

18 Herongate Road

London

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the 21st Epping Forest South Beavers, as Section Leader.

We have 30 Beavers and six leaders in our group and use the hall for an hour every Monday evening. I don't know when this arrangement started, but certainly it's been in place for decades and the hall is absolutely central to all three sections in the 21st EFS group (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) which together have nearly a 100 members between ages 6 and 14. Without use of the hall the viability of the group would be in question as there are simply no other options in Aldersbrook, which is one of the reasons the hall is so central to the community here.

The voluntary work to improve the hall over the past year has made a difference simply by creating a nicer environment but, the kitchen work has been particularly welcome. It is far more accessible, makes much better use of the space and, frankly, feels cleaner!

On behalf of the Beavers I can say that we are absolutely supportive of further improvements to the hall, including better storage facilities and improved accessibility. We struggle with our storage in the hall as it is not only too small, but also in a tricky place up on the stage. We cannot let Beavers on the stage for safety reasons which means that leaders need to step away from activities to go to the cupboard etc.

We also have two Beavers with physical impairments, one of which has very restricted mobility. The men's/ boys' toilets are up a set of stairs at the moment which means that this child needs to use the women's toilets, whilst being accompanied by his father, which is of course a safeguarding issue. I believe the stairs also mean that the hall is not compliant with the DDA 1995.

I would be happy to provide further information in support of further renovations.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Waters

Section Lead, 21st EFS Beavers