

Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting
Tues 30 July 2024, 6.30 to 7.30+pm at the Spring Grove
NOTES

Present: DHD (chairing), MM (note-taking), PJM, HG, TI, PMc, MO

Apologies had been received from JM

1. **Last meeting's notes** (attached or sent earlier) **and matters and actions arising** if not elsewhere, were confirmed and approved to publish with some minor tweaks. **MM** would make minor corrections, save as a pdf and upload to [TTK website Resources](#).

2. TTK updates

- TTK events/projects:

Energy Group (PJM, DHD) reported that they had some useful new members and continued to give advice as and when, including to a recent enquiry about planning restrictions on PV panels, HG suggested contacting RBK Officer Tim Naylor. MO had attended AGM of community energy network – there was carbon offset funding that could be used for local energy projects.

Abundance (TI) would be starting to harvest and make juice v soon.

KE News (MM) would go out the following morning, **All** were asked to send any late items for inclusion immediately

Recycling Minds (HG) – JM/Sunray recycling had recently held a meeting, and had been having site problems – HG sent meeting *Minutes* later.

Some suggestions for **Repair Café K** discussed later

(Other TTK projects dealt with in separate items below,)

- Other groups & orgs, updates as needed:

STWC – Open Day coming up at the end of August. STWC's Repair Hub welcomed as a complement to RCK.

KEF Community Energy project (DHD) continued encouraging schools to participate with help from Council Officer Terezie and growing interest.

TCC (MM) - TCC newsletters and actions circulated by **MM** as and when. – see *Appendix*. Some discussion about protocols of contacting MPs (usually will only respond to their own constituents) – there will probably be advice from TCC on this) and whether Kingston had 2 or 3 MPs post boundary changes.

Transition Together – **MM** somewhat overwhelmed by emails from TT, London Hub, Vive... but would continue trying to circulate items of interest, events, action as and when.

Sustainable Travel (HG) – KCC had cycled a couple of bike routes with Council leader Andreas Kirsch, to show the good and the bad. HG requested a regular agenda item for sustainable travel news.

3. Green chains / ribbons / corridors project – see *Appendix*

DHD and MM had floated the idea to several people and groups (KEF, KBN, Canbury Gardens WG, Elliot...), receiving generally positive responses (incl a suggested audio guide for the blind [and others maybe?]), and finding out how much (and under what names – Green Ways, Bio-Beds, Bee Line...) already exists. There remained a lot to do: research, networking, support-building and working out what TTK's role could be, probably not leading but finding a practicable niche? The biggest challenge would probably be the tidy gardeners and residents who complain about trees, long grass etc – a massive public education and persuasion task which perhaps we could help with. Launch in Sustainable September unlikely, but maybe we could combine a few Wildlife-Friendly Open Gardens with a Green Open House weekend. [**MM** has made a start on organising a Green Open Day.]

4. Repair Café Kingston – new standing item

(RCK is no longer holding monthly virtual meetings and as all the organisers are in the CG whose

meetings occur just before the next RCK, so had requested time at these CG meetings.)
DHD would not be at the next RCK [and MM would not be at the October one]. Summer holiday period might be quieter.

Shopping: MM had made some of the requested purchases, but still to obtain were low amp 20mm fuses – **MM** would ask fixers on Saturday if one of them could choose and buy, to be recompensed out of cash taken in September.

HG would pass on and ask about suggestions from Recycling Minds meeting: volunteers to join Fircroft MenShed? Additional RCKs at the University that could include children? **DHD** would talk to Amanda, Sustainability lead at KU, about possible links and joint events.

MM suggested quarterly (?) specialist repair offers, e.g. jewellery, book-binding, maybe clocks if we recruited an expert...) in order to use these volunteers more effectively.

5. Coming up / held over from previous meetings

Meeting(s) with relevant councillors: MM suggested that, as many TTK concerns (biodiversity, active travel, air quality- incl pollution from lawn mowers - why aren't they included in ULEZ and/or regulated by RBK? – energy- efficiency v planning restrictions...) were the responsibility of Cllr Ian Manders, we made an appointment to meet with him. No date/decision was made.

RBK's Sustainable September – RCK and a composting workshop at CCG already offered for the RBK calendar of events. Could we (**DHD & Masons**) also put on another Green Open House weekend in Sept to coincide with a national event? Could we combine/coordinate that with a few Wildlife-Friendly Open Gardens too (tho' not much time to plan and publicise)?

6. Resources standing item, to discuss as needed: e.g. publicity, fliers, flag/banner; TTK funds and Open Collective, website, TTK property/assets list... etc?

Comms: MM suggested that we no longer use X (did not wish to support Elon Musk and Trump).

PMc would remove widget linking TTK and KEF home pages to X as the links no longer worked and looked empty and bad; he would also investigate making a similar link to other social media. **MM** would enable his access to KEF website admin. MM somewhat reluctant to follow and use all these new social media – so may not be the best person to oversee comms. Offers (**All**)?

TTK fliers and logo: some minor changes to the logo were confirmed, with less text and a consistent font for TTK headers (**PMc**) + some updates to the TTK flier for next reprint – deleting refs to Twitter, Green Directory... and adding QR code.

7. CCG succession – see *email sent earlier*. MM was finding coordinating CCG v time-consuming and wearying, and thought it time to hand over. There was some discussion of how to maintain contact with CCG when MM was no longer i/c – it would depend on what the other lead gardeners wanted or could manage, or whether Friends of CG took over, or whether a member of the CG wanted to take charge; we would need a lead from CCG to join the CG and keep us informed (for insurance info and liabilities as much as anything), but not necessarily every month. There was a small amount of money in the CCG pot [c £60], some intended for a CCG banner which might be redundant, some for seeds etc. **MM** would continue discussions with the lead gardeners and keep CG informed. Deadline of Feb 2025 for decisions and handovers, which is when CCG's agreement with the Council has to be renewed or allowed to lapse.

8. AOB:

9. Date of next meeting: 2024-08-27 (to be chaired by PM as DHD away)

Green Drinks followed – we were joined by Tisu and Divya from The Kingston Hive, who came along to tell us about their recently funded story-telling / happy, resilient future Kingston project. Lots of ideas were shared. [Didn't TTK do something like this in All Saints Church a long time ago – see <https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/assets/other/visioningday2009report> ?]

Appendices:

The Climate Coalition

MM circulates newsletters and actions as and when.

Prep for **National Day of Action, Saturday 12/10** – save the date. Also offers of training for meetings and engagement with MPs. Training sessions will be offered on multiple dates and times in Aug-September tbc, on 2 related themes: info for novices on how to arrange meetings with MPs, how politics and government work, how to prepare and follow up; and personal stories, inspirations and asks combined with the big TCC message about climate to present to MPS.

Much of the meeting was taken up with jam-board sessions on the second of these themes, ideas from members present which TCC will harvest and circulate, and use in training and further meetings (next all-member meeting is on Wed 28/8, not sure I can manage it).

This meeting was recorded and a summary will be in a TCC newsletter soon.

Green/wildlife corridors project: talking to KBN in July confirmed that there is a lot of wilding already going on in Kingston: many of those present had wilded parts of their gardens (though they were probably not representative of the wider Kingston population), or reported that their road's grass verges were not over-mown, and one mentioned that the alley-ways behind their houses, originally intended for coal deliveries, were nice wild ways. Cllr Manthel at a Canbury Garden WG meeting last week said that he was in touch with the Woodland Trust about acquiring free saplings to plant this autumn...

The problem seems to me that much of this is happening below the radar (e.g. in a few back gardens, hidden alley ways) and, re our wildlife corridors idea, doesn't join up. So there is work to do, perhaps mainly promotion, public education and engagement, involving and including private gardens and tolerating a bit of untidiness in public places, and there are partners we can work with - there's no point in inventing the wheel (or even inventing a new name for an existing idea), but maybe we can help push it along? It's been interesting talking to purists like Elliot and Sivi at the Uni, because they are so committed to biodiversity per se, that they aren't that brilliant at communicating its value to the uncommitted - not unlike conversations about the climate crisis.

Elliot will invite me to join, or at least talk to, the Kingston Biodiversity Partnership, which includes some of the big players, e.g. Habitats and Heritage and the Council, and maybe we can find a role for TTK alongside their bigger, more public, projects. I'm wondering if a Wildlife Gardens Open Day / Weekend would be something relatively easy (and cost-free) to organise in time for Sustainable September, and could demonstrate that wilding (and trees) can be compatible with having a pretty garden and/or growing edibles - we could recruit some private gardens + community gardens (I'd be up for it for a start). *MM*