Buckmore Park Scout Campsite Report for Medway Towns District Scouts AGM – Covering the Period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

At the time of writing this report, the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the World is now well understood. However, the words below reflect operations at the campsite for the Financial Year 2019-2020. Whilst Covid 19 was already apparent and lockdown in place by the end of March 2020, the words below mainly reflect the successful year at the campsite. The full impact of Covid 19 will be fully reflected in next year's Annual Report.

The campsite has offered residential and day experiences to thousands of young people during the year, mainly from the Scout Association but also from a range of other youth organisations and schools. Visitors have had the opportunity to learn a range of skills and participate in a wide range of activities (both formal and informal) using our 145 acres of woodland and open spaces.

Figure 1 below shows that overall visitor numbers have broken 10000 for the second year running (a visitor is defined as either a day visitor or an over-night stay). The figure also shows that camper nights have dropped over the last couple of years but been offset by an increase in day visits.

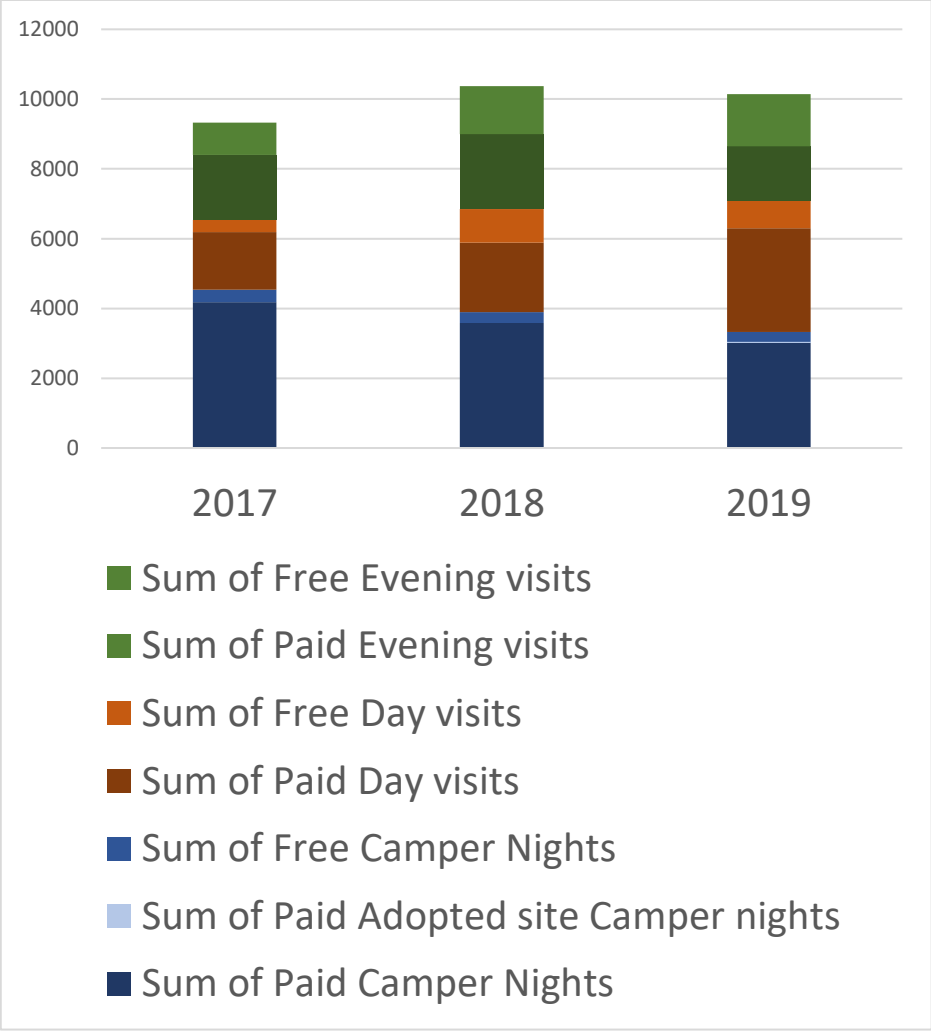

Figure 1: Visitor Numbers to BPSC over the last three years

Figure 2 below shows a breakdown of the campsite's users for financial year 2019 2020.

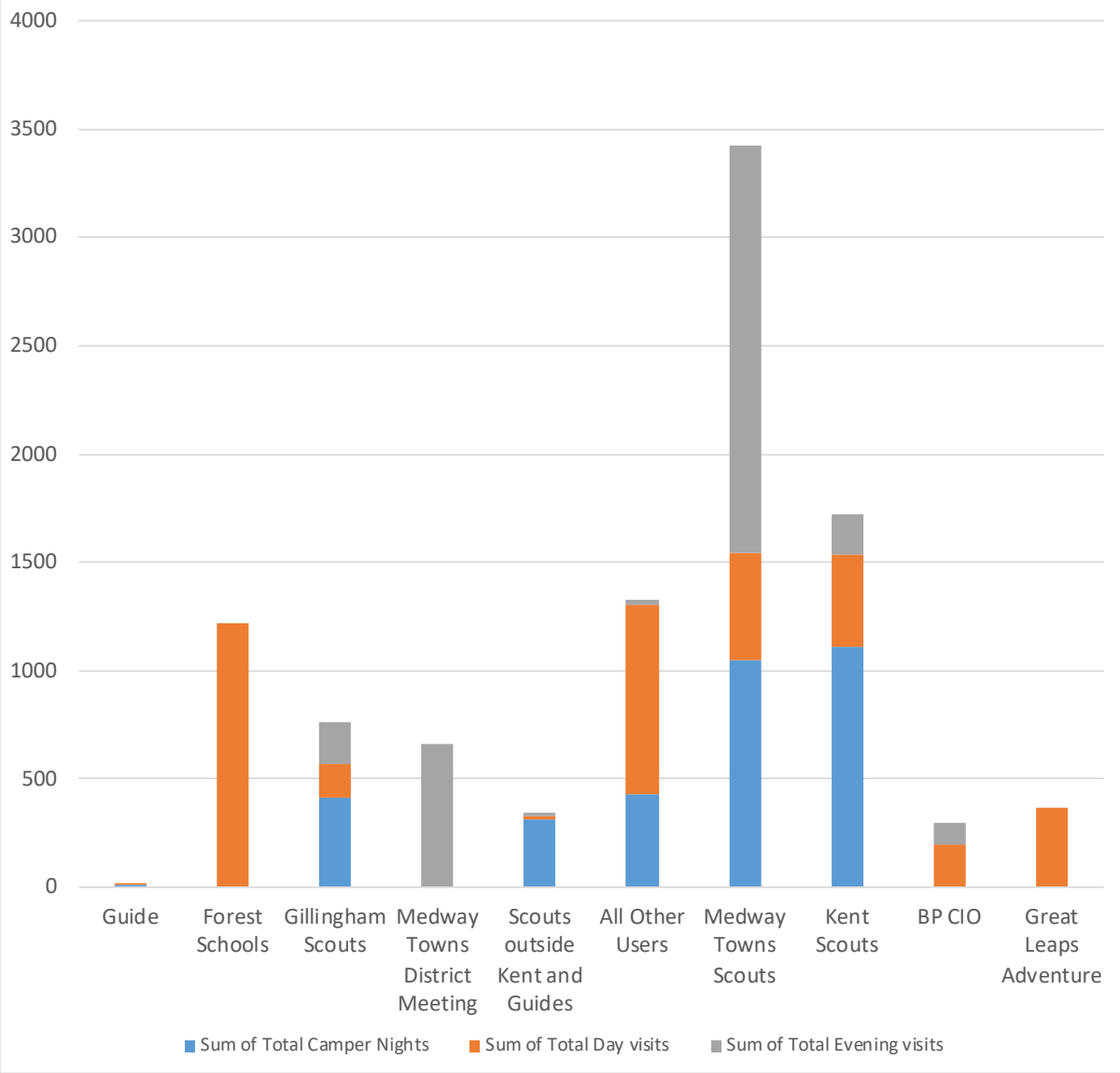

Figure 2: Breakdown of visitors to BPSC 2019-2020

Figure 2 shows that BPSC is attracting Scouts from all over Kent, a small number of Scout Campers from outside camp and non Scout Users. Also worthy of note:

- In 2019, the campsite hosted 64 District Meetings for Medway Towns in Ingle Nook at no charge to the District.
- Campsite offers 2 free leaders per night per group for Scout Bookings
- Campsite does not charge for uniformed Scout leaders for day and evening visits.

The formal onsite activities (caving, archery, air rifles, orienteering and mountain biking) have seen a significant increase in demand in the reporting year as shown in Figure 3 below with Tomahawk throwing being introduced during the reporting year.

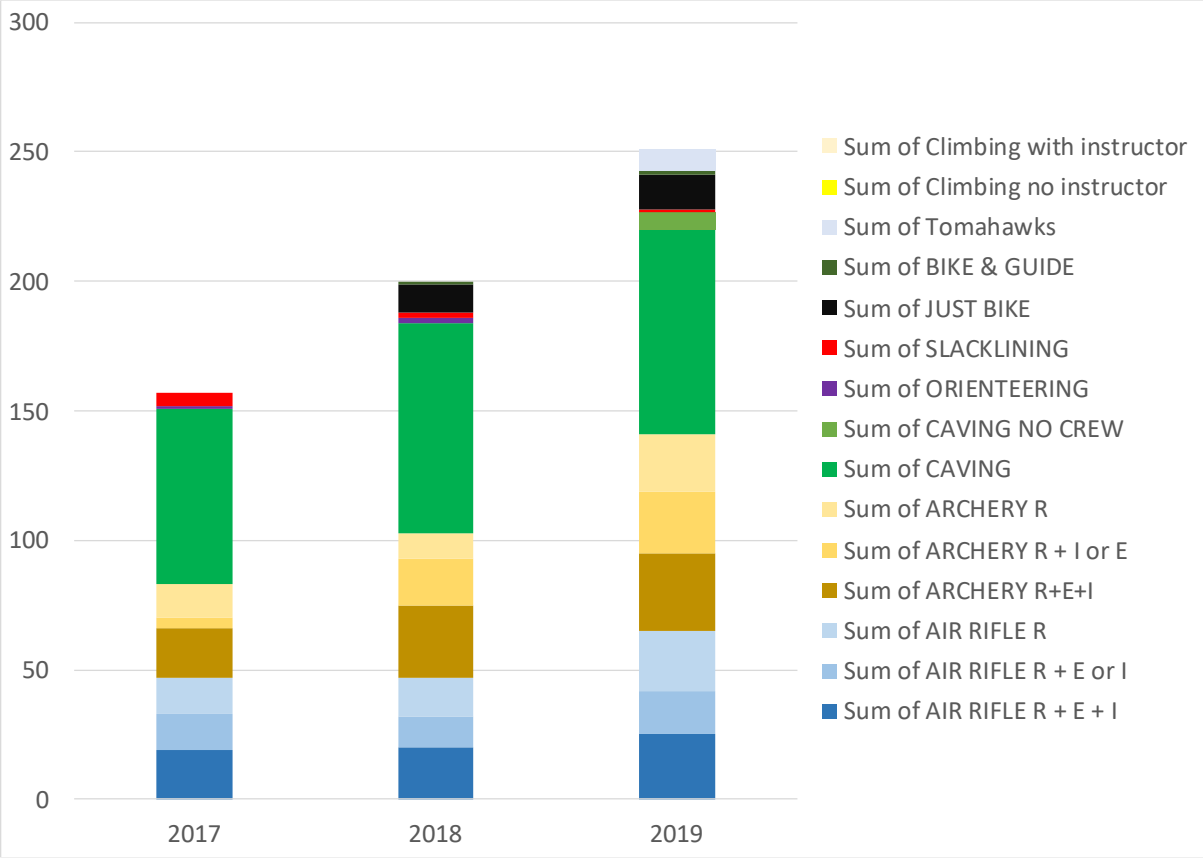

Figure 3 Activity Usage at Buckmore Park Scout Campsite over the last three years

During the reporting year the Charitable Incorporate Organisation has worked hard to improve the campsite in many ways including infrastructure developments and starting work to increase the range of activities on offer and planning for future building requirements. In the reporting year a new maintenance area was delivered to secure everything required for the maintenance and development of the site and additional tools and machinery were purchased to make the demanding tasks easier for the Service Crew.

The campsite had adopted the Online Scout Manager booking System to make online bookings easier for all Users. The campsite works hard to keep the Distirct and other users up to date with regular Newsletters.

As noted at the start, Covid 19 forced operations at the campsite to cease as the Country went into lockdown.

The achievements of the charity are entirely down to the 100% volunteer service crew and management team to whom the charity trustees are incredibly grateful for their commitment to providing outdoor opportunities to the young people from the Medway Towns and beyond.