

TRANSITION TOWN KINGSTON – MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETINGS

Meeting #1, Tues 25 January, 6.00pm – 6.40ish, via Zoom

NOTES

Present: John Fellowes, Hilary Gander, Damon Hart-Davis, Toni Iazard, Paul Mackay (Treasurer), Marilyn Mason (Co-opted, Acting Secretary/Note-taker), Peter Mason.

Apologies had been received from: Majeed Neki

1. **Thanks:** those present were thanked for coming along, and Alison Whybrow was thanked in her absence for her hard work as Chair, keeping TTK going over a difficult couple of years, and we wished her a good recovery from her health problems.
2. **TTK funds** – Paul reported that TTK had £3041 in the bank, and that insurance renewal, due v soon, would cost around £200. It was pointed out that, if all TTK did was to provide insurance cover for projects etc, we could keep going for a very long time – there was no danger of insolvency - though this would not be very exciting or motivating.

3. **TTK options:** prior to the meeting participants had had some possibilities for keeping TTK and/or TTK projects going, or even bouncing back or scaling up. The discussion focused on- **Project requirements:**

Insurance cover and group bank account were particularly valued by TI (Abundance) and MM (Canbury Community Garden) but also of potential value to other and new projects and events.

Action: Paul kindly agreed to continue as Treasurer and to renew the insurance policy, and also to be the main contact for TTK via the website etc.

– **Wishes:**

More visibility, more activity/events, wider awareness of TTK existence, and the long history of environmental activity in Kingston, particularly amongst new and energetic groups such as Kingston XR, The Hive and other campaigning groups. Members of these groups, when not campaigning or planning and running a Climate Emergency Centre, might like to join existing, complementary practical projects rather than trying to duplicate or invent them – and to include them in planning and populating the CEC (as in the Guildford CEC).

Actions: All to take opportunities to publicise TTK and existing projects to new groups and audiences, to make sure that any TTK events were clearly hosted by TTK, and **project leads** to ensure that their volunteers knew that they were benefiting from being TTK projects.

MM expressed a wish to maintain **connections with the wider Transition movement**, valuable for its positivity, support and useful resources.

- **Enabling TTK to survive and thrive** (and avoid the “doughnut effect”):

Of the options on the table, the consensus seemed to be to carry on and scale up/bounce back, with a bigger core group, quorate meetings, more events, more projects etc, but taking into account the Covid context which had limited activities and meetings for the past 2 years and could continue - this might not be the ideal time in which to relaunch and bounce forward. But JF’s comment that Transition ideas and activities were as necessary as they had ever been was supported.

Actions: All present agreed that a committee of one (Paul) was not viable and so agreed to be co-opted into the core group/management team, with MM willing to continue as acting secretary for the moment. Even if attendance at monthly meetings was difficult, they could offer support and ideas by email, and meetings could still be quorate. DH’s proposal that we gave ourselves a year to bounce back and then revisit the options, if necessary, at the end of January 2023, was agreed.

There was little appetite for winding down, or for project groups to operate independently without TTK support, or for operating as a subgroup of another local green group – yet. But the core group would need to consider the process for winding up and distributing remaining funds if it came to it – presumably an EGM to which all stakeholders (core team, project leads, donors...) would be invited; there seemed to be no formal bar to “killing off” TTK and no other stakeholders who could prevent it

if the core group thought it necessary.

Action: Project leads to consider if or how they could operate independently or as part of another organisation, and to put out feelers so that this could be their Plan B for survival (e.g., Canbury Community Garden could fit well under KEC's umbrella). Green Drinks (DH) and the Energy Group (PM) could, and probably would, continue their activities without funding or TTK support, banking and insurance.

4. **AOB and management business** was held over for a brief 2nd meeting, to which all were invited, or for continuation at Green Drinks that evening, or another day.
5. **Dates of meeting(s):** 6.00pm on last Tuesdays every month at the Spring Grove if possible, to be followed by Green Drinks at 7.00pm. All welcome.
AGM due in June; an EGM would be needed if any radical changes needed discussion/confirmation.
Next meeting, Tues 22nd Feb, 6.00pm, and then on Tues 29th March.

MEETING #2, 6.45 – 7.00 via Zoom NOTES

Present: Paul and Marilyn

1. **Notes from previous/recent meetings** are not available, and meetings had either been non-quorate or had not happened.
2. **KE News: Action: MM** would briefly summarise meeting decisions and appeal for support/volunteers in K E News, due out imminently.
3. **? For future meetings – Action: All** please let MM know other topics and which you'd like to prioritise:
Should we (re-)Join **London and SE Transition Hub** - <https://transitiongroups.org/hub/london-south-east/> - from which we were unaccountably absent?
Transition Healthcheck <https://transitiongroups.org/healthcheck/> and on moving to a core group <https://transitionnetwork.org/do-transition/starting-transition/moving-to-a-core-group/> could be useful, as would outcomes of a TTK visioning project last year.
Updates as needed - TTK events/projects, KE News, STWC, KEC, RBK, KEF, The Hive, TCC...
Resources/website/constitution: do they need updating/amending? (See Constitution at https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/files/view/TTK_constitution_with_amendments_agreed_2015.pdf)
Funds: do we need to look at how our funds are spent, which ones are ring-fenced for particular projects (some lapsed) or types of project, and which could be reallocated? Paul has suggested that we look at <https://opencollective.com/> re money and finance for community groups, as its model of "Fiscal hosts" and "Collectives" could be worth considering if we wanted to reduce the financial overheads (insurance) and management of TTK and its sub-groups/projects.
History: do we need a history of environmental groups and activities in Kingston? They go back a long way, predating TTK and other current groups and activists – and maybe should be recorded. Could we compile a history, with photos, interviews etc and perhaps work with Kingston Museum...?
MM interested in this as a project.
Chairing/hosting Zoom meetings: could we take turns at doing this as it's difficult to do these and take notes?
KEF – recent downsizing of KEF leaves a gap in Kingston for, e.g., representing local environmental concerns to the Council – could TTK fill this gap?
Last year's AGM – agenda + some notes on the website at https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/files/index?folder_id=45277988 but no Minutes?
Events – what can we realistically do? Would investing in professional Zoom be worthwhile to enable greater reach?

Green Drinks afterwards at the Spring Grove

Most of us reconvened at the pub, to be joined there by Dave Gander and Patrick Manwell, who were also invited to join the core group and future meetings. Discussions continued informally – about politics, rising energy prices, how TTK should relate to other green groups and fit into The Hive CEC if/when it gets premises...