

Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting
Tues 29 July 2025, 6.30 to 7.30pm at the Spring Grove

NOTES (actions in red)

Present: Peter (PJM, chairing); Marilyn (MM, note-taking); Paul (PMc); Toni (TI); Hilary (HG); Janine (JM)
+ Brian Mulley and Mac Downes observing

Apologies: Damon (DH-D); Marcus, MO, is stepping down and was thanked for his contributions. **All** were requested to remove him from their CG contacts, though he will remain in touch with the EG.

1. **Last meetings' notes** were approved to publish (**MM**); most matters and actions arising were dealt with later.
2. **TTK updates, events/projects:**
 - **Energy Group:** PJM reported that 4 varied homes, and times and dates, were now confirmed for **Open Eco-Homes weekend 27-28/9**, and bookings via Eventbrite and MM had begun. [The event had been added to RBK's Sustainable Sept and MM would continue publicity during August alongside advertising the September RCK]. EG would be speaking at RBK's **Bite-Size Efficient Homes Show**. Dan from the EG would be volunteering with RBK Climate Action team, and the usual energy efficiency advice to individuals and community spaces such as Cornerhouse (HG) continued.
 - **Abundance:** TI reported that harvesting and juicing was beginning on Saturday, would continue till mid-October, and requested **MM** to re-use the newsletter item on Abundance until then. Like many projects, she would welcome more volunteers.
 - **Canbury Community Garden:** MM had completed DofE reports on 2 young volunteers and been interviewed for a heritage project on Kingston volunteering. [CCG now had its own email address which might improve comms and volunteer numbers].
 - **KE News:** MM had published the August issue on 28/7. She reiterated that she would be unable to edit or publish the November issue at the end of October, or to manage and forward the flood of info that she usually had to deal with, as all she would have in Canada was her phone. **PMc** confirmed that he would edit and publish the November issue, and MM suggested that content be reduced to TTK and KEC news + anything else of interest that he came across. Other contributors could be forewarned (by **MM**) that their events, campaigns etc up to the end of November should be planned to be ready to publish in the September issue. Back to normal for December issue!
 - **Recycling Minds:** JM had not held a meeting this month
 - **"Green chains"/ greening project:** MM had reported that the Wilding Kingston/"Green Chains" open letter roll-out had begun early in July to key stakeholders (Kingston MPs Sarah Olney + Ed Davey; David Falkner and Sivi at KU; relevant Cllrs (Manders, Tudor Ward); KEF via Terezia and KEF meeting; RBK CA team (via Deborah Dibb); Elliot Newton and Alison Fure; Kirsty, RBK tree officer, Rob Waite, RBK officer i/c parks and gardens, Glendale parks etc contractors; Paul Jennings, chair Kingston Biodiversity Partnership & Habitats and Heritage, Kingston Biodiversity Network; Thames Landscape Strategy etc), then more widely with link - https://www.ttkingston.org/files/view/wilding-greening-biodiversity-corridors-kingston-green-chains/Greening_Kingston.pdf - in K E news, Facebook, at Kingston Biodiversity Network meeting ... **All** requested to help spread the letter, e.g., to your own ward councillors. There had been some responses, the most promising being from Paul Jennings of KBP & Habitats and Heritage, and MM hoped that she and DHD would meet him to discuss actions and practicalities when DHD was back. Further steps still to discuss and work out.
3. **Other groups & orgs, as needed:**
 - **The Climate Coalition:** MM & PJM had attended the Westminster Mass Lobby of MPs on 9/7 - a group of about 20 had had a brief meeting with Sarah Olney. No one from CG had lobbied Ed Davey, but doubtless others in the Kingston constituency had. TCC was now planning follow-up meetings and actions which **MM** would forward as and when.
 - **Transition Together:** TI had attended and enjoyed a recent London Transition Hub meeting at Southbank Centre, reported that we were one of the oldest Transition groups, one focus of the meeting was on reviving shrinking groups, and it was good to feel part of a wider movement. Repair cafes were a growing Transition offer.
 - **Sustainable Transport/KCC:** MM had emailed Tudor councillors re cycle path in Canbury

Gardens, though the proposal to return to restricting the upper path to walkers was ongoing, and there were now hints of a consultation on reducing cycling through the Market. MM reminded the meeting that RBK had declared a climate emergency in 2019 and (though it was well hidden on the RBK website - try <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/site-search/results/?q=climate+emergency>) we should **All** use this declaration in responses to planning and traffic consultations, e.g., restricting cycling, chopping down mature trees, would not help to mitigate the climate emergency.

4. **Repair Café Kingston - standing item:** for next RCK, on 2/8, MM requested help at 9.30 when set-up begins. As it was August it was likely to be quiet, though HG reported that we had a good spread of volunteer fixers coming, and as always visitors with repairs were hard to predict. MM had reported earlier that Librarian Ria was v happy with our offer of £1000 towards improving the power supply in Library Community Room and had begun getting technical surveys and advice. Ria is also happy to put in a good word for RCs if new one is proposed in New Malden Library.

Also discussed was whether it would be worth us having a stall at Guildfest 2026, as suggested in the Greater Surrey RC network WhatsApp group - we decided that Guildford was too far away to be useful for finding potential volunteers or visitors needing repairs.

5. **Coming up: GreenZone at Carnival, 7/9?** – a stall would cost £125, and the consensus was that it was not worth it, given that most visitors were from beyond Kingston and more interested in Carnival activities than in sustainability, it can be very noisy making conversations about environmental issues difficult, and few of us were available to look after a stall anyway – so we would politely decline the invitation. If a free stall became on offer, we could reconsider [NB, TTK gazebo, table, banner, fliers etc are currently stored at the Circulatory, from where any of us can fetch them], and if **JM** had a stall she was willing to display TTK fliers.

Also discussed was whether TTK should financially support Kingston Carnival going green this September with a pilot project to go 100% electric and hire batteries, demonstrating that it was feasible to run the biggest event in Kingston without fossil fuels. It was thought that supporting this from TTK funds was beyond our remit, but **All** were invited to consider contributing personally to John Azah's fundraiser - <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/kingston-carnival-going-green>.

6. **Held over from previous meetings**

Donation button on website – **DHD** & **PMc** had begun work on establishing the necessary Paypal link, and when this went live **MM** would donate the £8 we had collected at the New Malden food event.

Other resources not discussed.

7. **AOB** - none!

Date of next meeting: 26/8/25 (apologies were received from TI who will be away)

GREEN DRINKS followed, when were joined by: Mac Downes, who introduced his work as a volunteer for a Heritage Lottery funded project in Kingston and noted down our various interests and responsibilities and many suggestions of further green groups for him to meet; David Randall & Patrick Raynor of TTK EG and Sunray community energy project; and Brian Mulley of Hogsmill Community Garden.