

Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting

Tues 24 June 2025, 6.30 to 7.30pm

Venue: Chez Mason

NOTES & ACTIONS

Present: Damon (DHD, chairing), Marilyn (MM, note-taking), Peter (PJM), Janine (JM), Paul (PMc), Toni (TI), Maya (MF)

Apologies were received from Marcus (MO) [who will be stepping down from the CG]

1. **Last meeting's notes** (sent earlier) were confirmed and approved to publish on the website (**MM**). **Matters arising** or held over from earlier meeting(s) came up later.

2. TTK updates

TTK events/projects:

Energy Group – PJM & DHD reported that meetings, contacts with RBK, advising residents continued well, feedback from the RBK Efficient Homes Show had been encouraging, and recent Council-hosted energy events in Kingston and Ham, with speakers from Crew and One Energy had been well attended with good useful content. DHD had approached local LibDem MPs to invite them to upcoming events and also pointing out that many schools could not afford to replace ageing gas boilers with ASHPs. **Open Eco-House weekend** likely to be 27/9 & 28/9.

Abundance – TI reported that they had had a good day at the New Malden Food event, had had interest from some new owners of apple trees, that harvesting would start soon and she would send MM copy for the next newsletter(s).

Canbury Community Garden had been invited to the New Malden Food event in June, though unable to muster enough volunteers (just MM and Helen), so DHD and Dom from RCK had helped and KEC had kindly offered to share their space with us. It had been a pleasant day, an opportunity to network and for TTK volunteers to meet each other, KEC and other local green groups - but the music was too loud!

MM was concerned that she had not yet managed to hand over responsibility for CCG completely, though she intended to do so by the end of the year. CCG comms and contacts still seemed to depend too much on her, with no one else available to deputise or respond to queries, though a promising new volunteer, Helen, had stepped up and could take over some of this, especially comms. But there was a general shortage of volunteers to garden and open the garden. If another local organisation took over CCG, TTK would have to cease support as it would become too remote from the CG for insurance, reporting, funding etc purposes.

Kingston Environment News – MM reported that the July issue was almost ready and requested any last minute TTK news to be sent that evening (**All**). She would be away for half of October and wondered if the November issue could be cancelled, with a bumper issue at the end of September covering both October and November (probably too much planning ahead for most of our contributors?) or maybe someone else would edit the November issue for sending out at the end of October - **PMc**, who was familiar with the Mailchimp set-up, offered to have a go.

Recycling Minds (JM) would be meeting on 15 July. They too had been at the New Malden event and thought the music too loud.

Green chains/ corridors – MM was gathering material (info, arguments, photos, websites – **contributions from CG welcome**) for an **open letter** promoting the “Green Chains” idea (provisional name until something better turns up). Contents would probably include introducing TTK and its interest in greening Kingston, reference to Kingston’s Climate Emergency Declaration, No Mow May and general over-mowing, over-pollarding, “Green Oases” and ways to link them via “Green Chains” (including private gardens, parks, grass verges, street trees...), scientific support for green corridors, examples to visit and photos of good and bad practice, the need for public education and excellent persuasive comms (to persuade councillors and also provide arguments for

them to use with residents complaining about untidiness etc). No one objected to **MM** getting on with it and sharing a semi-final draft with **DHD** before sending it to relevant councillors, council officers and stakeholders, and then sharing it on the TTK website for others to use, borrow from etc.

3. Other groups & orgs:

- **Save The World Club's 40th anniversary**, which some of us had attended, had been a happy occasion, with catch-ups with old friends and lots of compliments for STWC's work from the Mayor and other attendees
- **KEC** had held a nice sociable bring-and-share picnic for Great Big Green Week – JM and MM had attended.
- **Kingston Environment Forum** – DHD reported 2 new member-groups.
- **The Climate Coalition** – MM regularly forwarded newsletters and updates on the Mass Lobby of MPs on 9/7 – she would be meeting her MP Sarah Olney that afternoon and about 20 other constituents were also registered to meet her. There was still time, **All**, to join in and get all necessary instructions via [Act Now, Change Forever - The Climate Coalition](#). [TCC on-line meeting the following day was updates and guidance on the Mass Lobby]
- **Transition Together** - MM considered that links with the wider Transition networks, including the London Transition Hub, were useful opportunities to learn from others, though she would like to hand on this role to someone else in the CG (**All** to consider); MM had provided info for Rakesh to format (as below) for display at an upcoming London Permaculture event along with similarly formatted London TTs – where it could prove of interest to visitors from SW London.

TRANSITION TOWN KINGSTON

REPAIR CAFÉ



Visitors bring broken items to our monthly repair café to fix with the help of voluntary repairers, sharing skills and reducing waste.

FOOD



Volunteers grow edibles and keep chickens in a community garden, and the Abundance project harvests and juices seasonal gluts of fruit.

WE ALSO HAVE

- **Green Drinks** – Monthly meetups for informal chats on climate and nature issues.
- **Energy Advice** – Impartial tips on home energy efficiency and reducing bills.
- **Eco-Home Events** – Occasional open days to showcase real-life green homes.
- **Campaigning & Talks** – Raise awareness on climate and nature through local events.



TRANSITION LONDON

Contact Transition Town Kingston

<https://www.ttkingston.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ttkingston/>



- **Sustainable Transport/KCC** – **HG** would send notes from a recent Transport Liaison Group meeting she had attended (see Appendix), and reported that there was the possibility of the cycle path in Canbury Gardens being swapped back to its previous unsatisfactory route because the negative responses were outweighing the positive ones (**MM** would contact Canbury Cllr James Manthel to reiterate her support for the change). KCC had held a family bike ride in June and would be holding another in on Sunday 21st Sept from Fairfield Recreation Ground

- **Repair Café Kingston** continued to be as busy as ever. There is interest in setting up a **new RC in New Malden** and it was agreed that RCK wouldn't want to run it but would be happy to advise etc, and DHD had suggested KEC as a venue. MM thought that KEC was too small, but KEC could be a good parent group, offering similar support to TTK's for RCK – insurance, banking, a legal entity... but not a venue. MM had begun discussing this with Pat of KEC and invited them to visit RCK.

We agreed that given **RCK's current surplus** we would offer Kingston Library £1000 to improve the provision of power sockets in the Library community room, an inadequacy we had been aware of since first seeing the room. **MM** would start the ball rolling by asking Ria informally if this would help to get the job done, a benefit for us and for other community users. If Ria thought it would, **DHD** would make a more formal offer in a letter, copied to relevant councillors and council officers (suggestions were Katherine Woodvine, Cllr Kirsch)

DHD and MM had passed on the **Restart invitation to a RC** at the House of Commons to their respective MPs. [MM had a reply from Sarah Olney MP on 25/6 saying that she had been unable to attend but was v supportive of repair initiatives.

MM had highlighted the **advice to visitors** to book in advance on a couple of the RCK web-pages (along with a request to read all the guidance too) – and DHD observed that there was a lot of useful info on those web-pages for anyone thinking of setting up another RC.

RCK would be offering a **new service, upgrading laptops** facing the demise of support for Windows 10. Although not strictly a repair, it could keep a lot of old laptops etc out of the waste system so new volunteer Jason Lee's offer had been very timely - the service could start now and continue for a long time. Visitors might need to come several times to complete the process and should be forewarned to back up everything on their laptops. **MM** would add notification of this to the RCK item in the newsletter and on the RCK web-page. **MF** would add the service and some relevant notes to the ticketing system. **PMc** could maybe help with this advice too?

4. Coming up / held over from previous meetings

- **GreenZone at K Carnival on Sept 7th**: John Azah had approached JM to find an organiser and her contact Marion had offered. She could find participants via lists of KEF members, and of green groups in KE News. JM offered a shared space with TTK, in which case we would only need to provide leaflets and a rota of people who could promote and answer questions about our various projects (Abundance, EG, incl Open House event, CCG, RCK...) There was agreement that no one (except possibly John Azah?) owned the GZ, as it had been a collaboration between local green groups since the first GZ in 2016, and that none of us wanted loud music in the GZ making conversations difficult - in fact some thought that a quiet zone would be a positive attraction. MM reminded the CG that TTK display stuff was stored at The Circulatory, where **All** could access it for events.

5. Resources standing item, to discuss as needed:?

- JM had brought some **sample T-shirts** to see!

- **TTK funds/donations** – even though most card/Paypal payments would take a % of any donation, making it much simpler to donate would surely be an advantage? **DHD & PMc** would look into the options and add a Donate button to the website. **MM** would pass on the £8 we took at the New Malden food event when the button was operational.

- **TTK website** – Voice had recently added a verification step for edits, with the authentication code going to MM's phone, which meant that TTK **CG website admins** could no longer share log-in and would have to set up their own accounts. Anyone running events or with information or news to share was advised to do so (**All**).

6. AOB - none

7. **Date of next meeting**: 29 July, 6.30 - 7.30pm, back at the Spring Grove (DHD would be away, **PJM** offered to chair)

A BBQ followed, when we were joined by Steve, and ate and chatted about other things.

Appendix: Notes from quarterly multi-stakeholder Transport Liaison Group meeting, end of May, HG

- Red Lion Road rewidening at the junction with Ewell Road is unlikely to happen (hooray!)
- Tentative moves for Kingston to develop a new Transport Plan to link to the Strategic Transport Assessment in the Local Plan. I offered KCC's help
- Kingston, Richmond and Sutton have the opportunity to bid for a £10M Better Bus Priority Route - consultants WSP are working on it - savings in cost / improvements in journey times / passenger experience etc are what's being looked for.
- Safety bid for Fountain Roundabout was turned down but there are likely to be other opportunities
- Eden St buses: talks with TfL about accessibility / confusion / safety issues. Idea of one-way only rejected; may divert buses that decant passengers only
- Tolworth Close (misnomer) is being closed to through traffic
- Crescent Road: repeated vandalism of signs restricting through traffic. RBK to put up camera, report to police. Needs to be operational before survey (how it's working) done
- Jubilee Way cycle lane - safety audit comments being reviewed.
- St Matthew's and Lime Grove Infants School Streets trials going ahead
- Dockless bikes: some carriageway conversion (parking bays) planned.
- Ewell Road bike lane completion to start in July (albeit watered down due to funding issues)
- British Transport Police are pushing for improvements to tackle cycle theft at stations.
- Senior Parking Officer asked for details of illegal parking in cycle lane hotspots