

# **NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT SCOUTS**

## **GROUP SCOUT LEADERS MEETING**

**THURSDAY 15TH JUNE 2017 - 19:30 PHC, OVERSTONE**

# **MINUTES of MEETING**

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### **ATTENDEES:**

Ian Claris, Pennie Crow, Chris Bayley, Maria Walter, Ian Malcolmson, Audrey Pearce, Elaine Farr, Chris Robinson-Smith, John Russell, Malcolm Dyer, Craig Kidd, Tom Thompson, Ben Ousley, Tom Law, Chris, Dolores Benham, Claire Baxter, Anita Baxter.

### **APOLOGIES:**

Sue Robinson-Smith, Kay Aitken, Caroline Bird, Terry Manktelow, Karen Law, Steph Hines

# OUR DISTRICT:

## THE NEW DISTRICT TEAM

- Details of the new District Team were discussed as previously communicated some of the more significant changes are:

Malcolm Dyer	DDC – Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will help develop and deliver our short, medium and long term development plan</li> </ul>
Chris Robinson-Smith	ADC – Beavers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will initially setup a buddy network to support Beaver Sections and leaders</li> </ul>
Position Vacant	ADC-Scouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simon stepped down from the role</li> <li>• Chris Gyles has agreed to help support</li> </ul>
Elaine Farr	ADC – Group Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New role setup to provide support GSLs and Groups</li> </ul>
Audrey Pearce	SAS Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking at long term District wide events</li> <li>• Review and manage members of SAS and ensure they are accurate</li> <li>• Look after District Diary (inc long term)</li> </ul>
Tim Walker	DESC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will help drive Senior Awards and Scouting programme in Explorers</li> </ul>
Gill Walker	DESA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will help the ongoing great work around sectional administration</li> </ul>
Elaine Farr	AAC – Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revamp AAC to meet national standards</li> <li>• More inclusive membership of AAC</li> <li>• Ensure value add to those attending</li> </ul>
Dave Watts	Awards Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and prepare adult good service award nominations</li> </ul>
Gary Jackson	Tech Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help deliver our tech requirements</li> <li>• Email, office 365 and website</li> </ul>
Laura Wood	Growth Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifically looking at growth potential in the Eastern District</li> </ul>
Katie Weatherly	Media Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help spread our message</li> </ul>

The changes have been designed to help deliver and provide better support to groups and Young People. They have been specifically targeted to help deliver Scouting today within Northampton in the best way we possibly can but also to create a vision and a plan for our assets that will allow us to achieve longer term objective.

## SUPPORTING THE DISTRICT

Within our District we are lucky to have access to probably some of the best facilities and offerings any District has to through Overstone, Yr Hen Felin, Fernie, Shop, NEAT, Gang Show. These things all come at a significant cost and that cost is normally bore through either the running of those assets or capitation –for example:

- The costs for running Overstone either come from the users or Overstone as well as groups contributions which is collected from Capitation (the capitation covers groups from our District using the site without additional charge on a non-residential basis.) The cost for running the site (utilities, maintenance etc) are fairly static and need to be met. Therefore the most effective way to keep those costs minimal is to ensure we are using site as much as possible
- Scout Shop, if parents go to our scout shop to buy uniform as a District we make money, that money is used to help us develop as a District but more directly it allows us to keep our capitation levels lower. If a parent spends £30 in our shop we probably make £4-£5 from the transaction so it represents a difference to us all, if groups supply the necker and the parents buy the kit online we might make 50p

From my perspective, we want to understand what barriers stop you from using these facilities, is it that Overstone doesn't have the right facilities so you go elsewhere, is it the Scout Shop doesn't have the right stock, is it something else... As a District (and we're all part of one District) support for each other and our assets are key so we should at least consider – I want to ensure we open up honest conversations with each other about this subject and ensure we develop the District in a way that meets our needs and lets groups want to use our facilities for the benefit of our Young People.

## **RESPECTING CONFIDENTIALITY**

It has been brought to my attention over the last couple of weeks that members of our District are discussing rumours about suspended members.

It is important that we all realise that from time to time it may be necessary for the Scout Association to take the decision to suspend an adult volunteer. Suspension within Scouting is a neutral act. The process is designed to buy time for any investigation to take place, for enquiries to be made and for situations to diffuse. However we should also be aware that when a member is suspended we are temporarily withdrawing that individuals desire to be involved in something that they probably have given significant time too and that can be very difficult and isolating for the individual. As a result, it is imperative that we carry out the process in the strictest confidence, not only is the spreading of rumours disrespectful to those concerned it could also be against the rules of the association which can lead to suspension for those involved. My ask here is we all consider those involved and as managers within the association we don't partake in this gossip and rumour spreading.

## ENGAGEMENT CHARTER

As a District Team we want to be as supportive as possible that means we want to get out and about and work with sections, groups and units. We want the these visits to be positive as such we've developed an 'Engagement Charter' as a set of standards you should expect:

<p>Northampton District Scouts <b>ENGAGEMENT</b> Charter</p>	<p>As a District Team our purpose is to support our Groups deliver great Scouting to do this we want to get out and visit groups, when we visit our aim is to be helpful, approachable and courteous. When we engage with groups under normal circumstances we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>NOTIFY</b> section leaders and Group Scout Leaders of any planned visits</li><li>- If we have to cancel our visit we will <b>LET YOU KNOW</b> as soon as we can</li><li>- Clearly <b>EXPLAIN</b> the purpose and method of our visits</li><li>- Upon arrival <b>INTRODUCE</b> ourselves to other leaders or adults present</li><li>- Introduce ourselves to Young People and explain <b>OUR ROLE</b> in District Scouting in a way that they will understand.</li><li>- Ensure the <b>NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ALWAYS COME FIRST</b>.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Carry out our visits with <b>MINIMAL DISRUPTION</b> to the planned activities</li><li>- Ensure any <b>CONFIDENTIALLY</b> requirements are observed</li></ul></li><li>- If relevant ensure <b>FEEDBACK</b> or actions are documented and distributed in a timely fashion.</li></ul>
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## COMMUNICATION

Thank you for completing the latest District Directory. We now have an accurate list of GSLs and Section Leaders and are using these for communication, however at the moment there is no definitive way to communicate to all leaders within a specific section, we need to figure this bit out so until then we need some help.

- Can GSLs please ensure that messages are getting spread to the right people, if a message is sent to BSLs please can you make sure it gets forwarded to all volunteers within the Beaver Section
- We are developing some distribution lists which should be available for September which will allow you to email one address to contact one group of people (i.e. District Team, GSLs Cub Leaders, Exec etc)

## **SCOUT SECTION**

I communicated recently that Simon Billis had stepped down as ADC Scouts. I am aware that we really have had little support for Scouts since I took over as DC so keen that we get this resolved and start offering support to groups and troops.

In the immediate Chris Gyles (SL at 1<sup>st</sup> Wootton) has agreed to help support the section. We will host a section leaders meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June at The Will Smith Chalet. We should also expect Challenge Camps, and The Big Scout Sleep Out as well as some other activities planned as required. It would be great is groups can support this endeavour.

## **DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

We recently announced that Elaine Farr would take over as Chair of the AAC. As a result we will see the following changes to the AAC:

- The AAC will develop to meet the latest national standards
- A new group of volunteers have been asked to join the AAC, training will be delivered to them on July 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Members of the AAC will be as diverse as the volunteers within the District
- We are working on revamping the AAC in terms of volunteer experience, we are currently reviewing location and format to increase comfort and ensure a worthwhile evening with an opportunity to meet the District Team, LTM as well as attend the AAC.

## **EXECUTIVE ENGAGEMENT**

Alistair and I are looking at how The District support members of group executives better from October we're likely to invite Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers (as well as GSLs or other Exec members) to attend a drop in session over a coffee or similar to network, help build some relationships and provide support.

# District Development

Malcolm Dyer, DDC Development gave an update on our District Development.

- Work was underway in the documentation of our District Development Plan pulling together the national plan as well as the county plan as well as more local development. These will focus on the national objectives around Growth, Inclusivity, Community Impact and Youth Shaped.
- We plan to develop an overarching plan along with more specific plans in terms of our assets.
- Groups are asked that is they think there are things we need to do, or activities we need to develop, particularly if they are coming from Youth Shaped discussions then they should let us know.
- As part of our Community Impact work and to help drive our message to a greater population we are pleased to have been chosen by Northampton Town Football Club to be one of their Official Charity Partners for the upcoming season.

## Compass

- Compass continues to be a valuable tool, however we still seem to have concerns and issues over data integrity in particular:
  - Recently I have submitted a number of individuals for good service awards out of these a significant number were rejected down to, ongoing learning not in place (out of date safeguarding, safety and first aid) and also wood badges being attained within the allotted timeframes.
  - Please ensure that we are all managing out teams to complete mandatory training and that Compass is being updated as appropriate.
  - Please also ensure that volunteers are added to Compass with email addresses, we continue to see high number of compass alerts related to disclosures which are leading to difficult situations and conversations.

# Training

- County are taking Compass as gospel, therefore please check roles are valid and up to date.
- Training
  - a) Many thanks from Ian to GSLs for their responsiveness and help over last few months, the data on Compass is getting there!
  - b) The District needs to get ahead of the curve as there is a predicted training clamp down coming. Due to lack of Compass reporting structures Ian has ran a new view by looking at each individual in Groups, defining leaders and checking for training progress. Parameters are “no 1&3 in one year from appointment” and then “no Wood Badge within three or five years from appointment”. First pass shows 73 individuals in the district fall into these parameters but this is the high point as potential missing WB’s identified and in two groups cases Compass clearly needs amending / editing to reflect real status.
  - c) Each GSL (direct or through the TA network) will be emailed with their top level details from this report.
  - d) Ian will also provide the link to the County Training page with this email.
- SASU
  - a) Members do need to have current the OGL modules and DBS as they are members of the organisation.
  - b) Members need to decide if they wish to remain in SASU or drop down to District Supporter status.
- DTA Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> July Fernie Fields, annual DTA meeting for all training supporters in the district. It will be short and sweet and focused on Networking, the new Country training format and modular based approach and validation in terms of the learners life history.

# Feedback

## GANGSHOW

- General feedback was that Young People loved it, Brilliant
- The ½ show offer was excellent but would have been good for every performance.
- There was comments about the necessity for 5hrs of rehearsals on a Monday being unnecessary and feedback was there was a lot of handing around.
- Good idea to have some activities for Beavers on the Monday or even a film
- Additional merchandise, maybe a camp blanket badge available for anyone to buy
- Some groups felt that they were to generous with tickets given away 1:10 would have enough.
- Some of the songs appeared difficult for YP to sing
- Some of the content was considered too adult for the cast
- Would like to see more sketches and front of tabs, although these should be better rehearsed (in the case of the Network sketch)

## ST GEORGE'S DAY 2017

- Plan is to have alternating St Georges events 1x large District public event and 1x smaller District event
- It wasn't clear to groups if Parents were invited to stay.
- Times should be considered to try and encourage more YPs to attend.
- Following on from the event more information or events on Million Hands could be provided.

# AOB

## Cubjam

Cubjam will be coming to Northamptonshire in 2019. This is exciting news for the county and our District as the event will take place at Overstone Park. However in order to support the operation the team will also be using Overstone SAC for the duration of Cubjam, from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 until Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 some of the Cubjam team will be utilising our buildings at Overstone as well as some of our equipment to support the event. We are still working on the exact details but essentially we will be giving the site over to them to support some of the adult volunteers. As the event approaches I will be able to provide more details about Overstone availability and equipment availability during this period but I wanted to give you early notification so you can factor this into your planning.

If you want more information on Cubjam please visit the website at <http://www.cubjam.org.uk> Cubjam is open to Cub Scouts from across the UK - England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands and right on our doorsteps offers a fantastic opportunity for Cubs within Northampton District to get a fantastic opportunity without the hassle of loads of travel.

## Minibus Charges

There is some confusion over the communication regarding minibus charges which were defined at the end of last year, in case you are not aware the charges are as follows:

### **FOR THE MINIBUS:**

#### **Scouting Use - When the hirers are within the District**

No change to existing standard charges however Minibus hire costs to Wales Hostel will change to £30 per day + Fuel or 30p per mile, fuel included (whichever is higher)

#### **Scouting Use - When the hirers are outside the District**

No change to existing standard charges however Minibus hire costs to Wales Hostel will change to £40 per day + Fuel or 40p per mile, fuel included (whichever is higher)

#### **Private Hire (including members of the District hiring for non Scouting Purposes)**

£60 per day + Fuel or 60p per mile, fuel included (whichever is higher)

*All bookings will require a £50 deposit of collection which is refunded when the minibus is returned in the same condition we hired it out in.*

**FOR THE TRAILER:**

**Scouting Use - When the hirers are within the District**

£10 per day / £55 per week

**Scouting Use - When the hirers are outside the District**

£15 per day / £80 per week

**Private Hire (including members of the District hiring for non Scouting Purposes)**

£20 per day

All bookings will require a £30 deposit of collection which is refunded when the minibus is returned in the same condition we hired it out in.

The new charges bring the hire costs in line with other Scouting minibuses and will allow us to recover the full cost of transport for the District, during 2017 we will review what needs to happen long term with transport.