

## Scout Hut – 1<sup>st</sup> Iver Heath Scouts

The aim of the project was to create a flexible and usable space for activities which are core to the scout programme.

The area to the rear of the hut was overgrown and had not been in use for many years.

The work has been carried out in phases.

Phase 1 comprised the major hard landscaping to create a paved area to the rear of the hut with firepits built into the area. The area is accessed through a lockable gate which means this area can be used separately from the hut and the second paved area if necessary.

These fire pits are covered when not in use.

A stepped back area is being used as a log store and storage area and to the end backing on to the rear of the garages an area for tomahawk throwing. This area is fenced off from the general area and has netting to prevent any tomahawks leaving the site. Crash mats are placed on the ground to protect the paving and ensure the tomahawks are not blunted.

### Phase 2

This area which is to the side of the hut bordering the village hall car park. It was extended to create a significantly larger paved area and to create a ramp to access the firepit area.

This area has been cleared and new fencing with gravel boards installed to provide an area for activities. This area is also used for large camp fires. A larger 1.20 m firebowl was purchased and benches were made and donated by Men in Sheds.

The remaining area has been cleared of all undergrowth and levelled. This has been prepared to install traverse climbing panels. This will represent phase 3 of the project.

Currently, we are researching the best configuration for the space, layout and flexibility for mixed ages. We are also looking at best options for ground cover.

The remaining area to the front of the hut is being scoped as a site for the cook it, grow it project working with Bucks.

We encountered some challenges:

1. The increase in materials costs meant the hard landscaping work was around 15% more than originally budgeted.
2. On clearing the area behind the hut it emerged that to ensure no impact on our neighbours' fences from the work we would have to build a small retaining wall and fence panels. We also changed the design to access the area to ensure the ramp would be suitable for wheelchair users.

The funding from Wexham and Ivers Community board enable us to deliver Phase 1 of the project and the contributory funding from 1<sup>st</sup> Iver Heath Scouts is funding the remainder of the work.

The areas have been in use by all age groups and is also available for the brownies and Explorers who meet at the hut.

The young people love lighting the fire pits and have cooked meals as well as toasting marshmallows. They have also had camp fires and celebrated 5<sup>th</sup> November in the area. This outside space will be well used and will help us to deliver more outdoor activities on site throughout the year. It also helps us grow the capacity of our groups.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone at the community board for your support. Our leaders, young leaders, volunteers and young people are so grateful for funding this project.



