



Winchester



NEWS RELEASE

22 July 2013

Steve Brine MP visits Scouts' Pinsent Camp Site

Steve Brine MP visited Pinsent on Monday evening, 22 July to learn about the beautiful Camp Site on Teg Down, to receive a briefing on Barton Farm and to make four Silver Chief Scouts Awards to Cubs from the 3rd Winchester (The Worthies) Scout Group.

Millie Chilcott aged 10 and a Cub Scout, Alex King aged 17 and an Explorer Scout together with Chip the Beaver briefed Steve Brine on their recent meeting with Councillors, Council Officers and CALA Homes at the Barton Farm Forum.

They remain concerned about the estimated 800 or 40% of the 2,000 children expected to live on Barton Farm who will want to be Scouts and Guides. Unless full land provision is made at the imminent detailed planning stage these children will not be able to walk and bicycle to new Scout and Guide units within their immediate community.

Accompanied by the Pinsent sub-committee of Winchester Scouts' District Executive, the youngsters took Steve Brine on a tour of the Camp Site. Pinsent has belonged to Winchester Scouts since the 1930s. During the past 80 years, over 80,000 children from Winchester and the surrounding areas have benefited from Pinsent and all its adventurous activities.

The tour ended with a Grand Howl by the Cubs of the 3rd Winchester (The Worthies), the award of 4 Silver Chief Scouts Awards to Jack Thorn, Oliver Bryan, Samuel Murphy and Liam Kierans. Oliver Bryan and his Six also received prizes from Steve Feeny (Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs) for winning the District Camp Challenge in June. The awards were followed by a sausage sizzle and barbeque for parents and youngsters - and a water fight.

Steve Brine said: "As a former Scout myself, this visit was very special. It was so good to re-connect with the Scouting Movement and to hear how it has changed and updated since I was involved. The demand for Scouting in Winchester is clearly huge so I wanted to hear about their needs for the Barton Farm development and will do all I can to make their case to the City Council and CALA Homes. I know how much work goes into the Chief Scouts Awards so it was a real privilege to award them to four very special young people."

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Ends - see also Notes for Editors ...

Notes for Editors:

Winchester District Scouts exist to provide adventurous activities and personal development opportunities for young people aged 6-25. Scouting promotes the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual wellbeing of the individual, helping them achieve their full potential. The Scouting ethos is that young people develop most when they are 'learning by doing', when they are given responsibility, work in teams, take acceptable risks and think for themselves.

Winchester District Scouts, comprises 8 Scout Groups across Winchester City (for 6-13 year olds), 4 Explorer Scout Units (for 14-17 year olds) and one Network for 18-25 year olds). There are currently over 800 young people in Winchester Scouts. In addition there are 180 scout leaders and assistants, and over 300 CRB'd adult helpers in Winchester.

Each Scout Group is made up of sections for boys and girls. The Beaver Scout Colony is for 6-8 year olds; the Cub Scout Pack for 8-10½ year olds; and the Scout Troop for 10½-13 year olds. Some Groups also host Explorer Scout Units for 14-17 year olds that are provided by District as is Network for 18-25 year olds.

Every Scout Group is a charity with trustees in its own right. As such it is governed by Charity Commission Laws and by the Policy and Rules of the Scout Association at Gilwell Park - the UK's largest voluntary youth organisation. Each Scout Group depends on two sets of adult support - an adult uniform side responsible for delivering scouting to young people; and a non-uniform or Executive side that oversees the functioning and the infrastructure of the Group.

Winchester Scouts is one of 27 Scout Districts that comprise Hampshire County Scouts. The President of Winchester District Scouts is The Mayor, His Worship, Councillor Ernest Jeffs. Hampshire is the largest Scout county in the UK with over 17,000 young people.