



## Transition Town Kingston Annual General Meeting, 2017 - 18

Sat 2nd June, 2018, 3.00pm  
Kingston Workmen's Club

### MINUTES

**Present:** 45+ people; legible sign-ins were: Martin Birley, Pat Dobson, Brian Mulley, C W Thomson, Jeannette James, Doug James, Jonathan Fray, David Gander, Keith McMahon, Joan McConn, Ken Evans, Nicola Ansell, Ann Fellowes, Peter Mason, Tariq Shabbeer, Charlie Redman, Toni Izard, C R Schwarznberg, Jean Vidler, Stephen James, Paul Mackay, Alison Whybrow, Rachel Bambrough, Isy Oliver, Tamaris, Poppy, Jasmine, Mary Graham, , Marc..., Majeed, Ruth & family, Mohsen Mirza, Roland (Jeff) Lawrence, + chair and current management team: Nic Fearon-Low, Hilary Gander, Des Kay, Marilyn Mason (taking notes), Tony May John Fellowes, Kim Bailey (the last 3 standing down from the MT).

**1. Welcome from TTK Chair,** Nic Fearon-Low, who referred to this momentous occasion, when TTK, which began back in 2008, was a decade old. Lots of people had come into contact, worked with and moved on from TTK, and lots of people had come today to celebrate. He was very proud to be part of this and pointed out various things around the room, from the excellent slide show capturing some of the best bits from the last decade\* (with thanks in particular to Marilyn for putting that together with input from Hilary and others); the thermal camera which we used for energy saving events, and much else.

**2. Apologies for absence** had been received from Lucy Harrison, Simone Kay

**3. Minutes of last year's AGM** (see <http://ttkingston.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/AGM-2016-17-Minutes.pdf>): some copies were available at the AGM and they had also been on the TTK website since May 2017 so the assumption, unopposed from the floor, was that if there were any problems or issues the management team would have heard by now. There were no amendments or comments or matters arising.

**4. TTK Treasurer's report, 2017- 2018:** Hilary Gander reported that, though we had spent slightly more than our income last year (which included no new grants), our reserves and finances remained sound. The accounts were shown on-screen and a couple of paper copies were available on the TTK table. See *Appendix 1*. The accounts had been checked by an auditor and by Martin Birley, and were approved by a show of hands. Tariq Shabbeer suggested that we spent more of our reserves, e g on the Carnival Green Zone, and offered to help find match funding for projects. This would be discussed by the management team.

### **5. Reviews of TTK and TTK project groups activities, to end of May 2018**

Chair Nic Fearon-Low reported on some **core TTK activities:**

- **Kingston Environment Forum**, in which TTK and many of the other green organisations in Kingston participated, continued to meet quarterly, and was represented in Kingston Strategic Partnership meetings and annual conferences. KEF's current projects included FAQs on Kingston's recycling, now on the KEF website, and local air quality.

- **Kingston Environment News** - we continued to co-edit the monthly e-newsletter with Kingston Environment Centre and had fully integrated our mailing lists, with just over 500 subscribers. In order to conform to new General Data Protection Regulations we had recently asked all our subscribers to re-subscribe. This however had presented some technical issues, so we later decided to take an 'opt-out' approach: as long as your email addresses, the only data we have, were kept private and secure (as they are) and used only to send you our monthly newsletter and occasional other local environmental updates, we would be compliant with the regulations. You could unsubscribe at any time, but needed to do no more to keep on hearing from us.

- **Kingston Green e-Directory** ticks over with occasional new entries and updates. You could help the Directory to stay accurate and useful by letting us know, via the Directory website, of businesses and organisations that should be included, and by telling us when businesses closed down.

**Canbury Community Garden:** Marilyn Mason reported that the community garden project had continued to progress faster than expected, with large and small groups of volunteers doing some excellent clearing and construction work, so that a tangled mass of brambles and rubbish was now a fairly orderly community garden with 9 raised beds, 5 linked water butts, a herb spiral, 5 huge concrete planters, and a pond and wildlife corners; work had recently started on our exciting next project, Canbury Community Chicken Co-op/Coop. Last year the project had recorded 417 volunteer-hours worked, and 23 kilos of vegetables + some herbs harvested and taken home by volunteers between February and 31st December. A range of volunteers had helped, including Young PlaceShapers with some disabled youngsters from Richmond Aid, Yr 7s from Kingston Academy, 2 or 3 corporate groups engaging in team-building voluntary activity, local families, novice gardeners..., all of whom had enjoyed doing something purposeful and learning new skills alongside more experienced gardeners. New skills this year had included pond-making. All were welcomed at weekend gardening sessions; CCG didn't use chemicals, weeding was done by hand, watering was with rain-water from the water-butts - so there was always plenty to do.

The project was still growing, partly by word of mouth, partly because the garden was more visible now, partly via Facebook. All their initial funding had now been spent (mainly on topsoil and water-butts) but they had had many donations in kind (tools, 2 water-butts, materials, a couple of fruit trees from KEC's orchard fund, plants and seeds, a barbecue, a garden table and chairs...) and Transition Town Kingston had paid for small storage shed out of its garden project fund. Everything had been going swimmingly until, sadly, the small shed and some of its contents were stolen last December, a blow and a set-back, though the thieves had left most of the tools behind and CCG had been offered a large shed to cut down into a smaller one + part of the chicken coop. If that didn't materialise in time, the gardeners would think of something, though anyone present who had an unwanted shed was invited to make contact. A recent application for a small Groundwork Our Space Award to help get the chicken co-op up and running had failed, apparently because "It was felt that the project would need to be centred around the creation of a space which is more volunteer led" - though it couldn't have been clearer in the application that it was a completely voluntary project. Once CCCC members have got used to keeping chickens they hope to run a half-day chicken-keeping course or two for TTK - which would appear in the newsletter and the Canbury Community Garden Facebook page in due course.

Marilyn finished with a big thank you to the Transition movement, without which she'd never have thought of starting a community garden, and to TTK for taking the project under its wing, holding their funds when they had any, and providing insurance.

**Abundance 2017:** Toni Iazard reported that 600 kilos of fruit had been saved from landfill, of which 80% had been picked and 20% delivered ready-picked, an increase in ready-picked, and much the same total amount as the previous year. Fruit came from Surbiton, Kingston, Tolworth, Worcester Park, Old Malden, Esher, and they tried to rehome fruit with anyone who wants it - but with this much fruit, they wanted to do only significant drop-offs of 10+ kilos. 160 kilos had been delivered to various places: 65 to a trug outside Surbiton Health Foods for anyone to help themselves; 55 to the Joel charity that helps get homeless people back on their feet, 40 to the Russell School and the rest had been juiced within the community - which can get through well over 100 kilos of fruit per half day session - in 2 sessions at Seething, 2 at Joel, 2 at New Malden Farmers Market, and 1 at a youth club. Toni commented that it was always a delight to see how much people enjoyed making and drinking their own juice, and that it helped to reconnect people, especially children, with where food comes from and how it is made. They also got over a local environmental message, e.g., at the Farmers Market Abundance could point to the next road where the fruit had come from and the next-door stall where 'waste' would be going back with them to feed their pigs.

This year there had been no fruit to spare for cider making ☺ but Abundance had been offered a magic barrel which would turn apple juice into cider, so perhaps next year. Surprisingly, the problem tended to be finding people who would drink the cider! The press had also been lent out for juicing sessions at Coombe Infants School and Knollmead.

Their GDPR notice had had a good response. Goals for next season would include getting more fruit and volunteers, which partly came down to advertising - they had had articles in 2 successive editions of Surbiton Good Life paper, delivered to 9000 homes in the area, and were also advertising for fruit and volunteers on Nextdoor local online network. Toni invited other ideas

There followed some suggestions of places to publicise Abundance, which Toni took note of, and also a suggestion that some of the fruit could be dried and thus preserved - was it worth investing in a fruit drier?

**TTK Energy Group:** Peter Mason reported that the EG had continued to meet for an hour every month. In June 2017 they had finally closed down Kingston Community Energy; in the past year they had also drafted the energy content for the North Kingston Neighbourhood Plan; they had talked to Kingston Quaker Centre about the feasibility of solar panels on their roof and advised them on how to tune their air-source heat pump for maximum efficiency; they had assisted Ham Hydro to assess a new technology for their project on Teddington weir which might have solved some of the planning problems and opposition that had dogged the project, but thought this untried technology was too risky to try, so Ham Hydro continued to try to sell on the original water turbine project; the EG had worked with SWLEN to analyse the energy consumption of King Athelstan school, and had also prepared lesson plans on energy for the school. They continued to offer home visits with their thermal camera to advise householders on how to save energy and money; Peter stressed how difficult and disruptive the necessary improvements could be, e.g. few people wanted to rip up carpets and flooring to lag central heating pipes, though Damon Hart-Davis pointed out that this sort of work was best carried out when doing other renovations, maybe room by room, which made them more manageable.

Damon added that his Radbot smart thermostatic radiator valve project had attracted funding and was going well, and invited those present to chat to him to find out more about how to control their heating and save energy and money.

**Transition Network and London and SE Hub:** John Fellowes reminded us that TTK was one of many Transition groups, some a little older than us, and reported on the growth of the international Transition movement, now around 700 groups in 50 countries, with a growing number (21) of national or regional hubs that could support each other and share ideas and experiences more locally - the London and SE Hub had sent their good wishes to TTK on its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. The movement now functioned as a distributed network with an experimental shared governance model, from which other international civil-society networks could learn. Transition increasingly interacted with these others, such as permaculture and ecovillages, and had spawned many wider municipal-level initiatives, e.g. in Liege, Copenhagen and Bristol. At the heart of Transition there had always been a tension between inclusion and increasing recognition of the need for systemic change; the movement had skills in holding these difficult conversations. John commented that, while Transition was informed by an understanding of climate change and energy challenges, the vision should not come from fear of what might go wrong but be a positive invitation based on love and compassion.

## **6. TTK's future plans and announcements**

Chair, Nic Fearon-Low commented that as we turned ten, we could look back on some significant progress and some real impacts. Yet, like so many voluntary groups, we faced challenges with resources and our biggest challenge over the past few years had been finding people and time. We were never short of ideas and we knew how to put them into action in a low cost or no cost way. But meeting our own expectations and setting more and new demanding ones as our society faced a new range of issues was increasingly difficult because we had relatively little time - and our management team was small. So, as we entered the next decade our focus would be on reaching out to the Kingston community, encouraging old friends and identifying new ones to join us on the Transition journey, and to mark this occasion Nic was very happy to announce a new range of initiatives and activities and plans for the immediate future:

**Green Drinks:** After a hiatus of some time and the sad demise of our nearest group in Ham, we would be reviving a monthly Kingston Green Drinks as a way to start building a broader and more active community. The first one would take place on Tues 26 June, and then on the last Tuesday of every month, at Woody's bar down by the river. Green Drinks would begin at 7pm, but all were also invited to join the management team meeting at 6.30pm to engage and suggest new ideas and activities or support our existing ones. The first Green Drinks would focus on The Climate Coalition's Speak Up campaign starting on 30 June and we would be inviting our local MPs Zac Goldsmith and Ed Davey to join us in a national conversation on how climate change is affecting our lives. More and more of us were feeling the effects of climate change on our everyday lives, but the aim of the campaign was to Speak Up together to create a powerful and unified voice that our MPs would want to join. At this meeting, we would be doing some short videos to send a message to Ed and Zac about why we cared so much about the impact on our environment.

**BBQ:** With thanks to the Canbury Community Garden project, we would also be holding a TTK BBQ at their garden on Friday 3 August, another way to bring the community together.

**Happiness:** With the fortuitous return of Mo to our management team meeting recently, he would soon be launching a Happiness Café, a happiness course at Kingston Quaker Centre, and was also looking to run regular courses on indoor sprouting and growing.

**Green Zone at Kingston Carnival:** After an absence in 2017, the Green Zone would be returning with a bang at this year's Kingston Carnival on Sunday 2 September, and TTK was taking a lead in organising it. Returning to the lawns of All Saints Church, we were aiming to turn the area in to a fun and engaging zone, showcasing and demonstrating the breadth of sustainable and green-related activities across the borough. Anyone who wanted to participate, was invited to speak to one of the management team during this event or to contact us later.

**Car Free Day:** Plans were afoot to work with the new Kingston Council to turn Car Free Day on 22 September into a large-scale celebration of alternative forms of transport, a day to champion the protection of our environment, clean our air and cut noise pollution. TTK would look to form a coalition with all the relevant groups to make this a day to remember.

**Repair Café:** Continuing the theme of bringing people together, we had been keen for some time to launch a Repair Café. But this required a suitable venue, access to skills and expertise, and people to make it work and come along. So Nic issued a challenge to those interested in this idea to come together and make it happen.

**One event a month:** As part of our revitalisation we were pledging to deliver at least one event a month. Along with the Green Drinks and the other activities mentioned, we also planned to head indoors when the weather got colder with a programme of film shows and discussion events.

Nic ended by commenting that we survived and thrived on everyone's support, time and effort and for those we were really thankful. But we needed that to continue and grow if we were to keep on thriving into the next decade.

## 7. Guest reports

**Stephen James from the Environment Trust** spoke about ET's Kingston Green Infrastructure, Energy and Water Project and survey, recently commissioned and funded by Kingston Council. ET would not be involved in delivery, but, working with other groups such as SWLEN, would be galvanising local support and making things happen on: water-friendly solutions, biodiversity, improving air quality, and decentralising energy. The first stage of their activities would be to establish the baseline via an on-line survey that those present were invited to complete, followed by outreach to the general public.

**Jeannette James from the local Global Justice Now group** reminded us that GJN shared TTK's values of sustainability and egalitarianism, and spoke about GJN's work (sometimes with TTK) on agribusiness and permaculture, campaigning to prevent misuse of aid money on imposing PFI, debt and agribusiness "solutions" on developing countries. The EU had stopped funding agribusiness promotion, but Brexit and a general lack of proper government oversight meant that UK aid could well be spent inappropriately. Recently GJN had shown the film "The Spider's Web" about tax havens, which Jeannette recommended highly - there would be other showings in London if anyone had missed it in Kingston.

**Rachel Bambrough**, spoke about her wish to take action on plastic waste, particularly in our rivers, to initiate litterpicks, and to show the film "Plastic Oceans" locally - and invited help and participation [see her website <https://www.reuselondon.com>].

## 8. Nominations/elections to 2018 management team

This would be a year of change for TTK with some shuffling of the Management Team. Kim Bailey, due to new commitments following her recent election to the Council, had stepped down from the MT and was thanked for her input over the past 18 months or so. John Fellowes, who had been involved with TTK from

the very beginning, would remain involved with the management team and TTK, but had stepped back from a formal position as his work commitments had increased. He was thanked profusely and applauded for his experience, wise counsel, energy and commitment to TTK over the years.

Existing MT members Marilyn Mason, Hilary Gander, Des Kay and Nic were willing to continue, and were seconded with a show of hands, with no dissenting voices. Alison Whybrow had started coming to MT meetings a few months ago, was formally proposed as a member of the MT by Nic, and was also seconded with a show of hands with no dissenting voices, so Alison was welcomed to the team. Anyone else interested was invited to join in MT meetings on last Tuesdays during the year.

## **9. And finally:**

**Greetings and congratulations from local MP ED Davey**, who was unavoidably away (in Hungary), were conveyed by Cllr Hilary Gander, who also reminded us of, and thanked, the wider network of green groups and activities that could network at events like this one and support each other locally. We needed those local connections as well as national campaigns and governmental action; She reminded us of the recent change of administration on Kingston Council after the local election, with Hilary now leading on environmental issues, and invited all present to talk to her about their local environmental concerns.

**And then the celebrations began** with a TTK birthday rap from the remarkable and wonderful Des Kay (see *Appendix 2*), followed by birthday cake, conversation, drinks, partying. Thank you to everyone who came along and brought food to share, raffle prizes and a mass of interesting information to browse.

\* **“Ten years of TTK”**: a pdf of the slide-show at the AGM can be seen on the TTK website at <http://ttkingston.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/TTK-slide-show-10th-birthday.pdf> - many readers will remember the events pictured and perhaps even see themselves in some of the photos, a selection from our last ten years of activity.

*Minutes approved by TTK management team, June 2018, with final approval for publication at the 2019 AGM on 18/5/2019.*

## Appendix 1: TTK accounts

### Transition Town Kingston Income & Expenditure Account 1st April 2017 - 31st March 2018

12 months to 31st March 2017

12 months to 31st March 2018

Receipts	£	£	£	£	Notes:
Grants received	413.00		0.00		
Event fees received	0.00				
Donations for specific projects	0.00		145.26		Funds raised by apple pressing for Abundance
Cash donations	228.71		170.93		Regular standing orders and one-off donations
Fundraising activities	86.00		135.00		At event (Demain film) to general funds
Interest	0.00		0.00		
Other receipts (Friends of TTK)	55.50		0.00		
		<u>783.21</u>		<u>451.19</u>	
<b>Payments</b>					
Contractor's fees	0.00		0.00		
Funding specific projects	(388.72)		(254.25)		Canbury Community Garden & Abundance
Fundraising costs	(49.40)		0.00		
Publicity costs	(70.00)		0.00		
Insurance	(160.00)		(167.00)		Public liability and employers' (for any volunteers)
Room / stall hire	(32.00)		0.00		
Membership / Subscriptions	(125.00)		(65.00)		Affiliations (Climate Coalition, KCE)
Other expenditure	0.00		(100.00)		Demain film hire
		<u>(825.12)</u>		<u>(586.25)</u>	
Excess of expenditure over income		(41.91)		(135.06)	



Revenue to 31st March 2018

Bank account										
Date	Item	Amount	Event Fees	Grant	Interest	Cash Donations	Donations for specific projects	Fundraising activity	Other (Friends of TTK)	From Petty Cash
04/04/2017	Donation	10.00				10.00				
18/04/2017	Demain	15.00								15.00
18/04/2017	Demain	120.00								120.00
04/05/2017	Donation	10.00				10.00				
05/06/2017	Donation	10.00				10.00				
04/07/2017	Donation	10.00				10.00				
04/08/2017	Donation	10.00				10.00				
04/09/2017	Donation	10.00				10				
04/10/2017	Donation	10.00				10.00				
06/11/2017	Donation	10.00				10.00				
04/12/2017	Donation	10.00				10.00				
27/12/2017	Fundraising - ABUNDANCE	145.26								145.26
04/01/2018	Donation	10.00				10.00				
05/02/2018	Donation	10.00				10.00				
20/01/2018	Transfer from PayPal	50.93				50.93				
05/03/2018	Donation	10.00				10.00				
	<b>bank debits</b>	451.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	170.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	280.26
<b>Petty Cash</b>										
Date	Item	Amount	Event Fees	Grant	Interest	Cash Donations	Donations for specific projects	Fundraising activity	Other	
18/04/2017	Demain	15.00							15.00	
18/04/2017	Demain	120.00							120.00	
27/12/2017	Fundraising - ABUNDANCE	145.26					145.26			
	<b>petty cash debits</b>	280.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	145.26	135.00	0.00	280.26
	all debits		0.00	0.00	0.00	170.93	145.26	135.00	0.00	280.26
	<b>Total of debits less petty cash</b>									451.19

**Appendix 2: Des Kay's TTK birthday rap**

We are moving to a future that won't let you down,  
When you get involved with Transition Town.

We all get together, our prospects to talk  
To slow down the waste from a run to a walk

We've cruised to the edge and now we are learning  
How to change course, the ship is now turning

We don't talk about a global fix  
It's all becoming a fantastic mix

With music and culture on continental drift  
An information explosion we've only just sniffed

We're moving towards a homogeneous blend  
So local agreements come out in the end

Get opinions and comments from all walks of life  
Cooperation, not agitation and strife

No longer shooting from the hips  
What's needed now is partnerships

Can't rely on market forces  
When there are limits to the world's resources

Because there's hardship and adversity  
The time is here to celebrate diversity

We're moving towards a new global fashion  
Based on love, tolerance and compassion

Wealth without soul is a short-sighted style  
Get together with others, it's much more worthwhile

So if you're not happy with the way things are  
Do your bit and become a star

Concerned citizens is where the true power lies  
Sharing knowledge is where the decisions are wise

There is a positive future, so don't just frown  
Come and get involved with Transition Town

Ten years together finding solutions  
Helping to create planetary revolutions!