

St. Catharine's MCR Open Meeting

Thursday, 27th November, 2008

1. Minutes from last open meeting

The minutes from the last open meeting were approved.

2. Hustings

The nominees for the positions of Ents Officer (Charlie Laderman) and Social Secretary (Alice Melin) addressed the members of the committee and those present on their manifestoes.

Charlie said:

"So, whats next?" Anyone who I've met in the Catz bar at closing time will be sick of hearing me say this, as I try to drag them on somewhere for a few more drinks! But after a long day of hard work, I think we need time to unwind and relax. As Ents Officer, I will ensure there are plenty of opportunities for socialising and fun! We will have at least one social event each week, from bar crawls and bops, to film nights and take aways. Every month I will organize one BIG Catz night out, whether it be sampling the delights of Cambridge or a group trip down to London. BUT when it comes to socials, YOU are in charge! There will be a facebook group where you can tell me WHAT events you want put on and WHEN you want them!

Alice said:

As social secretary I would organize at least one event a week and try to expand our social life outside of Catz with a weekly visit to another college bar in order to meet all our fellow Cambridge graduate students, our very own strand of Cambridge tourism! Despite the existing restrictions I think it would be great to try and bring some music to the college whether it be local bands or DJs from London. Good communication with students is very important and I would support any new and exciting ideas brought to me as well as make sure they were advertised clearly through e-mails and facebook.

Both candidates answered questions from the audience.

3. Russell Street Complaints

Nick spoke on behalf of the residents at Russell Street, reading from a signed petition, voicing various complaints from many of the tenants. Complaints included:

- 54% increase in heat, and central heating which regularly fails to work
- Rent increases in recent years
- Lack of clarity in college bills
- Building work on Saturdays, especially early in the morning
- Problems with the bike shed and car park
- Lack of proper cleaning on second floor for the past five months (bins emptied but no kitchen or room cleaning)

- Safety! It took College four hours to react to a serious gas leak on the property on 4th November, which resulted in no heating and no use of the ovens the following weekend
- A poorly performed fire drill

A meeting is to be set up between the bursars and **Doug, Helen** and **Nick**. Any residents from Russell Street are welcome to attend the meeting. It is tentatively set for 2nd December.

4. Basketball Team Funding (Kevin Adler)

A request was made by **Kevin Adler** for funding for the Catz basketball team. Since the request was made, money has been allotted to the team from the Amalgamated Societies, but the MCR will likely pitch in a bit as well.