

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

Executive Summary

The Executive is asked to consider funding requests from Woking and District Men's Shed, a Group which provides an opportunity for friendships, social engagement and sharing of knowledge and experience to support those men facing social isolation. There are two requests for funding to consider from the Group, one received in 2019 and one received in 2020. The sums requested are both capital requests and stem from the Group's move to the West Hall Care Home in Byfleet. The Group has requesting the following funding:

- £6,364 towards the purchase of tools (first requested in 2019); and
- £5,133 towards the costs of putting in place paving for the area to the front of the two new sheds at the West Hall Care Home.

The Group has asked for 100% of the capital funding for tools whilst the sum requested for the paving represents 50% of the project costs, with the site owners offering to provide the remaining 50%. The Group is not in a position to meet 50% of the tool costs.

The project is one that has the potential to lead to significant benefits for older men and, taking into account the consultees comments, it is proposed that the approaches for assistance are supported as follows:

- **Paving Proposals**

It is recommended that the Council provides match funding of £5,133 to enable the Group to progress the proposals. The funding would be awarded from the Council's Community Fund for 2021/22.

- **Purchase of Tools**

It is recommended that funding of £6,364 is awarded from the Council's Community Fund and that it is made available in the current financial year.

It is therefore proposed that one-off capital funding of up to £11,497 is awarded comprising £5,133 towards paving and £6,364 towards the purchase of tools. It is strongly recommended that the Group works with the Council's Community Development and Engagement Manager in seeking to increase membership and establishing a comprehensive referral process. Any funding would be subject to the presentation of invoices or receipts.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That, subject to the outcome of the Council's budgetary process,

- (i) a grant of £6,364 towards the purchase of tools be awarded from the Community Fund, the funding to be available in the current financial year; and
- (ii) 50% of the costs of putting in place paving for the area to the front of the two new sheds at the West Hall Care Home be awarded from the Community Fund up to a maximum of £5,133, the funding to be available in the 2021/22 financial year.

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Reason for Decision	To enable older people to benefit from a practical community activity.
Legal Authority	S19 (Misc. Provisions) Local Government Act 1976
Confirmation of funding	<p>This award is provisionally made on the expectation that the Council's budgets for revenue and capital projects remain at the same level allocated for the current financial year. The Council's overall budget, including the sums allocated for community grants, will be determined by Council at its meeting on 11 February 2021. In the event the grant budgets are set at the anticipated levels, confirmation of the Council's support will be sent to successful applicants. Groups should not plan for the 2021/22 funding until this confirmation has been received.</p> <p>Should the budgets be reduced as part of the Council's efforts to achieve savings to offset the impact of Covid on the Council's financial position, a special meeting of the Executive will be held to review the provisional awards and allocate the funds available on a priority basis.</p>
Conditions	<p>Accounts. The Organisation must submit accounts for the year in which the grant is awarded, including an income and expenditure account and balance sheet. Please note that accounts for other years may also be required.</p> <p>Monitoring Information. The Organisation must submit quarterly monitoring information as a measure of its achievements. Failure to provide details will jeopardise the award. E-mail requests will be sent to the applicant on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Publicity. Where possible, the Organisation is required to publicise the support received from Woking Borough Council, including on websites and literature / leaflets produced.</p> <p>Payments. Unless exceptional circumstances exist all invoices must be received quarterly with monitoring information for the previous quarter.</p> <p>Joint Working. WBC expects the Organisation to engage positively on health and wellbeing multi-agency joint work affecting Woking. Groups which refuse may place their Council support at risk, e.g. grant, concessionary rent and other assistance.</p> <p>Invoices / Receipts. In order to claim an element of the funding, the Organisation must submit paid invoices or receipts relating to equipment purchased or services provided.</p> <p>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. Following the introduction of new legislation from April 2018, the Council expects the support of partner agencies in identifying people at risk of homelessness as early as possible to maximise the opportunities to prevent such. Partner agencies / organisations are expected to be engaged in joint working arrangements to assist in finding suitable housing and support solutions, and where appropriate to undertake and respond to the new 'duty to refer'. Groups which do not support this new legislation and way of working positively may put their Council support at risk.</p>
Performance Indicators	<p>Users. The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the users.</p> <p>Publicity. The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised.</p>

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	Statement of Use. The Organisation to provide a statement stating the use to which the grant money has been put.
Future Support	The support represents a one-off capital award to assist with development of the Group. There are no ongoing funding implications arising from the award.

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

2021/22 Application Form.

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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. Years of research shows 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 local communities, stay active and learn or pass on skills.</p> <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> <p>The original shed is a modest facility of 17sqm at Greenfield School on Old Woking Road. The Group is now building a second facility within the grounds of the Anchor Homes West Hall care home in West Byfleet. This is more substantial and consists of two sheds, a 30sqm workshop and a 25sqm social shed.</p>
1.2 Employees	None.
1.3 Volunteers	<p>12, whose activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Woodwork including restoration and upcycling of furniture, making dormouse boxes for the Surrey Dormouse Group, projects for Greenfield School, West Hall care home and local churches. ○ Gardening at both Greenfield and West Hall sites. ○ Repair and refurbishment of tools and equipment.
1.4 Clients/Users	None.
1.5 Members	<p>12, comprising:</p> <p>12 male</p> <p>0 female</p> <p>1 disabled</p> <p>0 ethnic minority</p> <p>10 resident in Woking</p> <p>7 aged 19-65</p> <p>5 aged 65+</p> <p>Annual contribution is £12pa. In addition, the Members are asked to provide an attendance contribution of £2pw.</p> <p>Some older men (in the 60+ age group) are at high risk of isolation, loneliness and dislocation following life-changing personal experiences such as retirement, redundancy, bereavement or divorce. The Men's Sheds provide an environment where men can get</p>

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	together to use their skills and experience, make new friends and have social connections in later life.																				
1.6 Sum Requested	<p>£5,133 (Capital) – 2021/22 application</p> <p>£6,364 (Capital) – 2020/21 application</p>																				
1.7 Project	<p>Before the Executive are two requests for funding; an application received earlier this year and the application received last year. Details of the two schemes are set out below.</p> <p><u>2021/22 Application</u></p> <p>The application seeks funding to provide block paving for the area in front of the two new sheds at West Hall. These Sheds are in a grassy area which quickly becomes muddy and slippery in wet weather. The block paving will provide safe level access plus an outdoor working area for both Sheds.</p> <p>The block paving will match the existing block paved paths at West Hall and would be installed by a local contractor. Two quotations for this work have been received. Anchor Hanover, the owners of West Hall, will provide 50% of the cost of this work. The application before the Council is therefore for the remaining 50% - £5,133.</p> <p><u>2020/21 Application</u></p> <p>At its meeting on 27 February 2020, the Executive received an application for capital funding from Woking and District Men's Sheds for the sum of £8,878 to establish two new sheds at Anchor Care Homes West Hall care home in West Byfleet.</p> <p>It was resolved that the Group be advised to pursue alternative sources of funding such as exploring the possibility of receiving Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding reserved for Byfleet. In the event that the CIL route was unsuccessful the Group was asked to come back to the Council.</p> <p>Earlier this year, the Group reported that it had tried but had had no success with seeking CIL funding. Accordingly, the Group has come back to the Council to ask whether it would consider agreeing funding towards the project.</p>																				
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p><u>2021/22 Application</u></p> <p>The contractor quotations provide a complete solution including the provision of all materials, labour and removal of waste.</p> <p>The lower priced solution from Mason Driveways and Landscapes is £10,267. The Group has requested that the Borough Council cover 50% of this.</p> <p><u>2020/21 Application</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="504 1771 1390 2045"> <thead> <tr> <th>Equipment List</th> <th>Cost</th> <th>Quantity</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pillar drill</td> <td>£299</td> <td>1</td> <td>£299</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lathe</td> <td>£349</td> <td>1</td> <td>£349</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band saw</td> <td>£391</td> <td>1</td> <td>£391</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table saw</td> <td>£336</td> <td>1</td> <td>£336</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Equipment List	Cost	Quantity	Total	Pillar drill	£299	1	£299	Lathe	£349	1	£349	Band saw	£391	1	£391	Table saw	£336	1	£336
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	Jig saw	£156	2	£312
	Router	£289	1	£289
	Planer	£144	2	£288
	Cordless drill / driver	£356	2	£712
	Orbital sander	£138	2	£276
	Belt sander	£235	2	£470
	Circular saw	£334	1	£334
	Hand tools			£300
	Secure tool storage chest	£265	1	£265
	Carpenters vice	£85	6	£510
	Woodwork bench	£277	4	£1108
	SDS drill	£125	1	£125
	Total cost			£6,364
	<p>The list sets out the various tools and machines required to fit out the workshop in one of the new log cabins. It would enable the community activity to begin and has been reduced to £6,364 from the original request of £8,878 following discussions with Officers. The Group has removed the single most expensive item of equipment from the list with a view to seeking funds elsewhere.</p> <p>The request represents 100% of the costs.</p>			
1.9 Community Benefit	<p>The applicant has advised that Men's Sheds have a dual benefit. They benefit the members by increasing social interaction, sharing knowledge and skills and increasing well-being. They also benefit those organisations assisted through the various projects</p> <p>The Group's initial 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.</p>			
1.10 Covid-19 Impact	<p>As a social organisation Covid-19 has stopped the Group from meeting in person and the plans to grow the membership have been put back by a least a year. The applicant has advised that the Group has not suffered financially from it.</p> <p>Some Members were able to meet weekly via Zoom and were able to keep in touch with the others by phone. As the restrictions have eased the Members have been able to meet outside in limited numbers.</p>			

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	At the time of the application, the Group held £3,800 in the bank. The following sums are reserved for expected expenditure for

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	<p>construction/fitting out of West Hall Workshop: £600 - Fungal treatment, wood preservative and varnish. £200 - Guttering etc. £1,200 – Flooring. £1,650 – dust extraction system.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2021/22 which shows an anticipated income of £2,035 against an anticipated expenditure of £1,816, resulting in an anticipated surplus of £219.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes attendance contributions (£1,270), membership contributions (£255), revenue from the dormice project (£140), and revenue from the anchor projects (£180). Items of expenditure include insurance (£340), refreshments (£460), tools (£675), materials (£240), and promotions (£100).</p> <p>The Group has raised funds by making and selling Dormouse boxes and other wooden items and has also received several grants from other organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Percy Bilton Charity - £500 for furniture for the Social Shed. ○ Byfleet United Charity - £2,000 ○ Leeds Building Society - £1,000 ○ Co-op Local Community Fund - £584
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2019 which show an income of £2,834 (£1,580 in 2018) against expenditure of £2,298 (£1,323 in 2018), resulting in a surplus of £536 (a surplus of £257 in 2018). The sum of £791 was carried forward at the end of the 2019 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2020/21 – Application referred on. Details are set out in this report. 2019/20 – £2,500 towards fitting out the shed at Greenfield School.</p>

3.0 Assessment of Application		
3.1 Key Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution ○ Registered Charity ○ 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>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>

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<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Diana Chan, Health and Wellbeing Manager</u></p> <p>During a recent visit to the Men's shed project, I was impressed by the dedication and commitment of the volunteers who are giving up large amounts of their own time to complete this project by Spring 2021. This involves the build of two sheds on the site of West Hall Nursing Home, West Byfleet. One shed will be for refreshments and chat, and the other would be for specific projects such as woodwork, picture framing as examples.</p> <p>This project aligns closely with our priority to alleviate social isolation and loneliness in men. It is likely that our social prescribers could refer into it, family support/family centre teams could also refer parents who may appreciate learning a new skill at a low cost. The shed could accommodate visits from men in our sheltered housing schemes, and maybe Brockhill as well as those that visit our community centres. Their only criteria is that they cannot accept anyone who needs a carer, and they have a modified workbench to support wheelchair users.</p> <p>Their current membership stands at a total of 15 men which they would like to double. They plan to be open 6 days a week from Monday to Saturday with a £2 fee per week to join in with the activities. Subscription fee is £1 per month. Their insurance costs £300 a year. They believe their running costs to be extremely low, as once they have the equipment they need it will just be tea, coffee and biscuits.</p> <p>I believe this project has some long term benefits for men in our local population and I am supportive of the recommended funding.</p>
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Woking Men's Shed provides an opportunity for friendships, social engagement and sharing of knowledge and experience gained in a lifetime of work.</p> <p>The Council has two requests for funding to consider from the Group, one received in 2019 and one received in 2020. The basis for the applications is set out earlier in this report.</p> <p>The sums requested are both capital requests and stem from the Group's move to the West Hall Care Home in Byfleet. The Group has requested the following funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ £6,364 towards the purchase of tools (first requested in 2019); and○ £5,133 towards the costs of putting in place paving for the area to the front of the two new sheds at the Care Home. <p>The Group has asked for 100% of the capital funding for tools whilst the sum requested for the paving represents 50% of the project costs, with the site owners offering to provide the remaining 50%. The Group is not in a position to meet 50% of the tool costs.</p> <p>In view of the significant funding request, the project was visited by the Council's Health and Well-Being Manager earlier this year to learn more of the projects and ambitions of the Group. The Manager has expressed her support for the scheme and has recommended that the Council should seek to assist with funding if possible, noting that for the paving the Group has already secured a commitment for 50% of</p>

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the costs.

The project is one that has the potential to lead to significant benefits for older men and, taking into account the consultees comments, it is recommended that the approaches for assistance are supported as follows:

- **Paving Proposals**

The Group has secured 50% of the costs of paving the area to the front of the new sheds owned by the Group. It is recommended that the Council provides match funding of £5,133 to enable the Group to progress the proposals. The funding would be awarded from the Council's Community Fund for 2021/22.

- **Purchase of Tools**

Key to the success of the Group is the purchase of tools and equipment for members to make use of. The Group, however, has limited funds and has therefore requested a grant of 100% of the costs. To assist, the Group has sought to reduce the amount requested since the matter was considered by the Executive in February 2020, changing the request from £8,878 to £6,364 by removing the single most expensive item of equipment with the intention of raising funds elsewhere.

The Council would normally limit its capital support for a project to 50% of the total costs unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. In this case, it is recommended that the Executive makes an exception and awards the full capital costs of the project in view of the benefits the service will bring and the financial position of the Group.

It is recommended that the funding is met from the Council's Community Fund and that it is made available in the current financial year, noting that the initial request was submitted in 2019.

It is therefore proposed that one-off capital funding of up to £11,497 is awarded comprising £5,133 towards paving and £6,364 towards the purchase of tools. It is strongly recommended that the Group works with the Council's Community Development and Engagement Manager in seeking to increase membership and establishing a comprehensive referral process. Any funding would be subject to the presentation of invoices or receipts.

REPORT ENDS