



Environment Committee Meeting – 14-01-2021

Attendance: KB (Environment Rep), MP (VP), CM, CW, GM, EK, EB

Apologies: LA, JN, SWC (President)

Location: Zoom

Everyone introduces themselves

Allocating Roles

KB EK & GM have been assigned as Events and Social Media Managers respectively, we also need a Greenspace & SU Rep, and an Embrace the Waste Rep

Embrace the Waste Rep CM, Greenspace and SU Rep CW

Social Media

GM We should look to expand our social media presence with a Facebook page. The Instagram should be focused on a different topic for various weeks to make sure that we have a solid focus. Our Fast Fashion post got very good reception, so we could look to focus on that.

MP There is a “Cuth’s Bleeds Green” Facebook page but I think it has been inactive for while.

KB I’d quite like to do a meet the committee post because it could help boost our engagement.

EK We could look to organise Food or Toiletries swaps – I think people will engage with practical things. Equally we should promote which vegetables are currently in season so that people know they haven’t been flown over across the world.

Composting

EB We should look into setting up some sort of composting system

MP I feel this is more the university’s job, but we could advocate for it?

CW I think a conversation was started with the university about this by a university wide environment society – it is dependent on the council – we could organise an action party to try and improve this.



Meat Consumption

CW I passed a motion supporting a Beef Ban at a JCR meeting last year – I don't think much has been done about this due to COVID. Unsure how impactful this is because it really requires all colleges for the university to take notice. We could lobby college to have Vegetarian as the default option for meals, so that people have to actively choose to have meat.

KB Good idea. We could also look into supporting a Meat-free Mondays sort of thing – I think other colleges have had success with this.

GM Incremental steps into this can have a bit more success – I think things like Veganuary put people off because it's such a commitment

Collaboration

CW Many colleges have their own VegSoc, we could collaborate with one of them or a uni wide one.

EK We could collaborate with the Hummus Society?

KB We could collaborate with Cuth's Outreach via LB (Outreach chair) – people generally seem keen to.

Events

KB We could organise a viewing of documentaries with an Environment focus

CW I think having an environment chat would be good, even if it was just very casual, even something to have on in the background

EK We could run a quiz with paid entry and maybe an environmentally friendly toothbrush as the prize.

Separating Rubbish

GM I know people struggle with knowing which bin is which – we could potentially buy bin labels and have them given out by cleaners/ someone from the JCR.

MP The JCR currently really needs to spend money to avoid profits, so something like this could be possible. We should contact MW (FCO) about this. Likewise, if anyone has any ideas for quality schemes that might cost a bit to run, don't be afraid to at least suggest it to KB, me, SWC, or MW. I really like GM's idea, but practically could be quite difficult because basically no one is allowed to go round all of college. Some sort of pick up might be possible.



Water and Electric usage

GM We could look into getting some stats on Cuth's utilities usage, we could compare the average consumption to the national average and try to materially decrease it by being a bit more conscious.

KB Good idea, we should contact college and see if this information can be made available.

Clothes Swap

KB I know we have a Bailey wardrobe manager; we could ask them to help with a casual clothes swap given that there are no formal events this term

CW We could look to do a Charity Depop sort of thing – has worked elsewhere.

MP I will contact CP (BW Manager) about this.