



Southern Men's Shed Network

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From: Stephen Redrup (SMSN Co-ordinator)

Southern Men's Shed Network Inception

Dear Shed Representatives,

As a result of our initial meeting on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at Copnor Men's Shed Portsmouth, it was agreed to form The Southern Men's Shed Network.

Below is my summary of what was passed at the meeting: -
(Full minutes will be forwarded when available)

- **Purpose of the Group**

"A Network of Shed Representatives from the Southern Region to help and support each other through the sharing of Experiences, Ideas and Resources"

- **Areas of Interest for the Group**

- **Sharing Ideas**

Communicating and sharing ideas / experiences which could benefit other sheds

- **Sharing Skills**

Means of listing and sharing skills between sheds

Looking at possible Mentoring options

- **Promotion / Publicity**

Forming promotion and publicity campaigns as a group

- **Group Insurance**

Looking at possible Group Insurance Benefits (Possibly at National Level)

- **Funding and Discounts**

Finding ways of saving money by obtaining discounts as a group and obtaining funding

- **Promote and Support New Sheds**

Formulate ways that the group can help promote and support new sheds within the Southern Region.

- **Website / Document Templates**
Develop a Southern Region Website to help promote the area's sheds and provide templates for common necessary documents (Membership Forms, Handbook etc.)
Possible template and support information for creating Shed Websites.
Website to include an Internet Forum for Network Members to collaborate on.
 - **Arrange regional show exhibitions and joint functions**
Develop promotion packs for all sheds
Means to communicate possible events and invite participation
 - **Swap Shop Forum**
Internet Forum for Sheds to publicise Available / Wanted Tools or other items.
 - **Planning Regulations / Restrictions**
Develop guidelines on how to investigate and handle possible planning regulations or restrictions relating to Shed Buildings / Properties (Possibly at National Level)
 - **Training Requirements**
Look at possibilities for identifying and providing Training needs (e.g. First Aid, Specialist Tools / Machinery, Computer Skills etc.)
- **Forum Structure / Officers**
It was decided that no formal structure was required as this is essentially a working structure not an organisational one. However, a central co-ordination function would be useful. It was agreed at the meeting that initially Stephen Redrup would be the Network Co-ordinator. It was also agreed, therefore, that no separate financial function was required. Any expense incurred would be sensibly shared between participating sheds.
 - **Future Meetings**
The meeting agreed that a Face-To-Face Network meeting would be held 4 times a year. Each meeting would be hosted at a different Shed, if a volunteering shed is available, but Portsmouth would be used as a default location if no other location could be found for the next meeting. Hosting Shed would Chair the meeting.

**Next Meeting will be held at Havant Men's Shed (Chaired by John Worley)
on Tuesday 19th April, 2016. (Full details to follow nearer the time).**