

DISTRICT BEAVER SCOUT LEADERS MEETING

7th January 2014

Hobbs Hill Wood School

PRESENT.

Nikki Wycislik	ADC Beavers and 4th Boxmoor		Ingrid Allen	1st Kings Langley
Suzanne Ford	3rd Boxmoor		Chris Mazillius	1st Gadebridge
Simon Pilling	1st Kings Langley		Lynley Meyers	2nd Hemel Hempstead (Grovehill)
Sue Minter	1st Hemel Hempstead		Helen Bassett	1st Leverstock Green

APOLOGIES.

Michelle Woodhall, 1st Aspley.

Nikki opened the meeting at 8.00pm and thanked everyone for coming. Nikki re-introduced herself as ADC Beavers.

- A. The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as being a correct record of that meeting.

- B. Review of recent and forthcoming events:
 1. Christmas party. There was positive feedback about this event, including "they enjoyed it" and "they loved it". Nikki explained that if the leaders agreed they would hold a Christmas party every other year with entertainer 'Colonel Custard'. They would run separate, but consecutive party with the Cubs so the entertainment could be more appropriate for the Beaver age group. Nikki asked if the leaders for there opinion. **Decision:** Leaders agreed they would like to have a Christmas party in 2015 with Colonel Custard.
 2. Pantomime this Christmas. Nikki put forward the idea that every other year there would be a pantomime for Beavers and Cubs and said that the Boxmoor Playhouse was being looked at and costs £8, although it may be possible to get a group discount. Some leaders also mentioned the pantomime in Kings Langley although Boxmoor was felt to be more central for the district. Those that have been to the

Boxmoor Playhouse before said positive things about the pantomime. Lynley said that her Beaver Colony and their families went to the pantomime just gone and that some of her Beavers and family would not have had the opportunity to go to a pantomime otherwise. It was asked whether the event this year would be open to family members to also buy tickets if they wished, as they felt that some families might wish to go together. **Action** Nikki to feedback to Andy about families and ask if they will be invited. Leaders said they would like the pantomime to be advertised early. Some people noted that parking can be difficult for the playhouse, leaders felt that parents should be forewarned about difficulties with parking and suggestions of where to park should be offered. The leaders asked if it would be possible to get a deal on ice creams, they felt that if we decide to do ice creams it should be included in the price and either all should get ice cream or none should be allowed to buy ice cream themselves as it causes disappointment to others. Some groups said that they take sweets with them to give to the young people, but many leaders felt that if they can do a reasonable deal on ice cream it would be good to support the Playhouse and buy from them. **Decision:** Leaders would like a pantomime this year at Boxmoor Playhouse with the possibility of ice cream included.

3. Pet care day 26th January. Nikki explained that there would be 4 animal bases and 4 activity bases. The district will be split into small groups of around 12 to 13 and hopefully Scout groups will not be split up unless there is a large number from one group and some groups with small numbers may be put together. Groups will rotate between the bases, on the animal bases they will get to meet animals, mostly exotic animals. Other bases will have animal related activities. Chris noted that this event was very close to the swimming event and it was felt by many that they could be further apart. Nikki explained that they were hoping to have a weekend set every year for a badge event. **Action.** Nikki to look at whether this is the best weekend for a badge event in further years.
4. Swimming event Saturday February 8th. Some leaders questioned the Beavers individual swimming abilities. A questionnaire to parents was suggested, however Helen noted that sometimes parents over estimate their child's abilities. Nikki explained the components of the badge will be run through. Nikki explained that there had been some difficulties as SportSpace have said they require one adult in the pool for every two Beavers. Nikki also said that they have agreed the adult could be over 16 so there is the possibility of using Explorers, although it would be important to explain to Explorers their responsibilities. **Decision.** The leaders felt it would be best if Beavers were supervised by their own parents or parents arranged for them to be supervised by another

parent themselves. This was so that the Beavers know the person who is supervising them and it was also felt best due to safeguarding reasons associated with swimming. *Since the meeting it was decided to cancel this event due to problems with risk assessments and information from the venue and it getting too close to the event date.*

5. Scavenger Hunt 27th April. It was noted that this event is very close to the promise renewal event and it was suggested to move it into May. However it was also noted that as it was planned to alternate with an Easter Egg Hunt, it should be near Easter. Nikki said it would probably be held at Phasels Wood and asked for ideas of what should be done for this event, suggestions were; bark rubbings, identifying leaves, animal tracks, un-nature hunt (spotting objects that shouldn't be there). It was suggested there could be 2 or more walks which would spread people out and provide more to do. Lynley said she has been to Well End where a man called Brian did a very good nature activity and the young people were very engaged. Nikki said that the jamboree team were hoping to do an event for Beavers to fundraise. They had suggested an Easter egg hunt, but were told of the plan to do a Scavenger Hunt instead. There is a possibility they would want to run this event and take a small amount of each Beaver to go to the Jamboree fund. The leaders were happy for this to happen. They suggested there could be an unnatural trail on a Japanese object theme and it was also felt that it would be good for the jamboree participants to do a talk about it as it would help the Beavers to understand it and hopefully inspire them. **Action.** Nikki to look into whether this is the best date and whether to change it, or change it for future years.
6. Promise renewal event. There will be an evening for all Sections at the XC centre on Wednesday 23rd April. They will run a session for Beavers and Cubs 5pm~7pm, have all sections in place for Promise Renewal 7pm~7.30pm followed by a session for Scouts/Explorers 7.30pm~9.30pm. There will be a nominal charge of £2 per young person for this event this time round to cover some of the costs of what is a relatively expensive location. Additional cost will be picked up by District. Skate park will be available as will climbing wall, caving and high ropes (for those aged 8+). Youngsters will have to bring their own skates/skateboard/bmx to use in the skate park. Some leaders had concerns that there would not be enough activities for Beavers as they can only use the skate park and climbing and some Beavers may not have a bike or scooter they can bring. There was also a concern that the session of two hours may be too long. There was a suggestion that some games could be organised for the Beavers. There was also a question as to whether helmets are provided for the skate park. **Action:** Nikki to pass on concerns to Andy who is organising the event.

7. Sport Relief day: Nikki explained that this is planned to be an all sections event. Nikki asked the leaders if they had any ideas what could be done. Someone suggested using the athletics track at Jarmen Park as it would not be muddy. **Action:** Chris to find out the price. Another suggestion was to do something indoors and someone suggested a commonwealth theme.
8. Tracking event/sausage sizzle. The leaders discussed that the cooking event last year had been very popular. **Decision:** All agreed that they would like to have a cooking event with a camp fire every year. It was suggested the cooking activities could be different every other year and it was requested that there are vegetarian alternatives to each cooking activity involving meat. Chris pointed out that tracking would be very similar to activities at the scavenger hunt. Although the last cooking event was very much enjoyed there were concerns about safety and that the different activities were spread out without people knowing what was where. Nikki said that for the future event she would like there to be more structure, like rotating groups around all of the activities. Nikki said that this would help with safety and that safety will be looked at as an important aspect. One leader suggested it might be better done on a field rather than in woods. The leaders said they would like a campfire and suggested every group could prepare one song. The leaders looked at dates and said they would prefer an evening and Fridays seemed preferable. **Decision:** Having looked at dates of over activities leaders suggested that Friday 11th July would be a good date.
9. Beaver and Cub Fun Day: There was a discussion between the event at Tolmers and the event at Gilwell. It was considered by most that Gilwell is be a better event as it is bigger.

C. Discussion points from previous meeting.

1. At the previous meeting it was asked if the District had thanked Phasels for putting on the Great Big Bash. There was not a written letter of thanks but Russ DC has spoken to Doug from Phasels to say how much the young people enjoyed the event.
2. Nikki was to phone Pets at home to ask about a District animal day, they were not able to cater for such a large number.

D. District/County News/Future Meetings:

1. Training – Nikki reminded the leaders that the next training trains are on 8th and 9th of February.

2. There is a Module 38 training event taking place in Harpenden on 18/19 January. Undertaking this training and having it verified will qualify Leaders to hold a 'indoor' camping permit. Nikki and Lynley are attending and Nikki said that the last she heard there were lots of spaces. Leaders should check to County website to check and book places if they are interested.
3. Wine tasting - This event is happening for adults on 22nd February and is a fundraising event for the Jamboree in 2015. Leaflets were made available to leaders this evening.
4. Quiz evening – Following the success of the fund raising which was held before the District trip to Holland last year, it has been decided to hold a District Quiz Evening again in 2014. This will take place on Saturday 22nd March at Hobbs Hill Wood school.
5. Next meetings:

Thursday 6 March – Beaver Section – Hobbs Hill Wood School – 8pm

Tuesday 20th May – Beaver Section – Hobbs Hill Wood School – 8pm

E. AOB:

1. One leader asked about Scout community week. Helen explained that the District is not organising something as they would like to encourage groups to do something in their local area. There was a discussion about litter picking and it was suggested that groups should get in touch with a local organisation or the people who own the land.
2. Beaver sleepover: Nikki asked the other leaders what they think about a District Beaver sleepover. Some leaders felt that sleepovers were best done in group as it is nice to have a smaller number. However, other leaders said that they would not have a sleepover themselves and would take part if one was arranged. There was a discussion about the best time of year, in summer there would be more to do, although winter would be cheaper. It was felt that a few groups doing a sleepover together might be better than the whole District. Other suggestions were that some could sleepover on Friday and the others on Saturday. There was a discussion about day activities at a sleepover and how this can add to the cost and there was a suggestion to combine it with an event like the cooking event with those sleeping over staying on, many leaders thought this was a good idea. Nikki also mentioned that

someone had suggested the Science museum although it is expensive, far away and travel would need to be sorted. The other leaders agreed this would not be a good option.

3. District funding for Beaver events previously has taken the form of an amount of money being allocated to each event being run by the section. Going forward the proposal is that sections will be allocated an amount of £2 per member from District based upon the census returns. In the case of Beavers this should be an amount in the region of £450/£500. The way in which this is used will be decided by the Leaders attending these meetings. There were some suggestions about an areoball event, but the leaders felt they would like to use the money to subsidise events. At first the pantomime was suggested, or to pay for ice creams at the pantomime. Another suggestion was for it to be used for the promise renewal event as it was felt the lack of activities for Beavers may put some off for coming if they had to pay. **Decision:** The leaders have decided to use the money to subsidise event and will at the next meeting decide what events to subsidise.