



**1st Fressingfield Scout Group
New Priory Road HQ Development
Summer 2017 Newsletter**

By Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne, Group Scout Leader

10th August 2017

Dear resident, neighbour, friend,

I hope that you find this newsletter informative and helpful. As you will be aware the 1st Fressingfield Scout Group after years of searching, planning and campaigning have finally secured full planning consent for a new Scout HQ and associated facilities on a piece of land off Priory Road. The 0.8 of an acre of gifted land has recently legally passed into the ownership of your local Scout Group and we are very much looking forward to developing the site over this next 18 months or so. It is my aim to keep residents informed of every step of the way as the scouts here in Fressingfield are valued and play an important role in the wider community. I am very aware that our project is not universally welcomed, I hope that by keeping you informed we can address any issues and deal with misconceptions quickly.

While our development was linked with an outline application (also granted) for housing on the remainder of the site – the Scout Group has nothing to do with the wider development. Issues around housing and the access road should be referred to the developers. I have attached on page 4 of this newsletter the extent of the Scout HQ site and influence.

Myth 1: "The scouts have a hut now"

We have a rental agreement with the Goodwin Hall Trust, a timber building of 100 years with no running water, no access for young people and leaders with additional needs, no inside toilet, inadequate heating and in a decreasing state of repair. It has served the scouts of Fressingfield well for century but is no longer fit for purpose. After hundred years our young people really do need and deserve an inside loo.

Myth 2: "Scout headquarters that's bigger than what we have now"

Yes, the footprint of the building will be larger than now, in addition to a hall to meet in, there will be an activity room, lecture room, storerooms, workshop space, kitchen, toilets, showers and garaging facilities for our vehicles and equipment. BUT, the term Headquarters is what we have now – it is the historic (military) term for a scout meeting place. Yes we will be doing more and hopefully attracting more young people to join our the Scout Movement, but the centre will be for the primary use of 1st Fressingfield Scout Group and not a base for a larger contingent of District or County size.

Last month, the Scout Group held its annual open evening at the new site which was well attended by our youth members, their parents and guests. Presentations were made by the District Commissioner Mr Steve Martin and our adult leaders with a range of activities held on the field enjoyed by all.

The evening started by a respectful raising of the Union Flag on the site and a wonderful blessing on the land, project and the Scout Group by the Revd Rosemary Willis. I was touched by her words and appreciate her support.



In hindsight, it would have been politic to notify immediate neighbours of the activity and I do apologise for any upset caused – there will be very few large events like this on the land and while the only access is via the public highway of Priory Road I will endeavour to keep residents informed of our movements and activities at the site.

I am currently discussing with the land owner whether a temporary access from New Street can be used, in the meantime I will do everything possible to limit the use of the public highway up Priory Road.

So what next?

- I have engaged Britannia Archaleogical Services to conduct a survey of the scout land – with any luck the Fressingfield Hoarde will be found and we will have sufficient funds to build our new HQ! I suspect not though. They will be on site in the next month or so and will produce a report required by Mid Suffolk District Council.
- In the next few weeks we also expect our fencing contractor to arrive on site to erect a 1.8m high pvc coated 2.4/3.15 chainlink fence in green with vehiculular and pedestrian gates. For child protection and for the health and safety of our members and equipment this fencing will run all the way around the 0.8 plot. There will be some thining of vegetation along the the boundry with the bungalows in Priory Crescent and along Priory Lane to facilitate this. The tree and hedge lines will be replanted and thickened after the fence has been installed to soften the landscape and keep the feel of a country lane.
- Environmental works, members of the Scout Group along with some families and friends will then be on site occasionally in the evenings and weekends, being mindful of our neighbours, to carry out a range of environmental projects over the autumn and into winter. Including – tree maintenance, litter picking (especially along the boundary with the bungalows), reinstating the pond, erecting bird and bat boxes, planting trees and shrubs, seeding a wild meadow fringe and some small construction projects including an outdoor chapel and camp fire circle.
- Sewage and water connections – Anglia water will be advising on the options for a laying the connections for these essential services and when I have news I will share with residents. Electrical connections will be explored in due course.
- Finally, we are seeking your support and good will, firstly, in the recognition of the significant benefit the scout group brings to our community, secondly, in

understanding that we who lead the Scout Group are all volunteers seeking to contribute, positively, to our community and most importantly, to our young people, and finally, in knowing that, in financial terms, we have a significant amount of money to find and your support here will be crucial.

As far as a timescale is concerned, it is our hope and aspiration that the new Headquarters will be completed in 18 months to two years. This will depend very much on our fundraising ability. The site will have smaller elements of development over that period in time and as facilities are completed they will be used, as promised I will keep you advised on our progress and on ways in which we can work together.

I would like to leave you with a few thoughts on the why:

The purpose of scouting:

To help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national, and international community.

Scouting is NOT a youth club, but an educational movement with a clear aim/purpose. It aims to make the world a better place, and as such is to be considered *idealistic* in the way in which it operates.

This idealism is reflected in its principles:

3 principles underpin Scouting:

Duty to self
Duty to others
Duty to God

The Scout method seeks to provide an enjoyable, attractive scheme of progressive training for young people based around the Scout Law and Promise, guided by adults. It involves:

Enjoying what they are doing
Learning by doing
Participating in varied and progress activities
Making choices for themselves
Taking responsibility for their actions
Working in groups
Taking increasing responsibility for others
Taking part in outdoor activities
Sharing in prayer and worship
Making and living out their Promise

Please feel free to contact me by email at: andrew.aaldersdunthorne@talk21.com or by letter to: The Old Forge, New Street, Fressingfield, IP21 5PG.

Yours in Scouting

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne
Group Scout Leader
1st Fressingfield Scout Group

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LAND OFF PRIORY RD, FRESSINGFIELD
 LAND FOR SCOUTING CENTRE
 SITE AREA - SCALE 1:400 @ A3
 9 JULY 2017
 DRAWING No 772/SS/1

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