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Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	3rd November 2026
Report Title	Haydon Wick Haven
Agenda Reference	9b
Author	Jo Newman, Memory Café & Community Co Ordinator

Officer's recommendation:

1. To note the report.

Background

From October, The Haven has been hosted by Councillors and volunteers. This has enabled the Memory Café & Community Co Ordinator to focus on safeguarding matters and developing the Companions Café and the Bereavement Café in early 2027.

The model will be reviewed in January 2027, to decide how the Haven is hosted going forward. Councillors are encouraged to sign up to a 2-hour session where available to assist in running the Haven.

Activities

August's session was all about nature and the environment. Neil Pullen and his colleague Jamie came in on behalf of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to talk to us about the effect of our extreme weather conditions on trees and plants, and how the coming winter could play out and shape how trees respond next year. Neil and Jamie also brought in plants and trees for everyone to touch, smell, and learn about, which made the session hands-on and engaging.

The talk was interesting, and it has sparked real enthusiasm among residents — next year they would like to organise some tree planting so they can be grown within our community. There has also been a request for a follow-up visit and talk to be arranged at Moulden Hill.

Swindon Borough Council also visited and spoke with residents about any concerns they may have, whether related to the area they live in or to SBC-related issues. This proved beneficial to both residents and the council, an ongoing council tax issue was resolved that same afternoon, and a safeguarding concern was also addressed.

September's session started with a lovely, relaxed session. The room was full of chatter and laughter as everyone settled in to enjoy a creative afternoon. Some of us spent time making bookmarks, while others tried their hand at wool weaving to create colourful flowers. It was a happy, friendly atmosphere with plenty of friendly conversation along the way.

We were also joined by a solicitor from Silver Linings, who came along to talk about how Wills have changed over the last 10 years and why it is worth updating them. There was also time for questions, and people had the chance to ask about anything else on their minds.

Haven Memories









