

18<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Sawston Parish Council

## **REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**

As you know our youth activities in the village ceased on Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 and we have not met since. Our affiliated organisation – The Boys' Brigade has been sending the young people a programme of activities each week called BB@home which has been successful, and we have been holding weekly zoom meetings with mixed interest for our older group.

In total we are expecting between 70 and 80 young people led by 22 volunteer leaders when we restart many of whom are at Sawston Village College.

Although we have been looking to restart, we have received an email from Mr. Jonathan Russell from SVC who is not keen for us to restart given his aim of keeping young people in school within year groups. Our youth group has defined age groups with 8yrs to 11yrs and the 11yrs to 15yrs and then 15yrs to 18yrs so if we did restart we would be undoing all the hard work of the college by mixing year groups.

Mr. Russell has asked us not to restart and look at this again after October half term or for January 2021. His email is enclosed.

However, The Boys' Brigade have made it clear that they need the capitation fees paid by the 1<sup>st</sup> November to cover our insurance requirements. This is an annual fee based on leader and young people numbers and last year this amounted to £1,746.

If we are not meeting then we cannot charge a subscription and thus we will struggle to find this money by the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020.

We are therefore asking for a grant from the Sawston Parish Council of £1,500 to help us meet this obligation.

As a group we have never in our 20yrs history asked Sawston Parish Council for any financial help, but we feel we have no option but to ask for your help now.

We are one of the largest youth groups in the village and provide an invaluable service to the local community via our band, our weekly activities and the huge amount of DofE awards that we have and continue to present to our loyal members. We are a totally voluntary organisation as well as a registered charity working hard to make a real difference in Sawston. Please look at our website at [www.syg.org.uk](http://www.syg.org.uk) to see some of the activities we offer and what we have done in recent years.

We would ask you to look favourably upon this request and I look forward to hearing from you.

Your faithfully

SYG Group Chairman