



Southern Area Men's Shed Network Monday 11th July 2016

Hosted by Romsey Men's Shed at Crosfield Hall, Romsey, SO51 8GL

Present: Patrick Moody, Don Snowsill, Ron Bowater, Trevor Bond, Steve Redrup, Sam Plummer, Geoff Collett, Dave Leal, Douglas Meany, Andi Saunders, Paul Diaper, Mike Brading, Brian Cooke, Tony Smith-Crallan, Andy Pottinger, Ted Bruce, Bill Aldous, John Tilley, Rob Brenner, Mark Austin, John Sibley, Gordon Anderson, Peter Beckham, John Scarborough, Neville Wheeler, Angus Ross, John Worley, Steve Sadler, Simon Ferré, David Miles, Tony George, Gerry Johnson, Graham Hill, Graham Gowman, Nicola Kelly, Louise Gerrard, Craig Steele

Apologies : Andrew Bloxham, Dick Moore

Note: Agenda items were taken out of order. Sequential numbering in minutes does not match numbering of items on agenda in all cases.

Graham Gowman (Romsey Shed) chaired the meeting.

1. Welcome

Graham Gowman welcomed all to the meeting and explained that Romsey Shed had hired Crosfield Hall for the meeting because Romsey Shed had no premises. He suggested that all present should consider hosting the next meeting.

2. General Shed News/Updates

Ron Bowater (Romsey Shed) gave a brief presentation on the position of Romsey Shed. The Shed had been founded in October 2015, currently had 20 or so Members and held weekly meetings despite the fact that it had no permanent premises. The Shed had obtained Registered Charity status (CIO) and had 4 Trustees. It had not been possible to find any premises in Romsey but Romsey School had offered a space to build a shed and plans were being developed to do so. A suitable prefabricated building from Coldstream had been identified and a pre-Planning Application had been submitted based on a 7.5 x 4.0m building which it was believed would avoid the need for the Building Control process. Phase I of the overall project would be to build and equip the shed. Phase II would be to build a brick built toilet attached to the former school caretaker's house. Both phases would be dependent on raising sufficient funds.

Alton Shed asked about the proposed external finish to the Shed as they were having to add cement cladding to their wooden shed to minimise fire risk. It was explained that the metal construction of the Coldstream building was believed to be adequate in terms of fire risk.

A member asked how Romsey Shed planned to raise the necessary funds. It was explained that all possible options were being considered but to obtain Planning Permission and to agree a lease with Romsey School was of more immediate importance.

Steve Redrup asked about services to the proposed building. It was explained that it would be possible to connect into the electrical supply in the nearby former caretaker's house. It was anticipated that the installation costs would be significant and that the supply would be metered. There were no plans for a water supply to the shed.

Hayling Island Shed asked who would be preparing the lease with the school and what the cost of doing so would be because in their experience the costs could be high. It was explained that Romsey School would be preparing the lease but the preparation costs were not yet known. It was however understood that the rent payable under the lease would be insignificant. Brian Cooke (Andover Shed) said that their lease had been prepared by Solicitors Talbot Walker at a cost of £1k.

Gosport Shed observed that they had a similar building to that proposed by Romsey as a workshop but were finding that they needed additional accommodation for meeting purposes. They suggested that Romsey should obtain permission from Romsey School for additional buildings before committing to the lease.

Ron Bowater gave a brief summary of the tasks that Romsey Men's Shed had undertaken for the Romsey community.

3. Red Cross Presentation - Emergency Volunteer Scheme

Louise Gerrard gave a short presentation about a pilot scheme she was running to recruit and establish a team of Red Cross Emergency Volunteers in Hampshire. Similar pilot schemes were also running in Somerset and Scotland, all based on existing practice in Holland and Austria. Scottish and Southern Energy were supporting the scheme with funds. The aim of the pilot was to determine the best way to identify, sign-up and train volunteers for the scheme. Louise thought that Shed members would be ideal recruits. The aim of the pilot was also to recruit 250 volunteers in Hampshire by September after which it was hoped the scheme would be rolled out across the country.

Members asked a number of questions about the possible duties of volunteers and the commitment needed. It was explained that volunteers would be able to sign-up on-line and also undertake training and an ability test on-line. Thereafter there would be 6-monthly refresher training. Emergency Volunteers would then be called upon as and when needed in cases of local emergency; typically weather related events or major accidents. It was stressed that such volunteers would not be in the 'front line' but might for example be used to help manage temporary accommodation or distribution centres. The Registration page (www.redcross.org.uk/reserves) had been due to go live the day of the meeting but anybody interested in the scheme could contact Louise directly at lgarrard@redcross.org.uk.

Portsmouth Shed commented that this was an excellent idea and that such Emergency Volunteers would have been very useful during a recent 'crisis' in Portsmouth.

Alton Shed asked what Louise had meant by reference at one point to 'corporate support'. Louise explained that there were some companies who had committed help from their employees.

Andover Shed observed that the military have many standing arrangements to be able to provide emergency help and asked whether the Red Cross scheme might be duplicating such arrangements. It was explained that the Red Cross was already established in the network of services that could be called into play in an emergency by Hampshire Emergency Planning dept but that the Emergency Volunteer scheme was intended to

supplement, not duplicate, such arrangements when needed and would only be deployed if called upon by the Emergency Planning dept.

A suggestion was made that the Chairman of each Shed should be approached to help identify potential volunteers.

4. Presentation from Axminster Tools & Machinery

Craig from Axminster Tools in Basingstoke gave a short presentation summarising the services and benefits that the company would be able to offer to Sheds. These included a basic 5% discount for all Shed purchases; potentially larger discounts for any bulk purchases to set up a new Shed; potentially larger discounts for any 'damaged goods'. The company would also be willing to offer advice on the selection of machinery to set up a new Shed.

Members asked a number of detailed questions to which Craig replied that each would best be considered on a case-by-case basis and advised each Shed to register with the Basingstoke branch and thereafter contact the branch directly to discuss requirements or proposals. They would be willing to consider offering skills training, equipment refurbishment, advice on a starter pack for Sheds etc. He suggested that it would be better to order goods direct from the branch rather than on-line.

5. Presentation from Hampshire County Council

Nicola Kelly gave a short presentation about the need to maintain balance and strength in advancing years. She advised that 1 in 3 people over the age over 65 will have a fall (from which injury may result) each year. She indicated that there were many approaches to measure current capabilities and to maintain, or improve, capabilities, which all people should adopt. For example there were 'Steady and Strong' classes available all over Hampshire but that the majority of those attending were female.

Part of Nicola's role was to determine how best to reach and convince the older male population of the benefits of maintaining balance and strength and she was interested to find out if it would be worthwhile approaching Sheds with the message. In response members said that, in the main, members of sheds tended to be fit and healthy and that she would be 'preaching to the converted'. Despite this it was agreed that it would be useful to have some suitable posters for display in sheds (alongside the H&S notices, First Aid guidance etc.) to show suitable exercises that could be adopted whilst busy in the shed place. On balance it was agreed that the male population in need of advice would be best reached through Doctors' surgeries and that men would be more likely to attend male only classes or exercise sessions. Further information can also be found on the Hampshire County Council website at www.hants.gov.uk/balance.

6. Continuation of item 2 - General Shed News/Updates

Gosport Shed reported that they had been contacted by a dementia organisation who were then sending more and more dementia sufferers to the Shed which was causing problems. They were considering introducing a rule to the effect that members would have to be capable of travelling to and from the shed on their own. Other Sheds reported similar issues. Romsey Shed suggested that any organisation wishing to send people suffering from dementia to a Shed should have a responsibility to first discuss their needs and maybe fund the Shed to meet their needs. Portsmouth Shed suggested that it could in fact be very worthwhile if the needs of dementia sufferers could be met. They in fact did have some funding from Mind and they had a

representative from MIND on their committee which minimised any difficulties they might face. They did however have a similar problem because of the numbers referred to the Shed by the Job Centre.

Steve Redrup suggested that a Working Group should consider and formulate a common policy on these issues which could then be issued to Mind, NHS facilities, Job Centres etc. It was agreed that Brian Cooke would raise the issue with the UK Men's Shed Association for guidance and to report back through the forums.

7. Update From National Men's Shed Committee

Brian Cooke on behalf of UKMSA reported that a national Men's Shed Conference, originally proposed to take place in Andover, was now being planned for 18th October in Birmingham. Members indicated that they would be unlikely to attend unless the agenda appeared to be interesting; in response to which Brian invited members to indicate what they would like the agenda to cover via the forums.

Brian Cooke also informed members about the arrangements for 'Carfest' to be held near Basingstoke during the August Bank Holiday Weekend and which would include some 'Shedfest' activities which member Sheds would be welcome to be involved in. One activity would be a shed building competition which Sheds might like to enter. A number of wooden sheds would then be available after the event if any Sheds would like to make a bid for them.

8. Updates from Active Work Groups

Website Templates Conclusion Mike Brading (Basingstoke Shed) reported that there had been very little response to the proposal to develop a website template for Sheds to use and that the project would be discontinued. Members suggested there was a need for some facility to advertise such things as social events but it was agreed that the forums could be used for such purposes.

Changes to SMSN Forum Pages Steve Redrup reported that several members had found it difficult to navigate within the forum pages and as a result he had made some minor changes to simplify navigation. Some members had also reported difficulty in registering on the Forum and the security procedures had therefore been eased slightly. A 'mailback' facility had also been implemented to notify members of any responses on the forum to any post that they had made. Members were asked to keep reviewing the Forums and to notify Steve of any problems or suggestions.

9. After note on 2 - General Shed News/Updates

Brian Cooke reported that he had just spoken to the UKMSA Director of Services outside the meeting about the issue raised at 6 above about the issues of managing Shed members with Dementia problems. The UKMSA DOS had advised him that it was the responsibility of individual Sheds to decide their own policies on such issues but there was already some useful guidance on the UKMSA website.

10. Update and Discussion on Group Insurance

Graham Gowman (Romsey Shed) had been given the task at the last meeting to review insurance needs and provisions for Sheds. He stressed the need for all Sheds to have insurance in place. He suggested that in an ideal world an insurance provider should offer sheds a common policy within which there should be four levels of insurance such as;

level 1 - cover to hold meetings without any practical activity

level 2 - cover for practical activity with other members in own facilities

level 3 - cover for making (in own facilities) and selling items to the public

level 4 - all risks cover for practical activity with other members outside own facilities

He strongly advised members to check, with the above in mind, exactly what their current insurance did and did not cover.

Graham had had several conversations with Zurich Insurance asking them to consider a group or common policy along these lines for UKMSA members and had tried repeatedly to stimulate a dialogue between Zurich and UKMSA on this subject but as far as he was aware there had been no progress.

John Worley (Havant Shed) reported that they needed to renew their insurance and had been quoted £750 by Zurich (an increase from £500) and had also been approached by other insurers.

There were numerous other reports of frustrating dealings with Zurich and many reports of uncertainty and concern on insurance issues.

Members called very strongly for UKMSA to take a lead on this issue, to lay down standards for insurance cover and to negotiate a common of group policy for all Sheds.

11. Update and Discussion on Planning Regulations

This item was carried over to the next meeting.

12. Any Other Business

None but requests were made for Insurance to be a main item on the agenda for the next meeting.

13. Next Meeting

Reading Shed and Basingstoke Shed have offered to host the next meeting.

This will be at a venue in Basingstoke but date yet to be agreed (probably Late October or Early November) depending upon venue availability.

14. Meeting Close

Meeting closed at 4.30

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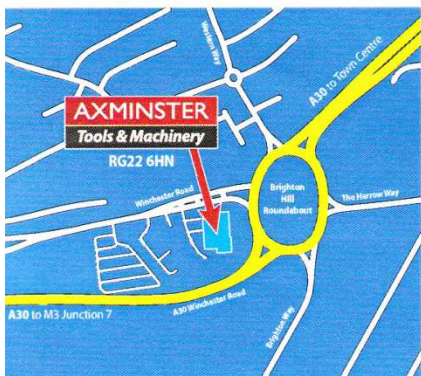
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