

A brief History of 'the Hut'

Camelsdale was one of the earliest scout groups to form around the time the Scouting movement started in 1907 when a few boys got together to form a scout patrol following the book "Scouting for Boys".

In 1909 the Scout troop formally started and met at what is now Springhead Barn at the bottom end of Marley Lane.

The group moved to the current HQ in 1936 and in 1938 purchased an old army hut for £93 and 10 shillings. This is still part of the present HQ and now known as the 'front room'.

In 1962 an extension was built on to the old hut, now the store rooms.

The Group raised the princely sum of £35 and in 1964 bought the 4 acres of land on which the HQ stood from the then owner, Lord Cowdray.

In 1973, what was then known as the "new hut" (current main hall) was built at a cost of £2,517, paid for entirely by money raised within the group by sponsored walks, jumbles sales and so on. The new hut was separate from the old hut and the first meeting was held in there in February 1974.

A year later in 1975, the old and new huts were joined by new toilets and kitchen (now kitchen and store rooms).

In 1982 a concrete garage was erected to use as a store room.

In February 2017, after various fires and general wear and tear in the intervening 35 years, we launched our Hut SOS project to start raising funds to replace the whole HQ as it became clear that it was nearing the end of its life and we needed something fit for purpose for the next 100 years.

May 2018: a local architect kindly offers to produce designs for us.

June – July 2018: sharing the initial design and ideas with scouting families and the local community to get feedback and ideas with a view to producing second stage plans to share through further engagement events before we finalise the proposals.

2019-2021: fund raising to enable us to rebuild the 1st Camelsdale Scouts HQ.



About 1st Camelsdale Scouts:

We are the largest scouting Group in Haslemere District, with approximately 100 children and young people enrolled in our three Sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts). We operate a constant waiting list.

The benefits of scouting ('Skills for Life') on the personal, emotional and physical development of children and young people are well documented: they grow in confidence, learn to take responsibility, build team working and leadership skills, learn a wide range of other life, social and practical skills that ease them into adulthood, make lifelong friends, experience adventure and get a chance to do things they might not have the chance to do otherwise. A 2010 independent study into the impact of scouting found it goes far beyond the individual, offering social, environmental and economic benefits to its members and communities across the UK, including better physical and mental health among adults who did scouting as young people.

1st Camelsdale Scouts is able to operate thanks to more than 40 volunteers who generously give their time for free to achieve our aim of "*Developing young people's potential and roles as citizens.*"

Proposed design and site plans

Our Vision for the new hall: *'A valued space for the local community'*

Your views are important to us

The design and plans we will share through our engagement events are initial proposals. We want to hear members' and residents' thoughts and ideas on them before developing them into final proposals. We ask you to be open and positive and to focus on ideas and solutions to any concerns so that together we can create a new space that works for both the scout group and the Camelsdale community.

Overview

- Smaller footprint than the existing buildings
- Built into the hillside to maximise space and benefit from the natural insulation of the surrounding sandstone sides
- New hedging along the whole length of the site adjacent to Marley Lane, from the entrance and up the lane to the site boundary by the Marley Lane 'offshoot'.

Tell me more

- Timber construction and slate roof
- Mezzanine level to provide additional, separate meeting and storage space as well as direct access and fire escape route to the footpath up to the campground
- Increased internal and external storage
- Maximise use of natural light through full length windows and glass doors along the front elevation, and sky lights in the roof
- Potential use of photo voltaic panels on the roof to generate our own electricity
- Expanded car parking area to improve usability (possible because the footprint of the new hall is smaller than the existing one)
- Potential to create an 'in and out' car park to improve safety and site usability: access at the current entrance and at a point further up the lane. We would particularly welcome views on where the additional access point could be sited if we proceed with this idea
- Rebuild to be funded through fundraising by 1st Camelsdale Scouts.

Future uses

- ✓ A fit-for-purpose meeting space for 1st Camelsdale Scouts and other youth movements, including Guides, Brownies/Rainbows, Explorer Scouts and Duke of Edinburgh groups
- ✓ An attractive and appealing venue for other day-time community activities such as exercise classes and interest groups
- ✓ A user-friendly and attractive hall for weekend, day-time children's parties
- ✓ An attractive and appealing venue for other community events (but not parties).

All monies raised through hire of the hall and/or campground are invested directly back into the Group to fund the scouting activities and programmes. They also help pay for the upkeep and maintenance of the four acre site, which cost the charity over half of the income available to use from member subscriptions after we have paid the annual contributions towards the Scout Association and Haslemere District Scouting.

General thoughts on the design and plans

Any areas of concern

Ideas and solutions to address any areas of concern

Any other ideas

Questions

