

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

Executive Summary

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, older men can meet and carry out creative projects acceptable to the Shed and of their own choosing for the benefit of the wider community, thus reducing social exclusion.

Activities undertaken include woodwork such as the restoration and upcycling of furniture, dormouse boxes for the Surrey Dormouse Group, the repair and refurbishment of tools and equipment, alongside projects for Greenfield School, West Hall care home and local churches. During the past two years the pandemic has severely constrained activity in the Anchor West Hall Care Home, but the project to build a Workshop and a Social Shed within the Care Home grounds has continued, although a year behind schedule.

The Group has applied for funding of £3,000 towards the cost of wood and other consumables needed for community based projects undertaken by the members. The consumable items include blades for saws, cutters, screws and nails, wood for community projects, fixings, extractor filters, electrical fittings, adhesives paint, sanding discs, drill bits, TV licenses and subscriptions, and hire of portable toilets.

The Men’s shed project is now located at West Hall Nursing Home, West Byfleet. One shed will be for refreshments and chat, and the second shed for specific projects such as woodwork and picture framing as examples.

This project aligns closely with the Council’s priority to alleviate social isolation and loneliness in men. It is likely that 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 sheltered housing schemes, and maybe Brockhill as well as those that visit 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.

Due to social distancing and rules governed around care home covid regulations, membership and numbers per session has been affected but this will gradually open up again. The project does have long term benefits for men suffering isolation which is a health and wellbeing priority.

In light of the Council’s financial situation, it is recommended that a grant be awarded at the level applied for less 10%, equating to £2,700.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That , subject to the outcome of the Council’s budgetary process, a grant of £2,700 be awarded from the Community Grants Budget towards the cost of consumables.
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Reason for Decision	To enable older people to benefit from a practical community activity.
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Confirmation of funding	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
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	<p>by Council at its meeting on 10 February 2022. 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 2022/23 funding until this confirmation has been received.</p>
<p>Conditions</p>	<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>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>
<p>Performance Indicators</p>	<p>Users. The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the users.</p> <p>Activities. The Organisation to provide details of activities and events held during the last quarter.</p> <p>Publicity. The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised.</p> <p>Statement of Use. The Organisation to provide a statement stating the use to which the grant money has been put.</p>
<p>Future Support</p>	<p>The financial pressure on the Council's budgets is expected to continue in the coming years and accordingly the overall level of support available in future years may be reduced. The applicant is therefore to be advised that the award of funding for 2022/23 does not imply that a similar application in 2023/24 would be supported. In particular, it is emphasised that the Council is unlikely to be in a position to award any sums above the 2022/23 levels.</p> <p>In view of this, the applicant is to be advised to ensure that contingency plans for the Group's operations for 2023/24 have been drawn up in the event that the Council is unable to continue its support beyond April 2023. All applicants are strongly recommended to</p>

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pursue alternative sources of funding and are encouraged to approach Woking Borough Council's Community Support Team for advice and support.

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

2022/23 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>During the last two years the Covid pandemic has severely constrained activity in the Anchor West Hall Care Home, but the project to build a Workshop and a Social Shed within the Care Home grounds is nearing completion. The Group's objective in 2022/23 is to keep charges to the Members and Volunteers low to ensure inclusivity and support its work to reduce social inequality.</p>
1.2 Employees	None.
1.3 Volunteers	<p>10, 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. ○ Repair and refurbishment of tools and equipment.
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>10, comprising:</p> <p>10 male 0 female 1 disabled 0 ethnic minority 10 resident in Woking 7 aged 19-65 5 aged 65+</p> <p>Annual contribution is £12 per annum. In addition, the Members are asked to provide an attendance contribution of £2 per week.</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 together to use their skills and experience, make new friends and have social connections in later life.</p>

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1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£3,000 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	This funding is based on the cost of wood and other consumables needed for community based projects undertaken by the members. The consumable and variable items include blades for saws, cutters, screws and nails, wood for community projects, fixings, extractor filters, electrical fittings, adhesives paint, sanding discs, drill bits, TV licenses and subscriptions, and hire of portable toilets.
1.8 Cost breakdown:	The estimated cost of consumables is £250 per month (£3,000 for a year).
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. 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. It is intended that the workshop and social shed will be open and available to Members for five to six days per week.</p> <p>The Group aims to be inclusive of all areas of the community and from all backgrounds with particular emphasis on loneliness and social exclusion.</p>
1.10 Covid-19 Impact	The Group reports that it has been very restricted by not being able to meet onsite for nine months and then only in a restricted manner over the last few months. The construction and readiness of the new sheds is over a year later than hoped.

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £9,360 in the bank. The sum of £2,300 is reserved for a dust extraction system and public liability insurance.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2022/23 which shows an anticipated income of £1,800 against an anticipated expenditure of £5,100, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £3,300.</p>
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted accounts to December 2020 which show an income of £13,156 (£2,834 in 2019/20) against expenditure of £7,209 (£2,298 in 2019/20), resulting in a surplus of £5,947 (a surplus of £536 in 2019/20). The sum of £6,738 was carried forward at the end of the 2020/21 year.
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2021/22 – £6,364 towards the purchase of tools</p> <p>2020/21 – £5,133 towards paving by sheds at West Hall Care Home</p> <p>2019/20 – £2,500 towards fitting out the shed at Greenfield School.</p>

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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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes Yes No No Yes No No Yes No Yes Yes Yes Yes
3.2 Assessment	<p>The Men's shed project is now located at West Hall Nursing Home, West Byfleet. One shed will be for refreshments and chat, and the second shed 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>Due to social distancing and rules governed around care home covid regulations membership and numbers per session has been affected but this will gradually open up again.</p> <p>The project does have long term benefits for men suffering isolation which is a health and wellbeing priority.</p> <p>It is recommended that a grant of £2,700 should be awarded for 2022/23, set at a level of 10% less than the amount applied for this year.</p>	

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