

# ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

## JCR Meeting Minutes

**Date and Time:** 16/10/2021 at 4pm via Zoom

**CN:** Mention of eating disorders in

- 'Matters Arising from minutes of the last meeting' - Nutritional Information in Hall
- 'Issues Raised' - Freshly Planted - Improving Plant based provision in Hall

**Present:** President (RC), VP (SS), Treasurer (KP), BAME (SO), Communications (DL), Environment and Ethical (AD), Welfare (AM), Catering (JD), Ents (AW & VM), LGBT+ (MT & IW), Women's and NB (GS)

**Apologies for absence:** Accommodation (LM), Disabilities (AA), Environment and Ethical (AO), Welfare (AB), Academic (CD), Access (ES), Charities (NW), Catering (HP), International (JK), Sports and Societies (RM), Freshers Rep (DT)

**Absence without Apologies:** Fresher rep (EG), International (AT)

**Ordinary Members:** TL

### **Pre Meeting Motion: Boycott Barclays Banking**

- Earlier this year Catz began a campaign to Boycott Barclays and divest completely from it on both the College and JCR level due to their unethical investing standards. ([See 20th February 2021 Minutes on website. 'Divestment Letter' under Issues Raised for full details](#))
- A motion to make the campaign university wide was passed in the Cambridge SU meeting on the 11th October with 89% voting in favour and 11% abstaining.
- Catz plan to leave Barclays on the 29th October and send them the following proposal:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mlJvabKabrCcn7\\_LXN0HghBmM\\_o0kEKQqnda1Hpih-Q/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mlJvabKabrCcn7_LXN0HghBmM_o0kEKQqnda1Hpih-Q/edit)
- AD (Environmental and Ethical) has been in contact with E&E officers from other Colleges and at least 13 officers have expressed interest in raising the motion to their respective JCR's. AD has also made a list of alternative banks that are better on ethical standards that the JCR and College can switch too, with KP

(Treasurer) also raising the point that the online banking itself should be more streamlined in the new choice.

- The JCR voted unanimously (12 votes) in favour of the motion and will now leave the bank on the 29th October.

## **Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting**

### Nutritional Information in Hall

- The JCR Committee is against putting calories information on the hall food labels due to the impact it will have on individuals with eating disorders. Another issue is that the chefs do not follow recipes exactly the same way each time, different chefs use different weights so it is inaccurate anyway.
- If anyone needs any specific nutrition information, please contact JD and HP (Catering) and they can find out a roundabout figure for you, but please note it will not be accurate each time.

## **News and Updates**

### Cambridge SU Student Council Meeting (11/10)

- The new sabbatical officers presented their action points for the year, which can all be found on the Cambridge SU website [here](#). (Login with Raven)
- All plans were approved including the motion to support the boycott Barclays campaign and the motion to support alternate bops. Alternate bops are bops thrown on the same night of the week as Entz bops but without the alcohol to allow socialisation among those who do not drink. Christ's already have a similar scheme in place.
- Welfare and Entz are working together to see what could be arranged for alternate bops and to find some good ideas to happen on the day. Any ideas are welcome via the anonymous feedback form and some put forward by the JCR include wholesome events in collaboration with yarn society or board games society. We may put a poll out on the JCR Facebook page to get an idea of how much interest there is.

### Education Committee Meeting

- Will be discussed at the next meeting when CD (Academic) is present.

### Green Working Group Meeting

- Caddies are becoming an issue especially among first year students on Main Site. There have been multiple complaints from housekeeping regarding unemptied caddies so handing out notices is the most popular way to combat this issue at the moment and an email has already been sent to those concerned.
- AD (Environmental and Ethical) is also looking into arranging for a compost bin to be placed near Bull on mainsite to make it easier for first years to empty the caddies.

### Sports Budget Meeting

- Money has been granted to sports societies for the year
- Sports societies can receive this money either by (a) planning their expenditure for the month (if they are *very* organised) and sending invoices to College to be paid directly by College, or (b) paying costs themselves out of their personal bank accounts and then sending receipts to College to get reimbursed.

### Stash

- The first lot of new stash from Redbird arrived last week and names for each were provided on the 15th October. RC (President) will be placing items in pigeon holes on w/b 18th October.

### **Issues Raised**

#### Discounts for Catz students

- KP (Treasurer) is working alongside VM (Entz) and JD (Catering) to find out which places around Cambridge we can get discounts for students from.
- There is already keen interest from a wine provider, Jack's Gelato, the Crepe van and a few others. The JCR are keen to diversify the range of stores from which students will be able to get discounts so different products can be bought around Cambridge. We are also considering: Thrive Cafe, Full Circle (a zero waste store near the Grafton), the ice rink opening soon on Parker's Piece, etc.
- An idea is to pick new discounts each term to allow the JCR to work with different shops and incorporate new ideas from the JCR as a whole.
- Any ideas on where students would like a discount from welcome via the

anonymous form.

### Gluten in Hall - Mislabelling and cross contamination

- It has been identified by students that some items labelled as gluten free have contained gluten in them and further the same utensils are being used to pick up items suitable for allergic individuals and items with the allergens in.
- It was raised that this is an issue not only for those that are gluten intolerant but also those who have other dietary requirements, e.g. Vegetarian and Non Vegetarian utensils could be mixed up if attention is not brought to the situation, which is particularly concerning from a religious perspective where certain foods are haram/terefah.
- JD and HP (Catering) will be getting in touch with College Catering to bring light to issue and RC (President) is keen to set up an open meeting with the JCR, MCR, Catering and the student population to walk through catering issues that are being raised.

### Freshly Planted - Improving Plant based provision in Hall

- This is an initiative to be launched by RC (President) and AD and AO (Environmental & Ethical) with a scheme of proposals to improve plant based food at Catz. The Cambridge SU Environmental and Ethical officers and Vegan Society are working with the JCR to make this into a campaign that can be brought up at other colleges as well.
- Some ideas include improving protein content in vegan food, creating an environmental traffic light system, rearranging dishes on the counter to have the vegan food put first and hiring a plant based chef.
- An issue here is that this could be harmful to those with eating disorders and medical conditions. The Catz Health and Wellbeing Team will be contacted to discuss this from a welfare perspective as although going completely vegan in the next 10 years or so may not be feasible, gradual steps to improving sustainability of food in Hall is still something that needs to be dealt with after beef/lamb (the most environmentally damaging meats) was served 4 times in freshers week after Catering promised to serve it only once a week last year. This is most certainly an issue on which we really want input, as we want to make sure that food served at Catz is both (a) as environmentally and ethically sound as possible and (b) available to as many Catz students as possible.

### Encouraging the use of reusables in the Catzebo or Bar

- Currently there is a lot of single use cutlery, plates, cups etc that are being used in both the Catzebo and Bar which is generating waste.
- JD (Catering) raised the idea of having Catz water bottles and flasks as part of stash and/or put for sale in the Bar to encourage people to buy them.
- Another idea is to raise the price of whatever is bought by the cost of the non reusable container (e.g. 10p per bag scheme in shops).
- AD (Environmental and Ethical) will be looking into ideas to encourage reusable usage.

#### A variety of catering related complaints

- Many anonymous complaints regarding catering were raised by JD and HP (Catering Officers) to the College Catering department, please find responses below:
- Bringing back hot food to the Bar because of Sainsbury's Supply shortages:
  - It is being brought back soon but there are some delays due to recently introduced Natasha's Law (all items have to be labelled with ingredients and not just allergens). It will be advertised when it becomes available again.
- Encouraging Reusables (As above)
  - The cups are there only for people who have not brought their own flask/water bottle. Contactless refill machines have already been placed around College to encourage students to fill these up. Catering is looking to change the takeaway containers into home compostable products but there is a delay with implementation with the supply chain issue.
- Hall portion sizes varying too much
  - Catering always tries to ensure portion sizes are consistent but due to understaffing, there is a difference between what agency staff and normal Hall staff consider a portion and sometimes it is also a subjective issue of what the student considers as too much/not enough. If portion sizes were to increase so will costs and therefore sales prices. Students are always welcome to purchase more than one portion if they feel like they do not have enough.
- Updating Formal Hall Menus
  - They have now been updated on both the website and UPay system.

#### Funding for Halfway Hall/Committee Formal

- In 2019 Halfway Hall was fully funded by the Dawson's fund (only happened once) and for that reason last year this fund was used on the free household formals and free of charge Catz Cookalongs.
- The JCR committee will also be having a formal this term which could be fully funded by the Master and as a result the committee feel it will be unfair to have the 3rd years to be charged for their formal whilst the committee have a funded one.
- Ideas discussed to cover costs include
  - Making the 'Superformal' require a payment for this year and using the funding that would have otherwise covered its cost to pay for the 3rd year's delayed Halfway Hall.
  - Find a way to subsidise the wine and/or have everyone bring their own wine if they would like to. ('Bring your own wine to formals' has been reinstated, on a separate note.)
  - Using the funding for the 2nd year's Halfway Hall to subsidise half the cost for both. This will mean current 2nd and 3rd years will only have to pay half the cost of the formal each.
  - The JCR Catering Officers have no allocated budget and using the JCR Committee reserves to pay for Halfway Hall is also not a valid idea since everything is very tightly budgeted. KP (Treasurer) sees no possibility of doing this, as it would be on the order of ~£2000.
- An email will be sent to College to see the plausibility of these alternatives and if the Halfway Hall is not in some way subsidised, the JCR Committee have also agreed to pay for their formal to keep it fair - as we don't want the JCR Committee to be benefitting from College funding with formals etc. when other students have to pay their way.

### Covid and Fresher's Flu

- The messaging around Fresher's flu has been quite uncomfortable because parallels have been drawn between the response between having it and having Covid. E.g. Wear a mask around people who don't have it to avoid passing it on, try and avoid going to in person teaching/lectures, making sure it is not covid by testing continuously.
- Although covid testing should definitely be encouraged, there should be a positive message sent out to look after yourself both physically and mentally.
- AM (Welfare) will be looking into figuring out a useful way to combat the isolation it is causing for people with freshers flu such as restarting welfairy or organising

alternative events that don't require close contact.

### **Issues Not Raised**

- Builders starting construction work early in the morning - please contact HH (Operations) at College, [operations.manager@caths.cam.ac.uk](mailto:operations.manager@caths.cam.ac.uk), to inform her whenever this happens!
- If your issue has not been raised here, please see the JCR Tracker ([https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1is7NLM-Xm77Lf0liRrO1ARRdY\\_tGb\\_MMC98XhzFxx0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1is7NLM-Xm77Lf0liRrO1ARRdY_tGb_MMC98XhzFxx0/edit?usp=sharing))

### **Any Other Business**

#### Catz Community Spirit Award Form

- Please start sending in your submissions for who you would like to receive a community spirit award.
- If you do not know what it is or want an idea of the criteria that can be used to nominate someone, read here: <https://www.caths.cam.ac.uk/community-spirit>
- Fill out the form here: <https://forms.gle/yEp8hxm1URTyXMPk6>

#### Catz JCR Website

- There are still some pages left to be updated including the Women's and Non Binary page, Access and Outreach page among a few others. The relevant officers have been contacted.

#### Careers Society Event Update - 'How to Land your First job'

- This will be taking place on either the week beginning 15th November or 22nd November with a panel of Catz Alumni speaking from various industry backgrounds. It will probably take place over 2 evenings and could be in person or virtual. Details will be sent out nearer the time.

#### Cambridge Pink Week Planning

- [Cambridge Pink Week](#) is organised each year from February 1st to the 7th to raise awareness about Breast Cancer.
- The JCR are looking for how Catz can get involved, ideas already discussed include pink decorations for the gate by Yarn society. Any more ideas are

welcome via the anonymous form.

### Presidential Election

- They are coming up and an email with the schedule was sent out by RC (President) on the 16th October.

### Sexual Health awareness for Freshers

- AM (Welfare) is looking into ways in which to raise awareness regarding sexual health for freshers. Ideas include the promotion of STD testing at bops which AW (Entz) has backed and/or putting more information on the website and then advertising it.

If you have any suggestions or feedback you'd like to give the JCR, please get in touch by emailing [SS](#) or using the [anonymous messaging platform](#).

*DL, 2021-2022 JCR Comms Officer*