Ist Oakley Scout Group – Report to Oakley Parish Council – 2 May 2023

Good evening,

On behalf of the 1st Oakley Scout Group, I submit this report.

Scouting in Oakley is continuing to thrive. Numbers of children in each section, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, which covers ages 6 to 14, have remained at maximum or close to maximum throughout the year. We have a constant waiting list, which we try to keep to as short as possible to meet the needs of the village.

Maximum numbers the group can accommodate are governed by the number of qualified leaders and the size of the scout hut. We have had a new assistant leader join us in the last year which has enabled us to increase numbers in the Cub section. We are constantly trying to attract more leaders or assistant leaders, to provide resilience to the group and also for succession planning.

Over the past 12 months the group has returned to pre Covid levels of activities, which include our annual Scout camp, hikes, climbing and water activities, as well as our normal pack evenings.

We should mention that, despite the cost of living increase, we have kept our subscriptions at the same level for the past 2 years, and all things being equal, we do not anticipate it rising this year.

Our new hut is standing up to the rigors of hosting a Scout group very well, with only a small amount of maintenance required. We are very fortunate to have the wide open space of the playing fields on our doorstep.

Finally, the Chairperson of our Scout Committee, Nick Overland, who has been instrumental in the running of the unit for over 10 years, including guiding us through the pandemic, and the old scout hut burning to the ground, is stepping down in the summer, as he has moved away from the village. So we are looking for someone in the village who would want to take up this position. The person does not necessarily have to have any scouting background. Just someone who may want to be involved in the support of young people in the village.

Thank You

Richard Bowley (on behalf of 1st Oakley Scout Group)