

**Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting
Tues 27 February 2024, 6.30 - 7.30 at the Spring Grove**

NOTES (Actions in red)

Present: Damon (DHD, Chairing), Marilyn (MM, note-taking), Toni (TI), Maya (MF), Marcus (MO)
Apologies: Peter (PM), Hilary (HG), Paul (PMc)

1. **Last meeting's notes** were confirmed as accurate and approved for publication on website **(MM)**.

Matters & actions arising – had £200 been moved from RCK funds to TTK general/contingency fund, as agreed in Jan? **(PMc)**? Other matters arising discussed below.

2. **Updates**

Some updates had been circulated ahead of the meeting and/or noted in Agenda Appendices and/or inserted here.

- TTK events/projects,

Energy Group DH-D and MO reported on recent responses to consultations, e.g., to Environment Agency on encouraging energy generation on proposed new Thames weirs... and **DHD** would send links for inclusion in KE News. (MM had also responded to EA consultation, adding support for riverside greening and for new reservoirs.)

KE News was ready to publish at midday on 28/2, with a few updates from this meeting to add **(MM)**,

Repair Café Kingston – see Appendix 1 and AOB.

Canbury Community Garden: MM would be running a compost workshop in May as part of Compost Week, and had put Leonard, RBK waste reduction officer, in touch with Hogsmill community gardeners who would also be offering one.

- Other groups & orgs:

STWC - Friday 29 March, [Save The World Club AGM](#) – could anyone attend for TTK CG **(All)?**

KEC - AGM on Sunday 10th March, 3.00pm – MM could attend but would happily give way to anyone else from CG who could attend. **(All)**

KEF/RBK: Ioanna and **RBK's Green Business group** had asked PM, DHD and MM to write in support of their application for an award, which we had. DHD reported on a well-attended and positive **KEF Solar Sub-group** meeting, which included RBK property and assets officers. 3 schools (1 maintained, 2 CofE) were now interested.

Transition Together/Vive; MM reported some market research carried out by a TT, which found that few in their town had heard of their TT, though many had attended projects and events managed by the TT – a lesson in branding and claiming credit for all of us!

The Climate Coalition (TCC) newsletters and notes from meetings had been forwarded as and when to CG FYI.

3. **Events/opps coming up**

- TTK AGM, 30th April, 6.30pm reminders and prep: **All project leads'** reports to cover from April 2023 up to end March 2024 where possible, and a new chair still welcome! **All project leads** to please update accounts and expenses by end of March, and to arrange previously agreed transfers of 10% project funds/surpluses after expenses to TTK general/contingency fund, to assist PMc with end-of-year accounts for AGM.

We agreed to link the AGM to a **thank-you drinks and nibbles** immediately afterwards for volunteers, donors, stakeholders, advisers... in the hope of including more people in our AGM, to thank people who should be thanked, and to socialise, probably at the Spring Grove if they can provide reasonably priced nibbles. **DHD** to investigate, book the back room if poss, arrange nibbles..., **MM** would include the date in KE News, **All project leads** to invite their volunteers, though venue still t b c.

- TCC Great Big Green Week 2024, June 8 – 16: we could probably fit in one or 2 regular

activities, e.g. an Open Community Garden in CCG, + maybe a Green Open House if RBK wasn't planning a Sustainable September, and another go at MM and DHD's "Keep Cool and Carry On" presentation, maybe at The Hive (MM to ask). TTK could register all these independently on TCC website and get extra publicity, but it was also possible, though hard work, to organise a **Kingston Green Week** on the TCC website and encourage other local green groups and RBK to join in via KEF... (MM to discuss with Chris Rimington at RBK, Graham Smith of ASK, and Terezie, and KEF at next meeting in April)

- **Kingston 2025** - 1100th anniversary of the crowning of King Athelstan, the first King of England, with borough-wide celebrations, cultural events and activities in collaboration with local communities on the people, places and stories that made Kingston, the changes that have taken place and hopes for the future. We discussed whether the wilding/green links/chain/ribbon project we have discussed in the past would be a useful contribution/legacy from green groups like ours, and whether we could recruit support initially via KEF (MM & DHD to arrange), and then involve a working party and, hopefully, everyone in Kingston. The six month programme of cultural events and activities will launch in Spring 2025 – see <https://www.kingstonheritage.org.uk/homepage/102/kingston-2025---celebrating-our-past-present-and-future>

4. Continued from previous meetings:

- **Insurance update:** PM at the last minute had an inclusive and acceptable quote from our original insurer, CG were informed, and PM renewed the policy, updated and clarified as agreed earlier, just in time so we are now insured, for which many thanks. Those present discussed whether we needed to add Professional Indemnity Insurance, particularly for the protection of the EG and RCK who do give advice, but thought that as long as everyone involved understood that the advisers were volunteers, not professionals, and disclaimers to read and sign were provided, it was not needed.

- **Storage at STWC** – MM reported on progress - a contract had been to-in and fro-ing and a revised one would soon be available for MM to sign and then move stuff (though nothing valuable) to STWC. The space on offer for now was temporary but satisfactory, and a more secure one would become available soon-ish. STO for £25 p m starting on 1/3 should be set up asap (PMc).

- **Business planning...** forward planning, income, contributions from project groups, membership... We agreed to defer this kind of planning for a post-AGM fresh start, with new chair, CG, ideas etc... (Funding opportunities for new projects are circulated and shared regularly in KE News.)

5. **Resources** were not discussed in the absence of our treasurer/designer but could be returned to as and when.

6. AOB:

Repair Café Kingston continued discussions from their previous meeting: MM had had a response from Chris Rimington @ RBK that A5 posters were OK for community notice boards, and so would order a reprint soon-ish. MF & DHD between them would produce video/audio about RCK for RBK Resilience Fund report, recording as much as possible at next RCK. We discussed whether we could run RCK 2x p month, but decided that would be too committing and exhausting, and we would rather encourage and advise others on setting up one elsewhere in the borough and on another Saturday.

7. **Dates of next meetings:** 26 Mar, 30 April (AGM), 28 May...

We were joined for **Green Drinks** by Jenni, who was interested in green activities in Kingston, particularly near Chessington where she lives.

APPENDICES

1. TTK & TTK updates

- **TTK began in 2008** – should we be celebrating a 16th anniversary or wait another 4 years till we are 20?
- **Repair Café Kingston** celebrated our first birthday on Saturday, with cake, a visit and some kind words from the Mayor of Kingston, a visit from Ed Davey – and the usual busy morning fixing broken items - see [Repair Café Project group](#) notes for updates.
- **Canbury Community Garden**: annual totals Jan – Dec already calculated and shared and would be recycled for AGM.
- **KE News** – FYI/reminders, this is edited solely by MM, KEC having found it difficult to do regularly or reliably. Some readers on some devices are having problems with anchor links – what to do: should we abandon them, or can they be fixed? No visible advice or FQs on Mailchimp website. Items received after the deadline would be included if possible, but probably would not be fully checked
- **Website and Facebook pages** – after a lot of spam/nudes on TTK and KEF Fb pages, MM has recently updated security – posts/posters now need permission from an admin, so some help would be useful. It would also be useful if project/event organisers would update their sections of the website.

2. Other group/org updates

- The Climate Coalition, newsletter and updates:

On **Great Big Green Week** in June forwarded to CG earlier and discussed at meeting
MM attended a webinar on their **Local Intelligence Hub**, t b launched in Feb - looks to be a useful resource for campaigning, finding like-minded local groups, keeping tabs on MPs, understanding local conditions and opinion, with loads of info and filters for searches... The meeting was recorded and will be shared, and as members of TCC we will get access to all the data at <https://www.localintelligencehub.com/>. Also mentioned as useful websites in the chat: <https://mapit.mysociety.org> (creators of the LIH); <https://www.mpwatch.org/MP-Look-up>;

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/boundary-review-2023-which-seats-will-change/>

TCC Show the Love film, Feb 14 – MM shared on Facebook as requested – please share with your networks too.

- **Stop Burning Trees** updates and requests for action circulated earlier and in KE News.
- **Transition Together/Vive** – more posts and events than MM can keep up with, including skill-sharing sessions, many of them saved on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzYHfM4_lhk5autAyBFX04-Od-tdH1CH
- **Campaigns/updates** on some of these circulated between meetings – other members of CG invited to respond as individuals and to share interesting events, campaigns, green news, that they come across. EG and MM have responded to <https://www.riverthamesscheme.org.uk/> (deadline 4/3) and <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-various-permitted-development-rights-consultation> (closes on 9/4)