Barlaston & Tittensor Scout Group

Group Council/Executive AGM

19th February 2021

**Group Chairman’s Report**

To say the group has had a challenging year under corona virus restrictions would be an understatement. No scout activities were able to take place from the 17th of March 2020 onwards. However, the group’s executive committee has continued to meet during the closure, via Zoom, and a limited amount of essential maintenance and administration was undertaken at the scout hut.

GSL, Gareth, and the other section leaders considered (and regularly reviewed) the prospect of virtual meetings but, having gauged potential interest, and also having personally experienced the strain on family life that home schooling delivered, they decided and maintain that Zoom and/or ‘distanced’ Scouting wasn’t desirable.

After a thorough Covid19 risk assessment and the adoption of appropriate control measures, the improvements to, and maintenance of, our HQ have continued, although at a more restrained pace. Some inherited gear from the closure of another group has been sorted, selected and the surplus disposed of, sold, recycled, or passed on to other groups. More progress has been made with the new electrics & heaters and new guttering/downspouts are in progress too. As always, a big thank-you to everyone who helped with this work, you know who you are.

Your executive committee is always looking at ways to continue getting our headquarters to the best possible condition and, notwithstanding the areas previously described, improvements to the toilet/washing facilities are on our longer-term wish list. Our regular, now ‘Covid-Safe’, maintenance work days will continue, on the second Saturday of every even month, over the next twelve months and a little bit of help from everyone will go a long way - please make sure you can do your bit to spread the load.

I am confident that the group’s day to day finances will continue to be secure and relatively stable, as they have been for a few years now. Because the group’s premises are registered as a business, for council rates purposes, we were eligible for and have received a *Business Support Grant* from *Stafford Borough Council* to mitigate any hardship caused because of the initial Government lockdown. The grant has allowed us to suspend the collection of membership fees, hopefully, until such time as face-to-face Scouting can start again. As a result, the Executive Committee has managed to make available finances to satisfy all our mandatory commitments, our national Headquarters Capitation fess as well as continuing with our maintenance & improvement aspirations.

I am very happy to record that both Jenny and Julia have agreed to continue in their respective roles of Group Secretary and Treasurer, and I must thank them for their efforts throughout 2020.

Your Executive Committee are a friendly bunch and will welcome volunteers to assist us in any capacity, with open arms. So finally, in this paragraph at least, thank you to everyone else who has attended our executive committee meetings and helped us with the good governance of our group.

Your Exec Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, GSL and section leaders' representative continue to take responsibility for and act as *‘Joint Committee’* for *"The Barlaston Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Trust Deed 1959",* in the absence of representatives from GirlGuiding, with named officers taking respective roles.

And lastly, as usual, can I say a big thank-you to all our section leaders, assistants and helpers, all our parent helpers and others who have given their time and/or expertise at various functions, events, etc through this most disrupted year. Also, of course, a huge thank-you to Gareth, our GSL, for the hours of thought, work and effort he manages to invest in the group whilst also juggling his other commitments.

I hope that by this time next year, we will be looking back on 2021 as the year that we bounced back into full-on successful Scouting and predicting a further 12 months of great Scouting at Barlaston & Tittensor.

Paul Westwood – Group Chairman

February 2021