

Full Council

Report Title:	Thame Shed
Meeting Date:	10 November 2020
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Acting Town Clerk

Action Required

1. To consider a funding request from Thame Shed to establish a “Shed” on land owned by Chinnor Rugby Club.

Background

2. Following a presentation at a Community, Leisure and Recreation meeting on 26 July 2016, members decided to support the concept of a Thame Shed by agreeing to enable a public open meeting to gauge support from the community. The success of this meeting led to a small working group formed to investigate if suitable premises can be found in Thame.
3. After four years, the Thame Shed Trustees formally adopted a constitution on the 1 August 2020, opened a bank account and found a suitable site at the Chinnor Rugby Club with a 10 year lease being prepared and agreed by the President of the Club.

Aims & Objectives of the Organisation

4. To promote social inclusion for public benefit through the provision of a facility particularly for, but not exclusively for, men at risk of being socially excluded.
5. To prevent social exclusion by promoting the opportunity for friendship, social engagement and skill sharing in a safe and enjoyable environment, in which 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.
6. To promote good health and wellbeing to its members through active participation and, from time to time, providing opportunities for relevant health organisations to raise awareness of good health strategies for the benefit of the Shed.
7. Membership – there are approximately 37 prospective “Shedders” all waiting to join and assist with the building of the Shed.

Purpose of the Grant

8. To build an 18 metre by 6 metre “Shed” within the covered section of a Dutch barn. To secure funding to purchase materials, and for the installation of power and water.
9. Total Project Costs: £48,000 – broken down to £26,000 for materials as formulated by a Quantity Surveyor and additional estimated cost of £22,000 to have the Shed built by professionals, however the aim is for the prospective “shedders” to build the workshop themselves.

10. The Shed Trustees have submitted grant applications to Oxfordshire Community Foundation with no outcome known. South Oxfordshire District Council Community Grants are not available at this time and investigations are ongoing to find other suitable funding streams.

Grant Request

11. A grant award of £5,000 (10.4% of the total project cost) would enable the external works to commence.
12. A grant award of £10,000 (20.8% of the total project cost) would enable the existing structure to be modified and enable "Shedders" to pursue their interests and crafts.

Resource Appraisal

13. The Town Council 2020/21 Grant scheme has not been administered this year with a balance of £6,050 transferred into Ear Marked Reserves.

Risk Assessment

14. As a new initiative there is a clause within the Thame Shed Constitution that if the group dissolve any assets shall be given to another organization once any debts have been paid.
15. The group will need to confirm that no planning permission is required to adapt the Dutch Barn into the Thame Shed premises.

Legal Powers:

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19
General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011 s1

Recommendation:

To consider the funding request from Thame Shed.