



1st Heathfield Scout Group
Charity No. 268118

1st Heathfield Scout Group **Community Scout Headquarters Project** **2008**

**‘provision of an accessible, environmentally
compassionate and sustainable community
resource’**

What are we doing?

The proposal is to reinstate a new headquarters and home for scouting within Heathfield and Waldron with the capacity and resources to meet the future needs of the children and volunteer leaders within the local community by reusing the site of the original headquarters. The resource will be available for other community groups to benefit from.

The site is located in a wooded valley adjacent to Geers Wood to the south west of Heathfield and covers an area of approximately 2.866 acres (1.16 hectares).

A number of different traditional construction methods were considered for the new Community Scout Headquarters. However, after careful consideration it was agreed that the building would be constructed from low carbon sustainable materials. The single storey building will comprise of a timber framed structure with lime render straw bale walls, timber double glazed windows and a dual pitch green roof (Sedum or similar). In addition the building will incorporate photovoltaic panels, low energy lighting, ground source heat pumps and rainwater harvesting.

The CO₂ emissions from the construction and operation of the building will be minimised by utilising environmentally compassionate building materials (straw bale) sourced from local providers that maximise sound and heat properties. A managed renewable energy system will be incorporated to reduce the impact and burden of heating and lighting. In addition only 'A' rated white goods will be used within the building.

The building is rectangular in plan measuring 282m² and incorporates an entrance lobby, main hall, kitchen, a small office, activity room and storage area together with supporting sanitary accommodation (including disabled WC).

Why are we doing it: -

Growing current need

1st Heathfield Scout Group is over 60 years old having been founded in 1945. It is one of the oldest groups in its area. The Scout Group has used various sites for its meetings over the years and until 1996 met in a wooden building on land leased from the local council off Ghyll Road, Heathfield.

Unfortunately the site fell into disrepair during a declining period for scout activity and the hut was eventually destroyed by a deliberate fire in 1996. This lack of a facility also contributed to the eventual closure of the Scout Troop (10½-14 year olds).

Since that time the Group have maintained the Beaver Colony (6-8 year olds) and Cub Pack (8-10½ year olds), helped enormously by the Union Church who allow the group to use their hall, and has grown in strength to an extent

where the capacity of the buildings and the Leaders currently supporting their existence has been exhausted. They have also been able, in 2002, to re-establish the Scout Troop which is once again thriving. The Group now includes: -

- 23 Beavers (6-8 years old)
- 28 Cubs (8-10½ years old)
- 30 Scouts (10½ - 14 years old)
- 25 Explorers (14-18 years)

In addition there is a waiting list of 17 children who want to join the Beaver Colony.

Population profile

The current profile of the area served by the group indicates that we have an above average profile of children growing in the age range that would meet the development criteria of the Scout Association: -

Population profile	% of population by demographic area		
Age range	Town Heathfield (N&C)	Local Authority Wealden	National England
0-4 years old	6.03	5.38	5.96
5-15 years old	14.20	13.88	14.20
16-19 years old	4.16	4.37	4.90

*figures based on ONS Census 2001

These figures help to illustrate why there was a decline in need for the Scout Group in 1996 as the 16-19 age range moved through the community (this group would have been in the age range 11-14 years old in 1996). More importantly they indicate that there is a definite current and future need for youth activities in the Heathfield area where the percentage of young children growing in the community exceeds both the local authority and national average.

Proven development path for children

The aim of the Scout 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.

The Method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, and guided by adult leadership.

At the heart of the Programme lie the six areas of personal development: -

- Body
- Mind
- Faith and Beliefs
- Relationships
- Community and Surroundings

Leaders help young people to grow and develop in each of these areas through their involvement in the Balanced Programme. The Balanced Programme therefore provides the framework for the weekly meetings and all the other activities that Scouts of any age can take part in.

Scouting is open to all genders and faiths and takes account of the different religious obligations of all its members whilst upholding the spirit of the Promise: -

The Scout Promise

On my honour I promise that I will do my best
To do my duty to God and to the Queen
To help other people and to keep the Scout Law

The Scout Law

A Scout is to be trusted
A Scout is loyal
A Scout is friendly and considerate
A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts
A Scout has courage in all difficulties
A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property
A Scout has self respect and respect for others

Group's requirements

In order to meet the demands of the proven development path within the scouting movement the Group is seeking a facility that provides facilities to allow the four activity areas to be met: -

Adventure

Discovery

Culture

Community

This would require the following criteria: -

Objective No.		Requirement
1	Capacity	Capacity for up to 30 children to play indoors
2	Discovery	Activity rooms for group working
3	Availability	Assured availability of the facility at the following times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 1800hrs – 1915hrs • Thursday 1830hrs – 2015hrs • Friday 1900hrs – 2130hrs
4	Secure	Access to a safe and secure outdoor play area for up to 30 children
5	Adventure	Access to open woodland to allow the teaching and development of woodcraft and camp skills
6	Culture	The creation of a community camp fire area within the site to promote the fostering of a world wide scouting community
7	Facilities	Welfare facilities for male/female and disabled adults and children
8	Community	The ability to develop the facility as a recognisable home for the young people and scouting
9	Storage	A secure storage facility for the assets of the Group i.e. camping equipment
10	Access	Ease of access from the Heathfield conurbation where the majority of the children live, preferably promoting both walking and cycling as a safe and healthy option

Existing facilities

An assessment of the existing local facilities has revealed the following potential sites: -

Venue	Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane	Lucas Hall, Waldron	Village Hall, Cross in Hand	Youth Centre, Heathfield	Gowards Hall, Cade Street	Union Church Hall, Heathfield	Kings Church Hall, Heathfield
Capacity	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance
Discovery	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance
Availability	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Full or partial compliance	Non compliance
Secure	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance
Adventure	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance
Culture	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance
Facilities	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance
Community	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance
Storage	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance
Access	Full or partial compliance	Non compliance	Non compliance	Full or partial compliance	Non compliance	Full or partial compliance	Full or partial compliance
Compliance	50%	30%	20%	30%	20%	40%	30%

	Full or partial compliance
	Non compliance

The results of this assessment has led the Group to pursue the design and construction of a purpose built facility to meet the needs of the young people and achieve all of the objectives identified. It is proposed that a new building be constructed on a piece of land previously utilised as a site for a Scout Headquarters off Ghyll Road, Heathfield. The land identified has lain dormant since the site was effectively handed back to the land owners (Wealden District Council) in 1996.

The project profile

Project scope

The Group Executive has a vision of sustaining the growing momentum within the Scouting movement locally by providing a 'home' for their activity and creating an environment that supports the ethos of scouting.

This project is designed to deliver the required 'home' and in addition create a resource for that will be available for others within the local community to utilise.

Aim of the project

The aim of the project is to deliver a resource that meets the following criteria:-

- **Accessible** – suitable for all groups within the community to utilise and specifically those with disabilities and supporting pedestrian and cycle access to the site
- **Environmentally compassionate** – both in terms of design, energy usage and landscaping, these measures will ensure that the total carbon foot print for the building over its life span will be as low as possible. Major innovative concepts will be incorporated including: -
 - straw bale construction
 - photovoltaic light cell roofing
 - low energy lighting
 - underground heat source pump
 - efficient water use systems
- **Sustainable** – financially and physically resourced to meet the future needs of the community
- **Community resource** – available for others within the community to use

In order to achieve the aim of the project a number of key task areas have been identified which will form the basis of the project plan. These are: -

Group Executive

The Committee that is responsible for the running of the 1st Heathfield Scout Group.

The Group Executive will be responsible for monitoring progress on the project and specifically: -

- Managing the project account to ensure appropriate financial controls are in place and that an audit trail is provided through the production of publicly presented scrutinised accounts
- Receiving updates on progress from the Project Manager
- Carrying out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment of the building and associated activity

Project Manager

Responsible for the co-ordination of all project activity including reporting to the Group Executive Committee.

The Project Manager will have specific responsibility for: -

- Securing a suitable site for the headquarters
- Managing the promotion of the project

- Ensuring that all networking and communication channels are maintained e.g. Local Authority, neighbours & residents, champions
- Reporting progress to the Group Executive Committee

Design Team

The scope of the design team is to '*determine the requirements of the Group and progress the project through the planning application process*'. This will include the following: -

- Establish the Group requirements (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Leaders)
- Incorporating environmental sustainability, security and access criteria
- Commissioning a site feasibility study
- Drawing up plans for both a standard (purely to meet the basic requirements of the project) and concept (a more environmentally progressive design) building
- Progressing the required planning consents

The design team will be established in September 2006 and aim to complete their task by December 2007.

Finance Team

The finance team will be responsible for *securing the significant funding needed to deliver the headquarters* and will be crucial to determining the success of the project.

The duration of the fundraising will run over the entire project and will include seeking support from national, regional and local sources.

Build Team

The build team will be responsible for the actual construction of the headquarters and associated works. It is anticipated that this will include an element of managed activity associated with some self help work.

It is hoped to commence the build element of the project in 2008 with a completion date approximately 6 months later.

Handover Team

Commencing in April 2008 the handover team will be responsible for: -

- Providing a future management structure for maintaining the headquarters site
- Seeking community partners who may have an interest in using the headquarters such as: -
 - Other youth groups
 - Playgroups

- Children's Services – Primary Health Care Trust
- Services for the elderly
- Securing the funding streams necessary to ensure the long term sustainability of the new site (objective established as being £150.00 per week)
- Ensuring that appropriate insurance arrangements are in place to cover the use of the site
- Providing a suitable opening ceremony to recognise the support given to delivering a new community resource by all partners and champions of the project

The project plan

A detailed project plan has been prepared and is used to maintain an overview of progress and monitor activity.

The financial profile

We are seeking to attract funding to support the provision of this much needed community resource. In addition to submitting requests for grants the group are committed to progressing both internal fundraising initiatives, to demonstrate both a commitment and desire to succeed, together with voluntary parental support. A full breakdown of the cost profile is attached: -

- Projected build costs – BCIS construction price and cost database
- Future funding profile to ensure sustainability
- Actual expenditure – costs of the project

Projected build costs

VAT rating

HM Customs and Excise - Notice 708 – Buildings and construction (July 2002)

3.1.1 If you construct a new building you will normally have to charge VAT at the standard rate. You may however be able to zero-rate your supply if you are involved in constructing a new: -

- *Building that will be used solely for a 'relevant charitable purpose (i.e. for non-business use or as a village hall – see para 14.7)*

3.2 Is a zero-rated building being constructed

3.2.1 When is a zero-rated building constructed

- *It is built from scratch, and, before work starts, any pre-existing building is demolished completely to ground level (cellars, basements and the slab at ground level may be retained) **and it is intended for use solely for a 'relevant charitable purpose'.***

3.4 Services excluded from zero-rating

3.4.1 Architects, surveyors, consultants and supervisors

The separate supply of architectural, surveying, consulting and supervisory services is always standard rated.

14.7 What 'relevant charitable purpose' means

14.7.1 'Relevant charitable purpose' means use by a charity in either or both of the following ways: -

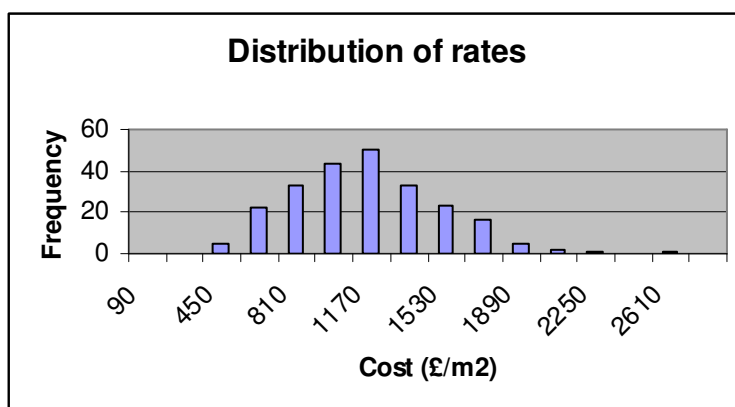
- otherwise than in the course or furtherance of business*
- as a village hall or similar in providing social or recreational facilities for a local community (see 14.7.3)*

14.7.3 Village halls and similar buildings

A building falls within this category when: -

- It is owned, organised and administered by the community for the benefit of the community*
- The facilities on offer are multi-purpose*
- The facilities are available for use by a local community at large rather than just particular sections of it*
- The facilities are available for use for a variety of public and private purposes*

Average cost of community building projects: -



*(Faulkner Associates Oct 2007)

BCIS Statistical Analysis 2Q2007

Community Centre - New Build (average)

	Cost	VAT rate	VAT	Total
Main building	£341,667.00	0.0%	£0.00	£341,667.00
Car park area	£43,449.00	0.0%	£0.00	£43,449.00
Access road	£65,963.00	0.0%	£0.00	£65,963.00
Total	£451,079.00		£0.00	£451,079.00
Contingency - 5%	£22,553.95	0.0%	£0.00	£22,553.95
Inflation to tender (5% over 6 months)	£9,922.00	0.0%	£0.00	£9,922.00
Total				£483,554.95
Professional fees of all consultants - 15%				
Civil Engineer, Architect, CDM Coordinator	£72,533.24	17.5%	£12,693.32	£85,226.56
Building Regulation fees	£7,500.00	0.0%	£0.00	£7,500.00
Exceptional items	£5,000.00	17.5%	£875.00	£5,875.00
Total				£582,156.51

Future funding profile – financial sustainability

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Grounds	Lease	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00
	Access road/parking	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,500.00
	Boundary fence	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
	Camp fire area	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	£0.00
	Ghyll platform	£0.00	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
Hut	Internal decoration	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
	External decoration	£750.00	£0.00	£750.00	£0.00	£750.00	£0.00	£750.00	£0.00
Utilities	Electricity	£1,800.00	£1,800.00	£1,800.00	£1,800.00	£1,800.00	£1,800.00	£1,800.00	£1,800.00
	Phone	£150.00	£150.00	£150.00	£150.00	£150.00	£150.00	£150.00	£150.00
	Water	£900.00	£900.00	£900.00	£900.00	£900.00	£900.00	£900.00	£900.00
	Insurance	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
Council Tax	WDC	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Systems maintenance	Burglar alarm	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00
	Fire alarm/sprinklers	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00
	Fire extinguishers	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00
Total		£7,375.00	£7,075.00	£7,375.00	£9,575.00	£7,375.00	£7,075.00	£7,375.00	£9,575.00
Income (external users)	£15.00 per hour/12 hrs per week @ 85%	£7,956.00	£7,956.00	£7,956.00	£7,956.00	£7,956.00	£7,956.00	£7,956.00	£7,956.00
Balance		£581.00	£881.00	£581.00	£1,619.00	£581.00	£881.00	£581.00	£1,619.00
Net effect		£581.00	£1,462.00	£2,043.00	£424.00	£1,005.00	£1,886.00	£2,467.00	£848.00

Income

We have already **raised over £27,000 in cash** and **secured over £70,000 in match funding commitments**.

Date	Item	Cash	Matchfunding
Feasability study			
30-Sep-06	Coop bag pack	£350.84	
21-Oct-06	Coop bag pack	£272.35	
25-Nov-06	Coop bag pack	£520.86	
1-Dec-06	Donation - Alex Hopwood	£9.50	
1-Dec-06	Donation - Nick Rowe	£50.00	
12-Feb-07	National Lottery - Awards For All	£9,098.00	
24-Mar-07	Coop bag pack	£450.00	
18-Sep-07	Le Marche	£300.00	
26-Sep-07	Rix & Kay - pro bono services		£672.00
31-Dec-07	WDC - lease offset Y1		£2,875.00
26-Jan-08	Coop bag pack	£590.00	
11-Feb-08	Heathfield Riding Club	£400.00	
2008-2032	WDC - lease offset Y2-Y25		£69,000.00
Total		£12,041.55	£72,547.00
Build costs (secured)			
1-Feb-08	Co-Operative Community Fund	£5,000.00	
1-Apr-08	Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council	£10,000.00	
		£15,000.00	

We are able to demonstrate that our project meets the following criteria: -

- have identified and consulted users – this has been achieved within the overall project by consulting the Scout Group directly on their requirements
- have ensured that all potential users have full access to the space - this work will be carried out by the handover team within the overall project
- have policies to ensure the use of the building will continue to meet need in the long term – the population profile for the area indicates a future need and this will be monitored for future trends, in addition the resilience provided by the approval of the Scout Association Trust Corporation for the project provides long term security
- are financially viable in the long term – a funding appraisal to ensure that ongoing costs are met has been incorporated within the overall project (see attached appendix) which will be achieved through securing income from other users of the resource
- minimise their negative impact on the environment – this is one of the objectives of the project and includes design features such as straw bale construction utilising locally sourced materials (enhanced sound and heat

insulation and optimum recyclable qualities), sedum roof construction, underground heat source pumps, maximising the benefits of renewable energy and grey water re-use. The building will have a significantly reduced carbon footprint through both its design features and construction methods using local materials and services. It will be the first scout headquarters to be built to such demanding environmentally sustainable standards.

In addition we can demonstrate the following: -

- broadening access to, and more use of, existing services through providing a purpose built home for the children and others within the local community including full DDA compliance which will be a significant improvement on the existing arrangements and allow children already within the Scout Group to participate more fully with the groups activities
- creating a greater number and wider range of new services through providing a new community resource which will be actively promoted and available to other users
- improving opportunities for the community to access a wide range of learning through providing access to a new community hall for other users
- improving the skills, knowledge and capacity to respond to community needs by meeting the identified need for a growing young population within the catchment area
- increasing participation by the community in decision-making processes that affect the community by providing a resource that is designed and managed by community residents
- improving community relationships and networks by improving access for young people to develop within the scouting environment and working with youth intervention and community rehabilitation schemes to progress activity
- improving financial viability of community premises by incorporating a sustainable financial appraisal for the future maintenance of the building and site and securing a long term lease for the land with the backing of the Scout Association Trust Corporation
- premises that use less energy, pollute less, create less waste have a reduced contribution to climate change

Measuring success

We will monitor the success of the site on a quarterly basis and report our performance through the Management Team meetings and Annual General meeting of the Scout Group. We will set ourselves tough performance targets to achieve which will be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound (SMART) and align with the objectives of the project: -

Criteria	Description	Year 1 target	Year 2 target	Year 3 target
Accessible	No. of individuals using the facility per quarter	1000	1250	1500
	No. of individuals using the facility with disabilities per quarter	2	10	20
Environmentally compassionate	We will reduce our contribution to climate change by measuring utility bills pro rata per person using the site	Water Electric	Water Electric	Water Electric
	No. of individuals using pedestrian and cycle access to the site per quarter as a % of total users	10%	15%	25%
Sustainable	No. of community residents participating in management of resource	5	10	15
	Quarterly management committee meeting held	4	4	4
Community Resource	No. of other community groups using the site	3	8	15
	No. of young people positively engaged with the site as a % of total users	75%	80%	85%

The building

The building will be designed, built and maintained to minimise its effect on a range of environmental impact areas: -

Management

A sound building management programme will be implemented from commissioning through to maintenance to ensure the building performs effectively. Design & construction will be completed to appropriate British & European (where applicable) Standards. A building contract (typically JCT) will be arranged between the client and appointed contractor which requires that the contractor must provide workmanship, materials & goods of the standards and quality specified in the Contract. The Contract Administrator will periodically inspect and determine whether workmanship, materials & goods are of the standards and quality specified.

Health & well being

It is recognised that the internal environment of the building is a major contributor to individuals quality of life therefore design features and occupancy control systems will enhance: -

- Heating (insulation and underground heat source system)
- Lighting (maximum use of natural light and renewable energy electricity production where necessary)
- Air quality
- Noise - optimum insulation from straw bales will reduce the impact of noise from inside the building and the local woodland environment will be used to provide natural breaks to reduce the impact of external activity

Energy

The CO₂ emissions from the construction and operation of the building will be minimised by utilising environmentally compassionate building materials (straw bale) sourced from local providers that maximise sound and heat properties. A managed renewable energy system will be incorporated to reduce the impact and burden of heating and lighting. In addition only 'A' rated white goods will be used within the building.

Transport

The location and facilities provided by the site will maximise the opportunities for access by pedestrians and cyclists and will seek to integrate within the local transport strategy.

- In the short term we will be working with Wealden District Council to enhance the vision for egress from the site by providing the maximum possible splay and ensuring that access onto the site is prioritised for incoming vehicles to prevent queuing on the highway.
- In the medium term the design of the site will ensure that the access road provides for two way access/egress so that vehicles are free to move from the highway along the entrance road to the provided parking spaces without causing queuing problems.
- In the long term we will be working with East Sussex County Council, through our champion network, to introduce a traffic management scheme

that integrates with the existing town strategy and supports the provision of cycle and pedestrian access to the site as well as providing control measures to manage the speed of vehicles in the area.

Security

Sussex Police Building Design team will be consulted formally to provide advice and guidance on the design requirements. The building will be protected by CCTV, burglar alarm system and a sprinkler system.

Access to the building and activity areas shall be controlled through cctv monitoring of the lobby door with all other areas protected by boundary features: -

- Banshee type monitored alarm system
- 5ply 7.5 laminated glazing
- Increase roof overhang to deter access to roof
- Hinge bolts to outward opening external doors
- PIR tannoy system. Informs anyone approaching the building that police are on way.

Water

In order to ensure that water usage is managed the building will incorporate features including water efficient appliances and water metering and will maximise the potential for rain water harvesting and grey water re-use.

Materials and transportation

The construction materials used for the building shall be, where possible, sourced from local providers to reduce transportation. In addition maximum benefit shall be obtained from utilising materials from natural sources.

Land use and ecology

The site being considered for this project previously housed a scout headquarters and has now lain dormant for over 10 years. The design of the new building has maximised the use of the building footprint and the building materials have been specifically chosen to ensure a blend with the local ecology. In addition a full ecological survey has been undertaken which indicates the following: -

- That a reptile survey be undertaken prior to construction
- A bat survey is not considered necessary
- No further survey work is recommended in regard to badgers
- As much of the grassy area should be retained and managed with conservation in mind
- For the time being a minimum intervention policy be followed
- Invasive non-native plants should be destroyed

The Scout Movement is committed to working with the natural environment and will commit to both protecting and enhancing the existing ecological features.

Pollution

The design team will ensure that the potential pollution impact of the development is reduced. This will include optimising space heating and

insulation, managing water run off and ensuring oil/fuel protection in car parking areas.

Publicity

We have an active communication strategy that encompasses the following: -

- Bi-monthly updates to local news media which directly promote those that support our project (Sussex Express, Kent & Sussex Courier, Leader)
- Information posted on local websites by supporting organisations: -
 - www.heathfield.net
 - www.faulknerassociates.co.uk
- National coverage through the Scout Association magazine
- Local promotion through the Heathfield First magazine produced by The Heathfield Partnership Trust and circulated to homes within Wealden
- Family Lifestyle Education and Arts (FLEA) is a regular publication, that for 3 years has provided information relating to activities of interest in and around the 'local area' www.wealden.theflea.co.uk
- A champions network who promote our activity
- Quarterly newsletters to our champions network and group members
- Identification of supporters of our project within the structure of the new building i.e. a wall of fame or roll of honour that will directly list all those that have helped us
- A proposed opening ceremony that will attract local/national media coverage due to the environmental attractions of our project

Project Progress

The project is monitored through the project plan and is reported on through a quarterly report, copies of which are attached. These reports indicate that the following actions have already been completed: -

1. Site secured with a lease agreed with Wealden District Council through the Scout Association Trust Corporation
2. Building feasibility study funding secured from the National Lottery Awards For All Scheme (£9098.00)
3. Over £70k of match funding commitments received
4. Building feasibility actions completed: -
 - Topographical survey completed
 - Canopy's Phase 1 Ecological Survey Report
 - Ashdowns Combined Factual and Interpretative Report on the Site Investigation.
 - Ashdowns Preliminary Contamination Risk Assessment
 - Marishal Thompson Groups Tree Condition Survey
 - Design drawings prepared
5. Funding award of £10,000 received from Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council.

6. Funding award of £5,000 received from Co-operative Community Fund

Completion of the project

On completion of the project the Group Executive will present the final account for public scrutiny and audit via their existing reporting process of an Annual General Meeting.

Champions of the project plan

Charles Hendry MP
Wealden District Council
Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council
Scout Association
The Heathfield Partnership Trust
Friends of Geers Wood
Co-operative Community Fund
Cllr Bob Lacey – Chairman ESCC
Cllr Rupert Simmons - ESCC
Sussex Police – Police Community Support Team & Building Design Team
Rix & Kay (Solicitors)
Gingerbread
Parents and children of 1st Heathfield Scout Group
Peter Goodwin – 92 year old Heathfield resident, scout supporter and one of the few remaining who actually met Lord Baden Powell in the 1930's

Professional support

In addition to the parental volunteers who are supporting this project we have also engaged a number of professional companies with the necessary skills to deliver our project: -

Civil Engineers

EAR Sheppard Consulting Civil & Structural Engineer
5 Chiswick Place
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 4NH

Architect

Faulkner Associates Ltd
9-10 Village Mews
Little Common
Bexhill-on-sea
East Sussex
TN39 4RZ

Solicitors

Rix & Kay
The Courtyard
River Way
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 1SL

Scout Association

Scout Association
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Ten facts about Scouting

1. Scouting is for girls as well as boys

Girls and young women make up almost 10 per cent of the Movement in the UK constituting one of our biggest development areas. We are pleased to tell people that we are the country's largest mixed organisation for young people.

2. Scouting is a global movement

Scouting is active in more than 216 countries and territories with more than 28 million members worldwide.

3. Young people can join at any stage of their development

If you are aged between 6 and 25, then you can start scouting almost immediately. You do not have to have been a Cub to be a Scout. We welcome late starters!

4. The Scout Association is a Registered Charity

The Scout Association is a non-profit organisation that supports the work of Scouting in the UK. We work with a number of ethical partners on projects and resources that are beneficial to both the organisation involved and our Members. Donate or find out about sponsorship opportunities.

5. Scouting is great value

Scouting membership represents outstanding value. With weekly activities including abseiling, canoeing, archery, caving, climbing and karting, there are few other organisations who can offer so much for so little. Typically, a year's Scouting cost less than a single ballet or piano lesson.

6. Robert Baden Powell, the Founder of Scouting was recently voted the 13th most influential person of the 20th Century

7. Famous former Scouts include Paul McCartney, Billy Connolly, Stephen Spielberg and David Beckham

Scouts go on to excel in the worlds of business, sport, entertainment and the media. Our fun, flexible programme helps young people develop team skills, leadership qualities and lasting friendships. We believe in supporting tomorrow's leaders today.

8. Each day 100,000 people in the UK take part in scouting activities

That's more than the Millennium Stadium can hold!

9. Scouting for Boys, Baden-Powell's blueprint for the Scout Movement is one of the most popular books of all time

B.-P's famous 1908 book became the publishing phenomenon of the 20th century, enjoying worldwide sales second only to the Bible. The title was recently re-issued by Oxford University Press with a new introduction by Professor Elleke Boehmer.

10. Scouting was 100 in 2007

The centenary of Scouting was celebrated all over the world, culminating in 21st World Jamboree at Hylands Park, Chelmsford Essex. The event will involve more young people from more countries than the Olympic Games.

Climate change

Human activity doesn't cause climate change?

The majority of scientists are convinced that we are affecting the climate by the way that we live. The Hadley Centre is one of the world's foremost modellers of climate change. They recently looked at what the effect of natural changes in temperature would be compared with actual observed changes over the last 150 years. They found a mismatch. But when they added human effects to the natural effects, the match was very close.

This is not surprising; we know gases keep the earth warm and we know that concentrations of these gases are increasing. We emit greenhouse gases when we use energy from fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil or electricity generated from these fuels). We also change the balance of gases in our atmosphere when we cut down forests and replace them with agricultural land.

It's too late to make a difference

There are some changes that have happened already which cannot be reversed. However, by acting now, we can reduce the risk of big changes occurring to our climate and reduce the impacts that we and future generations will experience. The last report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicated that, if we could get greenhouse gas emissions to peak and then decline within the next 10-20 years, the risk of seeing temperature changes higher than 2° C would be greatly reduced.

This is an enormous challenge - but it can be done.

There's no point in me taking action

In fact, every reduction in emissions that takes place, no matter where it occurs, makes a difference by not adding to the risk. Also, some countries like the UK are in a great position to give a positive example to the rest of the world. We do need other countries to join in, but if we can show that we can rise to the challenge successfully and make a real difference, others will follow.

Tackling climate change means making big sacrifices

Tackling climate change is not going to be easy, but it need not damage the economy as a whole. As we shift to new ways of using and creating energy, industry will have to adapt and jobs may change - but more may be created overall. Using less energy can also save companies and households money. By investing in new energy technologies at home, we also help to reduce our reliance on imported sources of energy and can help prepare for when fossil fuels such as oil and gas start to run out.

Not tackling climate change has a price too. Since 1998, the cost of repairing the damage from extreme weather events and floods in the UK has increased by 60 per cent. The insurance industry is one of the first sectors of the economy to be feeling the economic effects of climate change.

Did you know?

The world has warmed by nearly 1 °C over the last century. The rate of warming over the last 50 years is nearly twice that of the last 100 years.

Eleven of the last twelve years rank among the twelve warmest years on record.

Sea levels are rising at a rapid rate (having risen by 20cm over the 20th century); in Asia, the homes of 94 million people could be flooded by the end of the century, leading to large-scale migration.

The area of the world stricken by drought has doubled between 1970 and the early 2000s. In Africa fertile land is already turning to desert. By 2020, climate change is predicted to reduce some African farming harvests by 50%

Unpredictable rainfall, together with rising sea levels and higher sea temperatures will lead to more frequent storms, floods and droughts.

Storm surges in coastal areas are a threat to the economies of low-lying countries like Egypt and Thailand, where many factories and offices are less than a metre above sea-level.

Natural disasters can set back a country's economy by years. In 1998, Hurricane Mitch hit more than 25% of households in Honduras and led to a 7% drop in agricultural output. The number of people living in poverty in Honduras is now growing.

73% of disasters between 1900-2004 were climate related, and 94% of disasters and 97% of disaster-related deaths occur in developing countries.

Humanitarian responses to disasters cost donors \$6 billion every year.

By 2020 between 75 and 250 million people in Africa will be facing increased water shortages.

Over 3 billion people in the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent could be facing acute shortages of water - affecting productivity and jobs.

Rainfall in the wet season in Pakistan could increase by 5 to 50% by 2070, which would have significant impacts on cotton, the country's main cash crop.

Climate change brings the risk of increases in serious diseases such as malaria, dengue, yellow fever and polio. Longer rainy seasons have already led to increased malaria in parts of Rwanda and Tanzania.

Temperatures in 2100 could be 1.4 to 5.8° higher than in 1990 if emissions aren't curbed now.

A temperature rise of 2 to 3.5° in India would reduce farmers' incomes by between 9 and 25%.

A temperature rise of 2° would dramatically shrink the land available for growing Robusta coffee in Uganda and restrict it to upland areas.

By 2025 two-thirds of the earth's population will suffer water shortages.

The costs of ignoring climate change have been estimated at more than that of the two world wars and the Great Depression (5 to 20% of GDP) (Stern Report).

The cost of tackling the problem, however, could be around 1% of global GDP if mitigation policies are well-designed (Stern Report). Recent figures from the UNFCCC put the costs of adaptation for developing countries at between \$28 to 67 billion in 2030.

Climate change is associated with global warming and is a long-term change caused by natural factors and, as is now accepted, human activities due to greenhouse gas emissions.

The average temperature of the earth's surface has risen by 0.6°C since the late 1800s. It is expected to increase by another 1.4 to 5.8°C by the year 2100 and the sea level may rise from 9 to 88 cm during the same period.

It is generally agreed that more precipitation can be expected from 30° North and 30° South because of increased evapo-transpiration. In contrast, many tropical and subtropical regions are expected to receive lower and more erratic precipitation in the future.

Climate change is having a significant impact on weather patterns, precipitation and the hydrological cycle, affecting surface water availability, as well as soil moisture and groundwater recharge.

Climate change is also likely to lead to increased magnitude and frequency of precipitation-related disasters - floods, droughts, mudslides, typhoons and cyclones.

It has been suggested that the number of environmental refugees could rise to 150 million by 2050 as one of the results of climate change.

If climate change follows the projected scenarios, we can expect more erratic weather in the future, including increased variability in precipitation, which will threaten crop yields in both developed and developing countries, while placing more than 2.8 billion people at risk of water shortage.

On a global level, polar and arid systems appear to be the most vulnerable to climate change. Polar systems store the vast majority of freshwater and most scenarios suggest they are likely to develop a considerably increased discharge of water, driven by higher temperatures in both the polar regions and particularly in the Arctic.

While global warming may increase productivity in some regions and habitats, the overall predictions are that the impacts of climate change on aquatic ecosystems will be detrimental. Coastal wetlands such as mangroves and coral reefs (Southeast Asia), coastal lagoons (Africa and Europe) and river deltas (the Nile, Niger and Congo in Africa; the Ganges and Mekong in Asia) will be seriously affected by rising water levels, as well as other coastal lowland areas with an elevation of less than 0.5 m.

A recent study estimates that climate change actually accounts for about 20% of the global increase in water scarcity, the remaining 80% accounted for by population growth and economic development.

In large parts of eastern Europe, western Russia, central Canada and California, peak stream flows have shifted from spring to winter as more precipitation falls as rain rather than snow, therefore reaching the rivers more rapidly.

Timeline

2001 - Kyoto Protocol Signed: On 27 July, 178 countries give life to the Kyoto Protocol.

2001 - Evidence of Climate Change Mounts: United Nations weather agency reports that 2001 is the second hottest year in the 140 years that meteorologists have been keeping records. Nine of the ten warmest years since 1860 have occurred since 1990, the agency said, and temperatures are rising three times as fast as in the early 1900s.

2002 - Hot Enough for You?: Since 1980, the earth has experienced 19 of its 20 hottest years on record, with 2002 the second hottest ever recorded, and 1998 the hottest.

2003 - How Hot is Too Hot?: Globally it is the third hottest year on record, but Europe experiences the hottest summer for at least 500 years, with an estimated 30,000 fatalities as a result. Extreme weather costs an estimated record of \$60 billion this year.

2003 - Extreme Weather: Agence France-Presse reports that 13 million trees have been damaged in a freak snowstorm in Beijing.

2005 - Population: The population of the world is 6.45 billion.

2005 - Feeling the Heat: The New York Times reports that a NASA study finds that 2004 was the fourth warmest year on record.

2005 - Kyoto Protocol Ratified: 16 February. On the 90th day after at least 55 Parties to the Convention (responsible for at least 55 per cent of the total carbon dioxide emissions for 1990) deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Kyoto Protocol came into force.

2005 - G8 Leaders Act: At the G8 Gleneagles summit in July 2005, climate change is one of the two main issues addressed by leaders of the eight largest industrial nations, along with invited developing nations. The other issue is poverty in Africa.

2006 - UK Climate Change Programme: The UK Climate Change Programme sets out the policies and priorities for action in the UK and internationally.

2007 - First Climate Change Report: The First Annual Report to Parliament was placed before Parliament by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in accordance with section 2 of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006

2007 - Oslo: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Al Gore Jnr were awarded of the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change".

2007 - Climate Change 2007: The IPCC has now completed its " Synthesis Report" which was released in Valencia, Spain, on 17 November 2007. An influential group of scientists has concluded that Global climate change is "very likely" to have a human cause.

What can we do about climate change?

We can't stop the effects of the greenhouse gas emissions that have already taken place. But we can influence the future. The majority of scientists agree that to avoid radical changes of temperature in the future, action is needed now. Many believe that emissions of greenhouse gases, which are continuing to rise, must begin to decline over the next 10-20 years to avoid extreme changes to our climate. Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas that causes climate change. Every tonne emitted into the atmosphere commits the world to more warming. But every tonne we avoid emitting helps reduce the risk.

Straw bale construction

Sustainability

Annually renewable natural product fuelled by the sun
4 million tonnes of surplus material are produced each year
When life expectancy of building reached can be composted
Expected life duration of at least 100 years (USA has 130 years of data, UK only 7 years)
Easy repair process of replacing individual bales

Energy efficiency

50% of all greenhouse gases are produced by the traditional construction industry and associated transportation
reduced heating requirements so lower burden on energy producers

Insulation (heat)

K value of 0.09W/mK which provides a U value of 0.13W/mK when 450mm thick
Two to three times better than contemporary building materials
Over three times better than current building regulation standard

Insulation (sound)

Super-insulative acoustically
Recording studios now incorporate straw bale construction in USA

Fire risk

Reduced fire risk compared to traditional building construction
Low fire spread characteristics due to compacted nature of bales
Experience of barn fires

Cost

Straw is currently in surplus production and is regarded as a waste product
Average cost of 40p bale in field or £1.50 delivered
Comparator of a 3 bedroom two storey house
Brick and block wall = £10,000
Straw bale = £600
Labour costs reduced as unskilled construction technique
Heating costs reduced by 75% annually

Structural integrity

Fully compliant with building regulation codes