

Exec committee
2 April 2009

EXTERIOR LIGHTING – UNION BUILDING

A Paper by the General Manager

For the last three or so years, major occasions at the Union, end of term carnivals, summer balls etc. have been enhanced by the illumination of the South face of the Union building. This has been achieved by rigging, by DramSoc, theatre lights to scaffolding stubs which were permanently bolted on brackets to the roof parapet.

The new view of Health and Safety taken by the College facilities management department not only precludes working within one metre of the edge of the roof without special equipment and training but has also caused the removal of the scaffolding stubs and brackets, apparently because there was no record of their load carrying capability. It is therefore no longer practicable for us to light the face of the building using self help.

The illuminations are something that our customers have come to expect as an integral part of a major event and they would be disappointed should this no longer be possible.

One way of getting round this might be to employ a specialist company to provide illumination on each major occasion. However, not only would this be expensive but there are no viable electrical circuits on the roof from which they could draw power and to provide them on an occasional basis would only add to the costs involved.

The other way of providing illumination would be to install permanent lighting. This also has the advantage that it can be used other than once or twice a term and, with the right control system the effects generated can easily be varied between and even during events.

In December 2008, a quote was obtained from Sound2Light for the permanent installation of an LED based external lighting array of 12 units capable of adequately illuminating the face of the building and being remotely controlled to give a range of appropriate lighting effects. This quotation was for £13,800 plus VAT and although it is now out of date it is only expected to increase by the change in the Euro exchange rate.

It is proposed that the Union invest in this enhancement in order to maintain the quality of major social events in Beit Quadrangle.

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