



# MEN IN SHEDS STRAND OF THE AGEING BETTER PROJECT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 68/17

11 SEPTEMBER 2017

The purpose of this paper is to outline a proposal for the Town Council's contribution to the Men in Sheds Strand of the Ageing Better Project following concerns about its progress to date and email correspondence with Age UK IW's Chief Executive.

## No. DETAILS

### 1) BACKGROUND

- a) In late 2013 the Island had been selected as one of 100 Local Authorities invited to submit Expressions of Interest in an £82m Big Lottery administered grant fund and more than 40 of the Island's voluntary sector organisations met to scope a bid and agree a lead organisation for a bid to it.
- b) As the funding was targeted at addressing social isolation among the over 50s the meeting – that I also attended in response to an invitation to the Town Council – agreed that Age UK IW should take the lead role on behalf of the partnership that was then branded as *No Man (or Woman) is an Island*.
- c) The Island's bid was one of the 15 successful applications and, as announced by the Big Lottery on 4 September 2014, was awarded a total of £5,725,414 over five years to reduce the social isolation of up 200,000 of the Island's total over-50s population of 61,500.
- d) With a start date of April 2015 the funding runs to March 2020.

### 2) THE STRANDS

- a) The Ageing Better programme as it became known consists of 12 individual delivery projects.
  - *Independent Arts* will deliver Sing About workshops 3 new workshops will be delivered alongside sustaining 4 existing workshops and Creative Futures, a tailor made service for older people in care homes; it has just completed a one year pilot.
  - *Alzheimer's Cafes* – The new cafe will include a group for younger older people (50-65) with early on-set dementia; currently this group is poorly catered for. Education and awareness about dementia is also part of this project.
  - *Transport project* – People Matter IW will work with Wessex Cancer Trust to develop a transport service particularly for those older people who need support to travel on the Island or to the mainland for hospital treatment. This need for transport will be mapped and volunteer transport coordinated. They will also develop a transport planner for the Isle of Wight which may be web or phone based.
  - *Care for Carers* – Carers Isle of Wight have piloted a carers workshop and they will be focusing on engaging the most hard to reach carers through the Ageing Better project.
  - *Wight Home Care* and the Age UK IW Good Neighbour Scheme will work together to provide Community Navigators. Social opportunities for older people will be mapped across the Island and the scheme will focus on supporting older people to access activities as well as helping provide activities.
  - *Age UK IW Care Navigators* – this has been piloted in one region of the Island but will be rolled out during Ageing Better using the locality model. The role will include a holistic assessment based on a social network model.
  - *Education Plus 50* – through Age UK IW, supporting older volunteers and schools to work together
  - *Oldpreneurs* – this project will be delivered by the Chamber of Commerce and is being match funded by the Isle of Wight Council to enable start up funding for older people to develop new business ideas and pursue them.
  - *Learning Links* will provide Over 50s Employment Support which can include support for retirement and phased retirement.
  - *A Little Bit of Help* – this is a digital inclusion project to help people help themselves through access to information. The project will be delivered by CAB and Age UK IW.
  - *Men in Sheds* – Delivered by Age UK IW this project will offer men peer support and health promotion messages through activities.
  - *My Time CIC* will provide support for people with depression and anxiety and will include access to counselling.
  - *Age Friendly Island* - all of the projects outlined above are working towards the Isle of Wight becoming an Age Friendly Island.
- b) Four of the 12 projects are being delivered directly by Age UK IW, including Men in Sheds, with the other eight being delegated to relevant Agencies and organisation; the full funding agreement is available [here](#).
- c) Although it contains no specific number of the Sheds to be sponsored through the Ageing Better Funding it has been understood locally that Age UK IW's objective is in the range 10-15 over the full five years.

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### 3) THE MEN IN SHEDS STRAND

- a) By coincidence, the Ventnor Men's Shed organisation that grew out of the Town Council's participation in the Department of Communities & Local Government's *Our Place* programme had begun its life in the ground floor of Ventnor Central around the same time as Age UK IW began work on the Strand until June this year.
  - b) Progress elsewhere on the Island to date is listed on Age UK IW's Men in Sheds website – available [here](#) with four Sheds: the Newport Shed is part of the activities of a large new shed installed in the garden of Age UK IW, the Totland Shed is in a very small garden shed and the one in Shanklin's YMCA premises is an old Ice Hut with an 8-foot hole in the floor that a recent Just Giving internet appeal for a £1,000 towards it failed to reach its target and an Acoustic Shed in Newport.
  - c) Membership statistics are unavailable but it is considered unlikely to reach double figures in any of these four Sheds
  - d) The Ventnor Shed is not listed following the decision of its membership to withdraw from its relationship with Age UK IW in June over concerns about the project's failure to meet its targets and, in particular, the absence of a clear understanding of the Men's Shed model.
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### 4) THE MEN'S SHED MODEL

- a) The Men's Shed movement started in Australia in the 1990s from a concern the health of older men and the country now has over 900 of them.
  - b) The UK Men's Shed Association's web site – available [here](#) – says there are 132 that are currently active with another 118 in development with a total membership of 10,450.
  - c) The Association is clear about the model:  
*A Men's Shed is a larger version of the typical man's shed in the garden – a place where he feels at home and pursues practical interests with a high degree of autonomy. A Men's Shed offers this to a group of such men where members share the tools and resources they need to work on projects of their own choosing at their own pace and in a safe, friendly and inclusive venue. They are places of skill-sharing and informal learning, of individual pursuits and community projects, of purpose, achievement and social interaction. A place of leisure where men come together to work.*
  - d) Ventnor's Men's Shed is the only one on the Island to match that model or to be even close to it.
  - e) With its more than 30 Members, active life, regular opening and easy accessibility, it has more than demonstrated the value of this approach to providing physical and social space for men of all ages and particularly those in the Ageing Better demographic.
  - f) Its Members are also keen to see its benefits spread across the Island and from discussions with them it is clear that they, and the Ventnor Staff involved with them, would welcome the opportunity to contribute to that spread.
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### 5) OUTLINE PROPOSAL

- a) In response to our approaches to Age UK IW's Chief Officer Jo Dare's on the matter her email of 4 August offers that opportunity: *I would welcome your feedback now about how Ventnor Town Council can help to build a positive, proactive way of working together.*
  - b) An Outline Proposal for contributing to the success of the Men's Shed Strand of the Ageing Better project is attached to this Report.
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### 6) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to:

- i) consider the Outline proposal and authorise its Clerk and Community Development Officer to work with the officers of Ventnor Men in Sheds in developing it; and
  - ii) authorise its Clerk to discuss it directly with Age UK IW's Chief Officer.
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# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

AGEING BETTER PROJECT

MEN IN SHEDS STRAND

SEPTEMBER 2017

This is an outline proposal to Age UK IW for progressing the Men in Sheds Strand of the Ageing Better Project based on the successes of the Ventnor Men's Shed during the two years of its support from Age UK IW.

## 1) THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is for the next stage of the Men's Shed strand to be delivered by Ventnor Town Council on behalf of Age UK IW within the Big Lottery funding for the Ageing Better project drawing on the Town Council's connections with other Town & Parish Councils on the Island and supported by the Ventnor Men's Shed Committee and Membership.

## 2) OUTCOMES

The outcomes would be the establishment of at least five new Men's Sheds based on the UK Men's Shed Association Model on the Island by March 2020 through a two-phase process.

## 3) PHASE ONE: PUBLIC MEETINGS

- a) We would organise at least 10 Public Meetings in selected areas of the Island with the support of the local Town or Parish Council in each instance.
- b) The plan for these initial meetings would be to show the Utility Films' *Better Shed than Dead* film as the basis for an open discussion with the film-maker – who is now Secretary of the Ventnor Shed – and Shed members.
- c) The purpose of the meetings would be to establish the level of interest in progressing a proposal for establishing a member-led development of a Shed.
- d) At those meetings from which a small group willing to form a Committee could be identified support would continue through Phase Two.

## 4) PHASE TWO: SHED DEVELOPMENT

- a) Supported by an initial grant of £500 the groups will then look to identify a suitable location and widen recruitment through local publicity.
- b) An appropriate constitution will be discussed and adopted at a meeting of the Shed's initial membership.
- c) Agreement will then be reached with each Shed about the available seed funding, its use and accountability on the basis of up to £3,000 in year one and £2,000 in year two for each.

## 5) FUNDING

An initial draft of the funding requirement is set out in the following table:

Item	Year One	Year Two	Total	Comment
Staff time	3,900	3,120	7,020	5hrs/wk year one, 4 hrs/wk year two
Public meetings	1,000	0	1,000	10 meetings, £100 each for rent/refreshments
Travel costs	500	200	700	Staff & volunteer travel costs
Visits to Ventnor Shed	500		500	Up to two visits from each of 5
Site location & recruitment	2,500		2,500	5 Sheds at £500 each
Support grants	15,000	10,000	25,000	5 Sheds at £3,000 each year 1; £2,000 year 2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23,400</b>	<b>£13,320</b>	<b>£36,720</b>	