November Women’s Officer Report

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My Three Manifesto Points:

Making Ipswich Safer at Night -

On the 24th of October I had a meeting with Adam Kerr from Ipswich Borough Council to voice my concerns about the inconsistency of streetlighting along the waterfront. I had prepared a video that I had taken at 21:00 on a previous night, to explain exactly what the problem with lighting on the waterfront is. The meeting was promising, and Adam went away to check exactly who owns what and research what can be done to improve it.

Starting a Women’s Social Night -

'Our Night’ has been a successful monthly event for woman-identifying and non-binary students. I have created a relationship with Cult Café Bar, who have closed the venue especially for Our Night, so that students feel more comfortable and safer. Attendance has gradually risen, with between 10-20 students coming to each event. We have heard performances by Sophie the Great, Esme and Emerson, Grace Wells and poetry from the Suffolk Poetry Society. I am looking forward to continuing to plan Our Night for the New Year.

Introducing the This Girl Can campaign to the university sports -

I have created a partnership between the University of Suffolk Student’s Union and the This Girl Can organisation. I am in the process of creating posters, which will be put up in university buildings and promoted on social media.

Other projects:

Night out training for SU staff -

In October I had a meeting with one of the founders of ‘The Egalitarian’ about providing night out training for all SU staff. This meeting was successful; however, Ipswich Borough Council have also offered to provide the SU with training under their ‘Safer Streets Project’. The details are still being finalised but the training should hopefully be implemented before the re-freshers events in February.

Sanitary products -

I conducted some research surrounding having a permanent free period product structure, for example a free vending machine, in the university women’s and gender-neutral toilets. A proposal has been submitted to the student experience task force for their meeting in December.

Reclaim the Night -

I have been part of the planning of Reclaim the Night with Suffolk Rape Crisis, which is taking place on the Waterfront this year. It will be on Thursday the 8th of December, where students will meet at the SU, then head to the starting point altogether to start the march. Then, the march will head into the waterfront building for some speeches, then back out onto the waterfront where I will be leading a vigil to remember the survivors and victims, of violence against women and girls.

Christmas Party -

Alongside Sam C, Jamie S, Sam S and Jamie L, I have been involved in the organising of the student Christmas party. This is taking place at Cult Café Bar on Friday the 2nd of December. We applied for £400 from the Student Experience Task Force Fund, to cover the cost of a DJ, sausage rolls and decorations for the party. This is a free event for students to celebrate Christmas and the end of the year together.

What are my plans for the next term?

* Continue to plan the monthly ‘Our Night’ events
* Follow up on existing projects such as a permanent structure for free sanitary products, the increased presence of lighting on the Waterfront and night out training for SU staff