

LISVANE MEN'S SHED
(Charity Number 1196824)



GRANT APPLICATION
LISVANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

1. Lisvane Men's Shed is a newly formed charity and is registered with the Charity Commission UK. It is seeking funding for the purpose of purchasing and installing a ramp and deck at the rear door of the "Shed" to improve accessibility for people with mobility issues including wheelchair access, and addressing the need to have a safe Fire Exit.
2. Lisvane Men's Shed is grateful for the grant received from Lisvane Community Council, at the end of 2021. That grant aided the progress and establishment of Lisvane Men's Shed and this application seeks further assistance to aid the continued success of the Shed..

BACKGROUND

3. Immediately post lockdown, a small group of men met outside for coffee. One talked about the terminal care and passing of his elderly mother, which in turn, allowed another man to tearfully open up, for the first time in 20 years, about the passing of his wife. This drove one of them, Chris Griffiths, to strive to set up a local Men's Shed.
4. Lisvane Men's Shed was established in June 2021, independently by 6 local men, to combat social isolation and loneliness and to provide emotional support, companionship, mental wellbeing and meaningful occupation. Essentially, it's about friendship and peer support to benefit positive mental health, particularly post Covid lockdown isolation.
5. Initially, Lisvane Men's Shed met at the Rhydyppennau Hub and are grateful for their support and kindness. However, Cardiff Council Covid Risk Assessments restricted accommodation numbers and membership, therefore, to 6. This was becoming impossible as regular enquiries and referrals were being received via wellbeing units, Facebook community pages and local people, but the venue prevented any increase in membership.
6. After considerable effort, appeals to local authority offices and establishments, local businesses, churches and landowners, as well as around 40 knock backs, the management of the Ty Mawr Inn, Graig Road, Lisvane CF14 0UF, offered the facility of placing a container cabin at the end of their car park as well as use of a small allotment for use by shed members.



7. Funding via the National Lottery Community Fund and the Moondance Foundation, led to Lisvane Men's Shed purchasing a container cabin. Mr Husband's financial support led to the purchased of tools, equipment and furniture, making the Shed functional.

8. Membership grew rapidly to 22 members and the Shed is currently at capacity. The current age of members ranges from 49 to 87 and the majority are over 76 years of age.



9. The Shedders include widowers, retirees, men with degenerative eyesight, hearing disabilities, physical disabilities, including a leg amputee. They are all simply in search of friendship and avoidance of depressive states of isolation. There are numerous stories among Men's Shed members and include the use of an apt phrase, *"lifesaving."* One man became redundant at a late stage in life and felt worthless and friendless while another has said that membership of a Men's Shed had saved his life, following the loss of his wife and *"a year in the wilderness."*

10. A recent quote by a member is, *"When I joined the Shed, I didn't think I needed it. Now I know that I did need it and, I know that I need the Shed now!"*

11. Lisvane Men's Shed individual subscriptions, to meet costs like insurance etc., is £50/year. Arrangements exist in the event of someone being unable to afford membership.



12. Lockdown exacerbated the need for men to engage in activities that add to the feelings of self-worth and the need has never been greater to counter the negative impact of isolation. The creation and ongoing development of our own community Men's Shed is already having a positive impact in promoting the health and well-being of local men in Lisvane and the surrounding area. Local people recognise its value and believe in what Lisvane Men's Shed has been set up to achieve. We have the support of the community council, community association and local community groups.

13. Although Lisvane Men's Shed is independent, it is affiliated to Men's Sheds Cymru, a project under the auspices of Hafan Cymru. It is registered with the Charity Commission UK, Charity Number 1196824 and following its first AGM, its Annual Report and audited Annual Return (financial) have been filed with the Commission.

GRANT REQUEST

14. Lisvane Men's Shed has purchased a cabin/container, tools and equipment and obtained an electrical supply an electrical supply. .

15. The rear door of the Shed acts as an emergency exit but it is approximately 2ft above ground level. This obviously has practical and Health & Safety implications. It is necessary to purchase and



professionally install a mobility ramp and deck at the rear of the Shed to address this and to aid access of those with mobility difficulties, including wheelchair access. Drawings attached.

16. **Lisvane Men's Shed have raised £1,000 towards the ramp and deck.**
17. Two quotations have been obtained, one being by the charity subsidiary and non-profit company, Care & Repair Home Improvement Services for providing a metal non-slip surface ramp, etc. **Cost £8,843,71 plus VAT = £10,612.45 The Trustees have agreed to this being the preferred option as it is manufactured for purpose with metal grip ideal for wheelchairs etc.**
18. A second quote, from James Church of Custom Landscaping and Fencing Services, is for a wooden ramp and deck at £6,600. This will have greater ongoing maintenance issues, being made of timber.
19. Two other companies recommended by Care & Repair Cardiff and Vale, have failed to quote. This is being pursued further.
20. A completion date in March would be very advantageous but this of course depends on funding.
21. The second project requiring funding is the purchase and installation of sleeper styled raised beds in the neighbouring allotment. This includes weed resistant membrane, hardcore, timber and topsoil, as well as the initial labour to set it up.
22. **£500 has been raised by Lisvane Men's Shed towards the raised beds.**
23. **A quote of £2,960 has been obtained from James Church of Custom Landscaping and Fencing Services for completing the installation of the raised beds.**
24. It is requested that consideration be made for a donation towards the projects of the accessibility ramp and raised beds.

Chris Griffiths
Secretary
Lisvane Men's Shed
07449009171

14 February 2023

Useful references:

Facebook: [@LisvaneMensShed](#) (Outlines ongoing activities, etc.)

Men's Sheds Cymru: [About Us - Mens Sheds Cymru](#)

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ttk8LkuBPw&feature=emb_imp_woyt

"A Man's shed has, for generations, been a place for him to escape the stress and strains of life; a safe haven to gain much needed sanity; to be surrounded by his own, useful things; a place to think, to make things, to mend things, to invent and be at one with the world..." - Men's Sheds Cymru