



Report for Faringdon Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday 5th May 2021

2nd Faringdon Brownies - Youth Grant

On behalf of 2nd Faringdon Brownies, please accept my sincere appreciation for the award of a **£1328 Youth Grant** from Faringdon Town Council, to cover Girlguiding Membership Fees due to Covid-19. In particular, 100% of this grant was used in February 2021, to pay the annual Girlguiding UK membership fees for 34 young girls (aged 7 to 10) and 6 volunteer leaders - associated receipt from Girlguiding UK attached. This membership covers insurance, volunteer training, safeguarding resources etc., without which we would not be able to run our sessions.

Renewed membership of Girlguiding UK has allowed this group of Faringdon girls to have continued access to the opportunities offered by Girlguiding UK, regardless of the individuals' physical or financial circumstances. As members, the girls have fun, adventure and the space to discover their potential - everything from working in a team, to taking the lead, to speaking out on issues they care about. It also helps them develop the skills and confidence to become the young women they want to be, and to make a difference to the world around them. In particular, Brownies is about trying new things that teach girls about themselves, their community and their world. Brownies introduces girls to a world of new opportunities, challenges and fun. Girls go along to camps, holidays, day trips and sleepovers. They get together with their friends at regular meetings where they learn new hobbies, get creative, develop skills and have outdoor adventures. As well as trying activities in their meetings, girls choose from interest badges related to things they want to know more about.

2nd Faringdon Brownies is currently the only remaining Brownie pack in Faringdon. The local need to keep the unit running is evidenced by the 25 girls who have regularly attended our weekly Zoom sessions throughout the various lockdowns and beyond, and a further 9 Brownies who are looking to resume attendance once we are able to resume face-to-face meetings. Beyond that, we also have a list of girls waiting for a place to become available.

Holding the weekly virtual sessions throughout the Covid-19 pandemic has provided much needed contact / continuity for the girls. Numerous emails of appreciation have been received from the girls' parents. Although we were unable to provide the usual residential opportunities in 2020, the intention is that these, and other life-skills, will form key components of the programme as soon as circumstances allow. In the meantime, we have continued to run both weekly on-line sessions covering other elements of the Brownie programme such as badge work based on the underlying principles of Girlguiding described above, as well as occasional virtual sleepovers.

Hopefully, things are beginning to return to normal and we have now started planning our first face-to-face sessions since March 2020. Thank you once again for the support provided by Faringdon Town Council.

Report prepared by Keeley Bond (Brownie Guider - 2nd Faringdon Brownies)