

Justification Statement

Current Use

The existing polytunnel is currently used as boat and equipment storage area for our marine engineering business 'Island Outboard Services'. Over the course of the past few years, the business has expanded due to a demand for an increased variety of marine products and services within the islands. In addition to the standard boat and engine services we offer, we also provide a range of chandlery products for commercial operators, local fisherman and recreational boat users.

Since the polytunnel is merely a temporary structure, it is no longer suited to the usage we require it for. With an increased local demand for more specialist marine work, we are often finding that workshop space is in short supply. This is largely due to the suboptimal access to the building which restricts our ability to easily move boats in and out of the existing shed. The access for the existing shed is therefore the key limiting factor for determining the size of vessel/project that can be taken on within the business premises.

Proposed Use

The proposed shed would be split into two sections: a main shed and adjoining lean-to. The main section would be an open workshop area which would enable work on larger vessels and projects to be undertaken within the workshop area. The adjoining section would form the reception and dedicated chandlery area.

The main workshop area would be accessed through an 8.0m wide pair of bi-folding doors on the east-northeast facing gable end of the building. The width of this entryway would therefore enable work on much larger vessels and projects to be undertaken undercover, which is crucial for many aspects of the work we carry out.

Summary

In summary, the proposed shed will serve an integral role in the continued development of our business and will enable us to adequately meet local demand by offering a wider range of marine products and services. As the primary marine engineering business on St Mary's, we offer an integral service to the islands for both commercial operators and recreational boat users. This proposed development will therefore enable our business to expand and to continue supporting the local marine industry on the islands.