AGENDA ITEM NO: 3

Report To:	**Community & Leisure Committee**	**Date:**	**24 November 2025**
Contact Officer:	**Mark Jones/Paula Harrison**		
Subject:	**Community & Engagement Updates Report**		

1. Overview

1.1 Murals project

To support the Parish Council's commitment to reduce graffiti tags and add to our public art works, the murals project is progressing:

- The mural at Sparcells to Peatmoor lake is nearing completion with the addition of wing-wall artwork
- The mural sponsored by GLL at the West Swindon District Centre to Shaw Ridge subway is getting underway and should be completed in the next two weeks.

1.2 Community Pantry

- The Community Pantry at West Swindon library is open and is being used for collection and donation (not always with useful items). It is accessible only during library opening times. A new mini pantry has been installed in the foyer of Freshbrook Community Centre and has been working well. The pantry cart is used outside of the Parish depot and is working well with a weekly drop off to Wilkes Academy.

1.3 Love where you learn Litter Boards

- The Engagement Officer and Cllr G Philpot have participated in a school council conversation at Hazelwood Academy and assembly at Oliver Tomkins to promote dialogue on litter and environmental issues. We anticipate additional schools to receive boards shortly.

1.4 Rivermead Bike Station

- The freestanding bike tool station has been installed at Rivermead near the pump track and skate park. The team has also suggested that a noticeboard be installed in this location to improve and promote communication about youth activities. This could potentially be attached to the existing sign.

1.5 Rivermead Half Term Event

- Swindon ATB and Ed Poster hosted a joint event at Rivermead offering an additional skate session alongside the opportunity

to learn a bit more about street art utilising the addition of a third street art board. Both sessions were well attended and feedback from young people and parents was positive.

1.6 Little Libraries

The team is excited to report that it has built a set of new little libraries which are planned to be added in Freshbrook, Grange Park, Middleleaze, Shaw, Sparcells and Swinley Drive. The individual libraries have been hand-decorated in the same colours so that they are visible and identifiable. Local residents have come forward to be the custodians, keeping a check on stock levels and any damage or misuse. The existing library at Peatmoor lake will be replaced with the new version which will be better able to hold an array of books.

1.7 Movember

Promoting positive health awareness across our population with the Movember theme has been underway through November. Activities have included

- Ramblers walk to Lower Shaw Farm
- Nxxt Step Fitness introductory session
- Swindon Striders run
- Cycle ride from Lydiard Park
- Chess and games session

Councillors feedback on continued interest in linking the Parish Council to health awareness raising promotions would be welcome.

1.8 Youth Events

- **Swindon Youth For Christ** are proposing to hold a one off event in December at the Link Centre as a trial for future sessions (to be funded by West Swindon Parish Council)
- **Swindon ATB Indoor Session** details to be finalised which focus on a short session from an indoor location, likely to be 21st December and from Freshbrook Community Centre or the Link Centre.

1.9 December/Christmas

Councillors have been invited to host a Christmas stall featuring 'Splat the Sprout' and letters to Santa at the following community-led events:

Saturday 22 November	Toothill Church 1.00 – 5.00pm
Friday 28 November	Lydiard Park Lights Switch On 4.30-6.30pm
1st December onwards	Parish decorations in village centres – details to follow
Tuesday 9th December	Hazelwood Xmas Fayre 3.30 – 5.00pm
Sunday 14th December	Holy Trinity Church community carols (no stall but all welcome) 5.00pm
Monday 15th December	Brookfield School Carol Concert at Holy Trinity Church (no stall but all welcome) 6.00pm
Wednesday 17 December	Oliver Tomkins Xmas Fayre 2.30 – 4.00pm

1.10 Looking ahead

Future updates will cover progress on the Memory Café, community defibrillators, review of youth provision and 50th anniversary plans.

2. **Recommendations**:

It is recommended that this Committee

a) notes the information in the report and gives feedback on these and any future ideas for engagement
b) considers ongoing future participation in promoting health messages
c) considers adding a noticeboard to Rivermead