

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE THIRKILL ROOM AT 14:00 ON THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 2020

<p>Present: Prof Andrew Balmford (Chairman) David Barton (Clare Green Society) Dr Andre Cabrera Serrenho (CRA Rep) Lee Corke (Catering Manager) Dr Jo Costin (Secretary) Steve Elstub (Head Gardener) Dr William Foster (Fellow) Dr Andrew Friend (Fellow) Georgia Fulton (MCR Representative) Deborah Hoy (Estates Director) Geppetto Price (Staff Rep) Jackie Searle (Accommodation Manager) Dan Wright (UCS President)</p>		
Item (a)	Summary (b)	Action (c)
1 Apologies for Absence	Lizzie Ashworth (Conference and Marketing Associate); Deborah Hoy (Estates Director); Geppetto Price (Staff Representative)	
2 Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest.	
3 Minutes and Matters Arising	The minutes of 17 October 2020 were approved.	
4 Green Impact Update	<p>Green Impact Launch Event: The Green Impact Launch Event was poorly attended, with few students or staff in attendance.</p> <p>Current Status: 26 out of 95 actions have been completed, giving a total of 136 out of 447 points for the actions. Many of the actions are the same as last year. One of the new actions relates to the carbon footprint of food. Emma Garnett may be able to help with information.</p> <p>Many of the actions relate to communications and posters. Jo Costin will send relevant questions to particular HoDs. Help with communication from other members of the committee would be appreciated.</p> <p>Clare Green Society are interested in Green Impact. Jo Costin to show members how to use the website to enter actions.</p> <p>Jo Costin was thanked for her work on the submission to date.</p> <p>Excellence Project: The Excellence Project is in progress, and relates to monitoring electricity usage across the College and producing targeted communications.</p>	<p>LC</p> <p>JC</p> <p>JC</p>
5 UCS Update	<p>Green Week: The UCS Green Week is in progress. The week began with a Green Formal and an open meeting to discuss how to make Clare greener.</p> <p>Staircase Competition: The Staircase Competition is running at Memorial Court and in the Colony. This relies on the bedders reporting lights left on. The prize has not yet been arranged. Lee</p>	<p>DW / AGN / JS</p>

MINUTES

	<p>Corke offered formal tickets for the winners. As there may be a number of staircases who tie, there will be a draw for the tickets.</p> <p>Food Waste: The food waste bins ran well on four staircases for two terms, but the bins have now largely been removed owing to concerns about hygiene. A responsible student is needed on each staircase. There was an issue communicating the need for students to empty the bins to Freshers. It was suggested that the scheme may run better at the Colony where students had previously had the bin in Memorial Court.</p> <p>New Posters: New posters are being developed. Many of the current posters are dated and are not in all gyp rooms. Graphs showing the relative impact of different actions were brought to the meeting; these will form the basis for some new posters. Jackie Searle offered assistance from the Housekeeping Department to put these up.</p> <p>Buttery Survey: A survey was carried out about changing the meal options.</p> <p>Colony Gardens: Plans are in progress to turn the former allotment space into a native species / biodiversity oriented space to make better use of the area.</p> <p>Handover: All documents need to be easily accessible for future years. Jo Costin will check Moodle access and that documents have been uploaded.</p>	<p>DW / AGN / JS</p> <p>DB / DW / JS</p> <p>SE</p> <p>JC</p>
<p>6 MCR Update</p>	<p>Cycle Training: There have been some volunteers to help run a cycle repair workshop, but more are needed. It may be possible to run this in the summer. Jo Costin has been in contact with the University, who are looking for venues to run free cycle training. Agreement in principle has been made to run a session in Thirkill Court.</p> <p>Greencycle Cupboard: This is in full use with good feedback. There is interest in expanding it to include gowns and resources like textbooks. Undergraduates do not have access, and access is limited to Clare Court students. There were concerns that additional space may become untidy, as it would need someone to run the space. Facilities to recycle used items via BHF were available. The Forbes Mellon Library was also used to recycle a number of books from the Hepple Room.</p> <p>Wildflowers at Clare: Questions about wildflowers at Clare had been raised following the news that King's is rewinding part of their lawn. The current wildflower area in the Fellows' Garden will be lost during the Old Court logistics works, but the topsoil is to be removed to preserve the seed bank, and will be put in Memorial Court. Some space is available in Clare Court – Georgia Fulton to investigate whether residents would like to have wildflowers. It was suggested that following the next committee meeting the committee visit the wildflower area in the Fellows' Garden.</p> <p>Carbon Neutrality Working Group: A carbon neutrality group, chaired by Professor Phil Allmendinger, is in the process of being set up.</p> <p>Coordination with the University: The MCR and Clare Green Society are trying to coordinate more closely with the University, via the Cambridge Hub (engage for change) and Cambridge University Green Week.</p> <p>Instagram: The MCR has been running an Instagram page about sustainable student living.</p> <p>Green Formal: The Green formal was a great success.</p>	<p>GF / JC</p>
<p>7 Staff Representative</p>	<p>The Staff Representative sent apologies and an update prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Borrow a Bag Scheme: An email has been sent to all staff requesting spare bags. Once sufficient bags have been received,</p>	<p>Staff Rep</p>

MINUTES

	<p>College members will be notified that they can borrow shopping bags from the Porters' Lodge.</p> <p>The committee thanked Geppetto Price for arranging this.</p> <p>Parking Policy: This has gone before Estates, but is not yet approved and is under consultation.</p> <p>Rotary Line: Most students dry washing in their rooms. Outside houses do not have dryers.</p>	
<p>8 Conferencing</p>	<p>The Conferencing Representative was not able to attend.</p> <p>ARM: The carbon footprint of an aluminium can is higher than that of plastic bottle, but it is easier to recycle. A large number of cans remain from the previous year and can continue to be used. The Buttery has removed single use plastic containers, but still stock cans. Getting rid of all single use items would be a better option. Glass bottles for water are very heavy (too heavy to be practicable during the ARM conference). ARM are interested in participating in green initiatives. The hub area was fitted with water coolers, and all delegates were given a reusable bottle. There was a cost issue with installing water refilling stations in every room. The aluminium cans did lead to less wastage than from plastic bottles. This needs to be investigated soon, as the initial meetings for the conference take place in February / March. Dr Serrenho and the Chair expressed their willingness to meet with ARM to discuss how to lower the impact of our water provision.</p>	<p>LC / LA</p>
<p>9 Accommodation</p>	<p>Staircase Competition: The Staircase Competition is running – one staircase has left lights on significantly more than others.</p> <p>Recycling: There has been an issue with Clare Court residents using the green bins for general waste. Emails are being sent out regularly.</p> <p>Furniture: Old furniture within the College is being upcycled and reused, including some valuable pieces. When put in rooms, a note has been left with them to explain where it is from and other details.</p> <p>Crisp Packets: Full Circle are able to recycle crisp packets. Jo Costin to investigate whether crisp packet recycling can be put into the Porters' Lodges and whether Full Circle are able to accept that level of waste. 2 Farmers' Crisps are produced using compostable crisp packaging (currently available in Trinity Hall). However a concern was raised about whether they would be compostable in the green bins at Clare.</p> <p>Amey Cespa Talk: This was not as well attended by students as on the previous occasion, but there was a good attendance from staff.</p>	<p>JC</p>
<p>10 Catering</p>	<p>Food Waste: The committee investigated a waste digester several years ago. A new company has been in touch with a waste digester that churns up the food and can be used for biofuel. Dr Nigel Woodcock previously investigated these and may be able to help with lifecycle costs.</p> <p>Green Formals: One has been held this term. One for the MCR is in progress. More than one a term is possible.</p> <p>Meal Option Changes: A student survey has shown of 250 responses, approximately 74% were in favour of increasing the vegan and vegetarian options for the evening meal. This would mean a change from one vegan / vegetarian, one meat, and one fish to one vegan, one vegetarian, and one meat or fish. Data from the new uniware system should be available shortly. Veggie Monday has been generally well received, and investigation into continuing it out of term is taking place. This will require buy in from summer schools. Vegan cooking is challenging, but Clare chefs have been to workshops. There was some concern about kickback, and increasing vegetarian options may be more acceptable.</p>	<p>LC</p>

MINUTES

	<i>Glass Milk Bottles:</i> These were only better if they are reused rather than recycled, which would mean returning them to the Porters' Lodges. Lee Corke to investigate further.	LC
11 Buildings	<p><i>Boiler Upgrades:</i> A sustainability study has been carried out to investigate options for the Memorial Court boiler project.</p> <p><i>Emmissions Data:</i> David Barton, Joey Bream and Roberto Campalastri have produced data on the carbon footprint and emissions from utilities usage across most of the buildings in Clare. Lerner Court uses a significant amount of electricity per student, and has particularly high consumption in July. This is during the main conferencing period, when the building is running at full capacity. Castle House has a high gas consumption per student, and a concern was raised that the window seams may be loose, allowing warm air to escape.</p> <p>The next stage of the project is to widen the study from electricity and gas to include food consumption.</p> <p><i>Smart Metering:</i> New smart meters have been installed in the Chesterton Road properties, but the data from them is not yet accessible. Further smart meters will be installed in the Queen Edith and Netherfield flats in February.</p>	JC
12 Gardens	<p><i>Backs Survey:</i> The Backs Biodiversity Survey is now available on the Gardens page of the Clare website.</p> <p><i>Allotment:</i> The allotment area is under discussion with the UCS to find a way forwards.</p> <p><i>Bird and Bat Boxes:</i> The bird and bat boxes are being moved from the Fellows' Garden now in preparation for the Old Court project.</p> <p><i>Bursar's Environment Sub Committee:</i> HoDs have been asked to fill in parts of a sustainability survey for the Bursar's Environment Sub Committee.</p>	
13 AOB	There was no other business to discuss.	
14 Date of Next Meeting	7 May 2020 2pm, Thirkill Room	

Distribution:

Prof Andrew Balmford (Chairman)
 Lizzie Ashworth (Conference and Marketing Associate)
 Dr Andre Cabrera Serrenho (CRA Rep)
 Lee Corke (Catering Manager)
 Dr Jo Costin (Secretary)
 Steve Elstub (Head Gardener)
 Dr William Foster (Fellow)
 Dr Andrew Friend (Fellow)
 Georgia Fulton (MCR Representative)
 Sally Johnston (Conference and Events Manager)
 Abby Glaze-Nelson (UCS Rep 19-20)
 Deborah Hoy (Estates Director)
 Geppetto Price (Staff Rep)
 Jackie Searle (Accommodation Manager)

MINUTES

Copy to:
MCR President
UCS President