

Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting

Tues 25/3/2025 6.30pm to 7.30ish

Venue: Spring Grove

NOTES (actions in red)

Present: Damon (DHD, Chair), Marilyn (MM, taking notes), Peter (PJM), Janine (JM), Paul (PM), Hilary (HG)

Apologies had been received from Marcus (MO) & Toni (TI)

1. **Last meeting's notes** (attached/sent earlier) were confirmed and approved for publication on TTK website (**MM**, with permission to edit/redact Appendices to make them publishable). **Matters and actions arising**/or continuing were discussed below.

2. Updates

TTK events/projects:

- **Energy Group:** PJM, DHD and HG reported that the thermal camera had been busy, that some local schools were at last installing or planning to install solar panels, and that the new Cornerhouse treasurer was positive about spending funds on energy efficiency measures. HG and Patrick had had meetings with Cllr Manders on getting RBK planning department to be more open to retrofitting for energy efficiently. HG had also spoken to Ed Davey MP on this theme.
The EG would be contributing 10- to 15- minute talks and advice at **Kingston's Efficient Homes Show** on 10th May and DHD was organising this. There was agreement from most of those present that some kind of schedule for TTK talks was needed to help visitors choose the one(s) that interested them and to avoid clashes with other talks in other rooms.
- **Abundance:** no report, unseasonal
- **Canbury Community Garden:** MM reported that the community garden and chicken collective continued well, had a lot of use by nursery and toddler groups, and currently had 3 Duke of Edinburgh badge candidates. John was in the process of renewing the lease with the Council, and MM confirmed that CCG be happy to contribute 10% of any CCG funds at the end of the year to the general TTK fund for insurance, general expenses etc (as agreed last year).
- **KE News:** MM reported that the newsletter was ready for final proofreading and publication, so any input from CG would have to be that evening. Although Mailchimp had its problems (mainly links to some websites not working and disappearing images) it was probably one of the better free newsletter services, and CG members shared some useful advice re image size (max 1 MB x 10) that could help.
- **Recycling Minds:** JM was about to revive Recycling Minds meetings and had resolved lost bin problem on her recycling site.
- **Green chains/ corridors:** No updates since the February meeting, except that there had been some surprising omissions in the green infrastructure mapping that Kingston Biodiversity Partnership were commenting on and that MM hoped would now be included.

Other groups & orgs:

- No updates re STWC, KEC, RBK, The Kingston Hive, KEF.
- **The Climate Coalition** – MM had forwarded TCC news, reports and requests as and when, and it was agreed to continue as TCC members as the fee was small and their info and talks were sometimes useful and interesting.
- **Transition Together** – MM had reported on a recent London Hub meeting (*Appendix 1*), and felt that the connection and info-sharing with other T groups was worth maintaining, even though quite a lot of the posts on their Vive and WhatsApp media seemed of little

direct interest, and she was concerned about the tension in the London Hub ideas between group autonomy and shared admin and insurance...**HG** offered to take over maintaining the connection and attending occasional meetings, and sharing useful info or invites etc with the CG. TTK needed to consider what it wanted from a Transition Hub (**AII**).

- **Sustainable Transport/KCC** – HG reported that she/KCC continued to attend Council meetings on transport and that KCC had taken the Leader of the Council on several guided bike rides.

3. Repair Café Kingston - standing item, to discuss arrangements for next RCK, updates etc: **PM** would send **MM** data for her AGM report – on the 10 most common items brought in + some less common, unusual items. Data also useful for GSRCN discussions, to which MM found hard to contribute much.

DHD would be contributing a soldering iron to RCK stock.

RCK had had plenty of donations and could afford to cover its costs and be a major contributor to TTK's general fund, appropriately as it was probably the most risky of our activities.

4. Coming up / held over from previous meetings - TTK AGM

- **AGM reports** to be sent to MM and DHD by 6th April (**All project leads**)
- **Constitution** – were any updates, e g on numbers to be quorate, needed this year? **MM** would send DHD, and include as *Appendix 2*, relevant section of the Constitution
- **Project expenses claims** should be up-to-date and finalised by the end of March (**AII**).
- **MM** would send DHD an editable draft AGM Agenda (based on last year's)
- **AGM party planning** – DHD had not had many replies so far, project lead could nudge their volunteers to RSVP if they were coming.

5. Resources standing item, to discuss as needed:

- **RCK fliers** were at last on the way, t b delivered by the end of Feb
- **JM** would take the 2 **GreenZone flags** to The Circulatory for storage.
- **MM** would check and share **TTK property/assets list**
- **T-shirts** – still no agreement on style or size or colours or whether to have RCK logo on the back – **PM** and **MM** would resend printers' quotes

6. AOB:

- DHD would be absent for some forthcoming CG and RCK meetings, deputies might need to be organised ad hoc (**AII**)?
- MM suggested that, if weather permitted this summer, we had a BBQ for CG members and partners, and offered her and PJM's garden.

7. Date of next meetings: AGM on 29th April, CG meeting on 27th May (see *Appendix 3*)

GREEN DRINKS – no one else arrived so we continued chatting.

APPENDICES

1. Transition London Hub meeting, 28/2, MM

Only a small number present (7, I think, including Rakesh and Rich who many of us have met), the meeting yesterday (2pm-5pm + post meeting presentation on repair) was mainly concerned with coming up with draft Vision and Mission statements for a London Hub, against a background of local (20+ T groups in London), national and international growth and a funding pot coming to an end. Lots of diagrams and post-it notes which were taken away to make sense of and be circulated later. Big Qs were about Why a London Hub? What for? And reservations were about capacity, funding, building a website, and the tensions, also expressed at the recent Transition Assembly (we watched the video which was circulated in the T newsletter forwarded yesterday), about group autonomy v centralisation and bureaucracy. These tensions were dismissed by Rakesh as being ill-founded, though I tended to share them and said that there could be no Hub insurance without conditions and control – there was some wishful thinking going on, IMO. About half the T Assembly participants last month stepped forward in wanting to be part of this process – I think I might have been in the other half, and not a lot of thought was given to when and how all this could happen and who would do it. More meetings coming up.

No one turned up for the post-meeting presentation, co publicised by London National Park City whose premises we were in, so we finished a bit earlier than expected.

2. Constitutional matters

6. THE CORE GROUP

6.1 The general business of TTK should be administered by a Core Group, whose main functions will be: maintaining and promoting the TTK aims and purposes, identity, strategy and connections with the wider Transition movement; enabling, planning, supporting and co-ordinating TTK events, activities and projects; communicating with membership and the local community; ensuring that TTK funds are spent solely on TTK activities. Decisions about raising, spending and allocating TTK funds should be taken by the Core Group as a whole.

6.2 The Core Group will be responsible for properly holding funds and receiving donations where appropriate to finance the work of TTK, for administering a TTK bank account, and for ensuring that TTK's general activities are adequately insured.

6.3 The core group should number no fewer than four, include a representative from every active project group, and appoint a chair (or co-chairs), a treasurer, a secretary/note-taker, and other officers as and when considered necessary. The Core Group may co-opt members to ensure balance, representation from every project group, and sufficient officers to carry out its duties. At least two appointed officers should be present at Core Group meetings for them to be quorate, and they should take and circulate Notes of the meeting to the whole Core Group.

6.4 The Core Group should aim to hold monthly meetings, and team members should aim to attend at least half these meetings. The Chair should ensure that all the Core Group receive advance notice of meetings and agendas and post-meeting notes or minutes, which should also be made available to any interested party.

6.5 The Core Group is responsible for ensuring the free flow of information, advice and knowledge around the TTK network, local and beyond, and for working co-operatively with similar local groups.

6.6 Important decisions, including Core Group composition, should be taken by consensus whenever possible and lesser decisions by consent. In the event of inability to agree, the matter should be decided by a majority of votes of those present.

6.7 No member of the Core Group shall benefit financially from the work of TTK other than as any ordinary member of the organisation might benefit, allowance being made for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

6.8 Members of the Core Group should take all due care to deal with money and relate to members and participants with integrity, openness and transparency, and to protect and enhance the public reputation of TTK.

From 2024 edition at https://www.ttkingston.org/files/view/ttk-constitution-and-other-formal-policy-documents/TTK_constitution_with_2024_amendments.pdf, agreed at 2024 AGM

3. Core Group meeting and roles

The post-AGM CG meeting is usually an opportunity to reconsider roles and responsibilities within the CG, especially as we may have new members. NB, **All**, Damon has been Interim Chair and MM has been Acting Secretary since the 2024 AGM.

Approved for publication at core group meeting, 27/5/25