

Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting

Date: Tuesday 27/1/26, 18:30 to 19:30

Venue: Spring Grove

NOTES (Actions in red)

Present: Damon (DH-D, chairing); Marilyn (MM, note-taking), Peter (PM) + Mac Downes visiting

Apologies had been received from Hilary (HG) and Toni (TI)

Absent: the rest of the Core Group

1. **November meeting's notes** had been sent earlier; MM had some corrections which were approved for publication on website (**MM**)

Matters and actions arising:

- MM wondered why part of TTK updates from EG were in red?
- MM requested that Notes be circulated soon after meetings, as she had missed some actions because they came too late, and also because it was easier to spot and correct omissions and errors closer to meetings. (**HG, DH-D**)
- Other matters were updated later.

2. **TTK updates** from TTK project organisers present

- **Energy Group:** PM reported that monthly meetings continued, with the Feb one being a trip to Octopus research lab. No warm contacts or progress on making a video of 4 Kingston eco-homes. DH-D reported that both he and Dan had applied for a job in the RBK CA team, See also *Appendix 1*.
- **Repair Café Kingston:** MM & DH-D reported that it continued well, covered its costs and more, with 3rd birthday coming up on 7/2. For RCK discussion see Agenda item #4.
- **Canbury Community Garden:** MM, in the absence of SR, reported that Saturday morning gardening sessions and CCG comms were going well, but sadly a member of the Chicken Collective had left the chicken run open overnight and a fox had killed all the chickens - no plans yet for replacements.
- **KE News:** MM had proof-read and checked weblinks, so the newsletter (a 2nd trial bi-monthly edition covering Feb & March) was ready for a final check and then sending out asap. There was no late news from those present. Anything less frequent would involve green groups thinking and planning unfeasibly far in advance and so was a non-starter! The next edition, out at end of March, would give notice of our April AGM (see AOB below).
- **Green chains/corridors/ links:** MM had been out and about, learning more about hedgerows (KBP sub-group) and trees (TLS & KBN meetings); CPRE web-meeting on greening front gardens coming up on 28/1 - **MM** would share info from that (CPRE summary with web-links would be forwarded separately), and had added to/created relevant pages on the website: <https://www.ttkingston.org/ttk-groups-and-projects/outdoor-volunteering/why-go-wild/> and <https://www.ttkingston.org/ttk-groups-and-projects/outdoor-volunteering/hedges/>, both of which could be updated as and when. Meeting with Georgina and other relevant RBK officers was now scheduled for 6/2, and ideas-gathering workshop at April KBN meeting was confirmed. Re name, DH-D preferred "Green Links", MM preferred "Green Chains", and would gather more ideas at the KBN meeting in April and at other meetings.

There are funds available, and as a community group we could be in a good position to apply and be eligible for funds that the Council can't access, but we need more information about what we need, what the costs would be etc, before we can. [MM had done a bit of research on pricing lectern-style info-boards like the ones seen around the borough and they cost c£600 for ones made of recycled plastic and £1000+ for wooden ones. The Council may have recommended suppliers or access to bulk deals that they could share.]

- **Comms** (MM): see *Appendix 2* below.

3. **Other groups & orgs:**

- **The Climate Coalition** – MM remained the main contact, attends on-line meetings when she can and circulates updates as and when. Coming up were: “Show the Love” green hearts campaign on Feb 14, which MM had forwarded to the Hive and KEC as of possible interest to them; Great Big Green Week, coming up in June – see *Appendix 3*.

- **Transition Together** – **HG** was now the main contact for Transition networks.

- **Kingston Environment Forum** – DHD continued to chair meetings (next one in April?) and it was agreed that KEF was a better, more comprehensive, forum for coordinating local green activities (e.g. “Hidden Voices” exhibition) than a KEC-TTK green gathering mooted earlier.

4. **Repair Café matters** (reinstated section): some Qs and decisions would need to be deferred as so few of RCK organisers were present, e.g. DH-D was attending GCRCN meetings/conferences, but someone other than him or MM was needed to join the WhatsApp info-sharing and discussion group.

DHD would reply to all repair@... enquiries to reduce the risk of everyone or no one replying.

Repair Week 2026 coincided with our March RCK - **MM** would investigate extra publicity via <https://londonrecycles.co.uk/repair-week/>. It was noted that RCK was not visible at <https://therestartproject.org/> but also that it was not an easy website to update (RBK waste officer Leonard had set up Kingston entry, <https://therestartproject.org/groups/kingston-upon-thames-repair-network/> which could only be found by searching, where MM had added our regular monthly RCK and weblink),

2 potential new volunteers would be coming to the Feb RCK, Kevin, a qualified electrician, and Paul who could perhaps help with reception, refreshments.

3rd birthday: no games had been confirmed, no VIP guests, so it was decided that we would have congratulations and cake, to be shared with Library staff, at 10.15 on 7 Feb. Ray was baking a cake and **PMc**'s kind offer to bake a cake was accepted, and he would be asked to provide an allergen-free cake if possible. **DHD** would lead the way to the pub afterwards..

5. **Coming up / held over** from previous meetings:

- **T-shirts** discussed again and, though MM questioned the need and did not want one for herself, **DHD** would action.

6. **Resources standing item, to discuss as needed:**

- **Funding:** the very generous donation of £1895 from Tiffin school – it was agreed to allocate £1000 of this to the “Green Chains” project so that we could bring some funding to forthcoming discussions, the rest to be shared with other projects as needed and agreed. **MM** would update her contact at Tiffin school, **PMc** was requested to set up a new accounting column/Open Collective section for “Green Chains”.

- **Fliers and posters:** MM had found 500+ TTK fliers in STWC storage, but had not had time to look for RCK ones (**PMc** had offered in the past and may have an update?). It was agreed that **MM** would design and have printed 500(?) A4 posters, as these would be useful for the “Hidden Voices” exhibition (see Green Drinks account below) and community notice boards. Could **HG** create another collage of all TTK activities for the posters, which would include a QR code and info about current projects?

7. **AOB:**

- **AGM:** we confirmed that the 2026 AGM would be at our April 28th meeting. **All project leads** to submit project reports for April 2025 – March 2026 in due course, and to get expenses etc up-to-date to enable **PMc** to prepare accounts. **MM** would add to website events and **DHD** would organise refreshments at Spring Grove.

- **Role updates & succession planning** were discussed, the principle being that there should be CG

members capable of taking over and passing on/sharing roles in case of illness, absences, drop-outs or emergencies:

TTK website: **DHD** offered to learn more about navigating and updating the website (t b a with **MM**),

PMc (& All) could also access and edit the website;

MM/All could take **meeting notes or chair** if needed;

PMc could access Mailchimp to **edit KE News**;

RCK – there are plenty of us who know how that works [MM may opt out soon]...

Others?

- **Thames Landscape Strategy meeting, 26/2** – MM reported that all 4 speakers (Kew Gardens on trees; Environment Agency on flood risk; Dr Edward Barsley on his book *Retrofitting for Flood Resilience* - <https://www.t-e-d-s.com/product-page/retrofitting-for-flood-resilience> ; Historic Royal Palaces) had focused on climate impacts, e g: Hampton Court was replacing gas boilers with ASHPs, ¼ UK homes at risk of flooding by end of this century, tree seeds were being sourced from drier climates...

8. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24th Feb (MM and PM apologised in advance for absence)

GREEN DRINKS followed:

- Divya of The Hive and Happy Kingston project couldn't come after all but would join us at Green Drinks in March.

- **Conversation with Mac Downes, volunteer interviewer for the “Hidden Voices” project:** Mac was keen for there to be more legacy of his research and interviews for the 2025 “Hidden Voices” project than just the one-week exhibition in the Market House in December followed by storage in the RBK archive. So he was discussing a May exhibition at Tolworth Library with RBK officers and seeking material (posters, fliers, photos, physical items...) from local environmental groups – some, incl STWC, Citizen Zoo, Kingston College, an environmental artist... have already offered material. He hoped that it could become a travelling exhibition (other libraries, other public spaces...) and would help green groups to recruit volunteers by offering visitors an opportunity to leave their details if interested in joining a group. **MM** would include his update and appeal in the forthcoming *KE News*. We discussed various library facilities and whether we could help Mac with storing exhibition materials in our STWC cupboard [we could request ask and pay for more space?]

APPENDICES and/or NOTES sent earlier

1. Energy Group work in progress: after a couple of interactions with KU post-grad students, Peter made a list of the barriers to retrofitting for energy efficiency, and we (PM & MM with input from EG) have now begun work on offering counter-arguments to those barriers/hurdles and objections, which we hope will become a useful page on the website.

2. Comms (MM)

A subgroup has updated and clarified our comms guidelines, intended to help **All** edit the website, add events, publicise your own projects events etc. Most of you have been added as members or invited to join the website, which gives you access to editing the website and to the Private Area at <https://www.tkingston.org/private/> and those guidelines. Paul is clarifying some of the more technical stuff to do with the website + saving links and passwords in an even more private shared Google folder (ask Paul if you don't have the link).

I have made the website Events page more comprehensive, to reflect all the good things we do, and I have created a few logos to brighten up that page and the newsletter – see <https://www.tkingston.org/events/>. A reminder to **All** that it is very easy to add to and update the Events page.

I also suggest that we add a website page about the CG members – a mug-shot + a few lines about your role(s) in TTK, your environmental interests and background... See

<https://www.savetheworldclub.org/meet-the-team> for an example.

On the value of having a clear, navigable, up-to-date website – Tiffin school found TTK and chose it as their local eco-charity via a web-search so it is worth the effort.

KE News – interesting new option on Mailchimp is to resend the newsletter to subscribers who haven't opened it, so I used this at the end of January, and the resend went to 115, which means that 575 subscribers did open it – better than I expected!

3. The Climate Coalition

Great Big Green Week 2026, 6 - 14 June

<https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/>

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/great-big-green-week>

“Be part of the UK's largest celebration of climate and nature, and show the power we have when we act for people, climate and nature. More than a million people will come together to be part of a wave of actions for friends and family, climate and nature and to send a message loud and clear to our politicians and decision makers that we need to change old ways for better ways now. Save the date, [find out more](#), and take action” in Kingston. Could be a good time to launch action on “Green Chains”?”

Interesting TCC meeting on 28/1 – Majority Power - <https://majoritypower.com/> - speaker urged local groups to support local clean energy projects, the silent majority of supporters should “Stand up, speak up, and show up” (at planning meetings), otherwise noisy NIMBYs and opposers will always get their way. He also suggested that councils could poll random samples to get a truer picture of local opinion. MM will circulate full account when it comes,