

SUMMER CLOSURE

1 In 2016 for the first time the Club will close for 8 weeks during the summer. Members are invited to endorse this decision, and to approve a similar closure in future years.

Background

2 Following the disappointing attendance at last year's Summer Events, we polled the membership. There was unanimity amongst the 17 members who expressed a view, in support of the summer closure. The Committee then decided to close the Club from 13 July to 31 Aug 2016 (inclusive). This saved us £280 at the old rent.

3 By an unfortunate coincidence, St Augustine's had planned to put up the hourly rent for all users by about 20 %, so the saving will be roughly cancelled out by the rent increase.

Alternative venues

4 20 % is a significant rise, although it has been a few years since the last (massive) increase, so expressed as an annual increase it is much less. Doubtless other venues have also been raising their rents. We have undertaken two or three major exercises to identify alternatives, against the criteria which the Club formally adopted some years ago (see below). These exercises involved a lot of work. We also looked at the New Chesterton Institute, and decided to stay put. The Committee does not believe that a further exercise is justified, unless anyone has a particular alternative to suggest, which he has already researched, or is willing to research, against the criteria.

Recommendation

5 We should close every summer for about 8 weeks in July and August.

City Club Committee
26 May 2016

ANNEX

Our venue requirements are :

- (a) tables and chairs
- (b) available 19:30 to 23:00
- (c) room for 15 boards
- (d) quiet
- (e) room to store our equipment (we have our own cupboard or can use theirs)
- (f) same night each week (at least during the winter)
- (g) price
- (h) parking (own car park OR on the street)
- (i) not too far from the centre of Cambridge, or connected by a late-running bus
- (j) toilets
- (k) reasonable temperature in winter
- (l) ease of setting up

In addition we could add :

- (m) no burdensome requirements on members or visitors (eg Child Protection checks)