



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE
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witham.gov.uk

AGENDA

Meeting of: **Community Committee**

Date: **Monday, 10th November 2025** Time: **7:30 p.m.**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2FE**

Members are hereby summoned to attend the above Meeting to transact the following business. Members are respectfully reminded that each item on the Agenda should be carefully examined. If you have any interest, it must be duly declared.

To be present: Councillors

J.C.	Coleman	(Chairman)	J.	Martin
P.	Heath	(Vice Chairman)	R.	Playle
E.	Adelaja		R.	Ramage
L.	Barlow		J.	Robertson
L.	Headley		E.	Williams

Nikki Smith
Town Clerk
NS/GK/5.11.2025

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Committee held 19th August 2025 (previously circulated).

3. INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of interest that Members may wish to give notice of on matters pertaining to any item on this agenda.

4. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

An opportunity to enable members of the press and public present to comment.

Order Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is designated for public participation time with no individual speaker exceeding three minutes unless otherwise granted an extension by the Chairman under Standing Order 3(F) & 3(G).

5. GUEST SPEAKER

An opportunity for the Committee to hear from the selected guest speaker ahead of question and answer session.

Note: The chosen speaker for this Meeting is Paul Wiseman, Witham Town Council's Street Warden.

6. ESSEX POLICE

An opportunity to receive any updates concerning local criminal matters and hear from any officers in attendance.

7. POLICE RESPONSE TO HALLOWEEN

To receive a report attached at page 4.

8. GRANT APPLICATIONS

(a) **Popcorn**

To receive a grant application from Popcorn attached at page 5.

(b) **Allstars Majorettes**

To receive a grant application from Allstars Majorettes (to follow)

(c) **Mill Lane Bowls Club**

To receive the project review report from the Mill Lane Bowls Club attached at page 21.

9. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

To receive a verbal report from the Clerk.

10. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND BUDGET REPORT

To receive the Community Committee Income and Expenditure report for the period up to 30th September 2025 attached at page 22.

11. EVENTS UPDATE

To receive an events update attached at page 23.

12. SOCIAL MEDIA

To receive social media statistics attached at page 24.

13. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE BUDGET 2026/2027

To receive and approve the proposed Community Committee Budget for 2026/2027 attached at page 25.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

At this point, the Chair will move the following resolution: Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 S.1(2) and in accordance with Standing Order 3(d), the press and public should be excluded from the remainder of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

15. INFORMATION CENTRE

To receive a report from the Information Centre Manager attached at page 28.

16. IMPROVING HEALTHCARE FACILITIES IN WITHAM WORKING GROUP

To receive the Minutes of the Improving Healthcare Facilities in Witham Working Group held 9th September 2025 attached at page 31.



ITEM NO: 7

Officer Report: Essex Police Response to Halloween in Witham

During the Halloween period, Essex Police implemented a dispersal order in Witham and increased police visibility, supported by partners such as Essex Fire & Rescue Service and Essex Youth Service. This year's policing included enhanced powers for stop and search, which are not frequently exercised in Witham.

Over two days, officers conducted 29 stop searches and approximately 100 stop and accounts, resulting in three arrests for possession of knives—an issue not previously perceived as significant in the area. Additional seizures included fireworks, cannabis, alcohol, water bombs, and eggs. Six dispersal notices were issued, and parental contacts were made where necessary.

Compared to last year's relatively low visible police presence, the increased activity appears to have contributed to a safer environment, with most residents celebrating responsibly. However, the discovery of three weapons by officers during a short period raises concerns about the potential rise in knife crime.

An Essex Police Post

Three arrests following Dispersal Order in Witham

While policing the dispersal order in Witham in Halloween night, officers carried out two separate stop searches, each resulting in the recovery of a knife.

In the first incident, a 15 year old boy was arrested on suspicion of possessing an offensive weapon.

In the second, a 23 year old man was arrested under the same suspicion.

Both individuals were taken into custody and interviewed. These incidents are not linked, and no one was injured. Enquiries remain on-going.

Separately, on Saturday evening, a third individual - a 16 year old boy - was arrested and has since been charged with possession of a knife. He is due to appear at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court later this month.

That's three more knives off our streets.

If you have any information about knives or other weapons in our community please visit the links in the comments to report it anonymously.

Advice: Members are invited to reflect on the police response to this year's Halloween in comparison to last year's, particularly the impact of enhanced stop and search powers and greater visible policing in Witham.

It is further recommended that members consider formally asking the District Commander how Essex Police plans to maintain and improve the safety of Witham residents moving forward. This is an important matter for community safety given that knife crime had not previously been identified as an issue in the area.

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GRANT FUNDING SCHEME APPLICATION FORM

Contact Details

1.	Name of your organisation	Popcorn Community Limited
2.	Primary contact name	[REDACTED]
3.	Primary contact telephone number	[REDACTED]
4.	Primary contact address	[REDACTED]
5.	Primary contact email address	hello@popcorncommunity.co.uk
6.	Position within the organisation	CEO

Financial Background

7.	Please state the nature of your organisation (circle those that apply) and include a copy of the minutes of your latest AGM.	Not for Profit Organisation
8.	Organisation Address	3 Warners Mill, Silks Way, Braintree, Essex, England, CM7 3GB
9.	Registered charity number if applicable	N/A
10.	What year was your organisation formed?	2023
11.	Please describe the main activities of your organisation and any services you provide to the	Popcorn restores a sense of belonging and hope for socially isolated young adults in Witham.

	community	<p>The Popcorn Programme</p> <p>We do this through our high impact 8-week programmes, which create an empathetic community for young people to openly explore difficulties they face, celebrate their uniqueness, their life journeys and plan for the futures they want. The programme is delivered at Parkside Youth Centre as part of our partnership with Essex Youth Services. Fusion Leisure Centre provides a free 2 months membership for people attending our programmes, to allow further opportunities to support our Popcorners' wellbeing.</p> <p>Popcorn Meet-Ups</p> <p>We also collaborate with local organisations and businesses, who support delivery of our Popcorn meetups: drop-in gatherings designed around an activity. Meetups provide young adults with yet another opportunity to socialise, strengthen new connections and introduce them to the wider community. From board games and jewellery making to pizza-making workshops delivered by an Italian baker, our meetups give young adults an opportunity to make new friends while trying something new each time. Most of our meetups are completely free to make them accessible to all.</p>
12.	How many committee members/paid staff/volunteers are involved in the running of your organisation?	<p>Paid 1x executive director & full time paid member of staff.</p> <p>Voluntary roles: 2x non-executive directors 5x volunteers</p>
13.	Does your organisation have a registered bank account in its name?	Yes
14.	What is your organisations average yearly income?	£45,000

15.	What is your organisations average yearly outgoings?	£40,000
16.	Have you applied for a grant from Witham Town Council in the past? If so when and how much?	Yes, back in 2024. We applied for £5000.

Project Details

17.	Project title	Popcorn programmes&meetups
18.	Project location	Witham
19.	Anticipated start and finish date	January 2026 - December 2026
20.	Description of project	<p><u>8-Week High Impact Programme</u></p> <p>Popcorn programme is a peer-led support group for young adults, bringing together up to 8 participants (“Popcorners”) and 2 trained hosts each week over 8 weeks. Through ice breakers, communication tools, and guided storytelling, participants explore their life journeys using our core creative tool—the Yellow Brick Road, which focuses on <i>Me Today, Me Tomorrow, Me in the Future</i>.</p> <p>The group setting encourages self-expression without fear of judgment, helping to build confidence, emotional resilience, and strong listening skills. Sessions culminate in SMART goal setting, where the group acts as a think tank to support each member’s aspirations.</p> <p>Unlike online resources, Popcorn provides vital emotional connection and support, particularly for young people facing isolation, poor mental health, or social withdrawal. Mental health professionals now refer clients to Popcorn, recognising it as a valuable, preventative alternative to clinical services.</p> <p>Programme feedback from a 22 years old</p>

		<p>transgender female, a Witham resident:</p> <p><i>“ We all talked about being bullied at some point in our life. It was a domino effect. One person shared and everyone else followed, but we didn’t judge. If we all have been through something, why would we judge? People who were not included before, can be included now.”</i></p> <p><i>“Mental health is important but we are not always looking for advice. We just want to talk about it.”</i></p> <p>Meetups feedback from a 20 years old female, a Witham resident:</p> <p><i>“I’m grateful to have Popcorn. There’s a real lack of social groups for younger people locally. I’ve met new people and enjoy the games and activities.” — Bethany (20)</i></p> <p>Programme feedback from a 16 years old female, a Witham resident:</p> <p><i>“I’ve never been good at socialising and I’ve always made up for it at school with good grades. Coming to ‘popcorn’ made me feel more complete as a person.”</i></p> <p>Popcorn Meetups are inclusive social events designed around universal activities like board games, arts & crafts, and life-skill workshops— ensuring no one is left out due to lack of a specific hobby.</p> <p>Popular sessions include cooking with Essex-based Italian baker [REDACTED] who shares both skills and his inspiring story as a "traveling baker." We also welcome guest speakers, such as a local podcast host who recently inspired our group to start their own creative projects.</p> <p>These meetups connect our micro-community with the wider Witham community. Events are held</p>
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		<p>twice a month in accessible locations like Edda Café, The Well, Valero Lounge, and Parkside Youth Centre. 90% of meetups are free, with a small charge for the remainder. Each session includes a welcome drink, engaging activity, and support from two Popcorn team members.</p> <p>These regular, welcoming gatherings help young adults rebuild confidence, make friends, and improve both mental and physical wellbeing.</p> <p>Each meetup attracts between 10 to 15 people.</p> <p>Feedback from a parent</p> <p><i>“Jack and Hayden (22) absolutely love coming to Popcorn. It’s so nice to see them have somewhere they truly feel they belong and where they can be themselves.</i></p> <p><i>It’s a safe space — and the impact on their confidence, friendships, and social skills has been amazing.</i></p> <p><i>As their mum, I’m incredibly grateful. Thank you so much.”</i></p>
<p>21.</p>	<p>What evidence do you have that this project is needed by the local community?</p>	<p>Popcorn was founded in 2023 through an Essex-based community incubator that empowered Witham residents to tackle local social issues. CEO [REDACTED] part of the original design team, created Popcorn in direct response to the needs of young people in the area.</p> <p>Nationally, 40% of young people report feeling lonely—higher than any other age group. In Witham, out of 4,000 young adults, around 1,600 are at high risk of long-term social exclusion.</p> <p>Through engagement with 85 Sixth Form students, 15 young adults at community workshops, 40 service providers, and 200 local residents, we learned that while services exist, they often fail to meet young people's real needs. What they asked</p>

		<p>for was simple: a judgment-free space to connect with peers.</p> <p>Since launching in February 2023, Popcorn has been delivering a high-impact programme developed in direct response to the needs of young adults in Witham. Alongside this, our regular meetups play a key role in fostering relationships and turning Popcorn into more than just a service—it's now a vibrant, supportive community based in Witham.</p>
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<p>22.</p>	<p>The council prioritises applications that meet one or more of the criteria detailed in the accompanying policy. Please explain all those you meet and why?</p>	<p>We are perfectly aligned with the council's aim to Invest in Young People. Our wide age bracket, 16-30 years old, enables people close to their age to support each other during the transition from childhood to adulthood, which doesn't just happen on the 18th birthday. 65% of our attendees fall into the age bracket 20-25 and the vast majority of them are 20-22. 26% Popcorners are 16-19 and 9% are 26-30.</p> <p>Through our connections with local businesses, we give young people further opportunity to socialise but also to be connected with the wider community, gain new skills and learn about jobs and volunteering opportunities. In July this year, one of our Popcorners secured employment as a School Crossing Patrol Officer, another one is starting her first job at the Pelican Nursery. These are people who not long ago couldn't imagine speaking to a stranger, yet alone succeed at an interview.</p> <p>Community Health is our mutual priority. Popcorn's mission is to tackle social isolation and loneliness among young residents of Witham to strengthen their mental health and wellbeing. Feeling isolated and disconnected increases the risk of premature death as much as obesity and alcoholism combined and is worse than smoking</p>
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		<p>sixteen cigarettes per day. We also know that with online shopping, online learning, online meetings and personal difficulties, there is a high risk of falling into an isolation trap.</p> <p>62.5% of our Popcorners admitted to suffer from poor mental health, 73% have learning difficulties or/and autism, while 13% are young carers. All those factors increase risk of permanent isolation and it is our mission to prevent the worst case scenario from happening and empower young adults to become active members of the society.</p>
<p>23.</p>	<p>If the project reaches fruition what will the benefit be to the local community?</p>	<p>57% of our attendees are NEET, most of the time because of lack of awareness of local opportunities, low confidence and resilience and too high, unrealistic expectations towards their performance in a work environment. Popcorn can support a young person’s journey into the next chapter of their life, by providing emotional support, peer support, exchange of experiences, signposting to local services and businesses.</p> <p>We create volunteering opportunities for our Popcorners, so they can gain professional experience and count on references from our team. People who have attended our programmes are now volunteers who play a vital role in ensuring sustainability of our services, while using their newly gained skills and knowledge outside Popcorn’s activities. As we grow, we can picture our young adults becoming paid members of staff at Popcorn.</p> <p>Parents of our participants tend to feel overwhelmed, while watching their adult children struggling with social interactions and being unable to move forward with their life. Popcorn supports the entire family system, giving the parents deserved break and taking a load off their parental duties. While we will never replace a family, we create a safe place to belong outside the family circle and introduce the young generation to new</p>

		<p>opportunities in their hometown.</p>
<p>24.</p>	<p>How will you ensure sustainability of the project?</p>	<p>Sustainability of the project relies on 4 key components: staff, participants, venues, funding.</p> <p>Popcorn is currently run by one full time employee and 5 volunteers. The volunteers support delivery of the meetups and programmes, fundraising activity and partnership building.</p> <p>Paulina, the CEO, is the lead facilitator, able to support one 8-week programme at the time with a trained co-facilitator on board. All co-facilitators have either completed the programme or received training and require further practice to become lead facilitators for the future programmes. We are currently delivering the programme in Witham with a former programme attendee in a role of a co-facilitator.</p> <p>While meetups can and have been managed by trained volunteers, the programme is much more demanding, therefore Paulina is training co-facilitators and seeking to bring on board a certified coach to support future delivery of the programme.</p> <p>We feel strongly about our established referral routes, therefore we no longer see the recruitment process as a challenge. The word of mouth is a strong asset in a local community and with the testimonials received from our Popcorners and their parents, we feel the community's support and</p>

		<p>its power.</p> <p>Feedback from parents: <i>"My daughter(16yo) was nervous about going. This kind of thing is out of her comfort zone, but she was adamant this is something she wanted to do. She had the best time, felt like she fitted in and cannot wait to go back."</i></p> <p><i>"Popcorn really is fantastic. My daughter(20yo) has loved it and made some great friends."</i></p> <p>Partners managing venues used for our Popcorn meetups have expressed interest in further cooperation, while Popcorn volunteers are ready to step up and overtake the management of these events. We intend to continue working with The Edda Cafe&Bistro, The Well, Fusion Leisure Centre and Parkside Youth Centre, while seeking new opportunities across the town.</p>
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25.	How will you measure success?	<p>We recognise the importance of the evaluation process, therefore throughout the programme we will monitor each participant's level of confidence and sense of belonging. These have both risen for all our groups from 50% to 98% on average and we aim to repeat these successes.</p> <p>We will record attendance throughout the programme and number of attendees at Popcorn meetups. In addition, we will monitor progression from being a Popcorn programme attendee to a Popcorn meetup attendee, which is a sustainable way of building upon newly gained confidence and social skills.</p> <p>Individual feedback upon completion of the programme will give us further understanding of the impact our sessions have had on individual participants. Based on previous experiences, we are expecting progression into paid or voluntary roles, development of friendships, improved self awareness, reduced social anxiety and increase in</p>
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		<p>self-worth.</p> <p>We will provide case studies to show participants' journeys, either in the form of a written story or a digital recording. Popcorn volunteers are keen to create a podcast for our growing community, therefore recorded audio or video conversations will be available.</p>
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Funding Specifics

<p>26.</p>	<p>What is the total project cost?</p>	<p>Cost Breakdown by Activity Type</p> <p>1. Popcorn Meetups (2h-3h social gatherings and/or workshops)</p> <p>12 sessions</p> <p>180 total attendees</p> <p>Total cost: £810</p> <p>Cost per person: £4.50</p> <p>2. Baking / Cooking Workshops</p> <p>4 sessions/ £120 facilitator's fee +£50 towards ingredients, snacks, additional equipment per session</p> <p>48 total attendees</p> <p>Total cost: £680.00</p> <p>Cost per person: £14.00</p> <p>3. Popcorn Programmes- 8-week programmes</p>
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		<p>(Introductory phone call, Introductory 1:1 meeting, in between sessions support, 8x 2h session, 1:1 feedback with a Popcorn host, 4 weeks 2h follow up session).</p> <p>2 programmes</p> <p>16 total attendees</p> <p>Total cost: £4,898</p> <p>Cost per person: £306.125</p> <p>☑ Totals Across All Activities</p> <p>Sessions total: $12 + 4 + 2 = 18$ sessions</p> <p>Attendees total (all activities): $180 + 48 + 16 = 244$</p> <p>Grand total cost: £6388</p> <p>Overall average cost per participant (all activities combined): \approx £26.20</p>
27.	Please state the total amount of grant required from Witham Town Council	£5000

<p>28.</p>	<p>Please break down exactly how this will be spent and include 2 quotes supporting this breakdown and showing best value.</p>	<p>Quotes:</p> <p>██████████ the Italian baker, has reduced his rates for our community from £50-£120 per person, to £120 per workshop with up to 12 participants. ██████████ provides all the required equipment and most ingredients.</p> <p>Kempco Ltd., Witham based printing and office supplies business, provides our organisation with a 20% discount for all their services, significantly reducing cost of printing, office supplies and branded uniforms.</p> <p>Please see the full breakdown in a separately submitted attachment.</p>
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<p>29.</p>	<p>How much has been raised so far for this project?</p>	<p>£50,000 seed funding from Eastlight Community Homes supports Popcorn’s initiatives for the initial 18 months of operation. We have since secured further £21000 from grant funders, such as Essex Community Foundation, who awarded Popcorn a multiyear grant in December 2024.</p> <p>The funding provided by Witham Town Council will be dedicated specifically to supporting residents of Witham. This funding will cover the core costs of our programmes and meetups, ensuring that local people directly benefit from the council’s support.</p>
<p>30.</p>	<p>Please detail any funding that will be given ‘in kind’</p>	<p>Edda Cafe&Bistro and The Well community cafe have offered their venues free of charge, allowing our micro-community exclusive use of their facilities. They also treat us to discounted refreshments.</p> <p>Fusion Leisure Centre provides new programme participants with a free 2 months membership for</p>

		<p>all their facilities and activities. Each membership is worth £90 (£45 per month), which brings us to £2160 in kind funding towards two programmes.</p> <p>Co-facilitators and volunteers donate their time to ensure the Popcorn community's expenses are kept to a minimum.</p>
31.	Please give details of how the balance of funding required will be sourced	<p>We are actively pursuing new funding opportunities and are currently applying for a £20,000 grant from the National Lottery. Alongside this, our team is developing a range of community-led fundraising events, including a community bouncy castle day, a sponsored walk, and a fundraising Italian baking workshop.</p> <p>In December last year, we successfully piloted a sponsored 13-mile walk across Mersea Island, which raised £1,400. Building on this success, we anticipate raising approximately £10,000 annually through these fundraising activities.</p>
32.	How many people will benefit from this funding being given, both directly and indirectly	<p>246 attendees will directly benefit from this funding in Witham community. : 16 programme participants, 180 meetups attendees, 48 baking/cooking workshop attendees, 2 co-facilitators.</p> <p>On average, each person joining our activities has 3 trusted people in their inner circle, including parents, grandparents or siblings and at least 2 service providers, e.g. a social worker, a job coach, or a mental health specialist. That's hundreds of people who can indirectly benefit from our support.</p>

Public Engagement

<p>33.</p>	<p>How do you publicise the services you offer?</p>	<p>Our services are advertised online, using social media channels and the website.</p> <p>In person interaction with young adults at local events, like Summer Fayre or Christmas Market in Witham, are perfect opportunities for a direct outreach.</p> <p>You will also find our leaflets and posters at local coffee shops, doctors surgeries, grocery stores and other outlets.</p> <p>Braintree & Witham Times published an article about Popcorn, which generated new sign ups, therefore we will continue exploring this effective advertising route.</p>
<p>34.</p>	<p>How will you make sure that your project reaches its intended targets</p>	<p>We have developed effective referral routes with local partners, such as Social Prescribers, Hamelin Trust, Occupational Therapists, Job Centre in Witham, Shared Lives, Community Support Workers (Adult Social Care/ Local Linked Support), Essex Partnership University-NHS Trust (Senior Clinical Psychologist).</p> <p>Parents have been acting as very effective referral partners too. Our frequent presence at local community events and online campaigns have generated several parental enquiries.</p>

Referees

35.	Please include the names and addresses of two independent referees who are not members of your organisation but know of the group	<p>Reference 1</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 80px;"></div> <p>Reference 2</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 60px;"></div>
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I understand that if the project changes in any way, I must inform the Assistant RFO immediately.

I understand that if a completed project review report is not sent to the Assistant RFO within 6 months of receiving funding that I may be required to repay all monies received.

I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the applicant organisation and confirm that I have read, understood and accept the stipulations listed above and that the information provided in this application is accurate.

Name..... [REDACTED]

Position within the organisation.....CEO.....

Telephone number..... [REDACTED]

Email address.....hello@popcorncommunity.co.uk.....

Signature..... [REDACTED]

Checklist of Documents to be Included

Copy of previous year's bank statements	x
Copy of two quotes	Included in the application form
Copy of bank details on headed paper	x

Completed and signed application form	x
Copy of latest AGM minutes	x
Any blank sheets used to expand on answers	x

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Project Review Report

Name of organisation - Witham Mill Lane Bowls Club

Position in organisation - Greenkeeper

Project Details

Project title – Clubhouse maintenance

Project Location – Witham Mill Lane Bowls Club

Actual start and finish date – 1st April to 30th August 2025

What was the total cost of project – £3,631 plus paint and painting the clubhouse

Breakdown of how grant was spent – The grant was spent on new fascia, soffit, gutters, new posts on both sides of the front door of the clubhouse and removing waste. The total came to more than originally anticipated and the difference between the grant and the total cost was covered by the club.

If there were any discrepancies between how the grant was spent and what was on the application form, please explain why – Not really

Do you believe the project to be a success? If so how was this success measured? The project was a great success. The clubhouse looks so much better than before and is now also safer than it was.

How many people benefited from this project both directly and indirectly? Directly more than 300. Indirectly, a lot more as the clubhouse looks so much more attractive than it was before.

What lessons do you feel were learnt during this process? Not much as the work was straight forward.

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Summary of Receipts and Payments

Cost Centre 2 (Between 01/04/2025 and 30/09/2025)

Agenda Item 10

Community

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
23	Information Sales Income	65,000.00	24,520.77	-40,479.23				-40,479.23 (-62%)
24	Witham Festival Income	1,500.00	1,390.00	-110.00				-110.00 (-7%)
25	Music Event	1,500.00	1,337.70	-162.30				-162.30 (-10%)
26	Dog Show	1,000.00	485.05	-514.95				-514.95 (-51%)
27	Witham Pride	500.00		-500.00				-500.00 (-100%)
28	Teddy Bear's Picnic	50.00	50.00					(0%)
29	Christmas Events	1,500.00	1,190.00	-310.00				-310.00 (-20%)
30	Community Team - Salaries, NI & LGPS				84,728.00	34,169.82	50,558.18	50,558.18 (59%)
31	Town Clock				1,500.00	1,633.00	-133.00	-133.00 (-8%)
32	Christmas Decorations				13,000.00		13,000.00	13,000.00 (100%)
33	Information Centre Stock				55,000.00	17,323.44	37,676.56	37,676.56 (68%)
34	Information Centre & Administration				3,000.00	823.78	2,176.22	2,176.22 (72%)
35	Community Grant Aid				12,000.00	500.00	11,500.00	11,500.00 (95%)
36	Carnival Grant				8,000.00		8,000.00	8,000.00 (100%)
37	Citizens Advice				10,000.00	10,000.00		(0%)
38	CCTV				14,000.00	4,854.33	9,145.67	9,145.67 (65%)
39	Community Safety				1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00 (100%)
40	Community Special Constables Expenses				5,000.00	884.33	4,115.67	4,115.67 (82%)
41	Witham Train Memorial				500.00	770.00	-270.00	-270.00 (-54%)
42	Community Special Constable Recruitment				1,000.00	170.00	830.00	830.00 (83%)
43	Other Community Support				1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00 (100%)
44	Witham Dog Show				2,500.00	2,364.04	135.96	135.96 (5%)
45	Witham Street Entertainment Festival				23,000.00	21,406.98	1,593.02	1,593.02 (6%)
46	Remembrance				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00 (100%)
47	Twinning				500.00		500.00	500.00 (100%)
48	Halloween Event				2,200.00	715.00	1,485.00	1,485.00 (67%)
49	Music Event				10,000.00	7,348.45	2,651.55	2,651.55 (26%)
50	VE Day				2,500.00	2,126.55	373.45	373.45 (14%)
51	VJ Day				1,000.00	1,151.53	-151.53	-151.53 (-15%)
52	Christmas Events & Tree				4,500.00	1,113.04	3,386.96	3,386.96 (75%)
53	Easter Quest				1,650.00	704.90	945.10	945.10 (57%)
54	New Events & Events Improvement				1,500.00	1,458.19	41.81	41.81 (2%)
55	Silver Cinema				300.00	109.11	190.89	190.89 (63%)
SUB TOTAL		71,050.00	28,973.52	-42,076.48	261,378.00	109,626.49	151,751.51	109,675.03 (32%)

Summary

NET TOTAL	71,050.00	28,973.52	-42,076.48	261,378.00	109,626.49	151,751.51	109,675.03 (32%)
V.A.T.					6,981.34		
GROSS TOTAL		28,973.52			116,607.83		

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Witham Festival

The Witham Festival was a great success, attracting over 13,000 visitors. The event featured amazing new acts and received excellent feedback, with no negative comments reported. Looking ahead to next year, we plan to introduce a public vote, allowing attendees to choose which acts they would like to see perform at the festival.

Halloween Event

This year's Halloween event was very successful, with around 600 children taking part. We received lots of positive feedback, particularly about the non-scary theme, which allowed younger children to participate and enjoy the event fully. The community response was overwhelmingly positive and supportive.

Upcoming Christmas Market

Preparations for the Christmas Market are well underway, with over 120 stalls already booked and more booking forms still being received.

Visitors can look forward to a wide variety of stalls, offering:

- Clothing, toys, souvenirs, and books
- Cleaning products and gifts
- Pet products, local crafts, and handmade items
- Delicious food stalls with a festive Christmas atmosphere

There will also be plenty of entertainment on stage, featuring performances from local groups and special guests, including James Arnott with his Punch and Judy Christmas Edition. To add to the festive experience, there will be real reindeer in The Grove, creating a magical atmosphere for families and children.

Santa's Grotto

This year's Santa's Grotto will run for four days — on two Saturdays and two holiday dates. New presents have been ordered, and we hope to welcome and delight around 200 children throughout the event.

The Grotto will once again be a highlight of the Christmas celebrations, offering a magical experience for families and young visitors

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ITEM NO: 12

Officer Report: Social Media Report – 1st August 25 – 31st October 25

Issue:

The most popular posts on social media in the last 3 months have been:
Facebook: Thanks to volunteers for clearing Mill Lane Meadow post – 137 likes
Instagram: Notice of upcoming Witham Rail Crash service – 11 likes

The posts that reached the most people through the algorithms of social media:
Facebook: Thanks to volunteers for clearing Mill Lane Meadow post – 13.6k
Instagram: Notice of Witham Street Entertainment Festival next day – 411

Traffic on our social media pages:

Facebook

Visits to our profile: 11.8k (Same as last quarter)
Views of our content: 764.6k (First time reporting this statistic)
New followers: 201 (Up from 143 last quarter)
Total Followers: 4,610 (Up from 4,450 last quarter)
People reached: 76.9k (Up from 46.6k last quarter)

Instagram

Visits to our profile: 214 (Down from 268 last quarter)
Views of our content: 22.4k (First time reporting this statistic)
New followers: 46 (Down from 55 last quarter)
Total Followers: 960 (Up from 932 last quarter)
People reached: 1.6k (Down from 1.9k last quarter)

We continue to post daily Monday to Friday, promoting WTC events and any other WTC initiatives. On Tuesdays we post or share something climate related, on Thursdays we post anything relevant to the weekend, e.g. Sunday Cinema and on the first of each month we post the upcoming meetings for that month. We also share anything that is relevant to the community, such as information from Essex Police

During the last quarter we have had several events which help to boost our social media figures, both in the run up to the events and by posting photographs of the event afterwards.

Advice:

To receive & note

PROPOSED COMMUNITY COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR 2026/2027			
	2025/2026	2026/2027	
Community	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Difference
Information Sales Income	65000	65000	0
Witham Festival Income	1500	1500	0
Music Event	1500	1500	0
Dog Show	1000	1000	0
Witham Pride	500		-500
Teddy Bear's Picnic	50	50	0
Christmas Events	1500	1500	0
Total Income	71050	70550	-500
Community Team - Salaries & Employer N.I & LGPS Contributions	84728	176414	91686
Town Clock	1500	0	-1500 <i>Only needs servicing every other year</i>
Christmas Decorations	13000	13000	0
Information Centre Stock	55000	55000	0
Information Centre Advertisement & Administration	3000	3000	0
Community Grant Aid	12000	12000	0
Carnival Grant	8000	8000	0
Professional Advice Support Fund	10000	10000	0
CCTV	14000	14500	500
Community Safety	1500	1500	0
Community Special Constables Expenses	5000	5000	0
Community Special Constable Recruitment	1000	1000	0
Other Community Support	1500	1500	0
Witham Open Garden		750	750 <i>New event, positive feedback receive from Voice consultation</i>
Witham Summer Fayre		1500	1500 <i>Possible new event</i>
Witham Dog Show	2500	2500	0
Witham Street Entertainment Festival	23000	23000	0
Teddy Bear's Picnic		1000	1000
Remembrance	1000	1000	0
D-Day Event/VE Day	2500		-2500
Witham Train Memorial	500		-500
VJ Day	1000		-1000
Twinning	500		-500
Halloween Event	2200	2700	500 <i>Extra helpers required</i>
Music Event	10000	10000	0
Christmas Events & Tree	4500	5750	1250 <i>Increase in size of event and cost of tree & helpers required</i>
Easter Quest	1650	1700	50
New Events & Events Improvement	1500	1500	0
Silver Cinema	300	300	0
Overhead Expenditure	261378	352614	91236

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