



The Totton Men's Shed is a project of the Totton and Eling Community Association. The land is provided by the Totton & Eling Town Council and the building is owned by the Community Association.

Here is a short history of how it was started financed and completed.

March 2018

At a meeting of the Totton & Eling Community Association management committee Ann Page suggested that, "because it is mostly older women who use the Community Centre we should start a Men's Shed"!

Chris Compton volunteered to take on the task for the Community Association.

April 2018

Ann page, who runs the Totton & Eling Town Council's Car boot, suggested that some of the profit from the Car Boot should go towards the Men's Shed.

Chris Compton spoke to the Town Council's Chief Executive, Derek Biggs about where the Men's Shed could be based. The first idea was to use the old Policeman's House which at the time was unused.



Derek Biggs then came up with the excellent idea of re-using the plot that was currently occupied by two derelict garages at the side of the park. These garages were used for a small amount of storage and also to house the Park Lights and Lake Pump Controls. The council had a problem in that the shed housing the electrical control box was leaking badly and on the verge of collapse. The other garage wasn't so bad but was also leaking.

May 2018

Our first suggestion was to use 3 medium size containers for use as a Men's Shed, but Mr Derek Biggs rejected this idea because the Town Council had a policy of "No Containers" in Totton.

September 2018 (£2000 in the bank)

We were now really into the money raising phase.

After some discussions, Derek Biggs agreed that the Town Council would allow the Community Association to use the land for the Men's Shed for a peppercorn rent, but would have to raise the money for the building themselves.

This was put to the Town Council who happily agreed to this project.

Ann Page suggested that the Community Association could allocate money raised by the Car-Boots from 2017 and 2018 to the Men's Shed project. This amounted to almost £2500 which got the project off the ground.

October 2018

With a lot of help from Mr David Bevan (of Totton Town Council) we received planning permission from NFDC for a building on the plot.

December 2018 (£5000 in the bank)

By the end of 2018 we had raised about £5000 which included the sale of bird boxes made by members and a donation from Councillor David Harrison of £2000.

January 2019

In early January the membership of the Men's Shed project had grown to over 20 and we started to hold Thursday evening meetings in the Community Centre. The members also started to make small items for sale and to run events in order to raise more money for the project.

The COOP ran a raffle, Cllr Dean Britton made a small donation, we ran table top sales and received membership subscriptions, we sold bird boxes, we received a personal donation from Michael Southgate, a donation from Cllr Cerasoli, and a donation from Cllr Len Harrison.

28th March 2019 (£6365 in the bank)

In the morning on the 28th of March, we received a donation of £2000 and then in the evening during a session of the Men's Shed Ukulele Group there was a knock on the door and someone handed us a cheque for £5000!

We also took in money for membership and by the end of the day we had a total of £13,500.

We started looking for suitable buildings.

We asked a company called Keops to design a log cabin for us. (This design cost us £95).



This was accepted by the Town Council, but after a lot of pain and anguish, it was rejected by NFDC Building Control as they felt that it was not 'Fire Safe'.

April 2019 (£13,500 in the bank)

We held a concert in the Palm room of the Community Centre and along with tabletop sales raised a few more pounds.

May 2019

We received a donation of £500 from ASDA and held more Car-Boot sales.

June 2019 (£15,000)

We carried on running various events and selling any stuff that we could get. A couple of the members dressed up in old west country style and stood outside of ASDA with a barrel organ to raise over £200!

Totton Carnival made a donation of £150

July 2019 (£14,350)

NFDC Building Control sent a bill for £936 but this was offset partly by a wonderful lady in Hammond's Green who ran a Coffee Morning and raised £475. We also received another donation from the Repair Café and ran many other events and Car-Boot sales.

August 2019 (£15,500)



Bartrams the builders had completed the removal of the garages (£1836 paid for by the town council) and had completed the groundwork (A large, paved slab) for the shed (£6000 paid by the Men's Shed project).

We received further donations from the Repair Café and a Community Association Auction.

October 2019 (£10,000 in the bank)

This was a very busy time.

We received a donation from Eling Manor Masonic Lodge, The Repair Café, Car Boot sales and a £1000 donation from the Beaufort Foundation.

Building Regulations for the new shed design was re-submitted.

November 2019 (£11,300)

We received further donations from private people and a large donation from an anonymous doner.

Building Regulation approval for our new (Fireproof!) shed design was well under way, but we needed a structural calculation which cost £335.

The Netley Marsh Steam Rally donated £500, and we received another personal donation of £250.

January 2020 (£30,500 in the bank)

We received an Asda Foundation Donation of £200

March 2020 – COVID Struck!

April 2020

COOP made a donation of £1400.

June 2020 (£32,000 in the bank)

Hampshire County Council made a donation of £12,500

September 2020 (£44,600)

An underground Electric cable needed to be installed and lights, sockets etc.. fitted to the shed at a cost of about £4,000.

This was followed by the Totton Town Council installing the Electrical Controls for the Park Lights and Lake Pumps into the Men's Shed. This was because of an agreement with the Town Council when the old garages were demolished.

The New shed was now complete and a bill for £33,000 paid.
Followed by £319 for Paint, cleaning materials etc.

A few members of the men's shed team started work on painting the walls and ceiling.

October 2020 (£6,616 in the bank)



We purchased building insurance to cover the new building until it could be insured with the Community association insurance (later in 2021).

We spent £1,240 on wood, materials and tools to complete the inside of the shed and to build benches.

We also purchased canopies to go over the outside doors.

November 2020 (£5,200)

Final payment to the electrician to complete the required work of £650.

Donation from the Coop of £960

September 2021

Now that COVID restrictions have been lifted we meet in, and use, the shed in a 'restrained' way as COVID is still a problem.

We hope to open up completely by the summer of 2022.