

Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting

Date: 31/1/23, 6.30pm

Venue: Spring Grove

DRAFT NOTES (Actions in red)

Present: Damon (DHD, Deputy, Energy Group), Hilary (HG), Toni (TI, Abundance), Marilyn (MM, Chair, note-taking); Peter (PJM, Energy Group), Paul (PMc, Treasurer), and Marcus Oxley (MO) - with no CG absences or apologies.

- 1. November meeting's notes** - were confirmed as accurate and approved for publishing on the website (by **MM**, who would also check that other uploaded docs were pdfs and therefore accessible on-line). **Matters & actions arising** had mostly been dealt with between November and now, outstanding ones arising were dealt with later in the meeting.
- 2. Updates:** as needed
 - TTK events/projects:**
 - Energy Group (EG)* continued to meet monthly. Their thermal camera had been in use, including by Kat Jennings of RBK Climate Action team, who had imaged 8 houses and a local school. DH-D had new thermo-chromic stickers for boilers, but not quite ready to market, and was working on a funding application to GLA Community Energy Fund for scoping and research on community energy projects in Kingston. The EG visit to Reading community hydro-energy project had been very informative and useful - **DHD** would publish a full report in due course, and **MM** would make links to it. MO's response to Thames flood alleviation plans on behalf TTK energy group had proposed hydro-energy projects on Thames weirs, which would assist climate mitigation, along with the Thames project's adaption purpose. There would be a public response to consultation responses in due course. At their next meeting, **EG** would discuss MO's proposal that they did their own response to the Kingston Plan consultation (see also below).
 - Abundance* - very seasonal so no updates
 - Canbury Community Garden* had been offered £250 from ward councillor James Manthel, MM had completed the RBK invoice template, and requested that **PMc** inform her when the funds were transferred. [MM commented later that, though she enjoyed CCG, its activities, visitors and chickens, it could be v time-consuming.]
 - Kingston Environment News* had gone out a bit early this month because some events were happening last weekend. MM advised **All** to read it to keep abreast of green activities in Kingston, and to send her news of interest [register on the contributors' list for monthly requests and reminders].
 - Repair Café (RCK)* - the project group had kept those in CG who were interested updated with semi-private notes from weekly meetings + public facing pages at <https://www.ttkingston.org/repair-cafe-kingston> on TTK website). They were more or less ready for the soft launch, Feb 4th am; about £350 of the JL donation of £500 had been spent on kit (on advice from other RCs, volunteers, the venue etc) and RCK would probably need more funding once repair demand and donations from clients became clear. HG has sorted out additional insurance cover and requested that **PMc** paid the premium immediately so that RCK was covered on Feb 4. See also item #5 about Resources/Funding below. RCK project group had a side conversation later* and would be meeting again on Thurs evening.
 - Recycling Minds (HG, PMc):* PMc was unable to attend daytime meetings, **HG** would be attending the next one. MM suggested that Recycling Minds/Janine give a talk sometime in the Library Community Room as there was still a lot of confusion about what and where stuff could be recycled.

- Other groups:

STWC - were on the move from the Circulatory to Southsea Rad, packing up (and maybe would find the base for our GreenZone flag and their 2nd PAT as they packed?). We would need to discuss with them secure and tidy storage for TTK stuff and a realistic annual payment for storage space.

Kingston Environment Centre - no date so far for their AGM, and they were looking for a new company secretary as Jean was standing down. As KEC members, it would be nice if one or two of us could go along to the AGM.

RBK - Kingston's new Local Plan - MM requested that **All** responded to support sustainability, active travel, localism, green spaces, food growing etc, deadline 28 February. MM would not respond on behalf of TTK as getting input from CG was too difficult and slow, but would share her response with the CG so that they could individually borrow from it. The consultation document is helpfully divided into sections and there is a summary version, so that one can respond to elements of interest and ignore others. See consultation engagement portal [website](#) and [consultation events](#) (recommended as useful by MO).

DHD and MM had also participated in a December workshop on the **Plan for Kingston town centre area** - **All** can still comment on this via <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/regeneration-1/a-plan-for-kingston>.

The Kingston Hive now had a full programme of events, including some stitching ones, mostly evenings and weekends, and their own newsletter.

Kingston Environment Forum - DH-D continued to act as interim Chair and was in regular contact with Terezie in the RBK Climate Action Team. Meeting coming up soon, with community energy on the agenda. See also Item #6, AOB, on handing on some general issues to KEF).

The Climate Coalition (TCC) - MM had circulated notes and recordings from December TCC meeting earlier, and had added TTK to the joint TCC letter opposing a new Cumbrian coal mine. MM had missed the last meeting but would circulate TTC notes later, and wondered if anyone else would like to be our rep at TCC meetings, still mostly on-line on Wednesday mornings, and often very informative with high-level speakers.

3. TTK - coming up:

- **TTK's 15th birthday** in (April?) 2023 - we decided to combine a birthday celebration in the pub with the **AGM** - **we (who?)** would need to arrange food [a buffet, a birthday cake?], invite, e.g. stakeholders, get an idea of numbers... And **All** project groups and **PMc** would need to produce reports for the AGM.
- **Transition Together training** starting v soon **on Mondays from 7-9pm**, starting on **13th Feb** and finishing on 20th March, A reminder had been circulated earlier (information about TT training workshops [here](#) and full application form [here](#). PMc and MM had registered to participate - MM suggested that others should take up this (as well or instead of her), as well as other training opps, as she would not be chair for much longer - see below.
- **Also TCC Great Green Week training** and networking opps <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/training/>
- **Chairing TTK** - MM proposed to stand down at the next AGM or possibly continue for another year at most with a co-chair to whom she would hand on her contacts, networks, invitations... (a secretary might also be useful if tasks could be divided). **All** to consider volunteering and how best to manage handover [bearing in mind time commitment, attending daytime meetings on behalf of TTK, e.g. with RBK officers, relapsing into the "doughnut" model warned about by Rob Hopkins, etc.]

4. **Ideas & volunteers for future TTK events, activities, projects:** maybe best left till RCK (currently very demanding of time and energy) is running smoothly.

5. Resources/Funds:

- **Repair Café (RCK) funding** - Veolia's Sustainability Fund application had been unsuccessful, possibly because it had been a big application including a contribution towards Library of Things

as that was on the cards then, but no longer is, or possibly because Veolia had lost the waste collection contract in Kingston. Or maybe it was just very competitive. Other ideas for funding for RCK welcome.

- FYI, **recommended Funders from TCC** - organisations which provide funding to climate and nature focused community groups:
[The National Lottery's Funding Programmes](#)
The National Lottery also recommend [these other climate action funders](#).
[Action Funder](#)
[Aviva's Community Fund](#)
[Clean Mobility Fund](#)
[Climate Fringe Festival Grant](#)
- **Open Collective** - PMc had set up a section for Repair Café project and had recompensed MM for RCK spending promptly, for which he was thanked. **PMc** would collect receipts (in various forms - paper ones handed over at meeting) from **MM**, and the CG felt that we should continue to produce receipts as well as submitting itemised invoices when relevant,
- We didn't get round to discussing the potential for a joint funding application with Kingston Hive - postponed for another time. [Collaborations could be useful, but, on the other hand, our funding needs are v different.]

6. AOB:

- **Handing on over-arching co-ordination tasks to Kingston Environment Forum (KEF)**
During KEF's dormant period of several years TTK/MM had taken on some tasks that went well beyond our projects/remit, and now that KEF was reactivated, these could be better completed and coordinated by this forum:
Website page on **community gardens and conservation projects**, draft at <https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/ttk-groups-and-projects/outdoor-volunteering/outdoor-volunteering-opportuni/>. **DHD** would take to a KEF meeting.
Kingston Green History website/web page was being developed by **PMc** and was taking shape; it would be a free-standing website - but input from KEF members was needed.
TTK's Green Directory – would circular economy maps being created by Ioanna @ RBK and PMc be better, more regularly updated alternatives? **MM** would send Green Directory info and link to Ioanna to see if it could be integrated into her list of green enterprises.
- **Other info and updates** had been circulated earlier by MM in an update in December and Appendices to this Agenda - **All** were advised to refer back to these as needed, as much of this info was not repeated in this meeting.
- **Website** - MO had found it v useful and informative and commended TTK comms. MM commented that e-Voice websites were easy to update and add pages and events to, and therefore worked better for community groups like ours that having elaborate websites with a single gatekeeper/expert who could edit and update but rarely did so (see some other local green group websites for examples)!

7. Dates of upcoming meetings: Tuesday 28 February, Tues 28 March, Tues 25 April **AGM + 15th birthday party**

***RCK** discussed briefly amongst themselves arrangements for the Saturday opening and employment status/fees for Maya, possibly when funding permitted and Maya took on more general management of RCK.

Green-ish conversations continued afterwards over **Green Drinks**, where we were joined by Brian Mulley.

Notes confirmed as accurate at February meeting, 29/2/23