COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Council meeting.

Monday, 13th. April, 2015

Item No. 4

Irish Men's Shed Association

Question: **Councillor D. Butler**
"To ask the Chief Executive to work with the Irish Men's Shed Association to attempt to get as many Men's Sheds up and running in Fingal as possible, with the aim of ensuring that all have the opportunity to improve and maintain their health and well-being by participating in a community Men's Shed."

Reply

The Council is very supportive of the Men's Shed movement and is working with a number of groups throughout the County. These groups are being supported by Community Development staff who provide them with advice and training in an attempt to ensure their long term sustainability. The training provided is intended to build the capacity of the group to allow them develop to an extent where they could manage or part manage a facility. Having worked through this capacity building programme with groups it would be the preferred option of the Community Development Section that they then move into space that offers multi use potential, sharing with possibly youth facilities and other community uses, while having dedicated space in which to house their equipment etc. The movement is as much about the company and social contact as it is about woodworking etc. In the long term therefore any building needs to be capable of being operated in some sort of sustainable fashion.

At present there is a group operating, very successfully, in a former builders yard in Mulhuddart (donated to the them by a local business). Another group from Swords, in existence for over a year, meet at present in the Riasc Centre at Kinsealy where they also

have a small workshop. Financial support was recently provided to them to purchase equipment. The Baldoyle group which is in existence for a couple of years and which has completed a range of training currently meet in the local resource centre from where they organise a range of activities. The Community Division is currently examining how best use could be made of a premises in Baldoyle which may come into the ownership of the Council for community use. The Baldoyle Men's Shed group's need is one of the range of uses under consideration. The Council will continue to engage with and support any groups that become established.