



Burley-in-Wharfedale Scout and Guide Group



GROUP COUNCIL AGM 2017

REPORT FROM THE NEW HQ PROJECT GROUP

At last year's AGM I was able to report that we had obtained planning permission the previous October and that we had raised just over £100,000.

The work of planning the project and of fundraising has continued during 2016-2017.

A Design Team chaired by our architect has worked with appropriate professionals and with members of the Project Group, with the outcome that the new HQ building, the site and the required roadworks are all fully designed.

Fundraising has continued on several fronts and we now have comfortably over £200,000 in our fund - almost all we need to build the actual structure of the new HQ. Fundraising has been hard because we do not qualify for support from many trusts, charities, companies and other sources. That is because we are deemed to live in an affluent area (LS29 registers as Ilkley), we are not primarily serving the needs of disadvantaged or disabled young people (although we accept any youngster who wants to join one of our Guiding and Scouting units) and we are a uniformed youth organisation (they obviously don't realise the very broad range of activities, training and preparation for responsible citizenship experienced in modern Scouting and Guiding).

However, not to be discouraged, we have pressed on determinedly – receiving some modest donations from organisations, some generous help from some local individuals (donations, marathon sponsorships, etc.), encouraging support for the tremendous efforts of the Group's local fundraising team (ably coordinated by Sue Vint) and some imaginative and lively efforts by some of the young people in the Group (which we'll celebrate in a few minutes).

With all the technical preparation for the building programme virtually completed, we shall renew our fundraising efforts and these will include some initiatives which we hope will encourage all parents and other members of the local community to support us strongly.

Bryan Collins

Chairman, New HQ Project Group