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LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME QUALITY GOLD

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	3rd November 2026
Report Title	Community & Youth Development
Agenda Reference	11
Author	Liz Matthews, Marketing & Events Co Ordinator Jackie Fawcett, Community & Office Administrator

Recommendations

1. To note the report.

Background

The following update is of activities which have taken place since the previous committee meeting held on the 1st September 2026.

Community

Yoga

The yoga group continues to be successful, with a regular attendance of around ten participants which is sufficient to cover the group's running costs.

We are also hoping to arrange a Christmas get-together, highlighting the strong connections that have developed within the group. It is wonderful to see friendships being formed and members supporting one another beyond the weekly sessions.

Craft & Connect

Following a successful programme before the summer, the Craft and Connect group returned in September and has welcomed a number of new participants to the sessions. The continued growth of the group highlights the increasing interest in creative community activities and the value they provide in bringing residents together.

Over the past three sessions, participants have enjoyed a range of seasonal and decorative crafts, including:

- Decorative light creations using colourful string and cord
- Hand-sewn fabric and felt birds, ready to take pride of place on Christmas trees
- Decorative wine glass tea light holders, perfect for festive tables and celebrations

The sessions have provided opportunities for residents to learn new skills, share ideas and enjoy a relaxed social environment while creating unique handmade items. It has been particularly encouraging to see new members quickly become involved and contribute to the friendly and supportive atmosphere that the group is known for.

Looking ahead, the group will be turning its creativity towards supporting the Christmas Parcels Project, with participants preparing decorative gift tags to add a personal touch to parcels distributed within the community. This contribution reflects the group's ongoing commitment to supporting wider community initiatives while bringing people together through creativity and shared purpose.

As preparations for the festive season continue, participants are already looking forward to upcoming projects and opportunities to work together, ensuring Craft and Connect remains a valuable space for creativity, conversation and community connection.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 25th September 2026 10am – 12pm
Another very successful coffee morning was held, with excellent support from both attendees and volunteers. An abundance of homemade treats was generously provided by colleagues, councillors, volunteers, extended family members, and even members of our Leisure Gardening community.

The event raised an outstanding **£365.00**, exceeding last year's impressive total and making it our most successful coffee morning to date. This achievement reflects the continued generosity and strong community spirit of everyone involved.

Community Litter Pick – Sunday 20th September 2026
Councillor led community litter pick for World Clean-up Day planned by Councillor L Jackson. The event took place from the Village Green Play area in Abbey Meads, where councillors and volunteers spent the morning collecting 11 bags of litter which was a fantastic effort. The event was well received, and the Council hopes to build on its success by making World Clean-up Day an annual community event.

Charity Chocolate Bingo – Friday 9th October 2026
The Charity Chocolate Bingo event at Haydon Wick Club was a great success, attracting over 60 participants, supported by five members of staff and five councillors. The evening featured chocolate-themed bingo prizes, raffles, quizzes and a golden ticket draw, creating a fun and engaging atmosphere for all.

The event raised an impressive £1,220 for CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably), equivalent to funding approximately 100 answered support calls. Thanks are extended to Haydon Wick Club for hosting the event and to everyone who attended, donated and participated. The evening demonstrated strong community spirit while raising valuable funds for an important cause.

Youth

October Half Term Programme

Sk8Jam
Despite the less-than-ideal weather, our ATBShop Sk8Jam at Haydon Wick Skate Park proved a real hit with local young people. Held on Tuesday 28th October, the free drop-in session saw skaters of all abilities take to the ramps, practise new tricks and enjoy some expert guidance from the fantastic team at ATBShop.

The event created a great atmosphere at the skate park, with participants making the most of the opportunity to build confidence, develop skills and connect with fellow skating enthusiasts. It was wonderful to see so many young people getting active outdoors and supporting one another throughout the session. Even the damp weather couldn't dampen spirits, making the morning a successful addition to our half-term programme.

Trick, Treats & Pumpkins
Our Halloween Tricks, Treats and Pumpkin activity on Thursday 29th October was a fantastic success, with both sessions selling out and welcoming 28 participants per session.

Families enjoyed decorating pumpkins and biscuits, resulting in some wonderfully creative designs ranging from spooky and silly to impressively artistic. The event was brilliantly supported by councillors, whose help ensured everything ran smoothly and that everyone had plenty of opportunities to get involved.

A special thank you goes to Morrisons for providing discounted pumpkins, helping us make the event accessible and affordable for local families. Judging by the smiles, laughter and impressive creations on display, a wonderful time was had by all.

Diwali
On Friday 30th October, residents joined us for our Diwali Inspired Crafts & Treats sessions, raising funds for CALM while learning about and celebrating this colourful festival.

With 15 participants attending each session, the smaller group sizes allowed for a relaxed and engaging experience, giving everyone plenty of time to enjoy the activities on offer. Highlights included beautiful Mehendi henna tattoos, the opportunity to admire a stunning sari, and a selection of delicious traditional treats.

Participants also got creative decorating diyas, crafting colourful flower garlands, and designing their own Rangoli-inspired artwork. The sessions provided a wonderful opportunity to explore another culture through hands-on activities, conversation and creativity.

The event offered a calmer pace than some of our busier activities, creating quality time for participants and staff alike, and was warmly received by everyone who attended.

Coming up:
Remembrance Display
Christmas Celebration in Lights
Peter Pan Christmas Theatrical Performance at the Library
Christmas Wreath Making

Upcoming November & December Activities

When	What	Where
Community Bus Trip	Wed 4th November	Millets Farm
Community Bus Trip	Wed 2nd December	Cirencester Dobbies
Christmas Celebration in Lights	Friday 27th November	St John's Church and Parish Parade
Christmas Parcels	Saturday 12th December	Parish
Peter Pan Production	Saturday 12th December	North Swindon Library
Christmas Wreath Making	Thursday 17th December	Parish Offices