

## MINUTES

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD DIGITALLY VIA ZOOM AT 14:00 ON THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2021

<p><b>Present:</b>          Prof Andrew Balmford (Chairman)          Lizzie Ashworth (Conference and Marketing Associate)          David Barton (Clare Goes Green)          Dr Andre Cabrera Serrenho (CRA Rep)          Lee Corke (Catering Manager)          Dr Jo Costin (Secretary)          David Ewing (MCR Rep 20-21)          Dr William Foster (Fellow)          Kate Hargreaves (Head Gardener)          Deborah Hoy (Estates Director)          Jackie Searle (Accommodation Manager)          Oscar Simms (UCS Rep 20-21)</p>		
Item (a)	Summary (b)	Action (c)
<b>1 Apologies for Absence</b>	Dr Andrew Friend; Geppetto Price	
<b>2 Declarations of Interest</b>	There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>3 Minutes and Matters Arising</b>	The minutes of 15 October 2020 were approved.	
<b>4 Green Impact Update</b>	<p><b>Excellence Project:</b> It is not possible to run the Excellence Project, looking at ways to reduce electricity consumption, this year. A start was made, and a competition ran at the Colony in Michaelmas (see UCS Update), however with low numbers of students now in residence it is not possible to run it effectively. The project will be run again next year.</p> <p><b>Home Working:</b> Home working options are available on the Workbook.</p> <p><b>Team:</b> It would be helpful if people can add evidence / update the workbook (see <a href="https://greenimpact.org.uk/cambridge">https://greenimpact.org.uk/cambridge</a> ).</p> <p><b>Communication and Posters:</b> These are key parts of the project. The posters from last year to go up in any places where they are not already up. DB to send the posters to JS, copying in JC.</p> <p><b>Website:</b> Electronic posters can also go up on the College website. Clare Goes Green have set up a website for student based environmental issues last term. It was intended to launch the website this term, but this has been delayed. DB to send the link to JC so this can be included on the College website.</p> <p><b>Zero Emissions Project:</b> ACS is developing a Zero Emissions Project over the next few months and will keep the committee updated.</p>	<p>DB</p> <p>DB</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b> <b>UCS Update</b></p>	<p><b>Student Engagement:</b> The UCS in general has struggled to engage students with specific projects during this term.</p> <p><b>Clare Goes Green:</b> DB will hand over Clare Goes Green to Thereza Zoumpalova, but remain involved.</p> <p><b>Colony Carbon Competition:</b> DB worked with JC on this project last term, comparing emissions with the year before and rewarding students / buildings who did well. Around half of the project was completed. The winning building (the only one which saw decreased consumption) was Braeside. This was quite surprising. Usage patterns in general were different this year.</p> <p><b>Veganuary:</b> Around 30 students signed up, receiving a weekly email with links to recipes that could be cooked in a university kitchen. The focus was on things that could be done as a vegan at Clare. The new rooms in Old Court have a combi oven instead of hot plates.</p> <p><b>Compost Bins:</b> There is an issue of getting people to sign up to be responsible for their bins – not enough people were found last term, and the project is currently on hold. OS will include this in handover.</p> <p><b>Food Labelling:</b> Thereza has been discussing with Ashley Sargent (Head Chef) however owing to pressures around changing work practices this has not yet started. It is hoped to get this in place for next term, and if this is not possible then to start in Michaelmas. AB is involved in projects putting together food footprint data, including for the whole of Birmingham, and hopes a calculator will be ready in November.</p> <p><b>Divestment:</b> OS attended Investment Committee and the subsequent Finance Committee meeting where divestment was discussed. Over the summer 80% of funds were allocated to a low carbon fund, and the remaining 20% was to be invested in Zero Carbon options as and when the opportunity arose. There has been little publicity around this to date. WF to look into whether this can be sent out to alumni.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WF</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b> <b>MCR Update</b></p>	<p><b>Cycle Repair:</b> An event is being run for staff next week, JC to send DE the contacts. It was not felt that the time was right for running one at present, it was hoped to do this in around three months' time.</p> <p><b>Divestment:</b> MCR and UCS are working together on this.</p> <p><b>Handover:</b> DE will hand over just before the next meeting. It was important to keep communication channels open.</p> <p><b>Carbon Neutral Working Group:</b> AB was in touch with Professor Phil Allmendinger after the last committee meeting. The ambition to run this has not gone but there was an issue with timing.</p> <p><b>Engage for Change Project:</b> DE has had contact with a PhD student around reusable containers for takeaways, the student has also been in touch with LC. The current numbers did not make this viable.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JC</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b> <b>Staff Representative</b></p>	<p><i>The staff representative was unable to attend but sent an update.</i></p> <p><b>Borrow-a-Bag Scheme:</b> This remains suspended.</p> <p><b>Staff Travel:</b> Furlough, working from home, and part time working have significantly reduced staff travel emissions.</p> <p><b>Recycling:</b> Items have not always made it to the right bins when being done by students, however a lot of recycling was still being collected.</p> <p><b>Office Supplies:</b> Office supplies are not centrally purchased which makes it difficult to switch the whole college to eco-friendly supplies. JC made a list a few years ago of options, which can be recirculated.</p> <p><b>Posters:</b> Posters to also go up into staff areas.</p> <p><b>Metering:</b> It was not practical to install meters for individual offices / staircases. However, it was hoped to put the site data onto the College website. An office competition, similar to the staircase competition, could be run when people are back in offices (at present</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JS</p>

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	it is not possible to turn off computers as they are being used remotely).	
<b>9 Conferencing</b>	<p><b>Food Choices:</b> The department has not had opportunities to implement any new measures. It was intended to speak to summer school organisers and big events to promote vegetarian options (particularly with summer schools to promote one day a week of vegetarian food). The food choices will be brought up when opportunity allows. AB can help support this. There was a potential for significant wins with lots of meal choices in one go.</p>	
<b>10 Accommodation</b>	<p><b>Laundry Services:</b> These will go over to an app with no coins, beginning from Clare Court.</p> <p><b>Recycling:</b> All rooms at St Regis now have recycling bins. Students have been emptying bins themselves.</p> <p><b>Posters:</b> Additional posters were requested. <i>[Post meeting note: These are now in place around the College, including in St Regis.]</i></p> <p><b>Heating:</b> Empty rooms have had the radiators turned down.</p>	
<b>12 Buildings</b>	<p><b>St Regis:</b> There have been some complaints about the heating, however the building generally gives better individual control. The heating timings have been adjusted, and the building is well insulated so may not need as much heating as other buildings. The site has photovoltaics on the roof which will generate electricity, and a CHP unit. Although a CHP unit might not be a first choice today, the design was done 4-5 years ago when this was seen as a sustainable option. Discussions with the manufacturers have given assurances that it will be more efficient than modern gas boilers, producing electricity as a by-product. 102 Chesterton Road is currently being connected to the heat and power from St Regis, and the site has green roofs. The site also has electric vehicle charging points.</p> <p><b>Old Court Sustainability Report:</b> Although the options were constrained by the existing site and architecture, the use of timber was very positive.</p> <p><b>Carbon Zero:</b> The University has a Zero Carbon strategy, and the College has engaged with Element Energy, who are advising the University, in connection with Memorial Court. There is potential for a future heating main running as far as the University Library. The College is currently looking at Ground Source Heat Pumps around Memorial Court, and it is hoped to have a report back by the time of Estates Committee.</p> <p><b>EPCs and Energy Intensities:</b> The College is having Energy Performance Certificates done for buildings at the Colony (mini energy audits). Details on building energy intensities were circulated to the committee. These are being used to pick out places to refurbish. Braeside from a buildings point of view has the most complaints about condition, single glazing, a relatively old boiler and lacks insulation. A bid is being put in to Estates Committee for fees to get this building fully refurbished, with energy performance being one of the key drivers.</p> <p><b>Air Source Heat Pumps:</b> Etheldreda, which has an aging boiler and is one of the smallest building at the Colony, and 69 Alpha Road are both being looked at to see if they could have heating from an Air Source Heat Pump.</p> <p><b>Carbon Zero Roadmap:</b> The Environment Committee supported the proposal to have a clear roadmap for the College's journey to Carbon Zero. This may include replacing a gas boiler now knowing that in 25 years' time it would be replaced again. ACS plans to run some fourth year engineering projects around physical evidence and decarbonisation.</p>	

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	<p><b>Carbon Neutral Working Group:</b> There was a general recommendation to set up a Carbon Neutral Working Group, which other Colleges had done. However, Clare had initially moved faster than most other Colleges in setting up the Environment Committee. The new Master would need to be involved in any discussions. DH / AB / ACS to try to meet with Professor Phil Allmendinger to look at the roles of the group(s) going forwards.</p> <p><b>Electric Vehicles:</b> The College currently only has a charging point at the Colony. One of the few realistic ways to reduce the footprint of driving into work was to provide charging points, to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles. The Environment Committee supported the proposal to install charging points in Memorial court.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>11 Catering</b></p>	<p><b>Takeaway Boxes:</b> LC is in talks with Lemrock around closed circle waste composting for takeaway boxes, however there are not many meals at present.</p> <p><b>Meat Count:</b> Paula Yardy will send to JC to circulate with the minutes. The meat counts were lower than usual, but the proportions could still be investigated.</p> <p><b>Single Out (University Campaign):</b> Clare does not use plastic bottles any longer, and has very little single use plastic in use. It may be possible to get an accreditation for this.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>12 Gardens</b></p>	<p><b>Allotment:</b> Feedback generally suggests that an allotment would be preferred, and that there was a desire for somewhere to garden, whether or not this was edible. John Mears is looking into a plan for the allotment.</p> <p><b>Memorial Court Wild Area:</b> This is establishing well, and it will be interesting to see how this does over the summer. To look at doing a talk with Ed Turner in April / May depending on restrictions.</p> <p><b>St Regis:</b> There is a nice planting scheme with some trees to go in. The area was previously tarmac and garages, so this is an improvement. There may be space for bird boxes once it has matured, and there are swift boxes built into the building. DH to look into whether a tape call is being played to encourage birds to return to St Regis for a permanent home. Temporary boxes were put up in 108 Chesterton Road with the soundtrack playing.</p> <p><b>Bird Boxes:</b> Some trees were taken down as part of the Phase 1b works. Additional bird boxes were put up, and KH has seen birds (mostly blue tits) looking at the boxes. There are also a number of bats at dusk.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>14 AOB</b></p>	<p><b>Survey:</b> LC is doing a course where a survey of all College members is needed. The Committee was happy to take part in the pilot.</p> <p><b>Vegan / Vegetarian Food:</b> It was important to have a vegan / vegetarian menu that was diverse and healthy. There was generally a greater awareness of the link between food and long term health.</p> <p><b>Committee:</b> The Committee thanked David Ewing, David Barton, and Oscar Simms, who all stand down as representatives. The Committee also recorded their thanks to Steve Elstub, who retired since the last meeting.</p> <p><b>Earth Optimism:</b> A series of positive stories will run as part of the Cambridge Festival (26 March to 4 April), around environmental success stories. See: <a href="https://www.earthoptimism.cambridgeconservation.org/about/attend-earth-optimism-2021/">https://www.earthoptimism.cambridgeconservation.org/about/attend-earth-optimism-2021/</a> to sign up. This includes talks and a Solutions Fair offering ideas of things to do that make a difference.</p>	

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<b>15</b> <b>Dates for Next</b> <b>Meetings</b>	6 May 2021, 2pm-4pm	
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### **Distribution:**

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### **Copy to:**

MCR President  
UCS President