

WOKING AND DISTRICT MEN’S SHED – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

Woking and District Men’s Shed has again applied to Woking Borough Council for capital funding. The funding sought would enable the Group to establish two new sheds at Anchor Homes West Hall care home in West Byfleet. The Group has been offered a site at the care home which has the potential to provide a larger and better equipped facility. The Club has a target over the next year is to grow to a total of 30 members who will benefit from the new and much larger shed facility at West Hall care home.

The Executive last considered funding for the Group in December 2018 for 2019/20. The consultees supported the proposals, noting that they had the potential of leading to significant benefits for older men. In view of the Officer support, the Executive awarded capital funding of up to £2,500 towards equipment costs.

The application now before the Executive is again supported by the consultee. However, it is noted that, for the project to be viable, the Council would again need to provide full funding of the capital costs, noting that the Group itself holds an insufficient sum of money to meet any of the costs. The Executive can only award more than 50% of a capital grant if exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated; the award for 2019/20 was made on that basis and the capital awarded represented 100% of the anticipated costs.

Taking into account the decision to award funding for the current year at 100% and as a one-off contribution, it is now proposed that the Group should pursue alternative sources of capital one-off funding, in particular it is suggested that the Group should be encouraged to discuss the proposals with the Ward Councillors for Byfleet and West Byfleet to explore the possibility of seeking CIL funding. (CIL, or Community Infrastructure Levy, is a charge that local authorities can set on new development in order to raise funds to help fund the infrastructure, facilities and services needed to support new homes and businesses. This includes new or safer road schemes, flood defences, schools, hospitals and other health and social care facilities, park improvements, green spaces and leisure centres.)

In considering the proposal, it is stressed that the Council will continue its in-kind support of the Group through Officer support.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That the applicant be advised to pursue alternative sources of capital one-off funding, in particular it is suggested that the Group should be encouraged to discuss the proposals with the Ward Councillors for Byfleet and West Byfleet to explore the possibility of seeking CIL funding.

Reason for Decision

To ensure the Group explores alternative sources of funding for this community-based project rather than seek a further one-off capital award from the Community Grants Scheme.

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendation.

Woking and District Men's Shed – Application For Financial Assistance

Background Papers:

2020/21 Application Form.

Reporting Person:

Ray Morgan, Chief Executive

Extn: 3333, Email: ray.morgan@woking.gov.uk

Contact Person:

Frank Jeffrey, Democratic Services Manager

Extn: 3012, Email: frank.jeffrey@woking.gov.uk

Doug Davern, Democratic Services Officer

Extn: 3018, Email: doug.davern@woking.gov.uk

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Ayesha Azad

Email: Cllrayesha.azad@woking.gov.uk

Shadow Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Will Forster

Email: cllrwill.forster@woking.gov.uk

Date Published:

18 February 2020

Woking and District Men's Shed – Application For Financial Assistance

1.0 Summary of Application					
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Formed in 2017, the UK Men's Shed Association exists to address the lack of social opportunities for older men in the UK. The applicant has advised that research has shown that regular social interaction and continuing social and mental activity can improve health and wellbeing. Men's Sheds provide an enjoyable way to stay socially integrated in the local communities, stay active and learn or pass on skills.</p> <p>The Group has an existing Shed at Greenfield School on Old Woking Road. This is a modest facility of 17m² and the Group has now been offered the opportunity for an additional facility within the grounds of the Anchor Homes West Hall care home in West Byfleet. This will be a more substantial facility and will consist of two Sheds, a 30m² workshop and a 25m² social shed. This grant application is to support the fitting out of these two new sheds at West Hall.</p> <p>Following the opportunity to create an additional facility at West Hall, the Group changed its name from Woking Men's Shed to Woking and District Men's Shed to reflect its wider geographical spread</p>				
1.2 Employees	None.				
1.3 Volunteers	10, whose activities include woodwork including restoration and upcycling of furniture, making dormouse boxes for the Surrey Dormouse Group and projects for Greenfield School and local churches. Other duties include the repair and refurbishment of tools and equipment.				
1.4 Clients/Users	None.				
1.5 Members	<p>10, comprising:</p> <p>10 male</p> <p>0 female</p> <p>0 disabled</p> <p>0 ethnic minority</p> <p>8 resident in Woking</p> <p>6 aged 19-65</p> <p>4 aged 65+</p> <p>Annual subscription is £10pa.</p> <p>Also an attendance sub of £2 per member per meeting.</p>				
1.6 Sum Requested	£8,878 (Capital)				
1.7 Project	This funding is fit out the new workshop and social shed at the West Hall care home.				
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Flooring - 55 sq m @ £20/sq m</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electrical fit-out workshop/social shed, approx</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3,000</td> </tr> </table>	Flooring - 55 sq m @ £20/sq m	£1,100	Electrical fit-out workshop/social shed, approx	£3,000
Flooring - 55 sq m @ £20/sq m	£1,100				
Electrical fit-out workshop/social shed, approx	£3,000				

Woking and District Men's Shed – Application For Financial Assistance

	Seating and tables for 'Social annex'	£300
	1700 Work Benches – 4 off @ £362.95	£1,440
	Cyclone Extractor @ £1,099+ ducting £300	£1,399
	AC220RD Bench Radial Drill @ £299	£299
	AC1950B Bandsaw @ £319	£319
	Belt and Disc Sander @ £179	£179
	Site Saw Bench+galvanised steel table @ £399	£399
	Brushless Combi and Impact Drills +charger	£349
	Bench Grinder 60 and 80 grit wheels @ £94	£94
	Total:	£8,878
1.9 Community Benefit	<p>Woking and District Men's Shed provides an opportunity for friendships, social engagement and sharing of knowledge and experience gained in a lifetime of work. In a safe and enjoyable environment, members can meet and carry out creative projects acceptable to the Shed and of their own choosing, individually, jointly and for the benefit of the wider community, thus reducing social exclusion.</p>	

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £428 in the bank. The sum of £400 is reserved for annual public liability insurance.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2020/21 which shows an anticipated income of £1,520 against an anticipated expenditure of £9,625, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £8,105.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes annual subscriptions (£170), attendance subscriptions (£750), and the Dormice Project (£600). Items of expenditure include those included in this application (£8,878), public liability insurance (£220), refreshments (£267), the Dormice Project (£120), and promotion (£140).</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted details of receipts and payments for 2018 which show an income of £1,580 against expenditure of £1,325, resulting in a surplus of £255.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2019/20 – A one-off grant of up to £2,500 awarded from the Community Fund, towards the equipment applied for, which would only be released once the Council's Community Development and Engagement Manager was content with the referral process.</p>

3.0 Assessment of Application							
3.1 Key Information	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;"><input type="radio"/></td> <td style="width: 70%;">Constitution</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td>Registered Charity</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="radio"/>	Constitution	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	Registered Charity	No
<input type="radio"/>	Constitution	Yes					
<input type="radio"/>	Registered Charity	No					

Woking and District Men's Shed – Application For Financial Assistance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VAT Registered ○ Equal Opportunities Policy ○ Safeguarding Policy ○ Reserves Policy ○ Quality Mark ○ Other funding sources pursued ○ Other support by the Council ○ Fundraising ○ Two quotes ○ Regular monitoring provided previously 	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Jade Buckingham, Health and Wellbeing Manager</u></p> <p>I am in support of this application. In 2019/20 WBC supported Men's Shed with a grant of £2500. Over the year we have kept in touch via potential Social Prescribing referrals and generally being kept updated with the expansion of the project which I very much support. The expansion of the new facilities, which the grant application is requesting funding for support for, will be a great benefit to the residence of Woking.</p> <p>The enhanced facilities will accommodate many more participants and enable the Men's Shed to offer more weekly sessions which in turn will enable WBC etc. to refer more individuals to the service, compared to the limited capacity at their original site. The service is run purely by volunteers, all of whom are very passionate and dedicated to supporting men in the community and helping to enhance their lives and encourage them to get involved.</p> <p>There is a general lack of community groups specifically target at men currently and having this in the borough will not only benefit men who are more isolated but can also help with mental health issues as attendees become part of a small community and become re-connected with others. Attendees also have the benefit of being upskilled as the Men's Shed is run by skilled carpenters. We have also spoken about potential upcycling projects that they would be able to do with the new facilities that would benefit WBC and the community centres.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Woking and District Men's Shed has applied for capital funding to enable it to establish two new sheds at Anchor Homes West Hall care home in West Byfleet. The Group has been offered a site at the care home which has the potential to provide a larger and better equipped facility. The Group currently has ten members and anticipates that the number will grow over the coming year. Members of the Group have visited other established "Sheds" and engaged with the regional and national shed organisations. This has given additional encouragement and demonstrated the potential for local sheds, providing many ideas for future projects.</p> <p>The Club has a target over the next year is to grow to a total of 30 members who will benefit from the new and much larger shed facility at West Hall care home. To this end, the Group works Greenfield School, West Hall care home, Woking Besom, Surrey Dormouse</p>	

Woking and District Men's Shed – Application For Financial Assistance

Group and St Mary of Bethany Church.

The Executive last considered funding for the Group in December 2018 for 2019/20. The consultees supported the proposals, noting that they had the potential of leading to significant benefits for older men. In view of the Officer support, the Executive awarded capital funding of up to £2,500 towards equipment costs. The funding would only be released once the Council's Community Development and Engagement Manager was content with the referral process. Officers have liaised regularly with the Group following the award of the 2019/20 award and agreed the referral process before any funds were released current year (to-date, approximately £700 of the grant awarded has been released for the purchase of equipment).

The application now before the Executive is again supported by the consultee. However, it is noted that, for the project to be viable, the Council would again need to provide full funding of the capital costs, noting that the Group itself holds an insufficient sum of money to meet any of the costs. The Executive can only award more than 50% of a capital grant if exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated; the award for 2019/20 was made on that basis and the capital awarded represented 100% of the anticipated costs.

Taking into account the decision to award funding for the current year at 100% and as a one-off contribution, it is now proposed that the Group should pursue alternative sources of capital one-off funding, in particular it is suggested that the Group should be encouraged to discuss the proposals with the Ward Councillors for Byfleet and West Byfleet to explore the possibility of seeking CIL funding.

In considering the proposal, it is stressed that the Council will continue its in-kind support of the Group through Officer support.

REPORT ENDS