



TTK AGM, June 28, 2022, Minutes

6.30pm at the Spring Grove, followed by Green Drinks

Present: Damon Hart-Davis (DH-L, chairing); Toni IZard (TI); Marilyn Mason (MM, note-taking); Peter Mason (PM) Paul McKay (PMc, Treasurer)

1. Welcome

DH-D welcomed those present (most of the Core Group) and pointed out that many groups had not yet fully recovered from the Covid years, and that there could be more Covid and lock-downs coming, so we were not doing badly and should perhaps give ourselves a longer period than we had agreed earlier this year for our “make or break” year. He would be recording the meeting for those who missed it.

2. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Hilary Gander (Core Group) and John Fellowes (Adviser).
3. **2021 AGM reports** (there were no formal Minutes) were confirmed as correct by those present at that meeting and would be published on the website as the best we could manage under the circumstances.
4. **Overview of TTK activities, 2021 - 2:** DH-D reviewed the year from the end of May 2021 to April 2022:

“ For many groups it’s been a difficult couple of years, but, sadly, TTK also had the death of our chair Alison in February to contend with. It came as a great shock and loss to TTK, and retrospectively, together with sporadic Covid restrictions and an unviably small management team (reduced to 3 soon after the 2020 AGM), goes a long way towards explaining a dwindling of TTK activity and profile in 2021.

We knew Alison was ill, and later very ill, and so at the end of January 2022 a group comprising stakeholders, project leads, supporters, advisers and the remaining management team came together to form an acting Core Group (to be confirmed at this meeting) that would try to keep things going and coordinate our activities. We decided to give TTK a year in which to either revive and

thrive or take our projects and our funds to another local green group, and we are now half-way through this make-or-break year. We can find other umbrellas under which to shelter our projects, but there are advantages to TTK that we would be sorry to lose: our links with the wider Transition networks, our commitments to the Transition ethos of positive practical action in the face of climate and energy crises, and our good relationships, built up over many years, with relevant Kingston Council officers and Councillors. Suggestions and volunteers to help TTK flourish and continue into 2023 would be welcome.

Since the 2021 AGM in July 2021:

Though quorate management team meetings and Green Drinks were infrequent and unrecorded in the second half of 2021, Alison continued as TTK chair until standing down at the end of 2021, most practical projects continued as best they could despite lockdowns, and some fruitful events and activities took place, including:

- **A Zoom meeting in July** jointly hosted by TTK, Kingston Environment Forum and Kingston XR, where we heard how to set up a Climate Emergency Centre from Ruth and Phoenix of the Climate Emergency Centre network.
- Alison and the management team succeeded in attracting funding for and organising another 3 successful events:
 - **A visioning event at Kingston Environment Centre** facilitated by Alison Whybrow, used Transition Bounce Forward funding for two events held to create a vision of the values and goals



of The Kingston Hive. These were then developed into an inspiring vision statement by Alison, and led to the formation of The Kingston Hive CIC, a group working towards a Kingston climate emergency centre which now has a constitution, a legal status, directors, a website and Facebook page, but as yet no premises;

- **A GreenZone** next to Kingston Library one Sunday in October (*pictured left*);

- A drop-in **Climate Café** held with the Kingston Hive in Berrylands in December to discuss “What if... The Royal Borough of Kingston was part of the climate change solution?”, which captured a great many ideas and delivered them to the council RBK’s Climate Emergency Draft Action Plan.
- Rakesh Rootsman, permaculture designer teacher and forest garden specialist, gave members of TTK, Abundance and XR a fascinating **wild food walk** through Berrylands Nature Reserve in September and in November he delivered a class teaching us how to ferment fruit and vegetables in salt to both preserve them and help us improve our gut health.
- **Green Maps for Kingston:** this TTK project is producing maps of key sites around Kingston Borough to support a green community. There is the general [Kingston Green Map](#) and the [Kingston Circular Economy map](#). These maps are being primarily created on the Open Green Map platform. Paper maps that could be distributed to key locations are also planned. We hope to coordinate with the council activities in this area.

- In spring 2020, funding of £320 from the Council enabled us to organise a **Big Seed Giveaway**. We purchased good quality easy-to-grow vegetable seeds (getting a group discount from Suttons) and compostable packaging, and distributed small packs with growing guidance and TTK fliers around the borough for collection during lockdown. All the seeds were collected, but lockdown made a harvest festival planned for later unfeasible and we lacked feedback from the growers, though we hope they were encouraged to continue growing vegetables.
- **Other events and meetings** that took place in the second half of 2021, included: a TTK on-line book discussion in July which explored the idea of a lock-down book club and discussed Carbon Choices by Neil Kitching; Abundance harvesting and juicing activities in the autumn, regular on-line meetings of the Energy Group, weekly gardening and other sessions at Canbury Community Garden, and occasional Stitch in Time workshops at the Circulatory. The monthly Kingston Environment News and our social media also continued to communicate throughout the past year, reaching well beyond our membership, and TTK members continued to participate in various Council-hosted meetings on Covid recovery themes, including subgroups such as Transition to a Green Economy, Mental Health and Wellbeing, and the Voluntary Sector. Regular projects have been reported more fully on the website prior to this meeting (see below).



Since January 2022, the Core Group has met monthly at the Spring Grove pub, followed by the revived Green Drinks hosted by Damon. Marilyn has been acting as secretary, Paul has continued as treasurer, Peter and the energy group have continued meeting monthly on-line and offering advice when requested, and Canbury Community Garden has flourished. TTK members carried on participating in Council-hosted Covid recovery subgroups, as well as participating in meetings of the nascent Climate

Emergency Centre and the Transition Network. More detailed reports from the various TTK projects up to this April have been shared already on-line and will be included in the minutes of this AGM.”

Project reports, previously published on the website:

Stitch in Time, July 2021 – April 2022, MM

2021-22 was once again more stop than start, with very low attendance at the few workshops we managed, and a fair amount of time spent finding and setting up working sewing machines and other useful equipment. For the time being, until we can find a more permanent base, we have packed up and labelled our equipment for storage at The Circulatory, with thanks to Des and the STWC team for providing space. Libraries can't provide adequate space, it seems, and we wait to see if The Kingston Hive climate emergency centre or another venue will be able to.

Canbury Community Garden, July 2021 – April 2022, MM

Lead gardeners and the Canbury Community Chicken Collective have kept the Garden ticking over for the past year. Despite having to restrict the number of helpers, our 2021 harvests last autumn were surprisingly good, and the chickens have remained happy and healthy, though they too had to be locked down again from November 2021 – mid-May 2022 because of a UK, though not local, outbreak of bird flu. Volunteers and visitors have been welcome once more, Muddy Toddlers messy play sessions have flourished and grown to the point when they need (and will be getting, thanks to the Council) a new shed to contain all their outdoor toys; GoodGym have come along a few times to

help with some of the heavier non-urgent tasks that we tend to neglect; and school visits restarted. Our 2021 records, totalled up in December, showed that we had harvested 56.45 kilos of produce and volunteers had worked 170 hours, so recorded harvests were slightly up from last year (helped by bumper crops of courgettes-marrows, some of which were donated to the URC for their Monday lunches, and potatoes), with hours recorded down, so, in the unlikely event of those figures being accurate, our productivity improved!

There are 3 lead gardeners, Muddy Toddlers is run by the group itself, who successfully got some funding for more toddlers' equipment and a new hygienic chicken coop, and the Chicken Collective is run by one of the lead gardeners, so much is delegated and longevity is ensured as long we have a lease from the Council. Thank you to the local community and volunteers who have given us seedlings, pots and help, the Council and their new garden contractors Glendale for their continued interest and support for CCG, and to TTK for insurance cover and occasional use of the bank account, though we don't have many money transactions.

Since April - some activities had to be curtailed in May because the Council's contractors began work to make the derelict building in our yard safe for new users and the tennis club next door had a tree surgeon taking down their trees growing alongside CCG. Muddy Toddlers have spent their share of the Council funding on play equipment; the Chicken Collective is waiting for the current coop to be even more damaged before buying the new coop but intend to spend their share of the funds during the 2022-3 financial year. We still await our new shed and the tawny owl nest-box (for natural pest control) that the Council's community garden infrastructure funding will be providing.



Photos, left to right: why we need a new shed; our 4 happy hens out at last; and the eggs they lay most days



Kingston Environment News

July 2021 – April 2022, MM

More has been going on locally over the past year and getting into the newsletter, though it can be hard to extract news from TTK and Kingston Environment Centre, the main "owners" of *KE news*. Other local green groups, though they have space in the newsletter, also have their own newsletters and their inclusion and links to their websites and events are useful but, as their news is often elsewhere, less necessary. Those that read it seem to get something from it and I get occasional

positive feedback, though it would be useful if groups planned sufficiently ahead to get their events into the newsletter (publication date is always at the very end of every month) in time to reach out beyond their usual supporters and avoid clashes. The Mailchimp reports below are fairly typical, though may not reflect total readership:

April issue, sent 30/3: Successful deliveries 650 99.5%; Total opens 440;

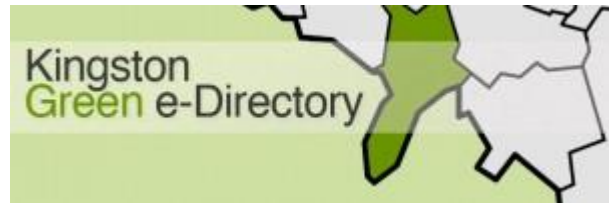
Clicks per unique opens 16.3%, Total clicks 81

May issue, sent 28/4: Successful deliveries 653 99.5%; Total opens 401;

Clicks per unique opens 16.0%, Total clicks 73

Kingston Green Directory, July 2021 – April 2022, MM

The Directory continues, despite having only one active contact/editor. We get few inputs or updates from the wider green consumer network or green businesses and enterprises, despite regular requests in the newsletter. It



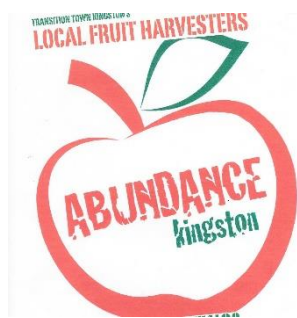
may soon be redundant when the Council's Circular Economy map (which has had input from TTK via RBK's Transition to a Green Economy subgroup) and Paul's green mapping project, are published.

Other attempts to collect and share information have been slow so far, as they depend on busy people being interested enough to provide information – on the history of green activity in Kingston and on community gardening and conservation projects around the borough. Both resources would be useful if they were comprehensive, so we can create the relevant pages and continue to request information for them for the rest of this year and then rethink.

TTK Energy Group, July 2021 – April 2022, PJM

The group has continued to meet on-line throughout the year and to learn more and share information about energy efficiency, much of which has been compiled and saved on the website at <https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/ttk-groups-and-projects/energy/energy-saving-tips/>, where it is available to anyone seeking advice. There have been no requests for help from individuals, but members of the EG have been advising including Park Brewery and Tamesis sailing club on solar PV installations, and The Cornerhouse community theatre on reducing their energy bills.

Since April - a meeting was arranged in June with the Council's new Climate Action Officer (Efficient Homes), and the EG hope to be working collaboratively with them.



Abundance 2021 (TI)

Picking started at the end of July and went on through to mid-October. We harvested 509K – which, as Covid was on, we felt was quite good. We presumed many people were sheltering and didn't want people coming round, even into their gardens. The areas visited were Tolworth, Berrylands, Surbiton, Long Ditton and Kingston. Approximately 60% of the apples were eaters and around 40% cookers.

Interestingly there was a new trend of my just collecting the ready picked apples or people delivering them – this accounted for 1/3 of the harvest. It will be interesting to see if this can be further encouraged during the next season.

Around 280k were juiced at 2 community events – the Fish Finger Festival and Kingston Green Zone and we made £72 in sales of juice; 69K were delivered for ‘help yourself’ outside Surbiton Whole Foods; 23k to Voices of Hope.

The seconds – 22k - were delivered for horses to eat at stables in Claygate and Ember Court.

Finally, when all other possible local distribution opportunities had been exhausted, 100k were taken to the Garden Cider Company in Chiddingfold to be made into cider

Currently there is a student doing an MA in Sustainability who is interested in writing about Abundance for part of her degree dissertation.

Looking ahead, Abundance may need to find a new group to affiliate with in case TTK disbands. We are aiming to grow Abundance in 2022 through more use of social media. New trees and volunteers always equally welcome. We also hope to link up more with Crop Drop run by Voices of Hope (KVA) which aims to distribute crop excess to local community groups to save waste and help those in need.

Comments and questions:

MM commented that we had done a lot, some of it slipping under the radar because not reported or on the TTK calendar – we should be more confident about taking credit for what we were doing and blowing our own trumpet.

DHL commented that many community groups were struggling post-Covid and lockdowns, and that “reports of our death were greatly exaggerated”!

5. Treasurer’s Report

Finances remain healthy with a net income of £1,034.40. There was a surplus from the GreenZone grant that could be used towards costs for GreenZone 2022. In 2022 a [profile on Open Collective](#) had been setup for TTK. We were exploring if this platform for transparent finances can be beneficial in managing our accounts and projects. We had supported Transition Kew as a new group to receive their Bounce Forward funds via our bank account, which was later used to cover their project costs. We continued our subscriptions as members of Kingston Environment Centre and The Climate Coalition.

Full accounts, April 2021 – April 2022, are published on the website at https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/files/view/ttk-agms/ttk-agm-june-2022/TTK_Accounts_2021_-_2022.pdf, and a summary version was available at the meeting.

Questions and comments:

MM asked if it was time to reallocate surpluses from redundant projects, and whether some of them could be more clearly described, e.g., what was the “Growing Project”? Discussion on this continued in AOB and would carry on in future Core Group meetings.

PMc agreed that TTK could provide our bank account for the 2022 GreenZone if needed. If the TCC application came to nothing, we could pay the hire charge for the Market House out of TTK funds; if we did get the funding, it would cover the hire charge and speakers’ expenses, if any, and go towards Market Place activities.

6. Confirmation of minor updates to TTK Constitution

MM explained that “Core Group” seemed a better name for our group/committee as the language was less corporate, more the language of Transition, that references to “climate change” had been changed to “climate crisis” to reflect the growing seriousness of the issue, and that references to “peak oil” had been updated to “over-dependence on fossil fuels”. There were no changes to TTK’s guiding principles and these were sufficiently broad to include any suitable new project proposed to us (e.g., John Fellowes’ request for TTK support for Kingston Cemetery Wildlife Group). The Core Group had discussed and agreed these changes in previous meetings, they were confirmed at this AGM with no objections, and have been saved on the TTK website at https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/files/view/TTK_constitution_agreed_2013_w_proposed_amendments_2022_MM.docx.

7. Looking ahead

For a variety of reasons, we are often talking to the already committed, and perhaps we need to work harder at reaching out beyond the usual suspects, building on growing concerns about the climate emergency and rising energy prices. We would be attending the KVA-hosted “Meet and Greet the Councillors” event in July and had already made ourselves and our concerns known to the Councillors. The Council’s new Climate Action team may provide opportunities to engage more people in active travel and energy-efficiency; TTK Core Group members had met with them a couple of times recently and hoped to participate actively in their proposed Sustainable September by once again (co-)organising a GreenZone and offering other events too. We would continue to support The Kingston Hive climate emergency centre proposal in the hope that it would provide a meeting place and resource for all Kingston’s green groups and a wider public. We would also continue to lobby for and work towards a Library of Things in Kingston, on which there had been a positive meeting with Council officers in June. Another idea was to broaden TTK’s focus to include conservation and biodiversity in the form of Green Ways across Kingston that would provide biodiversity corridors alongside cycle and footpaths. Other ideas and offers would be very welcome.

Comments and questions:

MM/TTK would be applying for Transition Together funds towards a Kingston Library of Things; if the Council managed to get sufficient funds, any surplus in our account could go towards smaller, volunteer-led Libraries of Things in other parts of the borough, including The Kingston Hive, once it had premises.

8. 2022 Core Group

The main requirements were availability for meetings so that the Core Group would be quorate and able to make decisions, and to help at public events. Current members were willing to continue serving and the CG was confirmed with some minor changes of title:

MM, chair (role much the same as before – comms, core group agendas and notes... but a more useful title when relating to the outside world than “Acting Secretary”); **PMc, treasurer**; **DHL, all-**

round deputy whenever required, **HG, TI** and **PM** (project leads and stakeholders...)

We also confirmed a new category, **Adviser**, for John Fellowes and Des Kay, who would always be welcome at meetings and included in some emails, but would not be obliged to be present for the Core Group to be quorate or to apologise for absence. Other TTK stakeholders who would like to join this new category would be welcome to get in touch.

9. AOB:

Funds: the Core Group began to discuss reallocations, and agreed that the Urban Farmacy fund should become a Community Gardening and Conservation fund, available to Canbury Community Garden (which might need up to £100 to replace losses/thefts and for repairs), to JF's Kingston Cemetery Group for their tools/repairs, and any other similar project that wanted to operate under a TTK umbrella - the principle being to reallocate funds to something similar to the original grant application.

The Core group also confirmed that the surplus from the Bounce Forward visioning grant (which included a donation/repayment from Alison Whybrow) should be donated to The Kingston Hive, and we accepted that if that project folded any remaining Hive funds would go to another environmental group in Kingston (namely KEC and STWC, as nominated in The Hive Constitution).

More funding issues were deferred to future Core Group meetings.

Other practical issues: MM had tracked down where TTK possessions were (The Circulatory), and would collect the ones needed for upcoming events. Stitch in Time assets were clearly labelled as such and would remain in The Circulatory; TI would probably store the TTK gazebo, and someone should look at the display boards and assess how relevant they were, and whether they were updatable/reusable and clearly marked as TTK assets so that they would not be disposed of when STWC moved out.

TTK website: MM urged all project and event coordinators to keep their sections of the website and the events calendar up-to-date, and to report news. To enable this, she would (re-)send website editing guidance and (re-)invite Core Group members to be administrators.

MM, 29/6/22 (for confirmation by TTK Core Group and the next AGM)