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### **Update on the Temporary Closure of the Billingshurst Scout and Guide Hut.**

A month ago you will know that we had to close the building for a temporary period. Clearly this has caused significant disruption to all and we must congratulate the unit / section leaders in being able to carry on in these difficult circumstances.

In the intervening period we have received some costs for the work needing to be done. Although we have not been able to finalise everything, it is becoming clearer and so this update is intended to keep you all informed of the current situation.

We are now faced with four stages:

1. The removal of the building's ceiling by an approved specialised contractor.
2. A complete replacement ceiling - including the main hall's heating and lighting infrastructure.
3. The resurrection of toilet refurbishment project.
4. The replacement of some items of stored equipment that cannot be cleaned because, to avoid the possibility of any risk, the authorities consider them condemned.

Clearly everyone wants to see the whole building back in full use as soon as possible but at the same time the Committee is very conscious of the funding implications – and much of the intervening period has been spent on this. In summary it would seem that there are several possible sources of funding noting that for each, we need to go through an application process and then wait to see if any award is given (in whole or indeed in part). One clear view is that such funding would not be retrospective and generally, would not fund the replacement of condemned equipment either. On this latter point, our insurers have declined a claim already.

Thus the implication of immediately starting work is that any such cost would be out of our existing funds or via a loan (or a combination of the two). In short, we would have to make up all sums spent through more fund raising – and this being on top of fund raising needed, say, for replacement equipment.

Your Committee has decided that the best way forward is to apply as soon as possible for funding instead committing to paying major costs out of current funds and / or taking out a loan. To mitigate the delay this will cause, we are taking specialist advice and intend to both partially re-open the building and to seal off the rest. Temporary use of other premises will continue too, catering for the pressure on activity space with Showtime 2011 approaching.

In addition, we are launching an appeal to the widest audience possible for funds to cover all items we are unable to get funding for.

**We ask everyone to help / contribute as much as they can – Please contact any official.**

Currently we are optimistic that all this will be behind us by the end of the Spring Term but this not an easy time for anyone and there is a lot to take into account so please bear with us. Thank you.

Richard Pope.

Chairman – Billingshurst Scouts and Guides Executive Committee.