



Start up business plan 2017

To promote general well being, continuing education and healthy lifestyles for primarily older people who are looking to use their time constructively and enjoyably. We plan to do this by setting up a location or “Shed” where people can go to engage in creative, enjoyable activities and meet and chat with other people, for the benefit of the community.

There is a common concern over the absence of activities for mainly older men and the resulting deterioration in their health and wellbeing. A lack of social interaction results in some men becoming withdrawn and isolated from their community.

Our aim is to set up and operate a meeting place or collective “shed” where people, men and women, will be able to share skills, actively pursue hobbies, work on community projects and have a place to go and relax knowing they are among friends. The benefit will be improved self-esteem, a chance to learn new skills and practice old ones, overcome isolation, improved social interaction and enjoy an active healthy retirement.

Our goal is to get people out of their houses, mixing socially, learning new skills and mentoring others. We aim to boost feelings of self-worth through contributing to community projects, sharing skills and interests, assisting each other and enjoying fun and friendship.

Interim Business plan

Our business plan over the next few years is to expand the membership and move into premises more suited to our needs. In support of these aims we plan to undertake the following key activities:

- To continue to support our members and reach new members, especially those in need.
- To continue and increase our fundraising activities, by various means including increasing our community project support and receiving appropriate donations, offering hands-on public taster sessions at events, finding profitable sales items that can be manufactured in the Shed. To expand our offering.
- To apply for grant funding to allow us to expand and increase our community support.
- Network with businesses and organisations to offer community support and help them with funding.
- Improve our premises and the facilities we can offer members.
- Raise funds to cover our costs.

Wherever possible we will look for community sponsors to help us achieve our activities and offering support for members health and associated community issues.



2024 update

Since fulfilling most of our plan we are now working on a future plan for the Shed, to ensure its sustainability. We are focusing on the following:

- Build operating income to match operating expenditure
- Membership growth
- Limit reliance on grants
- Use our existing assets (people and building) to raise operating income through maybe courses, products and Corporate away-days
- Look for grants of £10+k p.a. to fund capital projects
- Build barn and convert boot-room during 2024/25
- Assign executive position to executive directors and members to execute plan
- Enable personal donations to supplement grants
- Look for volunteers to supplement/complement existing board skill sets.

Future possibilities:

- Rebuild/extend shed to allow 12+ members at a time.