

# **ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR**

## **JCR Meeting Minutes**

**Date and Time:** 13/03/2021 at 4pm via Zoom

**Present:** President (RC), VP (SS), Treasurer (KP), Communications (DL), Accommodation (LM), BME (SO), Disabilities (AA), Environment and Ethical (AD & AO), Fresher reps (DT & EG), Welfare (AM & AB), Academic (CD), Access (ES), Charities (NW), Catering (JD & HP), Ents (AW & VM), International (AT & JK), LGBT+ (MT & IW), Sports and Societies (RM), Women's and NB (GS)

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

#### EDI working group

- The group will also be working to look at the college involvement in the transatlantic slave trade and a legacy project will be created on looking further into this. Students will be supporting this project and anyone who wishes to get involved should contact Colin (Head Librarian)

### **News and Updates**

#### Catering update on Ramadan

- The college is currently considering ways in which to accommodate the needs of those fasting for Ramadan. Extending the hall times are not very feasible so alternatives for students include: collecting food from the bar after sunset once the bar is open, or pre-preparing Hall meals during the day that can be heated in the gyp.
- The JCR is looking into potentially collaborating with another college that has later dinner times which will make it possible for students to go to hall in another college, as was previously done last year with Queen's.

#### Green working group update

- A new scheme is beginning to tackle food waste starting on a volunteer basis. It

is initially going to be volunteers from St Chads who will be beginning the scheme but options for Main Site are being looked in as well.

- This scheme will involve making liners for litter caddies out of newspaper and throwing them into the compost bin creating a much smaller environmental impact than the current way of food disposal.
- The issue of having reusable food containers in Hall e.g. Vegware was discussed but it was concluded that it was not a very feasible idea since they would be imported from China, so will not be environmentally friendly anyway. Also, they require special recycling that we don't have. Any further suggestions welcome!

#### Central spaces meeting on the staircase and ironmongery - 12/03/2021

- The meeting was focussed on a discussion about the finish to use on the new staircase being built in the atrium in Chapel Court.
- No solutions were reached regarding the handrail, lighting and door handle material as there are problems with the original plan.

#### JCR response to Sarah Everard's murder

- GS (Female and NB) will be attending a meeting on Monday the 15th with the College Welfare team to collate a plan for what the college is doing in response to the devastating event.
- There is a hand signal that can be given via Zoom silently that is going around social media The domestic violence signal will be advertised further via social media to raise awareness and a policy is being looked into to illustrate the chain of command to follow if anyone observes the domestic violence signal gesture within the Catz community or otherwise
- A document will also be created to provide resources and guidance for anyone who may be experiencing domestic abuse or is in a vulnerable position so that they can get help.
- GS (Womens and NB) and NW (Charities) are also looking into a potential fundraiser for Cambridge Rape Crisis or other Cambridge Societies that support women in crises.

#### Stickers to cover transphobic signage update

- The order of stickers has come through to the LGBTQ+ officers and they are being left in the Porter's Lodge so anyone who is going out on a walk can take them and cover any transphobic signage with them.

- The College has provided confirmation that the Trans flag will be flown on the 31st March to mark International Transgender day of visibility.

#### Room noise update

- LM (Accommodations) has sent an email to college regarding the noise and disruption experienced by residents of Bull and Gostlin from neighbouring works at King's. Details are to follow on the response.

#### Catering and Environmental Standards

- HP and JD (Catering) and AO and AD (Environmental and Ethical) are collaborating to look into sustainable drinks from the company Glass Half Full for the Bar once it reopens.
- NW (Charities) will be researching green charities that are not as ethical as we would like them to be, so that we can avoid donating to them.

#### **Issues Raised**

#### Budget and Expenses 2021/22

- KP (Treasurer) has made a google form for any officer who needs to pay for something to fill in the details of the payment into it. The receipts will be collected via this form so the college can appropriately reimburse the relevant officer.
- An expense tracker has been created to allow each officer to track their expenditure.
- KP (Treasurer) will be following up with College as to how the Freshers Representatives will be funded this year.

#### Constitutional review

- Over Easter Vacation AD (Ethical and Environmental) and SS (Vice President) amongst other JCR committee members will be looking into how the constitution can be edited and improved.
- It is currently not explicit when the constitution refers to Ordinary Members as excluding and including the JCR committee themselves, for example.
- Rules on JCR voting are looking to be refined as it is unclear when Ordinary Members can and cannot vote and we wish to standardise the procedure. Note that if a controversial motion is under consideration, the JCR will hold a forum

regardless, where Ordinary Members can vote.

- Role titles and descriptions will be updated to reflect how the committee members feel their roles should be described.
- There is currently no formalisation of the ballot process so it will be standardised for future accommodation officers to have a procedure to follow.
- AD (Ethical and Environmental) will be formally writing up a document on JCR engagement on national and political matters and which officers have the right to independently represent which groups and make decisions that will be incorporated into the reformed constitution.

### Virtual Access videos

- ES (Access) has been in contact with college on creating YouTube videos to cover any gaps students have, either due to missing information in existing videos or information students will lack by not attending open days.
- We wish to make worried potential applicants aware that Cambridge is not always as expensive as one would believe compared to other Universities, as there are numerous bursaries and funds available.
- Although videos have been created from the college themselves, ES (Access) emphasises the benefits of a student led video which will allow more informal communication with students.
- DT and EG (Freshers Reps) will be getting in touch with the next year's first years to collate questions or concerns they have that can be addressed in the videos.

### Issues around veggie/vegan food in hall

- Following the anonymous suggestion regarding a lack of protein in hall meals, the HP and JD (Catering) will be raising this in the upcoming catering meeting.
- Any implementations will be discussed for when everyone returns back to college since the hall is currently operating at limited capacity.
- The lack of definite separation between vegan and vegetarian food and more accurate ingredients labelling could potentially be addressed by cooking vegan food and having non vegan additions (e.g. cheese and mayonnaise) on the side.
- The JCR has ruled out entirely meat free weeks or meat free monday since they have been quite controversial in the past, however there are certainly ways to improve sustainability and decrease carbon impact while retaining choice for students that eat meat. .
- Both fish and meat options must remain for those who cannot eat the meat

option due to religious reasons.

- HP and JD (Catering) will be contacting catering to find out the current catering policies of what days of the week which meats are being served to allow students prior knowledge of what to expect in Hall. This can be supported via ingredients labelling on the menu as well - e.g. labelling halal, gluten free etc - which has historically been an issue.

### Sarah Everard & Women's Experiences

- The devastating event of Sarah Everard's murder has sparked a series of movements across the UK concerning women's safety. There is currently a Share Your Testimony campaign across the UK that allows women to share their own experiences if anyone wishes to take part.
- Further attention to how Catz can help any students, between now and the 15th March meeting, who may find themselves in vulnerable situations was outlined in GS (Women's and NB) email on 11/03/2021.
- GS (Women's and NB) is also looking into setting up a webinar or video on raising awareness on how the college can help and allow contributions via an anonymous form.
- A potential idea has been to set up a Women's and Non Binary Tea where students can join and support each other but would like to keep the environment as healthy as possible with strong assurance that professional support is available, if any attendee is affected by the information relayed. However, this could be a triggering or difficult environment, so other ways are being looked into as well.
- An alternative is that a YouTube video can be created instead so no one has to attend a time constrained webinar and a permanent resource is created for any student who may need to access help in the future.

### **Issues Not Raised**

- Nurse DW will be speaking with the Senior Tutor about how the college will approach more people being vaccinated. In the meantime, if you have been vaccinated for Covid-19 and would like to let college know you can email Nurse DW
- There have been some requests for social events in the Easter term, particularly after exams and particularly for freshers. The JCR will work with College to provide whatever social opportunities we can next term but it is probably too early to confirm those plans right now. We will look into having a non-conferencing period after exams so that all students have the option to stay

and socialise for a little longer if they wish to do so

- AM and AB (Welfare) will raise welfare taxis at the next welfare meeting so we can be clear on the scope of the existing scheme and consider other ways to support members of the community if they feel vulnerable

## **Any Other Business**

### UK Census 2021

- There is a reminder for all students that the Census must be filled in for both your home and college address. Currently all students would have received an access code via post to their college pidge's however you must go online and request another code which will be texted to you immediately.
- Information regarding international students and how they can fill out the census will be put onto the JCR facebook page soon.
- If you require support for filling out the census from a student perspective you can find out more here:  
<https://census.gov.uk/help/types-of-household-or-accommodation/students-what-you-need-to-know>
- Students who do not wish to disclose their sexual orientation or religious stance to their family can also request a code online and fill out their census separately which can be found here:  
<https://census.gov.uk/en/request/access-code/individual/>

### Cambridge SU Student Member Meeting 15/03/2021

- Everyone who wishes to vote on the reading week implementation must turn up and vote on Monday. Details on how to vote can be found on SS (Vice President) email sent out on 11/03/2021.

### New Website for the JCR

- Starting over Easter, a new website will be brainstormed and creation will begin.
- All Committee officers will have their individual input and any relevant information in the present website that wishes to be rewritten will be done.

### New Badminton equipment & other requests for over the vacation

- Some new shuttlecocks have been purchased to replace the damaged ones and

are now available at St Chad's lawn and Main Site Plodge. If there's any other e.g. communal sports equipment, games, etc that you want/need, let us know! We can sort this out for you.

### Local Elections

- Anyone who wishes to vote in the local elections can do so from both their home address as well as their Cambridge address.
- To register at both addresses visit <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>
- To do so remotely, students should request a postal vote for the address they will not be at which can be done here:  
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voting-person-post-or-proxy/voting-post>

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

*DL, 2021-2022 JCR Comms Officer*