

Chairman's report 2018 AGM

After our first meeting way back nearing the end of 2016, at the Community Campus, we had established a steering group as organised by Shona Fowler of NHS Tayside Healthy Communities and Tracey Ramsey of Perth and Kinross Council, shortly after a Committee and Office bearers were formed.

Starting off the Shed was named and this point the Committee was Chaired by Adam Nosal but very soon after we were established and a Constitution adopted in late February 2017. £1500 of Funding was secured from an NHS Start up grant and a further £1500 NHS I.T. grant. We were also successful in securing a Kinross Decides PB Fund of another £1500 which showed us our community was also behind us. Later on in June 2017 Adam had to step down and leave the Shed due to new a job commitment. Glen Douglas was nominated and agreed to take on the role as the new Shed Chairman as he was already the Vice Chairman in order to lessen Adam's workload.

We were meeting on Saturday mornings from 10-12 as a 'drop in' at the campus, sharing stories and making new friends our numbers started to increase. Glen Douglas was chosen to be trained in Safe Use of Workshop Equipment in order to satisfy the Campus Manager that if we were going to be using the Campus's Tech department as our Sheddens would be safely supervised. Shortly after Glen aced the course we realised that the use of the Campus was looking less likely to come to fruition. We started to look around for premises to satisfy our member's needs.

Saturday 1st of July we agreed to help out another community group, Aerospace Kinross, to clean up their leased Bond warehouse at the Forth Wines complex in Milnathort and after this their Chairman, Alisdair Stewart, offered the use of a section of the Bond as our new Shed, with some restraints, due to current owner's insurance restrictions. We gladly agreed to adopt it as our new Shed.

Objects and Activities:

The objects of the organisation are to provide recreational facilities and advance the social needs, health and well-being of (primarily) men of all ages and backgrounds in the Kinross and surrounding areas by:

- a) Creating, developing and maintaining a facility, namely a Men's Shed.
- b) Offering opportunities for (primarily) men in the Kinross area, and beyond, to meet and undertake creative, physical, purposeful and recreational activities of their choice. We invite and host guest speakers that fit well with the ethos of Men's Sheds.
- c) Reducing isolation of men in the area thus contributing to their physical and mental wellbeing.
- d) Developing the capacity of (primarily) men in the Kinross area, and beyond, to share their skills and knowledge with others in the community.

To achieve these aims we have arranged the Shed with a social area by purchasing and erection of two marquees to help with managing heating, as the warehouse is too large to heat. Setting up workshop area using donations of tools and machinery, chairs, sofas and tables in the social area and computer equipment set up in the porta cabin. We organised the warehouse into these zones and fitted it out to make it suitable for a range of woodworking, computer learning and similar craft activities, as well as creating a kitchen for Sheddens to get a fresh cuppa and latterly some hot rolls and pies etc.

Funds:

The Shed has a banking cheque account with the TSB, Kinross Branch. We regularly look for funding opportunities that help fulfil our needs and goals.

Threats and Challenges:

As membership increased so did the need to contain enthusiasm and impatience to grow faster than we could commit to or manage. A very few members wanted to have lots of expensive tools, machinery and facilities that were way beyond our needs or funds. This caused slight fractures to appear and steps were taken quickly to address the Shed's direction at a special committee meeting. The more restrained and manageable option was adopted by unanimous vote. We were back on track.

We have always planned that while the project primarily targets men, we will not exclude women. We also recognise that whilst the majority of our membership is likely to be older, retired men, the Shed will likely be attractive to some younger men, possibly seeking to gain new skills and confidence. This has already proven to be the case and works very well.

Recent times:

Now over one year old, the Shed is growing towards 50+ members. Making sure we have a facility to continue to accommodate our membership with similar or better facilities has been the main focus. Recently seeking help from local politicians, to help with transferring Council owned property/land to be used and owned by the Shed.

As well as security of our future with our own premises we have been preparing for the transition towards a S.C.I.O. charitable group soon after the AGM, with help from Tim Green, the Men's Sheds Community Development officer of Age Scotland and Shona Fowler, NHS Tayside, we are ready to meet this challenge and invite Trustees from the community sit on the board and help guide the Shed to a long and successful future.