



# Help Our Hut !

## 1<sup>st</sup> Knowle Scout Group

The 1<sup>st</sup> Knowle Group is one of the oldest Scout Groups in the country, having been formed in March 1909 by Jim Davy and has been meeting continuously ever since. It is a popular Group with two Beaver colonies (ages 6-8), two Cub Packs (8-11) and a very active Scout Troop.

The Group has been an important and valued part of the Knowle community for 100 years. We will be celebrating our centenary throughout 2009 and it is particularly appropriate that we now wish to provide for scouting for many years into the future by modernising, extending and refurbishing the existing 1960s building.

This building has served us well but is in desperate need of both basic maintenance and being brought up to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards. To do this we estimate that we will need to raise approximately £250,000.

## Who are we and what do we do ?

The 1<sup>st</sup> Knowle Group is part of the international Scout Association which guides, oversees and supports all our activities. The aim of the Association is

‘ to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities....by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, and guided by adult leadership.’

As leaders at 1<sup>st</sup> Knowle we interpret this as a requirement to provide a range of activities that is both educational and fun, with an emphasis on activities that can't be fitted into the national curriculum! The activity programme for the Scouts for Autumn 2008, which is attached, gives a very good flavour of what the boys get up to, with the appropriate level of supervision !

## Role of the Scout Association

In the UK there are over 400,000 members of the Scout Association, and another 28 million worldwide. The national organisation sets out clear policies and procedures to guide the activities of the local groups, which are overseen through a 'District' and 'County' administrative structure.

All leaders have to be approved by the Scout Association (become 'warranted') before taking charge of a colony, pack or troop and are required to undertake regular training to ensure their warrants remain valid. As would be expected child protection and safety are two of the key features of the training programme. More information about the Scout Association can be found at [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) or on 0845 300 1818 or [info.centre@scout.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk).



## The Existing Scout Hut

The existing hut is situated just off St John's Close. It was built in the 1960s. The building is owned by 1<sup>st</sup> Knowle and is on land leased from Solihull MBC.



This site is particularly useful as it also encompasses a 'garden' to the rear, which is totally secure and thus suitable for the youngest beavers to play in and for scouts to practise their outdoor activity skills.

Over the last 2 years a detailed assessment of options has been undertaken from minor refurbishment to a complete rebuild.

The option of a 're-roof, extension and refurbishment / refitting gives the best balance between cost and ensuring long term benefits. This also provides the opportunity to provide a facility that can be used by other youth groups in the community.

Detailed plans have been drawn up and full planning permission has been obtained. A full costing of the works has been compiled by a professional quantity surveyor. So now we just need the funding to commence works !

Extracts from the approved plans are attached, along with the planning permission. Further plans are available on our web site [www.1stknowlescouts.com](http://www.1stknowlescouts.com)

## What do we want ?

Through our fundraising committee we have access to a wide range of professional skills. These have already been deployed (foc) to get us to the launch of the project.

We will be undertaking a range of fundraising activities over the year and applying for relevant grants from national organisations.

However to be successful this appeal needs support from the local community and thus we are asking you to consider supporting and donating to the appeal.

## For more Information

A selection of supporting documents is attached. Additional information is available on [www.1stknowlescouts.com](http://www.1stknowlescouts.com) or contact Martin Hancock (Fund Raising Co-ordinator) on the address below;

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Project Description

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