

## **Background**

Scouting (a registered charity, which exists by Royal Charter) aims to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. Scouting is a fully inclusive organisation and accepts members from all areas of society without discrimination of any form.

1<sup>st</sup> Bingham Scout Group is a strong local voluntary organisation with close to 120 young people (age 6 to 18 years) regularly attending, plus substantial waiting lists. These young people are drawn from not just Bingham, but all the local and surrounding villages, providing a genuine service to the whole area. The Group is run by approximately 25 adult volunteers, and we would love to expand our young person membership if we can first recruit additional adult volunteers.

Although registered in 1945, we have never had our own headquarters and the various (age group) sections of the Group meet in a range of places mostly on a session hire basis. Currently these are Bingham Methodist Centre, Carnarvon Primary School, Old Church House (East Street Bingham), and Archbishop Cranmer School in Aslockton.

We make do with these venues and are generally happy with them but they nevertheless all have significant shortcomings. Storage space for weekly activity/programme materials is very limited or non-existent at a couple of the venues, and requires leaders to store things at home and transport it all every week, it also means that access to equipment if plans change at short notice is impossible. Not all venues allow the use of kitchen facilities, and not all have access to outside space, which limits some of the activities the sections can do. Our significant camping supplies are kept in a shipping container at Bingham RFC, making them isolated and vulnerable to theft or vandalism. Furthermore, we understand that planning permission for this container may not be renewed. This diversity of venues means that many simple things such as first aid kits, maps, flags, and games cannot be shared by sections and have to be replicated at extra inconvenience and additional cost.

## **Chapel Use**

The chapel building would act as our Group's permanent home for all of our age sections. It would provide weekly meeting space for these (5) sections along with space for all our storage needs, and become well known as the centre of Scouting activity in the area. The outside space would be invaluable for some of our outdoor activities and help us deliver an even more varied programme of activities. The running and maintenance costs would be virtually equivalent to our current expenditure in hiring venues each week.

Meetings are held in term time only, for 1 and 2 hours with sessions starting between 5.30pm and 7.45pm. The latest any one session would finish is 9.45pm. Sections vary in size but don't exceed 36 young people (with 5 adults supervising) but many of the sections operate closer to 24 young people with 3 or 4 adults supervising.

Drop off and pick-ups will obviously be accomplished by vehicle. We have always found the parents to be polite, courteous and respectful of the surrounding properties and barring a few isolated instances never any issues regarding this at any of our numerous venues. One would hope that with so many current members travelling from Bingham that a number might begin to car share. This is something we would promote and encourage with our parents.

Drop off is quick (pick up a little slower) but these vehicles don't stay for the sessions so long term parking won't be impacted. Leaders' vehicles do remain for the duration of each session. Tuesday is the only night with a 'crossover'; Beavers are collected at 6.30pm and Cubs dropped off to start at 6.45pm.

It is our belief that the flow of vehicles from our use would pose no greater impact on neighbouring residents that other existing uses of the building might, were they fully attended.

Our best estimates of numbers of vehicles are:

	Tuesday			Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
	17:15	18:30	20:15	18:30	20:15	19:00	21:15	19:30	21:45
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	17:30	18:45	20:30	18:45	20:30	19:15	21:30	19:45	22:00
<b>Beavers</b>									
Parents (drop-off/pick up)	12	12							
leaders (stay)	3	3							
<b>Cubs (2 packs)</b>									
Parents (drop-off/pick up)		18	18	18	18				
leaders (stay)		4	4	4	4				
<b>Scouts</b>									
Parents (drop-off/pick up)						28	28		
leaders (stay)						5	5		
<b>Explorers</b>									
Parents (drop-off/pick up)								15	15
leaders (stay)								1	1

Activities at weekly meetings include instruction sessions, practical sessions and games. We occasionally invite guest speakers to address or run sessions. Most would be held inside the building although we love to make use of the outdoors especially during warmer spring and summer months. It is inevitable that young people playing games will make noise, but activities are supervised, and excessive behaviour is controlled. The most noise would likely come from the younger age groups whose sessions finish by 8.15pm.

There would be no regular weekend activities at the church building, we would however hope to hold occasional weekend fundraising events – these would be mostly during day time hours and would actively engage with the local and wider communities in positive ways.

If approached by groups wishing to use the premises during the daytime for activities such as health and fitness classes, support group meetings, parent and toddler groups etc. we would consider their use on a case by case basis, and be cautious that they didn't adversely affect the neighbouring premises, nor affect our primary Scouting activities. Charges would be modest to cover costs and all profits would be put directly back into our Scouting activities. We would not intend to allow evening hires for non-scouting activities.

Our only planned work to the building would be internally to make some minor improvements to the kitchen and toilet facilities. We have no plans to make external changes.