



Draft Lux Proposal

Main Aim

To fully realise the potential of Lux as a multi-purpose venue by establishing a balance of both a student friendly ambiance and conference room formality.

Introduction

At the beginning of the 2006/07 term student opinion was sought over the opening hours of the Students' Union building. The students were overwhelmingly of the opinion that the Union should be open all day everyday and maintain the principles of free and open access for all and to be a venue free from intimidation and harassment. However, the student feedback also contained a very strong desire to change Lux back to what it was prior to 2005/06. Clearly it is appreciated that in regards to value for money Lux must be retained as a multi-purpose venue to be able to operate at every opportunity.

This proposal would like to make it clear that this is not an attempt to bring back the old nightclub but rather it is the principle aim to identify means to enable Lux to operate effectively as a multi-faceted venue capable of operating as a space for exhibitions, presentations, conferences, nightclub, fashion show, boxing, dinner room etc. In its current incarnation it has been identified that it is too heavily weighted towards a conference room limiting Lux and raising concerns.

Impact of Liquid and Envy

The new major nightclub Liquid and Envy will be opening at the end of April. This comes in part with the councils objectives to remove nightclubs from the seafront. There will be some expected impact upon the Students' Union trading with the opening of the new venue, however it can also be considered a opportunity because the Students' Union will now be in the middle of the principle area of nightlife in the city Guildhall Walk (the other main area Gunwarf remains in its current fashion). This changing dynamic illustrates the necessity for the Students Union to be putting out a whole new vibe to students in the 2007/08 term.

Strategy

Over the course of the last three months working groups were constructed between UPSU and UPEL. Here the students concerns were raised and avenues for improvement identified. Generally, the areas for improvement are painting, barriers, decoration, draping, furniture, lighting, seating, and acoustics. In an effort to set proper and realistic goals these have been separated into short, medium and long-term objectives. However, before we can move forward we need approval from the board for a budget to bring in any potential consultants for change.

Conclusion

For this proposal to move forward it will require financial investment, so it is appreciated that there is not a bottomless pit of money available. Dead space though is of no benefit to anyone. However, intelligent investment into a multi-purpose venue will appeal to more than just students in evening time but to many other stakeholders. We have already seen events take place such as open days, exhibitions, fashion shows, dinners, and boxing nights. However, there remain many other avenues that could be explored in regards to public speaking, training, live bands, college and school events, and many others within the local community. If Lux was to reach its full potential there would be few, if any, venues in Portsmouth that could offer the same degree of flexibility at the same level of size.

Finally, it is vital to recognise that any potential changes would be more than aesthetic. Students will be able to see real physical change to their building as a result of their feedback. This will lend students real ownership over their venue which is a priceless asset the Students' Union building holds over any other local venue.