

**Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting
29/11/22, 6.30 - 7.30 at the Spring Grove**

NOTES

(A combination of items discussed at the meeting and updates from Agenda Appendices circulated and read(!) earlier. **Actions in red**)

Present: Damon (DHD, Deputy), Hilary (HG), Toni (TI, Abundance), Marilyn (MM, Chair, note-taking); Peter (PJM, Energy Group), Paul (PMc, Treasurer), and Kelly

Apologies: none had been received (or expected)

Welcome to all, including guest, Kelly, who had found TTK via a web-search and our Facebook page.

1. **Last meeting's notes** were confirmed as accurate and approved to publish (**MM**).

Matters & actions arising: **MM** would liaise with **PMc** about getting the printed info boards photographed for the Kingston green history webpage(s), and then dispose of them. Kingston Hive had not wanted TTK's folding notice board.

2. **Updates:**

- **Energy Group** - DHD reported that the first of 3 sessions at the Hive on energy efficiency had had a small and familiar audience but even they had learnt new things. EG also had several invitations to speak to residents' groups, and might offer another energy efficiency talk in Kingston Library (**PJM & EG**); MM suggested that the local history of tried and failed community energy companies (Ham Hydro, the EG's own CIC) would make a useful **EG** presentation to KEF or KEF+, as there was renewed interest in community energy in today's much more favourable context, and there were lessons a new company could learn from previous attempts.

- **KE News** had gone out before this meeting, partly to alert people to our Christmas meal instead of Green Drinks.

- **STWC** had been burgled! Their move was still going to happen. MM had spoken to them about having safer storage at the new place in return for a monthly fee.

- **KEC** would be holding a Fair Fayre on Sunday 18 December, all welcome, and their **AGM** would probably be happening in January - as we are members, someone from TTK CG should go, possibly **MM** and/or **DHD**, depending on when it was.

- **RBK:** The Kingston Plan was now out for consultation at events and online - **All** recommended to respond at workshops on Thursday 8 December or Friday 9 December, 10am-12pm (venue tbc depending on number of attendees) to input into the developing themes of the vision and the environment you want to see in the town centre. Register your interest at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPVaeOzx992o50Fc2Y_jOwccZ96FIW0fzPDzkPmxGb6bdzA/viewform. Public online consultation is now open too - see <https://kingstonletstalk.co.uk/hub-page/draft-local-plan-1>.

7th of December 10am – 1pm. 'Green Innovation & Recovery' meeting - **All** welcome to participate but need to book, see Appendix 1 for details.

DHD and EG had also been invited by Katherine Jennings, a member of the ever-expanding RBK Climate Action team (and an early member of TTK steering group?), to advise on a Council funding bid revolving around community energy, though there may be more suitable, more formally constituted, local partners for the Council?

- **The Kingston Hive** - most of us had been at the grand opening on 11/11, and more recently their lease had been extended so they now had their new premises for a year, and a developing programme of events at <https://www.kingstonhive.org.uk/>, including a drop-in open session every Friday afternoon

- **Library of Things:** MM had had meetings with RBK Waste Reduction Officer Leonard; the cost of the project had escalated so much that the proposed funding application had become unfeasible and was currently on hold while Plan B, something similar, but more modest, less automated, less centralised and much cheaper in Kingston Libraries, was discussed and planned. TTK would continue to support.

- **Recycling Minds** - no update, but maybe next time (**PMc, HG**)? There are some overlapping interests with the RC project.

- **For TCC updates and recording** - see Appendix 3.

3. TTK - coming up:

- **Repair Café (RC) starting in Feb 2023 in Kingston Library:** Maya and MM had a very positive meeting with Kingston librarians on Th 17 Nov (DH-D couldn't come but had seen and approved the space). We wanted similar things, e.g. outreach and footfall - the library space needed new users and we need a good space and outreach to a more general public; Library community room will be available on Saturdays, no payment required, and they hope to return to opening every Saturday in 2023, which would suit us. We could have the 1st Sat am every month (which fits with other nearby RCs and is easy to remember); there is a bit of outdoor space that we could use in the summer for messy work, including the former children's library site where there are now "cloisters" managed by Community Brain; there is an urn we could use for teas/instant coffee (water and kitchen facilities upstairs in Museum); we promised to do all necessary clearing up afterwards; we could work out a way of collecting up irreparable stuff and getting it collected for recycling; storage would be OK, most of the books will be moved out - but the Library and shelves are Grade 2 listed, so we would have to make do with what's there (and try to be tidy!); there were no worries about soldering or ironing, but we agreed that we should organise a Risk Assessment, H&S, Codes of Conduct... training or guidelines/agreements for volunteers before they start.

MM had registered with the international RC network as agreed at the last meeting, and we would now have access to their resources, including disclaimer and booking forms + publicity on their website when ready. **All**, especially the RC project group, were asked to look through the network's Repair Café manual, saved at <https://www.ttkingston.org/assets/other/repair-cafe-manual>, <https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/ttk-repair-cafe-project/> where information and updates for the CG and project group are filed + a more public-facing page at <https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/ttk-groups-and-projects/kingston-repair-cafe/>.

MM had had some interest in helping with textile repairs via the Sewing 4 Kingston Facebook group - we should recruit seriously now that we have a venue and start date. MM also had an introduction to someone who is planning to set up a RC in New Malden, but no follow-up. Peter's friend Roger might come to diagnose clock and watch problems, fix the ones he can, and advise where to take the difficult ones, and HG mentioned that KCC might like to be involved.

It was agreed that **MM, DH-D, HG, PMc, Maya...** would now form a project group to develop and firm up plans and docs for the RC, and meet weekly (but briefly) on-line until the start in Feb - Thurs evenings seemed a good time for most, and this group would keep each other informed by email as well. The RC group would get on with organising, talking to each other and the Library service, checking TTK insurance policy (**PMc** would send), producing materials, shopping for necessities etc), and would report back to the CG monthly like the other project groups.

REPAIR CAFE

Preferred logo for posters, fliers, banner... on the left with Kingston upon Thames added+ TTK logo when appropriate and space

permitted + blank space for dates and times on a banner.

Funding - £500 from John Lewis, and we should hear about other funding applications that would enable expansion soon-ish. MM reported that 2/3 TTK sewing machines retrieved from The Circulatory were not working, which meant she could not lend one to the Kingston Hive for drop-in use; she was reluctant to spend any of the RC funds on servicing when there might be better machines at The Circulatory, which she would investigate (or see if there was a volunteer who could repair sewing machines at RC sessions).

- **TTK AGM due mid-2023** - suggested for May to coincide with the end of the financial year by when any spending of, e.g. RBK funding (**CCG**) should be completed and accounted for. AGM would be an opp to review and reassess, amend roles and responsibilities etc.

4. Ideas & volunteers for future TTK events, activities, projects:

- **Talks:** Kingston Library was also keen to host public talks in their new community space and hoped to be

open late one evening a week, so worth considering for talks of general public interest, e.g. recycling, energy efficiency, Rupert Read (soon to be launching a Moderate Flank group)... See also Appendix 2 on outreach.

- **Kingston University Sustainable Design course** - we had had a vague invitation to contribute to a session on climate activism (MM had responded and we might hear more).

5. Resources:

- **TTK gazebo** - it was agreed that it could be stored at Canbury Community Garden for occasional use by CCG volunteers and Muddy Toddlers. MM (thanks to Cllr James Manthel) had at last got a gate key and access via the tennis club intercom for cars, so it would now be possible to deliver and store it in a CCG shed, and collect it by car when needed by TTK.

- **Funds** - what's left of the Canbury Community Garden/Muddy Toddlers grant from RBK (PMc)?

- **Taking donations:** DH-D had created a ttk@exnet.com email account and ways of taking cashless donations, e.g. via a link or a QR code, and had emailed instructions earlier (repeated in Appendices to this month's Agenda). [We might need a little training before any public events to make sure we can all use this system successfully.]

- **Website** - all admins (i.e. core group, once you've joined the website) were reminded that they could and should edit the website, or at least their own project pages, events and news; guidance on how to edit is in the members' area at <https://www.ttkingston.org/private/files/>

URL registration now transferred - a big thank you to PMc, who, when suddenly www.ttkingston.org stopped working, speedily got it registered with a new registrar, complete with some @ttkingston.org email addresses. Website contacts and news@ttkingston.org went to MM; MM had sent test emails to hello@ttkingston.org (no reply, no idea where it went!) and ttk@ttkingston.org (which bounced back and should be deleted anywhere it appears). No other TTK projects wanted a ttk email address at this point.

6. AOB:

- **Another possible community space in Kingston** - half the ground floor shop in the Market House is going to be an Urban Room, with displays of Kingston plans etc, but will also be available, free, to community groups for meetings and events. Small but central.

- **CG comms** - the meeting preferred to get all the month's updates in one go, as this month in the Appendices to the Agenda, though wanted "urgent" updates sooner. MM would try to discriminate and act accordingly!

- **TTK continuing into 2023?** DHD reminded us that we had given ourselves a year to revive or kill off TTK and a quick show of hands was unanimous that we continue - so well done, All! We may want to mark TTK's 15th birthday in (April?) 2023 in some way? MM hoped that 2023 meetings would be bit less full and rushed, with a bit more time to pause, reflect and celebrate...

- **Held over from previous meetings**, decisions deferred yet again on: website page on community gardens and conservation projects, draft at <https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/ttk-groups-and-projects/outdoor-volunteering/outdoor-volunteering-opportuni/> - how do we get more gardens to participate - or should we give up or hand this on to the revived KEF? (MM, DHD); similarly, should the Kingston Green History website/web page be handed over to KEF, as being a more suitable host for a wide-ranging local green history (PMc)? And should we close down the Green Directory - with circular economy maps being created by Ioanna @ RBK and PMc as better, more regularly updated alternatives?

7. **Date of next meeting:** December meeting cancelled as it falls on a post-Christmas bank holiday, next date after that is Tuesday 31 Jan 2023 (when we will have been going for a year and maybe should take stock, review progress, capacity...).

The meeting was followed by the **TTK Christmas supper** @ the Spring Grove, 7.30pm, when we were joined by a few more friends of TTK. Many thanks to Damon for organising the very pleasant meal (even though a big World Cup match night might not have been the best night in the year for conversation in a pub!).

APPENDICES

- 1. 'Green Innovation & Recovery' - Kingston University Design Lab** “series of events to bring together academics with businesses, organisations and individuals from across south London boroughs. The first event is to take place in Kingston town centre (Not my Beautiful House in the Market Square) on the 7th of December 10am – 1pm. It is run by Martha Mador with Ioanna Rossi of RBK and the subject is 'Green Innovation & Recovery'. We're collecting challenges from local businesses to focus on at the event. Ioanna has already brought forward two challenges on the themes of retrofitting in retail and food waste management. However, participants can submit further challenges related to the theme for discussion/workshopping at the event. We are recruiting businesses, charities and citizens with relevant interests and expertise to attend, along with academics from 3 universities (KU, Roehampton, and University of the Arts). It is free, and all are welcome! Anyone who is interested can register at <https://big-knowledge.co.uk/programmes/design-lab/> for this event (and for information on upcoming events on a range of themes).”
- 2. Outreach - where and when for the best audiences**, of a decent size and not the usual suspects? Covering costs, coming up with attractive themes and titles...? Transition Network has some useful outreach resources at <https://transitionnetwork.org/do-transition/starting-transition/7-essential-ingredients/community-involvement/>
- 3. The Climate Coalition** monthly meeting, 23/11, included a reminder to nominate Green Heart Heroes, deadline for submissions Friday 16th December - <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/green-heart-hero-awards-2023>. Presentation on “[Messaging This Moment](#)” research on how organisations can connect the cost of living and climate crises, talk about the cost of living and climate crises at the same time. See <https://onroadmedia.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Messaging-this-Moment.pdf>. You can catch up on the session by [watching the recording](#) or viewing the presentation slides on messaging [from Nicky](#) Hawkins, Director of Communications at On Road Media, and [from Anthony](#) Elliott from One Home on their new insulation campaign.
TCC AGM on Wed 7/12, 1 - 5 pm - **MM** would attend at least some of it on-line.
- 4. Voice website update** - MM had attended an on-line meeting on 23rd Nov, taking Qs, introducing several new features, including a potentially useful survey tool coming soon, and existing ones that could be useful e.g. Forums, test page, sign-up for updates, marketing tips - <https://wiredimpact.com/resources/marketing-guides/common-website-structures-for-nonprofits/>. **MM** would share the recording in due course.
- 5. Positive Tipping Points in Practice: Social Movements:** MM had attended an online seminar on 1/11, led by Peter Lefort, an academic from Exeter University, hosted by Green Futures Network, and publicised by the Transition Network. An interesting concept, but not sure how much practical import other than the value of hanging in there, networking and being ready to ride a wave when it comes (maybe the current energy crisis is a positive tipping point that the EG can build on?). There were tons of on-line reading suggestions; a recording of the event, as well as a link to download resources and presentations, can be found on the Green Futures Network website at <https://gfn.exeter.ac.uk/opportunity/positive-tipping-points-in-practice/>. More resources, recordings and links will be added to this page as the event series continues. Intro to other webinars at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/positive-tipping-points-in-practice-social-movements-tickets-407961432627?>