



Woodchurch

Woodchurch Men's Shed.

Working in conjunction with Woodchurch Connect.

February 2023.

A group of us are trying to set up a Woodchurch Men's Shed. We started a while ago and we were lucky enough to have a villager who knew the ins and outs of submitting a bid to the National Lottery, this was successful and also thanks to Woodchurch Carnival Committee we quickly raised a good amount of funds. What we thought was the hard part turned out to be the easy bit.

We thought that the easy bit was somewhere to site a workshop. We have plans for the workshop approximately 8 meters by 5 meters (Max shed size) and are looking for somewhere within the village to set up. Ideally the site would be within walking distance for most members. The Shed, whilst not deemed to be permanent, would be an enhancement to wherever it is sited. See proposed choice. (design may vary slightly to make it more user friendly and secure).



We have a written Constitution, a registered name, a bank account, a committee, a small number of members and are ready to go, except for one thing, somewhere to site a shed / workshop. **Can anyone help?**

Our Constitution states that both male and female members would be welcome. The only real qualification is that members must be over 18 years old.

We are currently working with Kents Men's Shed organisation which in turn is associated with UK Men's Shed. A point of interest, Men's Shed started in Australia and is now world - wide.

Our main objectives are to help people learn new skills and also somewhere like - minded people can get together and shoot the breeze. A comment from one shed group was that the most important piece of equipment was the kettle!

Other objectives are that, as a group, along with other groups in the village is to help with possible improvements in and around the village. It could be planters, it could be for the church, it could be for the

school, there are skills and people who will contribute to the quality of the village. (APART FROM POTHOLES)!!

We think one of the biggest Men's Shed in Kent has in excess of 20 people but they have to book as only 6 people can be accommodated at any one time.

There is also safety to be taken into consideration, there will be an up to date First Aider at every session, along with trainers / mentors and record keeping for all machinery and safety training.

Security, our guess is we would need CCTV to keep the Shed and its contents safe along with robust locks etc.

There may be some perceived issues around security, the likelihood is that there would be only 2 to 3 keyholders. Due to the size and tools / machinery there would be a maximum of 7/8 people there at any one time. There would be probably only 3 sessions a week, 10am to 1pm, initially, subject to change. The sessions would be 1 mixed gender day, 1 male day and 1 female day. This could change depending on how many people get involved.

For anyone who is interested or can help with a site for our shed you can either go through the Hub, email – neilmckay0730@gmail.com or phone 07717861319.