

## MINUTES

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD DIGITALLY AT 14:00 ON THURSDAY 7 MAY 2020

**Present:**

Prof Andrew Balmford (Chairman)  
David Barton (Clare Goes Green)  
Dr André Cabrera Serrenho (CRA Rep)  
Lee Corke (Catering Manager)  
Dr Jo Costin (Secretary)  
Steve Elstub (Head Gardener)  
Georgia Fulton (MCR Representative)  
Deborah Hoy (Estates Director)  
Geppetto Price (Staff Rep)  
Oscar Simms (UCS Representative)

<b>Item (a)</b>	<b>Summary (b)</b>	<b>Action (c)</b>
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*Gyp Posters:* Over 200 posters were put up in gyp rooms. These were so successful that some other Colleges have used them to. David Barton to send a copy to Andrew Balmford and Jo Costin.

*Green Vegan Formal:* Over 50 vegan seats were sold, raising money for vets working in the wildfires in Australia.

*Green Weekend Scheme:* This is currently ongoing, focussed around promoting information to allow individuals to reduce their energy use. This will run for six weeks, and is currently in the third weekend. David was asked to submit an article to Greenlines about this. 145 have signed up to the mailing list, from across the University. This can be included in the Environment Report. These emails have been very informative and evidence based, and there was a hope that this might bring about some behaviour change.

### ***Future actions:***

*Handover Documents:*

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<p><b>7</b> <b>MCR Update</b></p>	<p><b>Staircase Competition:</b> Including graduate accommodation in the staircase competition would require finding a different way of monitoring. There are no submeters in individual staircases, so the undergraduate system is done by the bedders when going into rooms.</p> <p><b>Energy Audit:</b> This was raised by the Carbon Neutral Working Group, but has not yet been completed. The information does not necessarily need to be the same as it would be for a carbon return, e.g. by doing a check sheet of actions each week to monitor energy consumption.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Information for the freshers' pack was in progress.</p> <p><b>New MCR Representative:</b> Elections are underway for the new MCR Representative. David Ewing is the only person running.</p> <p><b>Gardens:</b> Several members of the MCR wanted to pass on their thanks for having the gardens open at present. There was an ongoing interest in rewilding part of Clare.</p> <p><b>Cycle Training:</b> Freshers' week would be the perfect time for this to happen—either as a basic repairs workshop or a group cycle ride for people who are less confident on a bike. This will be included in the handover.</p> <p><b>Greencycle Space:</b> This was checked after the last meeting and tidied up. Everything in the space was usable, but all the nicer items had been taken. This was appreciated by the MCR, and was valuable in Freshers' week. Other than a possibility of clearing some space in the MCR, there was no suggestion of an alternative location that would be more easily accessible.</p>	<p>GF / JS / JC</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note / GF</p> <p>Note / GF</p>
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**8**  
**Staff Representative**

**Borrow a bag:** This has bkF2 9T/F1 Tm0 gin/F2 9T/F1 Tm0 gin/F

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<p><b>Conferencing</b></p>	<p>purchase data showed that overall meat purchases had stabilised, but were not coming down despite College wide initiatives. Drilling down on the data, it was apparent that purchases over the summer increased for the conference business, making this low hanging fruit if the meat consumption / type of meat offered can be altered. There has been previous efforts through the sign up information, and this would be looked at further. It was also agreed to try to meet with representatives from ARM and EF, the two largest conferences, to see whether they would be happy to have some of the default food offers, especially for school groups, and looking at continuing Veggie Mondays through the summer for conference groups. ARM have been happy to take suggestions on sustainability previously, and were positive about offering less beef. Meetings will be arranged as soon as appropriate.</p>	
<p><b>11 Buildings</b></p>	<p><b>Old Court Sustainability Report:</b> The architects are looking at the sustainability report at present. André Serrenho volunteered to assist with the embedded carbon aspect. The timber frame was likely to be more sustainable compared with concrete or steel. The architect will send a framework for the report next week, and Deborah Hoy will forward this to André. The Purbeck stone in the new café is also more sustainable over the long term, as it should last in excess of 400 years, compared with a vinyl flooring which would need replacing every 20 years. A photograph / caption can be included in the report. Information about the roof slates can also be included.</p> <p><b>St Regis Sustainability:</b> The architect will be asked to review the sustainability report now that the build is more than half way completed.</p> <p><b>Heating:</b> All heating was turned off this week, including in buildings where students remain in residence. Vacated buildings had been switched to two hours heating a day for frost protection, but this has now been turned off entirely.</p> <p><b>Water:</b> The main area to focus on improvements now is water consumption. The department is improving the monitoring of water consumption, which is being monitored in house as far as possible. This is particularly important as the water companies have stopped reading the meters. The installation of aeriated showerheads also needs to be completed.</p> <p><b>Smart Meters:</b> Smart meters have been installed in a number of buildings. There is evidence that people respond to comparisons with different buildings or with previous years.</p> <p><b>102 Chesterton Road:</b> This will be connected to St Regis, meaning the CHP plant will feed this as well as St Regis. This does not alter the size of the plant. The electricity for this building will become free as it would be generated by the CHP or the solar panel on the roof, making the house more sustainable.</p> <p><b>Carbon Study:</b> David Barton has been working on a carbon study, which is now on hold. The next step was to look at the buildings themselves to investigate disparities in consumption. This has been put on hold, but will be resumed when possible.</p>	<p>DH / AS</p> <p>DH</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note / JC</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p>

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	<p><b>Gardens Equipment:</b> A demonstration on alternatives to petrol mowers and small machines has had to be cancelled. However, there is interest across the Colleges about this equipment. Clare is phasing out the petrol backpack blowers to move to electrical ones.</p>	
<p><b>13 AOB</b></p>	<p><b>Electricity Contract:</b> The College’s electricity supply contract is about to go out for re-tender. This is done across all Colleges. The current contract was 95% sustainable, and verges on 99% sustainable. However, there has been some discussion around biomass. The University has been able to procure from a named windfarm, but the Colleges do not have sufficient buying power to buy from a single source. The consultants are looking at the cost implications if biomass was excluded. The main problem with biomass is that it is increasingly harvested from old-growth forests overseas, and as such causes significant harm to biodiversity and may have a higher greenhouse gas footprint than gas. The source of electricity has significant implications for the College’s carbon footprint. Deborah will put Andrew and André in touch with the procurement lead.</p> <p><b>Choir:</b> Andrew Balmford was asked to speak to the choir about offsetting their flights and tours shortly before lockdown. This was a positive meeting, and will be looked at again when appropriate.</p> <p><b>MCR Representative:</b> This was Georgia Fulton’s last meeting as the MCR Representative. She was thanked for her input into the committee.</p>	<p>Note / DH / AB / AS</p> <p>Note / AB</p> <p>Note</p>
<p><b>14 Meetings</b></p>	<p>15 October 2020 4 February 2021 6 May 2021</p>	

**Distribution:**

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Steve Elstub (Head Gardener)  
Dr William Foster (Fellow)  
Dr Andrew Friend (Fellow)  
Georgia Fulton (MCR Representative)  
Deborah Hoy (Estates Director)  
Geppetto Price (Staff Rep)  
Jackie Searle (Accommodation Manager)  
Oscar Simms (UCS Rep 20-21)

**Copy to:**

MCR President  
UCS President