

Access and design statement for permission to retain the
Hayling Mens' Shed Building at the rear of the
South Hayling United Reformed Church

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

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General:

The South Hayling United Reformed Church stands at the cross roads in the centre of Mengham, Hayling Island. It is strategically placed to serve the whole community, and has had a Church building on this site for well over a hundred and fifty years. The first building was demolished during the second world war, and a temporary tin hut was erected within a few weeks to allow worship to continue. The tin hut itself, remained in use as a small hall until 1998, when a new small hall was finished. The small hall was used and still is, for many community activities and meetings.

Application Site:

The site is bounded on the east and south by the existing Church buildings and to the north by a 1600mm high brick wall, which runs right across from the car park, to Mengham Road. A new double gate was formed in this wall, as approved, giving direct access to the Shed site. The west boundary is a timber fence which is 1800mm high, which also forms the western boundary to the Church Land, between the Church and the car park. Although it is adjacent to the car park, many members walk, or cycle. Improved parking space for cycles to the west of the Church is still on the drawing board. Pedestrian access to the Shed is still available through the Church lands. The Shed therefore shares in the central location of the Church, although it is at the rear of the building, it has its own sign above the main door, which is visible from the car park.

The construction of the Shed, took place immediately Planning consent ref APP/18/00699, had been given, and the steel clad precast building has been installed over the foundations and slab as approved under Building Control. The space around the building is carefully maintained. The services, where needed have been shared with the Church building.

The Mens' Shed.

The Hayling Island Mens Shed (HIMS) used to meet in the small hall, for social events and meetings, but since the temporary approval, in 2018 and construction and completion of their own Shed, members have met and used the new building. Obviously, it was kept closed during the lockdown, but has been fully up and running in recent months. The core of members who originally met in the Church, have retained their membership, and now the Shed is fully utilised. The current membership of approximately 50 shows how popular it is. Consequently a time table for different uses has been set up, and a steward always on duty for each session. There are morning and afternoon sessions for five days a week, utilising a flexible programme according to demand. Any main general meetings etc will still be held in the small hall which can accommodate larger numbers.

The Mens Shed is involved with many community projects, ranging from bird boxes to be used in a conservation area, and pen pal letter boxes, for school children to link with an adult in a care home. One of the larger projects just completed is a Wendy House, and small cycle ramp, for the Hayling Community preschool. The Shed internally has a dividing screen, so that social meetings for a cup of tea and a chat can be encouraged, perhaps with an art class meeting in the main section of the Shed. A noise Management plan was produced as a condition of the temporary planning approval (ref APP /18/0069), and the work ethic set out there has been followed with strict adherence to the times of opening, and careful use of equipment.

The Mens Shed has continued to work well independently, from the Church, but are able to work with us, over shared spaces, and also over combined activities, when the situation arises. The work projects they have carried out, is testament to their valued place in the community, and should therefore be considered in support of the application for full planning consent.