

Some pointers for Councillors (or anybody!) wrt Sheds

1. What is a Shed? - building, equipment, activity? No, people, people, people
2. Postcards – backs explain examples of the personal isolation issues and ethos
3. Objective is enhancing wellbeing – physical, mental and spiritual. Feeling good or at least better for each visit
4. Closeness between Sheddors. Caring atmosphere but not pretend PC. Best description is “family”
5. It is a very flat operation with little hierarchy (minimum to maintain a safe environment).
6. Banter is a very important tool that lifts and lowers egos!!
7. Sleights Area Men’s Shed was conceived in November 2015. Opened formally in March 2016
8. The Methodist Church here – still an active place of worship – agreed SAMS use this room rather than preserve it for use only on special occasions.
9. Funded by NYCC Stronger Communities programme.
10. Women attended for various reasons – discovered it worked for SOME women too. Just as only SOME men.
11. Whitby Women’s Shed (the She Shed) established mid-2017 and Whitby Men’s Shed in February 2018. At the Eskmouth Scout Hall (“on the stage!”). Scout collaboration.
12. Now we are establishing Men’s and Women’s Sheds in Staithes to serve the local area. Funded by People’s Health Trust for 2 years. That will bring “our” cluster of Sheds to 5.
13. We do not live alone. We are members of UK Men’s Shed Association – even the women as associates (because of UKMSA constitution). One of 200 Sheds when we started and now 400. That’s the expansion. There are now two evolving Sheds in Scarborough and 3 more being worked on.
14. We have longstanding links to Australia where Sheds started around 15 years ago. Most towns have a Shed. It is now part of their social culture.
15. We reach into our community too. Did a new fence for the Parish Pump in Sleights. We are working with Whitby Scouts at their Scout Hut in Sleights, Eskdale School and Volunteer It Yourself (specialist organisation working with schools and NEETS). The introduction came through UKMSA.
16. We collaborate with Esk Hall Care Home in Sleights. Two residents have attended long term.
17. There is an informal network established between NY Sheds
18. SAMS is an “ambassador-like” Shed in the region, with Graham a UKMSA Ambassador helping embryo Sheds develop.
19. Look at www.whitbysheds.co.uk