

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

JCR Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Sunday 20th June 2021 at 2pm via Zoom

Present: President (RC), VP (SS), BME (SO), Disabilities (AA), Environment and Ethical (AO & AD), Fresher rep (DT & EG), Welfare (AM & AB), Academic (CD), Charities (NW), Catering (JD), Ents (AW & VM), International (JK), LGBT+ (MT & IW)

Apologies for absence: Comms (DL), Treasurer (KP), Accommodation (LM), International (AT), Sports and Societies (RM), Catering (HP), Women's and NB (GS), Access (ES)

Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting

Freshers visiting Chads

- Plans are being made for freshers to view their future flats at Chads. Given the Covid-19 situation, this will be an off-record, informal arrangement between freshers and second-years contingent on mutual agreement.
- LM (Accommodation) will provide further details soon after contacting both first and second years.

Plans for events and halls following Covid guidance

- In line with the newly revised national Covid guidance, College events are being scaled down and cancelled. This includes the Halfway Hall that was expected to happen at the end of term, which has been cancelled.
- Given the rise in Covid cases, the end-of-term welfare event will unfortunately be cancelled as well. However, the Welfare officers (AB & AM) are re-opening the [Welfairy form](#) until 25 June, with all Welfairies delivered in pidges by 26th June. Welfairies are also available virtually! Please do fill the [form](#) to send some Welfairy love before the holidays!
- If your household is going into isolation, or currently in isolation, please do contact the Welfare officers (AB & AM) as they would like to send some Welfairies over!
- We have also been in contact with isolating students & have been working with College on a range of questions (such as: are isolating students required to stay

in Cambridge? Would they have to pay rent for this period? etc.) which we will update you on when we have answers.

Transparent bin liners

- Suggestions have been raised for more opaque bin liners. Housekeeping will continue using the current bin liners as other liners are more expensive and not necessarily more sustainable or more opaque - just different colours.
- Instead, if you would like more discretion with your bin being collected, please put a sign on your door asking for the bin not to be collected/for an extra liner/for another arrangement that suits you, or else talk directly to housekeeping.

News and Updates

Stash & Committee stash

- College and JCR Committee stash is currently under review, in terms of the supplier and range/type of stash sold.
- SS (Vice-President): Current supplier ([XStream](#)) provides a wide range of items, but is not necessarily sustainable and there have been some issues with customer service. The JCR can continue working with the same supplier for the wide range of items, but push for a sustainability statement. Otherwise, the JCR can source for alternative suppliers (e.g. [The Stash Company](#), [Portlantis](#)) that provide higher quality products and are more open with their sustainability. However, a smaller range of stash will be available, and will possibly be more expensive as well.
- RC (President): Stash catalogue can be sourced from different suppliers depending on the student body's preferences on the type/range of stash. Quotes can be obtained from a range of suppliers for more competitive pricings. Suggested a poll/form to gauge student body interest and preferences over the Summer. We could also do one-off supplies of specific stash, like Catz themed pyjamas in Winter, e.g.
- Further plans/discussions will take place over the holidays. If you have any suggestions or know of any suppliers, please do let us know via the [anonymous form](#) or get in touch with the Vice President (SS).

Dean meeting regarding noise complaints

- The Dean sent an email last week (17/06) regarding noise complaints on Main Site and Chads. Please remember that the Examination Quiet Period continues up till noon on Friday (25th June)! Please remain respectfully quiet and enjoy the peace and tranquility that others need to do their exams up until the 25th.

- It has been decided that all decanal fines over the last year will be donated to the mental health charity [MIND](#).

Green Working Group meeting

- AD (Environmental and Ethical): Strategy document has been completed. Guest speaker ([TU](#), 3rd Year Material Engineering Student at Catz) presented a newly launched mobile application (Casade) that seeks to promote sustainability in everyday life. You can find out more about Cascade [here](#), and even sign up to be a beta-tester for the application [here](#)!
- Hygiene issues have been raised regarding the use of caddies on the Main Site. Environmental and Ethical Officers (AD & AO) to send out an email on guidelines on using the caddy, as well as what to do if your household is in/going into isolation.
- We are looking at running for the Green Impact Award next year - more on this in due course!

Careers Society updates

- The Catz Career Society held a successful event two weeks ago (08/06) with Catz alumni and the Catz Development Office. Catz Careers Soc is looking forward to organising similar events in the upcoming academic year!
- College runs an [online platform](#), CatzConnect, where you can find alumni working in your chosen field and reach out for advice/career opportunities. CatzConnect is a useful platform that the College provides. It allows you to reach out to alumni directly without having to go through the College. There are lots of interesting and helpful people on there that can provide advice and opportunities, so do make an account and take a look!
- Please do follow the [Catz Career Society's Facebook Page](#) to keep up to date with events as well as career/internship opportunities if you have not done so!

SU Best Night Out Campaign

- With the potential reopening of nightlife (within national Covid restrictions, which are still in place) over the next few weeks, Cambridge SU has put together a [list of recommendations](#) to ensure the safety of students.
- In line with the campaign, Catz JCR is planning to include a section on the new website (currently under construction) for students to report experiences of any inappropriate behaviour.

Issues Raised

Campaign to boycott Vinyl

- The JCR Committee previously discussed plans to boycott Vinyl [following racist remarks by a staff member at the club](#). SO (BAME) presented the case to the Committee.
- AB (Welfare), AM (Welfare), JD (Catering), RC (President): Suggested that there must be a practicable aim to the boycott and Catz JCR to demand concrete action from Vinyl.
- Following further discussions, preliminary plans are as follows:
 - Catz JCR to not book any events at Vinyl (e.g. for freshers week) until there is a formal acknowledgement of and action on the issue.
 - Catz JCR to demand for (i) disciplinary action to be taken against staff involved in incident (ii) inclusivity training for staff (iii) more sensitive song selections and (iv) for the staff to deal with any issues in future in a much more appropriate manner.
- SO (BAME) and the rest of the JCR Committee to continue working on this proposal. Please do reach out if you have any suggestions on how this can be done, or would like to raise any issues with the campaign to boycott Vinyl!

Boatclub to fly the Pride Flag

- As suggested by AO (Environmental and Ethical), there was talk of getting the SCCBC Boathouse to fly the Pride flag for June. The boatwoman and coach had agreed to this.
- However, Cambridge are moving their Pride month from June to September, so it has been decided between College and the Committee that it would make more sense to fly the flag then.
- We also only have one Pride flag, so are looking to buy another.
- College will also be working with MT & IW (LGBTQ+) to assess the current flag policy in the context of Pride month having been moved to September in Cambridge.
- We will also be looking to add a section to the flag policy relating to the Boathouse flagpole.

First aid training after the Euros incident

- There was an anonymous suggestion that first aid training be provided to students within College.
- Preliminary plans include liaising with the [Cambridge University First Aid Society \(CUFAS\)](#) to obtain equipment/kits and training personnel. The course will be optional, and additional details (when and how) will be discussed over the Summer.

Water jugs in hall/Water coolers or water fountains around Main Site

- JD (Catering): Catering team has updated that water jugs will not be provided in halls to reduce touch points, but may return in Michaelmas with lesser Covid-19 restrictions and cases.
- A reminder that you can go down to the bar and ask them to fill up a water bottle
- a little frustrating, we know, but better than nothing!

Covid and isolation

Improving the isolation experience

- RC (President) has spoken to the College to provide fans for households in isolation and to try and extend the time that households are allotted to spend outside. However, this was done on the proviso that it was only one household isolating - now that there are multiple, this may have changed.
- AB (Welfare) raised the issue of outside time scheduled after lectures. We will see if isolating households can have longer outside and if it can be during the day rather than the evening.

Isolation and accommodation

- AM (Welfare) raised concerns over movement of isolating students/households in line with moving out plans for construction works. This is particularly so for students in M Block.
- AB (Welfare) raised the issue of students having to pay rent if expected to isolate after term ends.
- RC (President) to discuss and clarify with College on raised issues. The questions we have asked, and for which we are awaiting answers, are:
 - For students who have to isolate, what are the legal requirements on them moving home? If a student is isolating until the 23:59 on 27th June, does this mean that they cannot move home until the 28th June, for instance?

- What happens specifically with students who have tested positive?
- If a student has to isolate over the period that they are meant to move home, do they have to pay for the extra time in accommodation? The JCR feel that, if this is the case, it is hugely unfair on the students who are forced to stay against their own will. Could funds for this be covered by default, for instance, from the Hardship Fund? As these is clearly a case of hardship, if anything is.
- Specifically for students in L & M, as the second floor of M I believe is currently having to isolate: What is happening here? Is it legal to force students to move if they are isolating?
- Is it legal to move students who have actually tested positive?
- Will isolating students (having tested either positive or negative) who have to move rooms from L/M be sent into non-isolating households? If so, will these households then have to isolate too? We felt this would be a huge injustice to those originally non-isolating students.
- For currently isolating students, apparently they are only contacted with details for whether and when they are allowed outside if they tell you that they have tested positive. It would be very useful if *all* isolating students were given this information. Would this be possible, so information is better diffused and accessible?
- For currently isolating students, they have also mentioned that they are only allowed their allotted time outside in the evenings, which was originally due to lectures. Obviously, lectures aren't currently happening, but the building works are often disruptive to the isolatees in Gostlin during the day, for example - would it be possible to allow students their time outside at some other time in the day, e.g. mid-afternoon?
- Additionally, please book a vaccine appointment through a GP or your local NHS service! You can book your appointment [here](#) as well.

Any Other Business

JCR Committee's summer plans

Website building and launching

- RC (President), DL (Communications), and SS (VP) to work on the new website over summer holistically. JCR officers to work on their individual sections. This will be launched in August.

Freshers week and guide

- Freshers reps (DT & EG) are in the process of planning for Entz events during freshers week. Preliminary plans include potentially holding an event at Mash nightclub, which is a new club in Cambridge with whom we are negotiating deals.
- A form will be sent out in the incoming freshers group chat for questions they have that we can answer via YouTube or on Freshers' guide or elsewhere.
- Current suggestions include having a cooking guide (on what can be cooked to avoid triggering fire alarm, compilation of simple recipes that are gyp-cookable, etc). This section can be curated in collaboration with catering officers (JD & HP).
- International reps (AT & JK) to liaise with freshers reps in producing and distributing the international freshers guide, in addition to planning for events within freshers week.
- Other guides (e.g. Green Guide, Liberation Guide) to be sent alongside freshers guide in email to incoming freshers.

Social media outreach

- The JCR is planning to increase social media outreach to incoming freshers over summer.
- Preliminary plans include: (i) producing a YouTube video answering FAQs (e.g. access, accommodation, etc); (ii) showing a day in the life of a Catz student; (iii) takeovers by JCR officers on the Catz JCR Instagram account; (iv) social media outreach on Instagram.

End-of-term food and item collection

- NW (Charities) is planning for a food collection drive near the end of term to be donated to [Jimmy's Cambridge](#). More information will be released soon via email. If you have any unopened and unexpired food, please do donate them!
- AD and AO (Environmental and Ethics) are planning to set up a space within College for JCR members to drop off kitchen utensils/supplies before moving out. These kitchen supplies will be redistributed in the next academic year by restocking gyps on Main Site and Chads. More information will be released soon.

Funding for fit-to-fly PCR tests

- JK (International) sent out an email a few weeks ago (04/06) on available funds for mandatory fit-to-fly PCR tests. Internationals facing financial hardship can obtain up to £40 of funding from College for these tests by filling up the [College's bursary application form](#).

Care+ Scheme

- In line with Cambridge SU's Care+ campaign, the College [announced](#) the appointment of an LGBTQ+ Fellow (Dr C Gonda). Dr Gonda can be approached informally regarding any LGBTQ+ issues, and will also lead a new LGBTQ+ Care Group of students and staff representatives seeking to nurture a more inclusive environment at Catz.

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](#).

JK, 2021-2022 JCR Internationals Officer