



## **Scouting Ireland – A New Association**

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### **Background Information**

For the last number of years both Scout Associations in the country have been meeting at a national level to plan a merger into one association. National Council has approved the creation of a number of subcommittees to look at various topics including, the Programme, Property & Finance, Uniform & Emblems, Spirituality and a number of other topics.

Most of the sub-committees have now reported back and the final report has been published. It defines what scouting is and a mission for Scouting Ireland, it looks at spirituality, our programmes, national and local structures, property, and establishes a timetable for the merger.

### **Timetable for Merger**

This timetable is divided into 3 phases and these are as follows:

#### **PHASE 1**

Between May 2000 and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2001, the report is to be finalised and a special national council is to be held in both associations to approve the merger.

#### **PHASE 2**

From 26<sup>th</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001 a Interim National Management Board is to be setup and the dissolution of the CSI and SAI Scout Associations will take place.

#### **PHASE 3**

1<sup>st</sup> January 2002 the new Scout Association "Scouting Ireland" comes into being and is officially launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

### **Detail of Merger**

#### **PHASE 2**

National Officers Designate will be appointed and oversee the transfer of assets and liabilities, transfer of membership and facilitate the dissolution of the existing scout associations.

National Administration will be remodeled and staff requirements will be assessed on a national and county basis by external review.

New national team will be setup and new county /district officers appointed to take up duty from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002.

The national programme for January to August 2002 will then be agreed.

#### **PHASE 3**

A common name and emblem will be used. National Officers Designate fill those positions and County Committees take up positions and responsibilities.

A new unit title system will be introduced.

Unit must register with new association, Districts and Counties must register with the new association.

### **Issues that will Impact on us**

1. Name Change
2. Unit Name Change
3. Uniform Change
4. Property Change
5. Region Change
6. National Admin.
7. National Activities
8. Programme Changes



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### Local, Regional, National

The new structure as proposed, provides for each Unit to continue as is (affiliations to religious bodies unclear) and each country will have a County Committee. In large counties there will also be District Committees. This will report to a Provisional Officer / Committee which will report to the National Officers. It is likely districts and committees will be organised along the line of existing political boundaries.

### Concerns

Whilst a single unified scout association would make sense from the point of view of sharing resources and costs, there is a feeling that we are entering merger on the ground that our numbers are falling and this will boost membership and on the assumption that the new association will receive additional grants aid from the government.

However aside from these items we should consider the following

### Local Issues

Do we want our association with the church as our original sponsoring body?

Do we want to lose our unit numbers and the history associated with them?

Do we want the hassle of changing emblems, signs and uniforms?

### Regional Issues

No definite regional / district or county structure has been agreed.

Are we happy to become part of a proposed city region or district?

Will our units ownership of Kilcully Campsite though our Region be effected by the change?

### National Issues

Have we assurances that a new National Commissioner for Cubs will not drop the Fianníocht systems for Macaoimh?

Are we happy with the proposed structure?

Will the training undertaken by leaders be recognized and what is the new training scheme?

Are we happy with a restructuring of field and national personnel and HQ?

Are we happy not to have an impact into the appointments of most of the new officers on national and county level as no democratic process has been outlined?

The Assets & Liabilities and Property issues are a concern, as we do not have any information of the current status of these items from either association.

What is the youth membership of each of our associations?

### Notes

**This is a discussion document; the views expressed do not necessarily represent the views of Cork South East Region.**

**The aim of the document is to stimulate discussion within Units by providing some points of reference.**