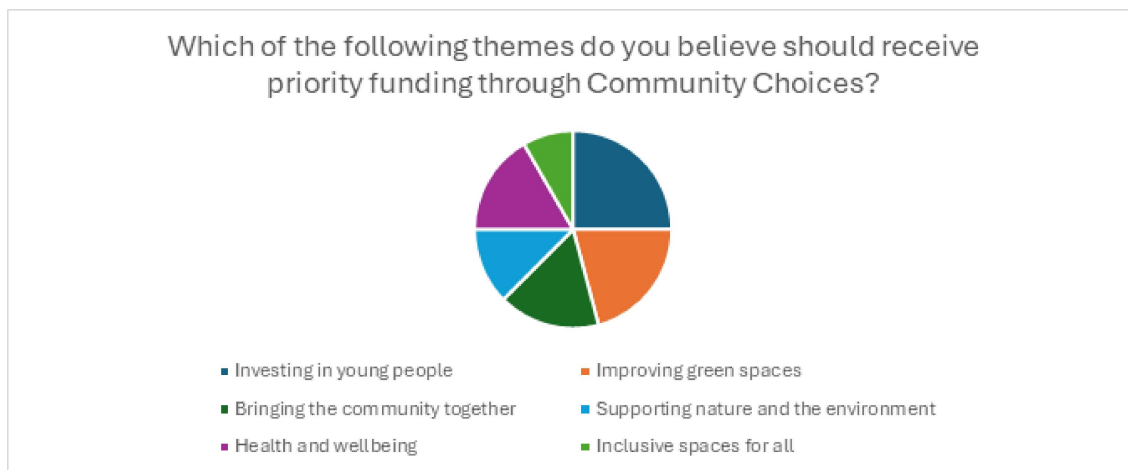
Background

The Community Choices budget is £6,000.00.

Only 24 people responded to the consultation, which spanned from May – mid August, despite sharing this several times on social media, the website and the Haydon Wick “Living” Magazine. Out of the 24 people, 13 of them were over the age of 55 years old, so whilst the emphasis seems to be put on youth activities and things for young people to do – there hasn’t been too many ideas at the forefront from the residents who would benefit from this.

When enquiries came into the office, residents were asked to fill in the survey, and this was forwarded on to Parish Councillors to fill in and share with their constituents.

Priorities and Themes



Conclusion

There are several potential uses for the £6,000.00 community project funding, with further prioritisation required by the Community Development Committee. However, clear themes have emerged around:

- Promoting inclusivity and bringing the community together, including through green spaces and nature;
- Increasing opportunities and support for young people, particularly older children and teenagers; and
- Improving communication and awareness of existing parish initiatives.

Potential projects include youth leadership, virtual dementia training, outdoor table tennis and football facilities, among others. The costs and feasibility of these options will need to be assessed before a final decision is made by the Committee.

Budget

£6,000.00 of which £1,187.00 has already been spent on initiatives between May – September. Remaining funds approx. £4,813.00.

Idea	Description	Estimated Budget Allocation
Mental Health Awareness & Continued Support	Continue to fundraise for Campaign Against Living Miserably. Mental Health Awareness Week took place in May and there were items such as a railway talk, a skate jam and an outdoor exercise session	
Youth Voice	Liaising with local school students to receive their ideas and contributions to spend the funds. To host a range of youth activities such as silent discos, work experience initiatives, BEST Be A Better You workshops, Skate Jams, Christmas Pantomime, Silent Discos, Play Area Events, Sport Events etc.	£1,000.00 towards a shared project or initiative – some items include additional benches or better lighting for safer streets. £1,000.00 towards regular youth sessions to accompany the youth engagement budget where £1,609.00 is remaining.
Improving Communications	Noticeboards at the Skate Park, Outdoor Gym and Dog Park	£1,500.00 – bear in mind additional and ongoing resource to put posters up etc

Nature Events	Partnership working with Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal Trust, Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Seven Fields Conservation Group.	£250.00 (for materials/equipment)
	Areas to include enhancing Tadpole Field (student art to be placed around the fences).	£500.00

This would leave a small contingency of £563.00 for any partnership opportunities or ideas. The above wouldn't be too resource heavy as project focused rather than running regular events.