

Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting
Tues 27 May 2025 6.30 to 7.30pm at Spring Grove

NOTES

Present: Damon (DH-D, chairing) Marilyn (MM, note-taking), Hilary (HG), Marcus (MO), Peter (PJM), Maya (MF)

Apologies were received from: Paul, Janine

1. **Last meeting's notes** (attached or sent earlier) **and matters and actions arising** if not elsewhere, for confirmation/amendment and **approval** to publish on website by **MM**
 - a. March notes agreed
 - b. April AGM minutes agreed

2. **TTK updates**

TTK events/projects as needed:

Energy Group (PJM, DHD) had had a talk at their last meeting from a practitioner and had had a useful day at Kingston's Efficient Homes Show. MM suggested for next year that TTK talks should be scheduled to avoid clashing with interesting panel discussion(s) in another room. HG reported that plans for solar panels on Cornerhouse were progressing. And a 4-school trust now wanted solar panels.

CCG (MM) short of volunteers & lead gardeners, insufficient comms and contacts....

KE News - deadline on 26/6, **MM** was almost ready to send it out, no further TTK news emerged. Dates mentioned at this meeting (+ others) would be in it, with links to details and booking. You can read it at <https://mailchi.mp/742c9aae4db4/kingston-environment-news-june-2025>. See also Appendix 2.

Recycling Minds - JM reported by email that there had been a Recycling Minds Meeting on 15th May with a good turn out from the RBK's waste contractor & a visit to Kingston Unis RE:USE box - a good conversation around food waste collections & some updates from each group. Kingston Carnival need Recycling Champions to man the recycling points and John Azar (KREC) is appointing a Green Zone Organiser with hopefully an update early June - so **JM** will send info out when anything more solid.

Green chains/ corridors - MM/DHD were mentioning and promoting wherever possible, and MM requested **All** to do so and also to include biodiversity requirements in responses to planning consultations. K Uni were interested in creating green corridors through Stanley Picker island and Dorich House.

3. **Other groups & orgs updates** as needed (see Appendices and KE News - <https://mailchi.mp/742c9aae4db4/kingston-environment-news-june-2025> - for details):

STWC's 40th anniversary celebration on 31/5

KEC picnic on 8/6

RBK – lots of useful and positive interactions continued

KEF - DHD reported some new members, including Kingston Hospital.

TCC – MM attended meetings when possible and shared info with CG in emails) – Great Big Green Week coming soon, see Appendix 1.c and TCC Mass Lobby of Parliament in July, see Appendix 1.f

Sustainable Transport/KCC - HG highlighted the upcoming bike ride and **MM** would put a poster in Sainsburys. Also RBK consultation on Canbury Place development would interrupt current provision for cycle paths etc. **HG** would send round KCC response and requested responses from us. MM added that developments should not compromise biodiversity, mature tree canopy etc, instead should be required to enhance them.

New Malden Food event on Sat 14/6 – **MM** going for CCG/TTK and **DHD** offered to help late in afternoon - see Appendix 1.d

4. **Repair Café Kingston standing item**, to discuss arrangements for next RCK, updates etc – RCK generally going well, though needed a better system (raffle tickets - **HG** to bring some) for organising drop-ins + see deferred discussion about donated tools in Appendix 3

5. **Coming up / held over from previous meetings** – no discussion

6. **Resources standing item**, to discuss as needed: publicity, fliers, flag/banner; TTK funds and Open Collective, website, T-shirts, taking donations via website - all deferred.

TTK property/assets list was shared in TTK shared docs, [Inventory - Google Drive](#)-

7. **AOB: some social events**: PJM and MM invited CG + partners to a **BBQ** at their house (142 Lower Ham Road) at 7.30pm on 24 June after the next CCG meeting, also at their house.
+ PJM & MM often went on **summer day-trips on Wednesdays** (weather and other commitments permitting) and others in CG would be welcome to join them, maybe to Knepp, to Kent for cherries...Invitations would probably be at short notice, ad hoc.

8. **Date of next meeting: 24 June** (6.30pm at PJM and MM's house) & we agreed to continue CG meetings as usual in July (in DH-D's absence) and August, with PJM chairing if needed.

GREEN DRINKS followed, but no others turned up and we broke up at about 9.30

APPENDICES/Summaries of MM's NOTES emailed earlier

1. DATES

- a. **Thursday, 5 June, 03:30pm - 07:00pm**, launch of **Veolia Kingston's Sustainability Fund** - an initiative to support local individuals, groups, and organisations working to make a positive impact on the environment. Details & RSVP forwarded by email 27/5
- b. **10 June, Kingston Giving event** – details emailed round earlier
- c. **7-15 June, TCC's Great Big Green Week**, which for a change could include June RCK; so MM had added it to the TCC GBGW events. We are requested to ask our MPs to come along – I think Sarah Olney has visited us but not Ed Davey; so this might be an opportunity to invite him (**HG? DH-D?**); see

<https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/> and <https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/resources>. MM has let other green groups know that they can register their events that week with TCC.

- d. **June 14, Food Growing Event in New Malden** - CCG couldn't muster enough volunteers to run a stall but Pat at KEC is happy to let us have a space on the KEC stall, so MM will help on the stall (setting up, paper-potting and planting, compost quiz) + Dom from RCK sharpening garden tools (ongoing concern about H&S will probably be sorted out soon). TTK/CCG rota currently **MM** from 10 – 1.00, Helen from CCG 1.00 – 3.00, **? DH-D** 3.00 – 5.00ish.
- e. **Wed 9 July, TCC's Mass Lobby of Parliament** – still being planned; including meeting place(s) and timed appointments to see MPs in constituency groups. The idea is to involve as many people and as much local coverage as possible so that MPs get the idea that millions of us want action on climate and nature. Sign-up form for pre-Lobby briefings and info at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe52WJ2V0tUPVYDjYsPumAUYoUbFAfFwhXF2F_HAO25vPP1VQ/viewform?usp=dialog
- f. **RBK's Sustainable September, TTK offers:** RCK on the 1st Saturday of Sept, a CCG Open Garden/composting workshop on the 1st Sunday, Green Open House weekend that suits EG members... and anything else we can offer. **Green Open House:** It looks as though the last weekend of September, 27th and 28th, suits 3 of the Energy Group, so is anyone else in the CG who has energy efficiency measures in their home that they'd like to show to visitors and talk about that weekend? Participants can choose which day, morning or afternoon or both, and which hourly slots to offer. Dan would prefer the Sunday afternoon, Peter and I would prefer Saturday afternoon, Damon doesn't mind when...
Does anyone else have any other ideas or events to offer – is it the right time of year for some Abundance activity, for example?
- g. **Advance warning/ reminder of "Kingston Carnival, Sunday 7th September**, Kingston Market Place and Kingston Town Centre which will include a **GreenZone** on All Saints lawn. Thanks to Janine, someone else will be organising the GZ but I expect we will want to be a presence and to publicise plans in KE News etc as they develop. So please keep the date free (MM already has a Canbury Community Garden Open Morning and compost workshop that day for Sustainable September, but could perhaps be around later in the afternoon), and please keep us posted, Janine and Janine's friend (if she is not already in touch with all the other green groups in Kingston, there's a good list in Kingston Environment News which could be used for outreach.

2. K E NEWS – MM had advice from Paul Martin about switching to a more compatible UK platform, one that would not entail losing subscribers or the archive, and a request from Damon to switch off tracking/traceability in weblinks – though, having had a quick look at Mailchimp, there's no obvious way to do that. And a Q from Paul Mackay – would we object to paying a small amount to get something better? All good suggestions and I'm happy to make changes but will probably need technical help from both Pauls to implement them. Requests to try the anchor (internal) links in the latest KEN to see if they work for you, got no feedback or complaints so MM still lacks balanced feedback on which to make an informed decision on whether to keep or scrap them. KEN can also be read (with anchor links working) at <https://mailchi.mp/742c9aae4db4/kingston-environment-news-june-2025>.

3. RCK – we should work out and communicate a "protocol" for offers of tools – ask donors to talk to the right fixers, ensure offers would be useful etc

4. GENERAL DONATIONS to TTK – no donation button on the website so we get no general donations, though there might be a way to do so via the website? Could we receive donations via PayPal on our website? GSRCN exchange about how to take donations at RCs and also on websites recommended SumUp and JustGiving. Even donations with a credit card company taking a cut is surely better than no donations?