

Brief to Evenley Parish Council – 22nd April 2024

Men in Sheds Brackley

The Men's Sheds Movement started in Australia in the 1990's and gradually spread around the world. It is estimated that the number of Men's Sheds globally is approaching 3,000, operating in 12 countries.

Men In Sheds Brackley is one of over 1000 Sheds in the UK.

Our aims are to promote social inclusion, reduce social isolation and encourage both physical and mental wellbeing of men and women across Brackley and surrounding villages.

The project was initiated back in November 2022 and since then, as a committee, we have been working hard to find a Shed, establish ourselves within the local community and generate financial support.

Our initial investigations to locate a premises within Brackley town proved difficult as there was nothing we could afford. However, we were approached by Nicola Taylor, of Evenley Wood Garden, who kindly offered us space within the wood; this was the springboard which allowed us to progress.

As of today, we have:

Gaining Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status

Successfully bidding for £15K from the WNC Community Fund

Gaining a £1000 grant from Brackley Town Council

- Have gained a grant from Tesco (£500 - £1500 to be confirmed)
- Have submitted a grant application to the Co-op (£1000)
- Continue to establish ourselves within the Brackley community. We have:
 - Helped replace the kitchen in Brackley Methodist Church
 - Engaged with Brackley health providers as a potential Social Prescribing outlet
 - Attended the Brackley Fireworks Display
 - Attended the Brackley Christmas Fair
 - Attended the Evenley Wood Wood-Craft Event
- Most important of all, EKFB have not only arranged for the concrete slab to be laid and gifted us £5000, they also negotiated 2 further £500 donations from their suppliers

The Shed (basically a 30 Sqm Log Cabin) is due delivery around the end of May, at which point we will erect it on the concrete slab, fit it out, introduce the tools and start to become financially sustainable. There are 2 reasons for purchasing this type of shed. Firstly, it is permissible under planning regulations and, secondly, it is demountable. The later feature enabling us to move the shed at any point in the future, if required.

Within the Shed, members will be able to engage, primarily, in woodwork related projects, either personal or for the community. We will have a range of abilities and skills amongst the members, thus learning and skills-transfer will be a major part of the Shed experience. As we develop, other activities, say metal work or electronics etc may be introduced depending upon the desire of the members.

Ultimately, the aim is to provide our community with a facility where members can meet, and interact with, like-minded people in a friendly and inclusive group-environment; if they just want to come along and chat and coffee, that is fine.