

## Transition Town Kingston core group meeting

28 March 2023, 6.30pm at the Spring Grove

### NOTES (Actions in red)

**Present:** Damon (DHD, Deputy, Energy Group ), Hilary (HG, Recycling Minds, EG), Toni (TI, Abundance), Marilyn (MM, Chair, note-taking); Peter (PJM, Energy Group), Paul (PMc, Treasurer) - with **no CG absences or apologies**.

1. **February meeting notes** were approved to publish (**MM**) with some clarifications from HG on Recycling Minds and some minor corrections.

**Matters & actions arising** not covered elsewhere: **MM** had advertised our spare portfolio holder on Freecycle with no takers so far, was advised to try Freecycle as well, and Simone.

#### 2. **Prep for AGM**

**AGM reports:** MM suggested that project groups use AGM June 2022 reports as a starting point - they mainly cover May 21 - April 22, and are all at [https://www.ttkingston.org/files/view/ttk-agms/ttk-agm-june-2022/2022\\_AGM\\_Minutes\\_.docx](https://www.ttkingston.org/files/view/ttk-agms/ttk-agm-june-2022/2022_AGM_Minutes_.docx)); she requested that **project group leaders** emailed their reports to her after the AGM for inclusion in the Minutes.

**Reports** as follows:

- Chair's overview (**MM**)
- Repair Café Kingston (**DHD/HG**)
- Energy Group (**PM**)
- K E News (**MM**)
- Canbury Community Garden (**MM**)
- Abundance (**TI**)
- Recycling Minds (**HG**)
- Treasurer's report and accounts, April 2022 – April 2023 (**PMc**) (with paper copies please on the evening)

2022 AGM **Agenda** approved as format for 2023 for publication at

[https://www.ttkingston.org/files/view/ttk-agms/ttk-agm-april-2023/AGM\\_Agenda\\_2022-3.pdf](https://www.ttkingston.org/files/view/ttk-agms/ttk-agm-april-2023/AGM_Agenda_2022-3.pdf) (**MM**)

**Core group** prepared to continue, hoped others might step up on the day, and roles could be resolved/confirmed at May CG meeting.

**TTK membership/AGM voting** - open invitations to TTK donors, project volunteers, supporters and stakeholders, as and when, incl on website and in KE News. All could vote at the AGM, should voting be needed, though it was agreed that the CG would be responsible for checking and agreeing the accounts.

**15<sup>th</sup> birthday party:** TTK spend of £50 for nibbles etc agreed, to be ordered on the day, depending on numbers.

### 3. TTK - coming up / held over from last meeting:

- **XR The Big One demo** - we agreed for TTK to be at Westminster with TTK banner on Friday 21 April and Saturday 22 April, for friends to join us if they wanted. **MM & TI** would meet on the Friday at 12.00 by the fourth plinth in the NW corner of Trafalgar Square - in time, we hoped, to catch Rob Hopkins, speaking at lunchtime. **TI** would take the banner home and hand it on to **HG**, who would be there on the Saturday, meeting at 12.00 under the clock at Waterloo Station. **MM & All** could invite friends and allies, **MM** would publicise as and when and would register TTK presence on the Big One website. XR is changing tactics to be more legal (e.g., talking to Met police), and is keen to include diverse organisations and groups. [Find out more, get updates on The Big One website.](#)
- **Transition Together:** PMc had wondered if we wanted to look at **TT training materials** together rather than attending on-line courses, but there was little interest in TT training or in contributing to survey on Transition (too many other things to do) or in hosting part **London Transition get-together, May 11 - 14** (Kingston venues discussed possibly too small for a London-wide event?) but some of us would attend and participate in get-togethers (to get back to after AGM when events and venues would be clearer). Latest TT newsletter, with survey, TT plans and dates. at <https://mailchi.mp/transitionnetwork/ttnewsmarch23?e=%5BUNIQID%5D>.
- **Voice website** - MM had attended most of a quite useful Voice users' on-line meeting in Feb, where [https://superhighways.org.uk/files/view/training-resources/e-voice-training/Voice\\_beginners\\_2021.pdf](https://superhighways.org.uk/files/view/training-resources/e-voice-training/Voice_beginners_2021.pdf) was recommended. MM recommended **All** to familiarise themselves with the TTK website, so that they could edit it, and add their own news and events (very easy to do and useful as a record of activity and reminders for end-of-year AGM reports). HG had already added info on Recycling Minds!
- **Consultations:**

**Kingston Town Centre Plan** - **All** see *Appendix 1* and please respond individually by 30/4 (collective response from TTK too difficult and slow); the more responses there are supporting active travel, trees and green spaces, renewable energy, energy efficiency etc... the better. We also discussed the importance of implementation and policing of good sustainable intentions.

**Thames Water consultation:** MM had signed up to Marcus' response to the Thames Water consultation on behalf of TTK (with thanks to him and to CG for support), as had TTK EG. (The EA had just recently proposed that TW sorted out their leaks before taking and replacing water from the Thames.)
- **Talks at the Library, Thurs evenings:** MM would try to confirm and then publicise a "Keep cool and carry on" talk in Library, on Th 15<sup>th</sup> June (**MM &/or DHD** could do it) during TCC's Great Big Green Week, 10 - 16 June (see *Appendix 3*), **PMc** would like to do one on The Jump, and **HG**, with Janine, could offer one on recycling. They would make their own dates and arrangements with Faye at the Library and **MM** would provide reminder of Faye's email..
- **Kingston Efficient Homes event, Sat 10 May**, Hollyfields School; DHD requested TTK (EG?) help with:
  - **Talks**, long or short

- **Advice sessions**, possibly in a separate room: 1:1 chats for 10 minutes 'Ask Me Anything' e.g. how to know if solar or heat-pumps or whatever would make sense - impartial advice from users rather than salespersons. **All** - contact DHD if you can participate.
- A **TTK crib-sheet** on easy, medium, and hard things to do - **MM** would edit a draft based on TTK website material and send it to EG for finalising for the event.

#### 4. Other updates: as needed

**TTK events/projects** - most were ticking over nicely with few updates needed at this meeting.

- **KE News (MM)** would be going out the next morning with some of this meeting's updates;
- **Repair Café Kingston** project group monthly meeting notes, with some updates from this meeting, were published as usual at <https://www.ttkingston.org/ttk-repair-cafe-project/>, and **MM** would delete previous Zoom monthly meeting links and start afresh so that all had the same links!; there had been more good publicity in Surrey Comet on 16/3 - <https://www.surreycomet.co.uk/news/23389152.looking-ahead-greener-future/>; the RCK organisers thought that our ratio of repairs (7) and advice (11) to non-repairs (7) was good, but needed data to support that and for **HG** to share with volunteer fixers - **MM** would ask at upcoming Surrey RC network meeting and **PMc** would look for other data.
- **Recycling Minds** - HG had clarified and updated for previous CG meeting notes.

#### Other groups & orgs:

- **STWC** - MM had requested update on storage for TTK stuff and cost, but hadn't heard back yet - longer opening hours and new more central location would make storage there more convenient; MM reminded CG that this would be another regular outgoing, on top of insurance, but we had little or no regular income, something to watch.
- **KEC** - no one from CG had been able to attend their AGM and no recent news had been received.
- **RBK/KEF** - DH-D reported that Terezie was seeking ideas for adapting to climate change.
- **The Kingston Hive** - PMc reported that **SWAG** had been funded for a website and The Hive had been asked to act as banker, but as our bank account was more usable wondered if TTK should offer to hold the funds for SWAG. There was no objection to that (we are still doing the same for Kew the Transition); **PMc** was willing to take on the extra work and would offer TTK services.

Danielle's email and request for help re permaculture events at *Appendix 2*.

- **TCC** - MM was receiving almost daily updates and training offers and requests for action during GBGW, and continued to attend TCC meetings - see *Appendix 3* on latest meeting, climate comms and GBGW.
- **Thames Landscape Strategy** is now once again active in Kingston, using climate to back up their Rewilding Arcadia flood plain projects, and keen to align Local Plans to their riverside plans, something to bear in mind when responding to planning consultations, e.g. Town Centre one (*Appendix 1*); MM had invited TLS to have a section in K E News.

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

- Sustainable September in Kingston - Open House weekend again, **CG** can think about other contributions post-AGM.

**6. Dates of next meetings:** AGM on 28/4, normal CG/post AGM meeting on 30/5.

**The CG meeting morphed into Green Drinks**, where we were joined by Maya. Discussion of arrangements for RCK continued, and there was also chat about talking to strangers and celebrities, Toni's problems getting insurance for an externally insulated house (insurance companies badly need to get updated on building standards). the hazards of double-and treble- glazing, A I...

## **APPENDICES, FYI, some for action**

### **1. Consultation on draft vision for the Kingston Town Centre Area:**

From RBK: "We are writing to let you know about the recent launch of a [consultation on the draft vision for the Kingston Town Centre Area](#).

Kingston is always evolving and with the area on the cusp of further transformational changes, a vision and new area-based planning guidance is needed to steer new developments and coordinate the delivery of public space and infrastructure improvements. The vision is the first part of a Plan for the Kingston Town Centre Area which will become a Supplementary Planning Document to the Local Plan.

Over the last year, the council has been actively engaging with a Citizens' Panel, local communities, students, businesses and landowners to understand their aspirations for the future of Kingston town centre.

Based on the feedback heard so far the [draft vision](#) (a document called Your Vision Our Future) includes a series of ambitious goals and six big ideas to turn them into reality. This includes enhancing our riverside connections, celebrating our culture and heritage and improving our transport routes and the ring road for pedestrians and cyclists to make them safer, greener and healthier.

The consultation on the draft vision is taking place until **30 April**.

### **We want to hear what people support, if there is anything missing or needs changing.**

You can do this in a number of ways:

- By completing the online survey on our engagement portal [here](#).
- By emailing [placemaking@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:placemaking@kingston.gov.uk) with any comments
- By completing a postcard or annotating the exhibition boards on display in the pilot urban room, Open Frame, in the Market House, in Kingston's Market Place. We will be staffing the conversation space every Thursday, 10am-1pm and on Saturday 18 March, 10am-1pm, if you would like to talk to us.
- By coming to a presentation and discussion hosted by the Kingston Society, at 7:30pm, on 19 April, at the Judge Lecture Theatre, Tiffin Boys School, Kingston upon Thames KT2 6RL.

As well as consulting on the draft vision, during 2023 we will also start work on the next part of the plan - the planning framework - which we will also seek your views on."

## 2. Email from Danielle re Rakesh and **Permaculture events at The Hive:**

I am contacting you on behalf of Kingston Hive because many of you run community groups and gardens locally. We have been given a great opportunity to host a permaculture expert [Rakesh Rootsman](#) and we need suggestions and support for where to hold a foraging walk and biochar cook stove demo please.

Rakesh can provide the following (please excuse the cut n paste for expediency)

14th April a series of FREE talks at the Hive on

- Talk on the joys of collaborative working (how to work well in groups using sociocracy)
- Talk on edible landscaping (forest gardening)
- Talk on energy awareness (pedal power)
- Talk on how to design balance in your life (combining tantric tools for understanding where you are and where you are not balanced physically, mentally & spiritually; naturopathy for understanding the body, permaculture for how to design and make your personal health and wellbeing part of a natural flow)

15th April

- Demonstration, on making lifetime rich soil for food growing with biochar cook stoves (less watering, more bacteria, well aerated soil for generations)

[PDC Practicals: Biochar cook stove \(rootsnpermaculture.com\)](https://www.rootsnpermaculture.com/)

16th April

- Walk and talk/ demo,  
Foraging before lunch and fermentation after lunch.

If you or your organisation would like to be involved- please join our chat with this link <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JiBzvNeioKDdtomjDvDiw>

## 3. The Climate Coalition updates

**TCC meeting, 22/3/23** - was being recorded and MM will forward the recording in due course. Main topics were:

- **Climate comms presentation** from ACT - <https://www.actclimatelabs.org/> - v interesting on public trust/distrust of various media and sources (charities and schools trusted, digital media not), harnessing the power of advertising and how best to counter misinformation and distrust, reaching the “persuadables” and the most useful audiences (middle-aged people with influence). Coming up, an IRL event “How can we use advertising to reach the unengaged about climate issues?” on 25th April a m, - you can find out more and sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/communicating-climate-action-how-to-harness-the-power-of-advertising-tickets-545444909407> Another useful website on communicating climate change, and who to target and how: <https://climateoutreach.org/> )
- **Great Big Green Week**, latest presentation about resources and training opps, including on publicity - some recorded and t b recorded at <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pwxT7OoshmVDzhXRVxMBq0dmlJbO9198at2NAXy->

[cw/edit?usp=sharing](#). We were asked to ask allies and friend to create events in that June week and add them to the GBGW website up to end of April, then from May on to encourage people to visit the website and attend events. TCC asks members to organise Letters to the Future, either as free-standing events [maybe in the Library/The Hive?] or as part of another public event.

- [Running out of Time](#) event will be in UK again this year, starting in GBGW at Ben Nevis and reaching London and Big Ben early July.

**Great Big Green Week email earlier this month:**

### **[ADD YOUR EVENTS TO THE WEBSITE](#)**

**This Great Big Green Week is an important chance to engage your MP on the climate, nature and cost of living crises.** MPs and councillors need to know that there is support in their area for ambitious action on climate, so **use your events to show them that your community wants to see more from them.**

Invite your MPs to attend Green Weeks, be a part of your events, and ask to meet with them to discuss climate and nature issues. With activity happening across this country, this is an opportunity to demonstrate the scale of support for climate action to those in power.

We know that engaging your politicians can be difficult or daunting, so our members Hope for the Future are running a training session to help you have powerful conversations with your local decision makers and get them involved in Great Big Green Week. **This training is taking place on Tuesday 21st March 6-7:30pm.**

### **[SIGN UP FOR THE TRAINING](#)**

You can also find some guides on the website to help you engage your politicians this Great Big Green Week, including guidance on how you can maximise the political impact of your events and examples from successful climate and nature events held by groups across the UK.

### **[DOWNLOAD THE RESOURCES](#)**