



Greater London South East County Scout Council



Bexleyheath Consultation 24th March 2010

Question – There has been no consultation!

- The Regional Team set up a questionnaire and a meeting for the County. Only 3% responded.
- It is based on the GLSW set up.
- The decision has now been made.

Question – As volunteers we are not being able to volunteer our services. We come from Cubs, Scouts etc and HQ has decided to 'change'. Old scouting skills have gone and the young people are not benefitting from the 'oldness' and the experience.

- The Administration is the main change and this will not affect the delivery of scouting to the young people.

Question – Activities. We will be 'mini counties' so are we running County events? No practicality to this as County event numbers are smaller than the District event numbers. How will it happen on that scale?

- Yes you are right. Huge events do not take place. International should be offering trips. We are testing the waters with the Austria trip. We should be working together on this and encouraging others, giving the young people the opportunity of such events.

Question – 15 years ago there were County and District events. We do not have any County events any more.

- This is partly due to no support from the Districts.
- Now is the time to get this right and working properly. Stop fighting amongst ourselves and move forward.

Question – Who will the 1 to 1 be with? What happens to me if someone does not like me?

Question – There are 3 natural clusters. E & C, Bexleyheath and Sidcup and Welling. Where does County come in – it will disappear.

- Not necessarily those clusters. Do not know about County.

Question – so why can we not stay in our Districts?

- We raise concerns about delivering scouting. What does make sense is the Borough set up with regard to funding, money and the Council understanding our set up. Which is why we are positive.

Question – Why does County not support the communication that was sent out?

- The decision was made. At the moment there are 8 silos and it is the best way forward.

Question – County have shut their doors and they are too far removed!

I have been a GSL for 3 years and I have not met you yet.

- Which is exactly why we are exploring ways of working more closely together.
- Have you any ideas how we can do this?

Question – The other Boroughs in GLSW are not much bigger. Convince me that destroying the Districts are the best way forward when they work well now. It is not broken unlike GLSW. This is being forced and so is more resistance in the manner in which it is being done. It is not a consultation – which is where the objection is coming from.

- Disappointed at the reaction. We are trying to make sure everyone is happy. Feel like you do not trust us. This is why we are here tonight.



Greater London South East County Scout Council

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Question – We have not had any input and the timescale is not right. How long did GLSW have to change?

- We do not want to drag the process out too long. We want to deliver scouting in a positive way as soon as possible.

Question – Is there a timescale for the District to come up with a better model?

- Up until the County Conference which is the weekend of 15th-16th May.

Question – You are making the District redundant. Do you need to do this legally in writing?

- This is key for the DCs and Dchs to discuss. Moving forward with this and will be working with the Chairs for this to happen on 1st April.

Question – so is 1st April the 'Shutdown' date?

- This is when the new charity starts.

Question – Grant funding over the recession, working with the Treasury, success at getting funding is reliant on the GSL. We are concerned that we will lose the immediate contact. Can you guarantee the same level?

- The outside agencies need to understand our boundaries.
- GSLs are not going anywhere.

Question – What will happen to funds? There is a loyalty to Bexleyheath fundraising. Need to support this in other Districts and encourage.

- We still need to support this. There are ways around supporting a 'certain thing'. What happens to funds that already exist is a discussion for the Borough Executive. There would be 5 'pots' of money.

Question – Where do we go for permits in the new structure – people do not know me.

- We do not see it working like that.
- Could be more LTMs and adult trainers.

Question – Are you going to push this through north of London without looking at how it worked here?

- That is not my decision to make.

Question – What if it does not work?

- We will review as we go along.

Question – If at the end of the review time it still is not working will we revert back?

- No. HQ will not admit they are wrong.

Question – As a leader support from the DC is very important. I know him. I do not know people in County and if the District is too big I will not know people there.

- This is why we are looking at a model which is not traditional. It is unreasonable to support 40 groups.

Question – Why should we suffer?

- Success breeds success.

Question – Districts not working together?

- There will be 1 team and not 4. Less Admin/Borough teams so should be less likely to create a silo. A large team can support a large District like Bromley.

Question – We work well together because everyone in this District knows each other. If we have a Group/District change then the doors will shut.

- We make new friends all the time especially in scouting. It is a challenge for us but we need to learn to get on with new people and adults.

Question – Should I not have a 1 to 1 with the new DC?

- Yes you should. Feedback needs to all go into the same pot.

Question – The DC should choose his own team so they know they can work with everyone involved.

- It is more about identifying the right person for the right job.

Question – Who chooses the DC?

- Ben's decision. But would it better to vote? There is a search group being set up.

Question – Can we choose the search group?

- An email will be issued asking for people to come forward to join the search groups.

Question – Geographically 1st Baldwyn's Park comes under Kent Scout County. Does this mean we will lose them to a different County?

- No. We do not intend to lose any Groups.

Question – How do you find all people for new posts on the ground and in the Borough team?

- The Borough is formed from District Teams. Ground level may have more gaps than now. Need to start retaining leaders.

Question – Will the team be local?

- Yes as they will come from District Teams.

Question – The new team will need a lot of spare time.

- Yes which is why we need to put 'best practices' into place. Also why we are looking at clusters.

Question – Will someone from a successful team only be appointed?

- Do you know someone who is unsuccessful?

Question – Who would be in charge of scouting enquiries?

- This is a personal thing. Best dealt with by people who know the groups.
- GSL can take the role or it can be handled by the cluster coordinator.
- Gary can continue until 1st April. In the meantime work on where the enquiry will go and who will deal with it.

Question – The system is fast and efficient at the moment.

- But it can be faster.

Question – Will you dictate the new role to me?

- We will give a selection of options.

Question – We are all very emotionally upset by this. There is a form of 'emotional harm'.

- We do not intend to harm or upset anyone.
- We appreciate that this is a very emotive subject.

Question – Are we being bullied by HQ?

- We will not deny that you are not right.

Question – Could the 'Hierarchy' wear uniform?

- It is the individual's choice to wear uniform or not.

Question – Do activities carry on as usual until April 2011 and can we plan more activities?

- Carry on as normal until April 2011. But organised events can still happen in May.

The way this has been handled has been appalling but we have been impressed with what we have heard. We can definitely change something.