The Dulwich Society Environment Group
https://www.dulwichsociety.com/environment

Minutes, Tuesday 26th November 2024

A: Attendance and Apologies

Members present: Laurie Johnston, Mark Marshall, Gill Mein, Helen Pickering, Gaby Hornsby, James Leabeater, Tom Palmer, Mark Hughes, Donncha O'Shea, Huw Russell

Guests: Katy Millis, Head of Sustainability at Dulwich College

Apologies for absence: Tom Harrison

B: No declarations of interest.

C: The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

D: The members and guests introduced themselves and described their specialties.

E: Items discussed:

- Katy Millis gave an overview of Dulwich College's sustainability projects, plans and targets.
- Dulwich College has a data led approach to reducing its carbon footprint, building on Katy's background in a lead procurement position at the College.
- The full carbon footprint of Dulwich College is available publicly. This comprises key elements; energy consumption, transport, food, waste, water, supply chain along with biodiversity.
- The target is to reduce the carbon footprint by 90% in the next twenty years, not including any offsetting, and 34% by 2030 to help secure the College's longevity and set an example for future generations.
- Pupils are taught about the importance of these initiatives from DUCKS onwards.
- Planned initiatives usually require significant capital expenditure but offer cost savings thereafter.
- Examples include recent solar panels which have been funded externally by SE24, taking Dulwich College 20% off grid and plans for ground source heat pumps which will help remove the College from the gas grid completely. Gas accounts for 12% of the College's total carbon footprint. Proposed ground source heat pumps are a new version of this technology requiring less ground work and can be located on the outskirts of the campus.
- Advanced AI is being trialled in the sports facility to offer precise energy saving data. Window and door functionality has been improved, automatic light switch timers have been installed and notices placed on every light switch. LED lights have been installed. This has contributed to a 5% decrease over the last 2 years.
- Water has AMR on all platforms
- Every tonne of waste is tracked.
- Meat and red meat consumption has been reduced. A record of food origin is kept with aims towards sourcing seasonal food supplied from shorter distances. The College is supporting their supply chains in efforts to decarbonize and maintain long term relationships.
- Transport is broken down into business, sports, events, trips, staff travel and student journeys. Car trips account for around 15% of student journeys. Boarders travel is included in business travel.
- The Burmese Skin Care Garden was recreated and there has been a focus on increased biodiversity. Wildlife species are returning and are studied by students as well as activities in two forest schools. Dulwich College have partnered with Southwark Council to plant wildflowers on College Rd & a whip hedge row along Hunts Slip Rd.
- Discussions explored Dulwich College's initiatives in promoting their sustainability initiatives to other schools, including directly to their students. The role Dulwich College can play as an inspiration for other schools who will have a legal obligation to provide a climate plan next year. There are EV chargers for staff only and looking to introduce public transport vouchers.
- The Environment Group will help provide introductions to the relevant leaders of other local schools. **ACTION LJ TP**
- A public meeting on air source heat pumps was suggested with guest speakers. **Action JL MM**
- Related front garden issues were discussed with related journal article to be written **Action DO GH**

F. Date of next meeting: 28th January 7:30