

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday, 9th September 2025 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre,
High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Councillor J Burns (Chair)
Councillor A Brown
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor J Mason
Councillor D Page
Councillor D Smith (Vice Chair)

Apologies: Mayor Q Cox
Councillor M Martin

In Attendance: Councillor J Mason
Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Daniel Schumann, Creative Director

1 member of the public was present.

Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES

LC25 Apologies for Absence

/029 The above apologies were noted.

LC25 Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation

/030 None.

LC25 Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 4th March 2025

/031 It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor A Brown that the minutes of the meeting held 4th March 2025 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

LC25 To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this
/032 Agenda

LC25/020 a) Another exhibition from the London Hayward Gallery has been scheduled.

LC25/020 b) There were more issues over the summer holidays with street drinking but youth work is continuing.

LC25/021 The Clerk is pursuing a date for works to commence for the bus shelter refurbishment in Eastern Avenue.

ACTION

LC25 Public Forum

/033 A member of the public praised the programme of the Arts Centre and also traffic control during the Haverhill Show.

Councillor Mason thanked Haverhill Town Council and the Leisure & Community Committee for their support of the Haverhill Show, of which he has been Chair since 2017. This will be his last year.

It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the Leisure & Community Committee record a vote of thanks to Councillor Mason for all his work during the last eight years as Chair of the Haverhill Show Committee.

RESOLVED

LC25 Essex County Bus Service Consultation

/034 Examining the proposal for revised bus services illustrated how under-connected the town is. However, it was thought that services will not be dramatically increased unless government gives more money to local councils.

The Town Clerk will report to the consultation that Councillors agree that the Audley End service must be increased particularly during rush hour to service commuters. However, all services should be increased to make travelling by bus more attractive to people.

LC25 Zone Charging Structure

/035 - See Appendix 1

It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that The Zone charging structure illustrated in Appendix 1, be adopted.

RESOLVED

LC25 REPORTS

/036 - See Appendix 2

- a) Creative Director and Arts Centre – the box office is still doing very well. There are a lot of sold out shows and the autumn is looking very strong. The pantomime is way ahead from last year. The Jurassica show was very successful. The project of the County Council Culture Fund (£20,000) has been started. The first step has been to create and advertise a new post and interviews are taking place on Friday. Also, a new Haverhill Youth Theatre provision is now launched and bookings are being taken. Arts Centre Development Project – now ready to go back to the Arts Centre Development group and it is hoped that progress will continue.
- b) Youth Skills Manager – Councillors reviewed the report and praised the breadth of vital projects that are being delivered.
- c) Zone Manager – some of the projects are oversubscribed but this is managed as fairly as possible.
- d) Community Wardens – the splash pad was discussed and the possibility of measuring footfall and the purchase of pressure washers in order to keep it clean.

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor D Page that a vote of thanks be given to Councillor J Burns for all his work in keeping the Splash Pad clean.

RESOLVED

LC25 Grant Requests

/037 None.

LC25 Grant Recipient Reports

- /038** - See appendix 3
- a) Haverhill Singers
 - b) Families Together
 - c) Haverhill Town Twinning Association
 - d) Rotary Children's Fun Day

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor A Brown that the above grant recipient reports be accepted.

RESOLVED

LC25 Working Parties

- /039** a) Civic Events Working Party: It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that the minutes of the meetings held 17th March 2025, 20th May 2025, and 7th July 2025 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

- b) Community Events Working Party: It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor D Smith, that the minutes of the meetings held 14th April 2025 and 8th July 2025, and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

LC25 Date of Next Meeting

/040 Tuesday, 11 November 2025.

C25 Closure

/094 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7:55pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

Zone party pricing

Councillors are being asked only to approve the revised pricing, not any of the details. However, any observations on how we can further incentivise party bookings are welcome.

Party Packages Now	Number Children	Cost per head	What's Included
Original Party Package	Min 6 Maximum 20	£12.50	Designated party area 2 hours on site Unlimited squash Choice of hot or cold food Birthday card with free entry for birthday child next visit.
Laser Party Football/Dodgeball	Minimum 8 Maximum 12	£16	Sole use of the building Company in to deliver the activities 1 hour & 1 hour for food and play Unlimited squash Choice of hot or cold food Birthday card with free entry for birthday child next visit.
Private Hire	Minimum 20 Maximum 50	£20 per child	Sole use of the building 2.5 hours on site Unlimited squash Choice of hot or cold food Birthday card with free entry for birthday child next visit.
New Party Packages Planned	Number Children	Cost per head	What's included
Panther Package	Min 6 Maximum 20	£14.00	Designated party area 2 hours on site Unlimited squash Choice of hot or cold food Birthday card with free entry for birthday child next visit.

Cougar Package	Min 6 Maximum 20	£17.00	Designated party area 2 hours on site Unlimited squash Choice of hot or cold food Sweet cone and ice cream with flake Birthday card with free entry for birthday child next visit. Party buyers receive 10% off all children's shows and cinema tickets for 6 months
Laser Party Football/Dodgeball	Minimum 8 Maximum 12	£18.00	Sole use of the building (2 hours on site) Company in to deliver the activities 1 hour & 1 hour for food and play Unlimited squash Choice of hot or cold food Birthday card with free entry for birthday child next visit.
Tiger Exclusive Hire	Min 20 Maximum 50	£20 per child	Sole use of the building 2.5 hours on site Unlimited squash Choice of hot or cold food Birthday card with free entry for birthday child next visit. Party buyers receive 10% off all children's shows and cinema tickets for 6 months

At the moment we offer a tray bake for £10.00, Sweet cone £1.00

These have been this price for years and are now underpriced.

New price proposed. Tray bake for £15, Sweet cones £1.50 Ice Cream £1.50

Appendix 2

Managers' Reports

a) Arts Centre Report

Box Office Update

The Arts Centre has had a successful and busy second quarter. Notable shows have included:

- Calendar Girls (Centre Stage) - 868 Sold Over 5 shows
- Dire Streets - Sold Out for a second time in 2 years
- Country Superstars – 92% Sold
- Taylor Swift by Xenna – Sold Out
- The Furey's – 88% Sold
- Land of Hope and Glory – 88% Sold
- Marty Wilde – 80% Sold

Future Sales

The following have all made a particularly healthy start:

- Fleetwood Unchained – Sold Out
- ELO Encounter – Sold Out
- ABBA Sensation – Sold Out
- The Take That Experience
- Endless Love
- Tina Live

Cinema

Notable successes within our cinema programme have included:

- SIX - The Musical – 99 sold
- EOS: Dawn of Impressionism – 48 sold
- ROH: Romeo and Juliet – 42 sold
- A Complete Unknown – 47 sold
- The Salt Path – 287 (Over 4 Screenings)
- Jesus Christ Superstar – 60
- Billy Elliot: The Musical – 73 sold

Our Dementia Screenings in partnership with The Terrific Tuesday Club continue to go well. These are being helped with funding from the warm spaces fund.

Pantomime

All is progressing well with the Pantomime. We have now cast the show fully, held a photoshoot and the PR and Marketing campaign has started with a bang! We have decided to produce **Beauty and the Beast** and sales so far are £7,846 compared to...**Jack and the Beanstalk** which at this point last year had sold £5,654. **Jurassica Spectacular Show**

This was very successful with sales of over £5,000 and audiences of over 500 people across the shows. The company were thrilled with the service they received at The Arts Centre and sent the following feedback:

We just wanted to thank you all for such a warm welcome and wonderful collaboration last week.

We all had such a great time working with Steve, Kae, Alex and Patrick and all your team - and we were thrilled with how well the shows went at the weekend.

We had some super feedback from the children and adults we spoke to afterwards too!

Thank you to Dan and Sara for your input and invitation to work with you, to Joe and Ugne for your marketing work and John and Dylan for all the filming and technical organisation.

Developments of Note

- **Visual Arts Exhibitions**

We were pleased to welcome Haverhill Arts Group back to the Arts Centre. And now have a Joan Miro exhibition showing at from The Hayward Gallery Touring Scheme.



- **Cinema Programming**

We have now started working with our new provider - The Independent Cinema Office. It is early days, and we are still experimenting with different programming patterns and film choices. However, ICO are proving to be a very valuable resource.

- **Suffolk County Council Culture Fund**

As previously reported, we were awarded £20,000 from this fund. A large part of this project involved the creation of a fixed term post (funded by the grant). I drafted a Job Description, and this was approved by Personnel Committee. The position has now been advertised and we have interviews imminently. We are pleased with the response. We have also now launched HAVERHILL YOUTH THEATRE (www.haverhillyouththeatre.com) which we hope will start in September/October and run each Saturday.

- **Staffing**

As you are aware we have restructured the Technical Team at the Arts Centre and introduced a 'Deputy Technical Manager' post. I held interviews in June and Steve Marsh has been appointed to this post.

- **Arts Centre Improvements**

Following a meeting of the Arts Centre Development Group some amendments were requested to the architect drawings. The Architect has completed these and, subject to approval of the new version, we can look to submitting an outline planning application, get the scheme costed by a Quantity Surveyor and then resubmitting our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Daniel Schumann
September 2025

b) Youth Skills Report

Staff Training and Development

Both Rebekah and Callum successfully completed the **Understanding Self-Harming in Children and Young People** training. Additionally, Callum completed **Parenting Conflict Awareness** training, while Rebekah undertook **Allergy and Anaphylaxis** training.

These sessions significantly enhance the team's ability to provide informed, sensitive support to our clients.

We are currently welcoming volunteers to join our service. Volunteers will support our groups and work with individuals to help them build skills that improve confidence and prepare them for employment. All roles require DBS check.

Wellbeing Hub

The Wellbeing Hub was temporarily paused over the summer but is scheduled to resume in September.

Sewing Group: Combating Isolation & Building Skills

The Sewing Group experienced a slight dip in attendance during the summer, as several clients were away on holiday. However, those who continued participating have remained highly engaged in creative projects, including upcycling clothing.

Highlights include:

- One participant transforming scrap denim into a pair of shorts.
- Another crafting nesting bowls from cardboard and old shirt fabric.

Clients have shown growing confidence in using sewing machines.

Long-standing members are now working independently and only seek occasional guidance. It's been inspiring to witness their growth in both skill and self-assurance.



Breakthrough Project

The **Breakthrough Project**, initially funded by a £5,000 grant, has now successfully concluded. This funding played a crucial role in supporting individuals on their path to employment—covering costs such as transport to training and providing essential work equipment.

Key outcomes:

- Individuals gained qualifications and secured jobs.
- Participants reported improved mental health, confidence, and financial stability.
- The project fostered greater community engagement, creating a ripple effect that benefits Haverhill as a whole.

Choices Project

In May, we received renewed funding of **£15,000** for the **Choices Project**. Now halfway through the delivery period, we have spent approximately half the grant and are working intensively with **21 referrals**. Although mentoring proved more challenging during the summer holidays, full sessions will resume in the autumn half-term at **Samuel Ward** and **Castle Manor**. Meanwhile, other elements of the programme—including golf, gym memberships, yoga, and counselling—have continued without interruption.

Adult & Junior Signpost Programme

To maintain engagement during the summer holidays, the **Adult** and **Junior Signpost** groups were combined. These joint "Signpost Afternoons" ran every Tuesday and Thursday in August.

Activities were themed around the Five Pillars of Wellbeing, and included:

- Baking and smoothie-making (promoting healthy self-care)
- Scented candle-making (encouraging social interaction)
- Tie-dye crafts
- Yoga/ Pilates
- Quilling
- Meditation



eating)
making (encouraging
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Participation:

- Around 30 **young people** engaged over the summer five-week period.
- Many have since joined our regular Adult and Junior Signpost groups.

Adult Signpost Achievements

- **5** clients have moved into employment
- **1** into an apprenticeship
- **2** into education/training (starting September 2025)
- **3** clients have taken up volunteering roles

Client Feedback

"The service helped me out tremendously in many ways – helping me update my CV, arrange a work placement at the Thrive Hub, and providing continuous job search support. Callum, was fantastic throughout – supportive, honest, and welcoming. I now feel mentally and physically ready for work." "My experience with the Adult Signpost was fantastic. I had the chance to take part in enjoyable activities and develop life skills. My favourite part was using the Clements Community Centre kitchen to cook and learn tips. Karen and Rebekah really helped prepare me and my peers for adult life. I'm now working fulltime – thank you!"

Parent & Toddler Group

The group continues to evolve, with new parents joining as others transition out as their children begin nursery or school.

Client Feedback

"I joined due to experiencing postpartum depression and needing social support. The group significantly improved my confidence. I've always felt safe, supported, and never judged. I can always turn to Callum or Rebekah for guidance. My child loves the group, and I've made meaningful friendships. I am now working, and my child will start nursery next week. This space has been a lifeline for us both."

NALC Presentation

Karen and Rebekah were invited by the **National Association of Local Councils (NALC)** to present to the **Larger Councils Committee** about the Boost service and its impact on young people in Haverhill.

Although we did not win the **LGC Award**, our presentation resonated with the committee. As a result, we were invited to deliver a more detailed 20-minute online presentation via Teams, followed by a Q&A session. This opportunity allowed us to showcase our project development and current initiatives to a wider council audience. We received positive feedback and it was indicated that one council were keen to look at a similar delivery for their own area.

Link with Haverhill Family Practice

We proactively engaged with **Haverhill Family Practice** to explore referral opportunities. The surgery invited us to:

- Deliver a presentation to staff
- Participate in a Q&A session

Staff expressed strong interest in referring suitable patients. A branded pull-up banner now features in their waiting area, and we're in discussions to establish a **weekly drop-in service** at the practice, beginning in September.

Community Days

This summer, we participated in several **Haverhill Town Council** community events, offering arts and crafts activities in collaboration with the **'On The Spot' van** at Chalkstone, Parkway, Puddlebrook, and East Town Park. These events were well-attended, providing a relaxed and creative environment to connect with children and families.



"What's Next?" Event

We hosted our annual **"What's Next?"** event outside the Art Centre, aimed at supporting students who didn't receive their expected GCSE results.

Key partners present included:

- WS
- Cambridge Regional College
- Haverhill Football Association
- Career leads from both upper schools
- Suffolk County Council Young People's Workers

The event provided guidance, advice, and signposting opportunities for next steps in education, training, and employment.

Looking Ahead

The summer holidays tend to be a quieter period for us, during which we operate a reduced service while team members take annual leave. This lighter schedule aligns well with our service needs during this time. Over the coming weeks, we will take the opportunity to evaluate our current provision and make any necessary adjustments to better meet the needs of new clients entering the service. We anticipate welcoming recent school leavers, while also celebrating the progress of existing clients as they move on to new and successful pathways. As such, we will be in a planning phase over the next few weeks, refining our offer to ensure we remain responsive and impactful.

Karen Chapple

2nd September 2025

c) Zone and Youth Work

Staffing – The Zone. No change

Training – Almost all staff have completed Allergy & Anaphylaxis training for Schools; some are undertaking sexual Harassment training for Managers and Supervisors. First Aid training will be offered over the next couple of months for new staff and refresher training for other staff. We continue to do on-line training using Highspeed and Alison.com

Parties:

Parties have been slightly lower than last year. We still have an outside agency who deliver laser tag, dodge ball and football parties.

Numbers of **parties** booked in 2024 and 2025

	2024	2025
July	14	8
August	9	5

Soft Play:

	2024	2025
July	905	1340 + 227 Party attendees (This includes the children/parents)
August	1369	1328 +177 Party attendees (This includes the children/parents)

Zone Annual Comparison between 2024 - 2024

Please refer to John Burns figures detailing the comparisons.

Summer Holidays – We have had some very busy days but also quieter days due to the very hot weather and holidays and other events happening around the town.

Toddler Time - (parents attending and are responsible for their children) this session takes place during term time only stops during the school holidays. These prove popular sessions, and we have regular customers who prefer just having preschool children here and it's usually a calmer session. Good time for parents and children to make new friendships. .

Sunny Day Free Entry Promotion: We offered free entry on those very hot days due to numbers being so low. We didn't really see any difference. Our marketing team shared the offer on our website and other media outlets and staff also shared.

School Special – We are offering free entry between 9 and 10 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning during September to mums/dads/carers dropping children off to school. We are hoping it will encourage the parents with preschool children to have a chat and play at The Zone rather than standing out in the cold and rain at the school gate.

Events for The Zone - We will be inviting the Pottery Shed and a baby photographer to The Zone to enable parents to make presents for family for Christmas. We will be booking these visitors for early November.

SEND Sessions – Funded by Activities Unlimited take place every other Monday during term time. This ensures we only have a maximum of 25 children and parents/carers have the opportunity to chat with others who are experiencing similar concerns but also sharing what works for them. Unlimited squash and some healthy snacks are offered to the children. This group has a good uptake. Any children/parents who find our main sessions that are open to the public challenging are given information regarding our Monday SEND session. Our funding application to Activities Unlimited has been secured for 2025 to March 2026. Paula who runs the Haverhill UK Parents/Carers of Children with Additional Needs group discussed with us regarding postponing some sessions that were booked on the very hot Mondays, which we did and will be rebooked for later in the year.

Outside Area - The Zone – We opened our outside area during the summer holidays on dry days. We are making adjustments as we go along. We have the emergency exit gate alarmed as this gate cannot be locked and it is important that staff know if the gate has been opened during our sessions. There is just a slight movement on the gate when it is windy which is giving a false signal, so this is being looked at.

Funding – We continue to look for funding to enable us to offer different projects at The Zone.

Haverhill in The Park – The Zone was closed on the Saturday and Sunday of this weekend to enable staff to help with the Haverhill in the Park event. All thoroughly enjoyed working at this event.

Youth Work

Staffing – Youth Workers availability is dependent on their other job requirements and family commitments.

Training – We will be looking at putting our new youth workers through recognised youth worker training.

Funding – We continue to look for funding to help us deliver our youth projects and work with Youth Skills.

Pride Alliance Group – Continues at Castle Manor (term time) for an hour on a Wednesday to meet with Miss Sparks and young people to discuss matters regarding LGQBT+ and other topics of interest. We usually have between 12 to 16 young people attend. The school is very supportive regarding any concerns or issues the young people come up against.

Detached – We have been going out weekly and visiting areas that have been highlighted as areas of concern from various organisations and the police. PC Jack Oakley has offered to come out when his shift pattern allows. We continue to work with the police, communities within Haverhill, and other professionals to enable us to provide the best service possible to the young people. Below a couple of interactions, we have had whilst out on detached.

Shop Lifting – Youth workers were present when two young people were caught for shoplifting. We stayed with the young people till their parents arrived at a town shop. After having conversations with the young people and listening to their reason for stealing the stationery, (Need new pens etc for start of school) this made us think if we could access some funding to allow us to buy the basic stationery that schools expect their pupils to have. The packs would be given out by the school to the young people who are struggling and not able to purchase the necessary equipment. We will be speaking with the upper schools in town once they reopen from the summer break to discuss this further and to see if they already have something in place. Can we ask if any councillors would be willing to donate some of their locality budget to enable us to move this forward.

Anti-Social Behaviour – We were lucky to be on detached to witness angry parents present whilst a vulnerable adult was causing concern regarding young people. We also had the adult drinkers in the area. We were able to talk to all concerned and diffuse the situation. We asked the young people to move on and informed the police of possible repercussions. We continued to have a presence in the area during our session.

SEND Youth Night – This session invites young people with their families/carers to access pool, table tennis, giant Jenga, giant connect four, colouring, football, basketball and also the chance for the young people and their families to meet up. We welcome younger siblings if this is the only way SEND young people can visit us, but the youngest is usually about 11. These are great evenings and thank you to Activities Unlimited for the funding. We have held a meeting with Tina from the newly formed Sunflower

Hub to see where The Zone can help support the group and work with Paula's SEND group. Sunflower Hub with Paula's group arranged for a Pop-up Arcade for 12+ to visit The Zone for a youth session. This is a company that Tina with the Sunflower Hub has had visit her at other sites. We were not fully booked which surprised us all and the cost was only £1 per person. The young people and their parents who attended enjoyed the evening.

Yearly Sport Event – Police, Abby Croft, Positive Futures and Haverhill Town Council Youth Workers worked together to offer football games, volleyball for young people on the astro turf at

the leisure centre. Snacks and water were available, and PC Jack Oakly even invited the ice cream van to treat us all on what was a extremely hot day. Thanks to everyone who made it happen.

Wellbeing Youth Hub – Young people can play football, basketball, PlayStation 5, giant Jenga and giant connect four. Arts and crafts are available, pool, table tennis and air hockey. Some of the young people like to just sit and chill and catch up with their mates. We invite other professionals in to deliver other activities. This has now stopped for the summer, (Numbers always drop during the warmer months) but other activities will be planned.

Youth Skills – We continue to work with the Youth Skills to support activities for young people.

On Spot Van – Has supported all the free events on the estates including picnic in the park and Haverhill show. Although we have low numbers within the age group of 12 to 19 visiting the van it gives us the opportunity to talk with parents about what is available for their teenagers.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sandra Linnane

2nd September 2025

d) Community Warden

Job list Ad hoc jobs

recently:

- GRAFFITI REMOVED: MARKET SQUARE / BURTON END / SHOPS AND ELECTRICAL BOXES ALONG HIGH STREET / JUBILEE WALK TOILETS / TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKS / QUAKERS LANE
- REPAINTING + TOUCH-UPS: MARKET SQUARE SIGNS / MARKET SQUARE ELECTRICAL BLUE BOXES / STEPS HANDRAIL BURTON END (SCHOOL LANE SIDE) /
- VEGETATION + TREES CUT BACK: OLD ROPE WALK / BURTON END / LAYER ROAD / HAC CAR PARK FOOTWAYS / HAC CAR PARK NEAR SERVICEMENS CLUB / DUDDERY HILL / JUBILEE WALK / BUS STOP BY SAINSBURYS
- EVENTS TEAM WORK: HAVERHILL IN THE PARK / CLEMENTS FUN DAY / CHALKSTONE FUN DAY / PARKWAY FUN DAY / PICNIC IN THE PARK / HAVERHILL SHOW
- ZONE: PERSPEX SCREENS INSTALLATION / TABLES FIXED / NUMEROUS AD HOC JOBS
- CHALKSTONE FUN DAY RUNNING TRACK PAINTED ON FIELD
- WORK WITH MARKETING TO FIX ISSUES WITH DISPLAY BOARDS

Regular jobs as before:

- TRIMMING OF ALL VEGETATION AT COUNCIL PROPERTIES: ZONE/HAC/SPLASHPAD/PUMP TRACK/ZONE

- SIGNAGE AT ALL SITES/NOTICE BOARDS
- PLUMBING WORK ACROSS ALL SITES
- CLEARING GUTTERS AT ALL SITES
- REGULAR CLEANING OF SPLASHPAD
- PLUMBING AT ALL SITES
- HELPING PARTNER AGENCIES WHERE REQUIRED (CHALKSTONE DOOR, FOR EXAMPLE)
- WORKING WITH TEAM TO DELIVER BANNERS AND BUNTING AROUND TOWN

Gary Wilson
Operations Manager

Appendix 3

Grant Recipient Reports

a) HAVERHILL SINGERS

Haverhill Singers – grant awarded to help fund shortfall in costs to present *The Armed Man* in St Mary’s Church on 22nd March 2025.

Following our success in securing funds of £895 from Haverhill Town Council I can confirm that this financial support allowed us to proceed with complete confidence. It gave us the security we needed to ‘pull out all the stops’ (to use a musical analogy) and hire the services of a much acclaimed organist, 8 professional wood and wind musicians and to cover the expenses of 6 top-of-class students (all locally sourced). Collectively the choir and orchestra succeeded in doing full justice to this extraordinary piece of music.

Without HTC funding (and without the certainty of guaranteed ticket sales) our in-house finances would have been under enormous pressure.

Needless to say, it was a resounding success with a capacity audience (circa 130) from whom we received enthusiastic praise and gratitude, many people asking us when an event like that will be repeated.

Addendum for your additional interest, here are some examples of post-concert praise:

A Prominent local councillor

Wow! All your months of practice certainly paid off! Can I say it was the most professional event that I have ever been invited to, so please give my congratulations to your singers for the most amazing performance and, of course, to your MD Matthew who brought it together with an orchestra of professional, amateur and young talented musicians in such a way as to make it so special. Thank you again for a most enjoyable evening, everyone that talked to me said that it was a very moving and an amazing performance.

Choir members in audience from Halstead Choral (with whom we often collaborate)

We wanted to say how much we (and everybody else we spoke to) enjoyed last night! Please tell everyone involved just how good it was. The orchestra made the whole thing extra special. Several parts of the work relied heavily on the percussion section: the talented percussionists created depth and drama that could not have been achieved with other instruments.

Long term supporters of the choir

We would like to send our heartiest congratulations to Matthew, the Singers, the Soloists, the Orchestra and to everyone else who was involved in last night's concert.

The balance between the choir and orchestra was good at all times, even during the loudest passages, and the canon/thunderflash effect certainly caused the audience to jump!

Congratulations again on a truly splendid concert. I am sure that everyone there was extremely impressed.

b) FAMILIES TOGETHER

End of Grant report to Haverhill Town Council January 2025 Families Together Suffolk £4,892 Grant for Haverhill Perinatal Support Group

Since receiving a £4,892 grant from Haverhill Town Council, our *Chill, Chat & Play* perinatal support group has flourished, creating a vital space for mums and babies. With 18 families currently registered and weekly attendance averaging six mums and their children, the group meets its goal of being an intimate, supportive environment to build confidence and connections.

Over the past year, the group has supported 27 mums and their babies, offering a nurturing environment where parents can share concerns, receive guidance from our Family Support Coordinator, and connect with each other. Weekly activities encourage meaningful interactions between mums and their babies, with suggestions provided to extend these experiences at home.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Recent evaluation forms show:

- 100% of parents feel less isolated and more connected to their community.
- 80% report improved confidence and self-esteem.
- 67% feel the group has enhanced their parenting skills.
- 10 out of 12 mums noted a significant improvement in their overall wellbeing.

The impact is evident. For example, two mums who were initially hesitant to participate are now sharing advice and ready to transition to our larger Haverhill group with renewed confidence. New attendees also report noticeable benefits, with one mum highlighting the weekly support as transformative for her wellbeing.

The group fosters strong parent-baby bonds, with 10 out of 12 mums reporting deeper connections with their babies. Our coordinator observes how mums grow more comfortable, engage in activities, and replicate them at home—evidenced by shared photos and stories in our group WhatsApp chat.

This thriving group is making a real difference, and we are now seeking funds to ensure its continuation and continued positive impact on families.

Below is a selection of comments from parents explaining what they love about our Chill, Chat & Play group in Haverhill:

enjoy being able to talk without worrying about being judged by anyone, we're all in the same boat being mums and always support each other.

I have Made friends and enjoy socialising with other mum and like that my baby can play with other babies which is good for her.

My baby boy loves the variety of toys and being able to try some new things that we probably wouldn't have thought of to try at home otherwise

I love that everyone here feels able to be honest about motherhood without judgement, it makes me feel less alone, and I am more confident about being a parent.

The funding of £4,892 provided by Haverhill Town Council contributed to the full running cost of the group for a year which was £8,688

Budget Item	Total Spent £
Group Coordinator- Running, promoting, supervising and admin for the group	3,214
Staff travel	336
venue	557
Refreshments & snack	127
Materials for activities	180
Overheads - Direct overhead cost of Family Support Coordinator including communications, IT, organisational support, quality assurance, insurance, rent, utilities, postage, stationery, printing, marketing, subscriptions, training, accountancy and governance. Calculated by hours.	478
Total	4,892

c) HAVERHILL TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The HTTA provided their July newsletter as a grant report

d) ROTARY CHILDREN'S FUN DAY, 18TH JUNE

REPORT

Thanks to the HTC grant we took 40 children from Clements Primary and Churchill School to Wimpole Hall to go round the farm and afterwards to the field where we provided numerous games, face painting, train rides, kite flying as well as lunch and ice creams !

They joined in with about 50 children from the Cambridge area.

The weather was very hot but we provided plenty of cold drinks and shade. Thanks again to HTC.

Regards

Robin