

THE APP

Written by

Daniel Lindegren

Address
Phone Number

INT. DAYTIME

A diverse group of people, ages ranging from 20 to 45, sit in a meeting room.

JOHN

Last on today's list, I would like to give you some very positive feedback on our route optimisation app we built for our local drivers to help save money, petrol, and give off fewer emissions. Reports are positive, saying the app is easy to use and is working well. So, a round of applause for Paul, Sara, and Alishya, who built the app.

The room applauds.

JOHN (CONT'D)

That's all, unless someone has anything else they would like to add?

Myra puts her hand up.

SARA

Wouldn't it be fun if users could kind of "compete" with each other?

PAUL

How do you mean?

SARA

Maybe they can get rewarded so that the more they follow the suggested routes and speed, etc., they get some sort of points?

JOHN

Yeah, I think that's a really cool idea. Alishya, can we add something like that to the app?

ALISHYA

Yeah, of course, that's great!

JOHN

Ok then, well, that's it for today. See you at the next meeting.

INT. DAYTIME ANOTHER DAY

The group is back in the meeting room.

JOHN

Last on today's list, I would like to give positive feedback again on the app. Drivers are having fun in game mode, so well done to Myra for suggesting that. Round of applause for her.

The room applauds.

JOHN (CONT'D)

That's all for today unless someone has something else they would like to add?

Sara puts her hand up.

SARA

I was wondering if we could not only add points but also deduct points in "game mode"?

JOHN

How do you mean?

SARA

Let's say you choose to take a different route or don't drive in an energy-efficient manner, you lose points?

PAUL

Yeah, that's really cool.

JOHN

Ok, sure. Alishya, can we do that?

ALISHYA

No problem.

PAUL

Another thought, shouldn't the points be rewarded somehow? Maybe a meal ticket to a local restaurant or something like that?

JOHN

That's a great idea! Let's do it!
Ok, see you next meeting!

INT. DAYTIME ANOTHER DAY

The group is back in the meeting room.

JOHN

I have some very exciting news. I have received a letter from Downing Street and they love the app and, get ready for this... they are rolling it out nationwide!

Everyone applauds in excitement.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Ok, let's get on with it. How's the app doing?

PAUL

Yeah, great. Lots of new users and brilliant feedback all around.

JOHN

Anyone reached enough points to get the restaurant tickets?

SARA

Yeah, about that, we got rid of the points system.

JOHN

Why?

SARA

Well, we think people should want to use the app for... the greater good.

PAUL

Yeah, I mean, the reward is that we're saving the planet.

SARA

But we're keeping the points deduction system.

ALISHYA

How can you deduct points if...

PAUL

Everyone gets a set amount.

SARA

Equity.

INT. DAYTIME ANOTHER DAY

The group is back in the meeting room.

JOHN

We seem to be going from big to bigger. Just got off the phone with the Prime Minister. He said that the app is going to be compulsory for drivers, and they might even make it a 360 app.

ALISHYA

A 360 app? What does that mean?

JOHN

It would act as an app that can guide people in all their endeavours.

SARA

That's amazing! We can guide people to buy green food, clothes that have less impact on the environment, ethically sourced products.

PAUL

We can really make a difference, for the greater good.

JOHN

How is the app doing?

SARA

Great, users love it. They say it's very helpful although, we do have quite a few people getting points deductions, I'm afraid.

JOHN

What can we do about that?

SARA

What about a tax increase? If they get deductions, they have to pay more tax?

ALISHYA

Yeah, I don't know about that. Doesn't sound right to me.

JOHN

Ok...

INT. DAYTIME ANOTHER DAY

The group is back in the meeting room.

JOHN

Today is a milestone for the app. Parliament passed the Greater Good Law, which means that points deductions will mean a tax increase for the user.

SARA

That's a great incentive for people to follow the guidelines.

ALISHYA

But that's not an incentive.

PAUL

What do you mean?

ALISHYA

An incentive is if you do something, you get rewarded. This is the opposite.

SARA

You do get rewarded.

ALISHYA

How?

PAUL

You're doing the right thing for the greater good. That's the goal, for everyone.

ALISHYA

Yeah, but...

JOHN

Just be mindful of your words, Alishya.

ALISHYA

Ok... I just think people should not be penalised if they don't follow the app.

SARA

Everything the app does is helping people, Alishya. I don't get why you are being so against it?

INT. DAYTIME ANOTHER DAY

The group is back in the meeting room.

JOHN

Hi, everyone. Alishya will only be sitting in on meetings from now on. After a unanimous vote, she has been given a Nulla Vox status, which means she can listen but not speak. We hope that this will change soon, of course.

Alishya sits in the corner of the room on a chair.

SARA

Of course.

JOHN

I believe Paul has something to say.

PAUL

I would like to announce that I have been promoted to Chief Officer, where I will act as a guideline enforcer.

The room applauds, apart from Alishya.

SARA

Well done, Paul. You deserve it.

ALISHYA

How can you enforce guidelines? That doesn't make any sense.

JOHN

Alishya, please.

ALISHYA

No, if guidelines are being enforced, then they're not guidelines. They are rules!

PAUL

And your point is?

Sara puts her hand up.

SARA

I would like to close the meeting. I don't feel safe.

INT. DAYTIME ANOTHER DAY

The group is back in the meeting room, everyone but Alishya. They salute each other.

PAUL

Hei Hei!

John and Sara salute Paul with the same greeting.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Here is the list of people who need to attend the adjustment course. John, I believe you have been handed the responsibility to gather these people and escort them to the comprehension facilities?

JOHN

With pleasure.

PAUL

Sara, how is the information campaign coming along?

SARA

Very well. I will have something to show you in the next couple of days.

JOHN

Wait?

PAUL

John?

JOHN

My wife is on this list. This has to be a mistake. It says she has been awarded indefinite coursework?

SARA

I'm so sorry, John.

PAUL

No one is immune. That wouldn't be equitable.

JOHN

But she's my wife.

PAUL

Yes.

INT. DAYTIME ANOTHER DAY

The group is back in the meeting room. They all wear uniforms.

PAUL
Hei Hei!

Sara salutes back, but John doesn't. He looks at Paul.

SARA
John, please?

PAUL
Is there an issue, John?

JOHN
No, not at all.

PAUL
Ok, because you seem like you have some sort of problem?

JOHN
What could that possibly be?

SARA
Please, John, don't.

PAUL
It's ok, Sara. We're all friends here. Feel free to speak your mind, John. What's the issue?

JOHN
Let's say I do have an issue of any sort. What could that possibly be, Paul? Any idea?

PAUL
The Book of Rights states quite clearly that we will all be held to the same standards regardless of our titles. You should know this, John. You helped write it.

JOHN
The Book of Rights...

SARA
How about we end the meeting here and reconvene next week?

Paul and John stare at each other in silence.

EXT. DUSK. A CAR.

John is sitting in the back of a car.

The car comes to a halt.

Two men get out of the car and open the back. John is being led out, his hands are tied with cable ties behind his back.

They lead him behind a building.

Three gunshots are audible.

The two men appear from behind the building without John.

They get into the car and drive off.

THE END