



Greater London South East County Scout Council



Erith and Crayford District Consultation Wednesday 17th March 2010

Question – Are the clusters the current Districts?

- No. It will be made up of section leaders who make up clusters.
- We will not set up full administrative units.

Question – How many clusters will there be?

- Nothing has been decided yet.

Question – Decision Making –who will be empowered to make decisions with in the clusters? If there is no structure no one can make a decision. There should be one person who knows the groups/leaders/members.

- You will lose the DC. By having clusters the coordinator will have more time to deal with the groups. They will be empowered to make decisions.

Question – Who will be the right person to escalate issues?

- These issues will be looked at before we set up the Boroughs.

Question – Will the new set up stop the Leaders dealing with their own young people/group. Will there not be the support.

- If someone wishes to stay in their present role within the Group then that is ok. No one will be forced into a role that they do not want to do. The 1 to 1s are for finding out what they want to do.

Question – Is the new set up country wide?

- No not at the moment. It is London based. The Regional Team made the decision.

Question – Why were we not consulted as we have not received any questionnaires?

- Everyone was sent a questionnaire which they could have completed.
- The CC has contacted the Regional Commissioner with his own concerns.
- The main reason could be the success of GLSW and the growth of Scouting in their County.
- The new set up will provide a better focus of developing Scouting.

Question – What would happen if the Groups refuse to accept the decision?

- The decision has been made by Region and the previous consultation was poorly attended.



Greater London South East County Scout Council

PO Box 59460 London SE2 8AW T: 08444 142 769 E: office@glscouts.org.uk W: www.glscouts.org.uk

County Commissioner: Ben Richardson President: Graham Cole Founder: Robert Baden-Powell OM Chief Scout: Lt Cdr (Hon) Bear Grylls RN

Registered Charity No. 1015476

Question – Scoutfest was a success but this was due to E & C support. That is why the District is good. We feel that clusters do not work and it would be a shame if the clusters mean that we cannot work together. It is felt the level of support will fall.

Question – There is concern about the distance the Executive members may have to travel across the Borough.

- With clusters the distance may not be as much as it is at present.

Question – Our Group is strong and we do not always take part in District events. The issue is that if clusters are set up then some Groups will do their own thing.

- Events will not be run by the clusters. The Programme Division of the Borough will run the large events. Clusters may still do smaller events if they wish.
- The role of clusters is to support the Groups not to purely run events.

Question – Talking about blowing apart the District set ups! We are told that the 2 Borough Districts will work separately – how will this work?

Question – People will not know what they are doing.

Question – If after April 2012 it is shown not to work what will happen?

- There will be regular reviews and action taken where necessary.

Question – What about Gang Shows?

- The Gang Shows will continue if wanted. The Gang Show is not going anywhere.

Question – I am dead against anyone being paid for work in scouting.

- We could not cope with the administration of the County without the role of Administrator. It may well be appropriate to effectively run the County for the benefit of our young people.
- We are appreciative of the work everyone is doing to try and make this new set up work.

Question – If there are 4 clusters and they are the present Districts will this be allowed.

Question – What will happen if E & C do not want to do this.

- The decision has been made. We do not want a mass walk out but we do have to encompass the new set up.
- The new set up is considered to be the right way to support Groups.

Question – If the change does not work who will make the decision to re-change?

- The DCs will be consulted and are not going anywhere.

Question – if the Borough is going to organise the events there will not be big enough places to run such large events.

- The cluster coordinator will assist the Groups with the events.
- The large scale events do not happen at the moment but there is the opportunity for us to organise large events.

Question – E & C would like to remain as a cluster. This is wanted by the District.

- Consultations regarding clusters should be undertaken and will be undertaken.

Question – Are we going to lose property where clusters cannot afford to run them properly?

- This will be decided by the Executive.
- There will be no asset stripping.

Question – How much have you learnt from GLSW?

- As soon as we heard of the possibility of the new system we were looking at a 'buddying' system between GLSW and ourselves.
- We will ask for their advice and ask about the pitfalls.

Question – Look at the body language. What will the young people think of our body language?

- Cubs will not be worried about what is happening at the top level.
- We cannot stop the change but we can make sure that scouting is delivered for the benefit of our young people.

Question – We are being split – has the sub boundaries been agreed?

- No decision has been made about clusters or otherwise.

Question – We want to know what cluster/team we will be working with. We need to know what the boundaries will be.

- The conference will decide and will consult the County before going forward.

Question – Will Group property/assets be affected?

- No. The Groups will remain unchanged.

Question – What is the agenda for the changes?

- We do not know if there is a hidden agenda.

Question – GLSW took 3 years. Why are we doing it in 12 months?

- We do not want to drag matters out. We can do it by consultation with GLSW and with a view to avoid the pitfalls they encountered.

Question – What effect will there be on Scout Shops - will they be amalgamated?

- No thoughts about this at present. However the profits will be decided by the Borough Executive and may therefore go into Borough Funds.

Question – Have there been any other options submitted by the other Districts?

- Nothing yet. However we need to help each other and good Districts can help others.

Question – If there is a further alignment are we going to lose Groups to other Boroughs?

- No decision has been made.

Question – The Borough Executive – should there be a minimum of 2 people from the clusters?

- The right people will be on the Executive and will include people with the correct skills.
- We are a charity and the Executive has to run the County efficiently and correctly.

Question – Will Explorer Scout Units disappear?

- It would be wrong to bring them all together as it will be too large. No Unit will be closed.