

**Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting
Tues 30 September 2025, 6.30 to 7.30pm @ Spring Grove**

NOTES (Actions in red)

Present: Damon (DH-D, chairing). Marilyn (MM, note-taking); Peter (PJM); Toni (TI), Karim (KN)

Apologies received from Hilary (HG), Janine (JM), Paul (PMc)

Absent: John Roscoe (JR, CCG), Maya (MF)

1. **Last meetings' notes** (attached or sent earlier) were confirmed as accurate and approved to publish on the website (**MM**)

Matters and actions arising – had all the actions been undertaken? See various sections and appendices below.

2. **TTK updates**

No reports from some events/projects, others below or to follow:

Recycling Minds had had several meetings (**DHD** would share JM's report, and **MM** would add to these notes later)

Energy Group (PJM, DHD): While audiences had been small this year, it was agreed that TTK's energy advice was useful and valued as impartial, not commercial, and based on experience and expertise. DHD reported that the Council was upgrading its social housing gas boilers, though probably not to expensive ASHPs, and was also undertaking some district heating schemes. Unfortunately, schools were now private enterprises, outside the Council's remit.

September Bite-Size Efficient Homes event at the Guildhall – EG talks attracted a small, and gradually shrinking audience – MM thought events like this and the earlier ones at Hollyfield School, could do better and needed rethinking to be briefer, less repetitive, more thematic, e.g., on solar PV, batteries, insulation and ventilation, heat-pumps. Briefer themed offers would enable us and visitors to dip in and out as relevant, and to hear both TTK and other speakers/panel discussions. DHD disagreed but would discuss and consider further before future events,

Open Eco-Homes in Sustainable September: total take-up had been lower than most years, with 3 homes having one or two visitors and one having none, and a few people trying to make very late bookings for times not on offer! Publicity had been via usual media - Facebook, Nextdoor, TTK website and newsletter (2x), Nub news, + RBK Sustainable September and the local humanist group and leaflets at events, but probably needs rethinking. Chats at the KEF meeting found younger people interested but unable to contemplate the expense and the 10-year payback period - DHD suggested that we could offer them and renters less costly, more practical advice, and we wondered if we could target better those who could afford to invest in these measures. One suggestion was virtual tours (perhaps made by KU media students?) to be saved on TTK and DHD's websites for visiting as and when. Advantages would include ongoing availability; disadvantages might be lack of Q&A opps and individualisation.

Abundance: **TI** reported bumper harvests, starting and ending earlier than usual, and much sharing and juicing – she would send her full report to **MM** - see Appendices). Once she had finalised her accounts there would be the agreed 10% contribution to TTK's general fund, and once the harvesting season was over, TI would not be attending CG meetings.

Canbury Community Garden: no report from current coordinator(s). MM had sent an update earlier, summarised here: Although the new CCG leadership were quite keen on promoting the educational elements of CCG, there now seemed to be a takeover bid by Friends of Canbury Garden (FoCG), which may not be compatible with CCG being a private, secure, safe space for school and other children's visits or indeed the chickens; the new CCG management may well have a very different ethos and may not be of much interest to TTK as we probably don't need or want to support every Friends group (see later discussion under AOB about Friends' groups), though we may want to talk to them (collectively if possible) about the "Green Chains".

MM had now carried out her final commitments in CCG and after that would be an occasional volunteer, no longer able to be an informed or authorised link with TTK. DHD had been in touch with the new management of CCG to find out more and set out some TTK parameters, and had been assured that CCG wanted to continue under TTK's umbrella.

KE News: MM had reported earlier that this month's deadline was 24/9 - see Appendix for other updates – and it was agreed that there would be one winter issue at the end of November, covering December and January events, campaigns etc. The usual contributors would be forewarned (**MM**).

"Green chains" / corridors: DHD would be meeting Paul Jennings of Habitats & Heritage in October to discuss ways forward, with some questions offered by MM in her absence. Both DHD and MM had had encouraging conversations with RBK's new biodiversity officer, Georgina, who had read our Open Letter, and they hoped to meet with her (and others?) later. **MM** offered to go along to RBK's Circular Economy event in November to do a brief pitch encouraging businesses to sponsor or plant greenery (good for the wellbeing of their employees as well as the environment). DHD thought the Hogsmill and the Stanley Picker gallery island promising as a green corridor.

3. Other groups & orgs:

Kingston Environment Forum - DHD & MM reported that the 3rd Anniversary celebration IRL at the Guildhall went well and was a pleasant event and a good networking opportunity, with lots of Council officers present as well as KEF members new and old. DHD had chaired the gathering, and MM had briefly summarised TTK offers during Sustainable September. [Was DHD chairing KEF and HG attending for KCC sufficient TTK representation, or did we need a purely TTK rep as well?]

The Climate Coalition: even though we often couldn't participate in their actions (e.g. Mass Lobby and follow-ups), MM remained happy to attend on-line meetings of this informative and diverse coalition (and/or get Minutes) and to pass on info from TCC. Recent meetings (and that of Climate Majority) had focused on comms – and the notes and PP slides forwarded by MM earlier were well worth reading as we could **All** improve our messaging!

Transition Together/London Hub – nothing new to report, though MM and TI thought this was a pleasant and useful group to participate in, to share ideas and concerns. MM hoped that **TI and/or HG** could take on liaising with the Transition movement and keeping us in touch with them.

4. Repair Café Kingston - standing item, to discuss arrangements for next RCK, updates etc

MM asked **DHD/KN** to arrange purchase of requested set of nuts and bolts. **DHD** would remind fixers next Saturday how and when to use the PAT and would arrange the required recalibration of the PAT.

Could **MF** extract more information from visitors about exactly what was wrong with their item and what tools/spares might be required? (But it is clear on our website that without this info and/or spares a second visit might be needed.)

5. Coming up / held over from previous meetings

- **RBK's Think Green/Circular Economy** event, 20/11 (see Appendix) – we had decided earlier against taking a stall at this business-focused event, but **MM** would try to attend to learn more and to pitch "Green Chains".

- **Christmas/New Year drinks** for volunteers – **DHD & HG** to organise for 7.30 on 25 November, project organisers to invite their volunteers and ask them to RSVP to DHD for catering numbers (though DHD didn't think they would and estimated that there would be c16 of us.)

6. Resources standing item, to discuss as needed:

- **Website, donation button** still not active, and MM wondered where **emails from the website** home page contact form and others, e.g. hello@ttk... went – and to whom they should go? (**PMc**)

7. AOB

- People and TTK/CG succession planning

MM had sent round earlier her concerns about this, following a brief discussion under AOB at our August meeting: “Roles: MM pointed out that DHD was “interim chair” and MM was “acting secretary” and wondered about succession. We are a small group, some of us aging, with limited capacity (e g, lack of volunteers for GZ), no succession plan, only ad hoc deputising, and no pool of members/supporters to draw on – a matter for concern, for further discussion?”

The CG present agreed that, though some projects could go it alone or find other umbrellas (as discussed when we reconvened post-Covid), TTK was worth continuing as an entity and had value as a properly constituted group with brand recognition, good relations with the Council and other groups, reasonable comms, sound advice...

Current roles include running projects, networking and liaising with the Council and other green organisations local and national and reporting back, comms (incl website, newsletter), chairing and note-taking at meetings... and these tasks could and should be shared more equally **(All)**.

In view of poor attendance at this meeting some decisions and allocations of responsibilities had to be deferred, though irregular attendance and recent difficulties finding volunteers for outreach events (stalls at local fairs etc) underlined the need to recruit a wider membership/pool of supporters to draw on, and to refresh the CG, ensuring that all projects were represented and that TTK was represented in relevant local and national forums, e g KEF, TCC, London Transition Hub, Repair Networks... and we shared these tasks and reporting back.

Where and how could we expand our supporter base?

- Ask/invite all our project volunteers to sign up as supporters via our website, **MM** to draft an improved page/insert on home page (highlighting that it isn't their money we are after but their ideas, participation, occasional help...)
- Could we offer an umbrella to Friends of Parks etc, especially new ones needing advice and support? Some disagreement here between expansionists (DHD) and those (MM, KN) concerned that Friends groups did not share Transition aims and ethos, were not particularly interested in sustainable living, nature, wilding, food-growing, skill-sharing...and that they should preferably support each other via a Kingston Friends Forum.
- Students and younger people? But how? [And NB, these are transient groups so possibly not a long-term solution.]
- Local groups that shared TTK aims and ethos and could benefit from being part of an “unincorporated community group” with a constitution, AGMs, a core group coordinating activities, a bank account etc – all useful for fundraising purposes and for learning from each other,

8. Dates of next meetings: 28/10/25; 25/11/25 (with Christmas celebration and refreshments for TTK volunteers after meeting; 30/12/25 – cancelled.

GREEN DRINKS followed – no guests appeared but we had interesting conversations about green burials and merits/dangers of AI and sending messages into outer space.

Appendices/updates/notes sent earlier or post- meeting

K E News and TTK website (MM)

This month's deadline is 24/9, in the hope that I can get it out with a final push for TTK Eco-Homes weekend (which has been widely publicised though had few takers so far). If you have items or updates (EG? Abundance?) please send them to me by 24th.

As discussed at our last meeting, I have now moved the static info from most of the grey boxes to the TTK website, so newsletters will be a bit slimmer from now on, including the next one. A few sections, e.g. Kingston Council, didn't seem suitable to move to our website so remain much as they have been in KE News.

Some of the website sections listed below are now a bit baggy and repetitive because much of the material was already there, and if any of you want to check links and tidy it up a bit, please feel free. Also, a few of the new pages would only be found by searching or via K E News, as there wasn't an obviously relevant section to drop them into or to create – maybe this doesn't matter much, but if you can find the right sections, for e.g. Air & Water, please make a link to that page. And if this change sends a few more visitors to our website and they find other TTK items of interest it may not be a bad thing,

- Gardening - <https://www.ttkingston.org/ttk-groups-and-projects/food/gowing-tips/>
- Nature - <https://www.ttkingston.org/ttk-groups-and-projects/outdoor-volunteering/wildlife-and-conservation-orga/>
- Air & Water (Formerly Rivers & Pollution Watch) <https://www.ttkingston.org/our-air-and-water/>
- Campaigning - <https://www.ttkingston.org/ttk-groups-and-projects/campaigning/>
- Climate Crisis - <https://www.ttkingston.org/news/climate-crisis/>
- Waste - <https://www.ttkingston.org/ttk-groups-and-projects/reducing-waste/>
- Food - <https://www.ttkingston.org/ttk-groups-and-projects/food/>
- Sustainable Energy & Transport - <https://www.ttkingston.org/ttk-groups-and-projects/energy/>
- Money - <https://www.ttkingston.org/ttk-groups-and-projects/funding-sources/>
- Green reviews - <https://www.ttkingston.org/reading-and-other-suggestions/>

November KE News: I will have separate chats with Paul re his editing in October, at the next CG meeting and/or online as needed, but preferably not between 5th and 19th October.

Invitation to exhibit at 'Think Green: Developing a circular economy for Kingston'

Dear partners,

[Kingston Council](#) and [Kingston University](#) (KU), in partnership with [Kingston Chamber of Commerce](#), invites you to participate as an exhibitor in the [Think Green: Developing a Circular Economy for Kingston](#) event on 20 November 2025, 13:00 PM to 18:00 PM.

Building on last year's [successful event on circular economy](#), academic research and successful local case studies, we are bringing together at the [Town House](#), businesses, academics, policy makers, students and residents.

This series of events aims to accelerate the transition of Kingston's economy to a circular economy through collaboration, innovation and behaviour change.

Please fill out this [Google form](#) to register your interest.

All the best, Ioanna

HG's comments on the Notes

Here are my thoughts on some of the discussions:

I think it would be a positive thing to make connections with 'Friends of' groups. Many these days are turning more to biodiversity/managing for wildlife than of old: I can think of Friends of Queen's Promenade, Friends of Fishponds and Friends of Manor Park as good examples. We could set some loose minimum criteria for affiliation, perhaps.

KEF anniversary IRL: I thought TTK was well represented. My email 30th Sept to some of you (copied below) shows that I was plugging climate change issues, including but not exclusively active travel. Weren't you also there Marilyn for TTK?

Previous email: I spoke to Louisa about the data the Climate Action Team collects. I would like to dig into this and see what we're measuring, what progress we're making and what the projections are for the coming years. Anyone want to join? Louisa said she could set up a meeting for me with Kat who's picked this up again. It could be a KEF thing, or for anyone who's interested in coming with me. She said also they'd appreciate input from us in how to get the data across.

Eilish has apparently done some work for RBK's input to London Councils around Kerbside Strategy.

Lambeth did the original study / recommendations. It is something that's vital to promote active travel so I'll follow that up with her.

It would be good to have a response to my question about a meeting with Kat about the data

The rest of that same email could be added to the minutes as an update on active travel:

The KCC Family Fun Ride last weekend had 80 people join us, half of whom were children, and sunshine! Work continues on the Ewell Road cycle lane construction, joining up the two ends that were started before Covid.

Regarding expanding the core group of volunteers, I fear that the admin roles don't appeal to many, so I doubt we'll get volunteers for the committee. On the positive side, there's all of us who do turn up when we can, and we do have some wonderful active projects with lots of volunteers (Sunray and all Janine's recycling outreach, Toni's fabulous Abundance project, a successful Repair Café, CCG making food growing and chicken keeping accessible, TTK's Energy Group supporting and holding RBK accountable for their carbon reductions...so I would be inclined to celebrate rather than bemoan. I've offered before to do minute-taking, and am happy to attend meetings with the Council and pick up other occasional duties. I'm not really interested in liaising with the Transition movement though and I won't be stepping forward to offer to replace our interim chair at this moment.

Small pedantic point: we're all aging!

Abundance report (TI)

Abundance season started on 02.08.25 which is normal but ended in September rather than the usual October. No standout reason for this.

We picked or were delivered 931 kilos of apples, roughly equal quantities of cookers and eaters – 10% were delivered.

Overall we took 132k of apples to the Community Fridge who were delighted to pass them on, but unfortunately they were only able to take about 30k at a time. We gave mainly cooking apples as they are generally more perfect and keep better, leaving abundance with more sweet apples which are more desirable for the juicing.

Allowing for about 5% rot, the rest were juiced at 3 Farmers markets - twice in Surbiton and once in New Malden.

We sold juice and took £511.50 overall and paid out £227.62 on equipment, ULEZ, Surbiton Farmers market charity. This leaves £283.88 profit of which £28.39 has been paid to TTK as a tithe, leaving £255.49.

We also did one picking and pressing session with 40 kilos of grapes.

We would like to get more juice out of the pulp and are looking into getting either a hydraulic press or converting an existing press to press compress layers of thin, square 'cheeses' to supersede the current barrel arrangement.

We leant out presses 5 times for free including to the Environment Centre, Au Law organic farm and Save The World Club. This enabled approximately 250k more fruit to be juiced and not wasted.

Recycling Minds - Meeting held on 23rd September at SunrayRecyle HQ, next meeting planned end of November - most dates and info has been shared by Marilyn via other routes.