

## Pettypool Activity Centre

[www.pettypool.org](http://www.pettypool.org)

### History and Development

Girlguiding Cheshire Forest purchased an area of woodland in Sandiway in the late 70's. The land had been left untouched for years. The ground was covered in fallen trees, brambles and nettles.

Through hours of volunteer effort, 17 acres have been transformed into a thriving activity centre. This now comprises of a residential building (sleeping 24 plus leaders), campsites, habitat areas and activity areas. The centre is used by Girlguiding members from all over Cheshire: Warrington/Widnes to the North, Middlewich to the East, Malpas to the South and Chester to the West. It is also available for use by other recognised youth groups where space allows



The existing residential building was erected in the 1980s, is prefabricated and unsuitable for disabled members and mixed groups. It is expensive to heat and is showing signs of age. In 2010 following a consultation process with our young members, the County Trustees agreed that a replacement residential building should be built.

The development of the design and fundraising then began. Members from all Guiding sections were involved, putting forward their ideas as to what should be included in the new building. Finally after completing land and ecology surveys, etc. planning permission was granted in 2015.

In 2016 it was agreed by the County Trustees that although there were insufficient funds to complete the build, the project should be started. The shell, activity room and dining room would be built. The bedrooms and kitchen fit out to follow in Phase 2 when sufficient funds have been raised. It has been extremely difficult to receive any funding through grants as we seem to be ineligible in many cases.

We are extremely grateful for any external support that we receive.

The new building will be located on an area previously used as a campsite. It is a terraced site with views over existing woodland. The land was cleared in February 2016 (to conform to ecological requirements). Excavation began in mid October 2016. Phase 1 should be complete by June 2017.



Work on the build has made good progress, the foundations and retaining wall were completed on schedule by the end of December 2016.

The new residential building will sleep 30 plus leaders in en-suite rooms of 4/6.

It will have full disabled facilities including a bedroom with hoist and care facilities.

It is in a raised location and will have direct access to an outdoor deck area and the surrounding woodland.

The adaptable design of the new building and the increase in number of residents should enable greater use than the present dated building, particularly to those requiring disabled facilities and mixed groups.

The design and materials used have been chosen so that the building fits well in the woodland setting

Once Phase 1 is complete the kitchen area, activity room and dining room will be available for use. The bedroom section will be completed in phase2 once the final £250,000 has been raised.

This is a huge project for Girlguiding Cheshire Forest to undertake but once complete its members will have a building that is adaptable and inclusive. It will offer unique outdoor experiences in a safe rural environment, particularly for young people who do not have access to the countryside in their normal everyday lives.

## Artists impressions of the New Residential Building

Girlguiding: Petypool Lodge



View from campground



View from entrance

If you would like more information about the project or think you could help in any way please contact: [petypoolproject@petypool.org](mailto:petypoolproject@petypool.org)