

# Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting

Date: Tues 29 October 6.30 to 7.30pm

Venue: Spring Grove

## NOTES

**Present:** DHD (chairing), MO, HG, PMc, JM, MF

**Apologies:** PJM, MM, TI

1. **Last meeting's notes** (attached or sent earlier) **and matters and actions arising** if not elsewhere, for confirmation/amendment and **approval** to publish
2. **TTK updates**  
Can we keep this section short by only reporting occasionally or when there is something specific needing discussion?
3. **TTK events/projects**, Energy Group (PJM, DHD), Abundance (TI), CCG (MM), KE News (MM), Recycling Minds (HG, PMc); Green chains/ corridors(MM/DHD)
  - a. HG for Energy Group – Terezie attended, HG, Patrick. RBK is creating a Community Energy Fund, maybe with match funding. Planning department meeting report: EG is to report to planning at RBK what should be on the Web site. See appendix.
  - b. Abundance – HG and Ti in Claremont Garden = apple pressing, etc
  - c. CCG – MM has handed over to John R who will sometimes attend CG
  - d. KE News deadline 18<sup>th</sup> November
  - e. Recycling Minds – JM, HG to step down as chair, now is a CIC which has a bank account and insurance and space behind Sunray Community Centre on 5 year lease; will still say under TTK umbrella
  - f. DHD+MM brought up green chains at KEF and it seems to align with RBK plans etc
4. **Other groups & orgs:** STWC, KEC, RBK (MM, HG, DHD, PM...), The Kingston Hive (PMc), KEF (DHD), TCC (MM); Transition Together, Sustainable Transport/KCC (HG)...
  - a. KEF (DHD report) discussed updated RBK climate strategy and detail, green chains, etc.
  - b. KCC (HG report) 100 people on Family Fun Ride, consultations including Kingston Rd.
  - c. Kingston Invents! May come under TTK umbrella.
5. **Repair Café Kingston - standing item**, to discuss arrangements for next RCK, updates etc
  - a. RCK leaflet and visitor/item sheet reprints.
6. **Coming up / held over from previous meetings**
  - a. MM: TTK at Circular Economy event, Nov 18th pm (one reason and a deadline for reprints) - Peter and I could be there some of the time if someone wants to set up a rota. There is some TTK display material stored at The Circulatory which may or may not be useful – perhaps when our purpose for being at this event is clarified (other than it's nice to be invited and visible) the CG could decide?
7. **Resources standing item, to discuss as needed:** publicity, fliers, flag/banner; TTK funds and Open Collective, website, TTK property/assets list... etc?
  - a. TTK leaflet reprint and RCK item form are in hand (Pmc+MM), RCK leaflet to get new back, aiming for ~1000 of each. HG will do 30 item forms for Sat.
  - b. JM has two TTK flags (only one base).
  - c. PMC has taken over ttkingston.org and moved to Krystal registrar.

**8. AOB**

- 9. Date of next meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> November, to be followed by the TTK/RCK nibbles+drinks.**
- a. DHD try to reserve back room and consult with HG on food choice.**

**GREEN DRINKS**

## APPENDIX: SUMMARY FROM 2024-10-02 by HG, Energy Group Meeting:

### From Patrick and me

Last week we discussed with several senior members of the planning department (and the Development Management Committee Chair, Cllr Mark Beynon) how the planning system / development management could facilitate residents' climate-related (energy saving / energy generation) actions, by

1. including a policy in the local plan requiring residents with large extension plans to commission a retrofit plan for their whole house (Patrick's draft, previously circulated)
2. sending a leaflet about retrofit to all residents making planning applications (also drafted by Patrick)
3. improving the guidance for residents wishing to make retrofit improvements
4. simplifying the rules for retrofits in conservation area

We had a thorough discussion, though officers were at pains to point out the issues with our requests, including

- the likelihood of the proposed policy being challenged because a planning application does not relate to the whole property
- the risk of the planning inspectorate rejecting the whole local plan because of the proposed policy(?)
- lack of time because of the demands on the department of creating the new local plan
- that anything that required changes to the design post-approval stage was too late in the design process (we pointed out that if the requirement were to submit some sort of retrofit plan as one of the supporting documents accompanying the planning application, this would not be the case)

### **Next steps**

The Assistant Director Tim Naylor said he would canvass opinion on the matters we raised at an upcoming meeting he has with fellow chief planners.

They agreed to review our draft leaflet.

They agreed guidance could be improved and asked if the TTK Energy Group would review the RBK planning web pages and make suggestions.

They proposed the Conservation Areas' 'Appraisals and Management Plan' (characteristics / what detracts, specifics per conservation area) should include a section on retrofit. Although this document is due for review, in the short-term we have asked them to signpost on the RBK website [Historic England's recently published guidance](#).