**Kingston Environment Forum**

**29 May 2014, 3 - 4.30pm**

**Minutes**

**Chair:** Hilary Gander (HG)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Also present**: Jo Butcher (JB), Marilyn Mason (MM), Martin Birley (MB), John Fellowes, (JF), Peter Watson (PW), John Legate (JL), Carlos Queremel (CQ), Jean Vidler (JV), Clive Messenger (CM), Chris Cockel (CC) | **Actions** |
| 1. **Apologies** received from: Dean Tyler (DT, RBK) |  |
| 1. **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:**   **Communications: raising awareness of KEF via Twitter @Forum4Kingston is progressing well and MM has updated KEF website with regular posts on members’ work being made.**  **New members – the group would like to encourage new members. This will happen as the group network in connection with delivering their priorities.**  **JV indicated that she will be looking for someone to represent KEC on KEF while she is on sabbatical. CC is also looking to allocate responsibility for attending the meetings to another member of the team.**  **Green Spaces Strategy – there was a wide discussion about the status of this document following the local elections and plans for consultation on the draft. CQ indicated that a more extensive scoping is planned, for example on woodlands policy and habitat action plans, and there would be further opportunities to influence. It was suggested that Marie-Claire Edwards is invited to the next meeting to discuss further.**  **CO2 emissions data – HG to chase this.**  **Waste to energy – MM highlighted concerns that have been raised about W2E plants breaking down and costing a small fortune to replace although she is not sure how widespread the issue is. May be useful to ask whether Kingston’s local one is likely to suffer similar problems.**  **Sustainable Transport:**   * **There is a public liaison transport group which Kingston Cycling Campaign needs to be represented on. HG to follow up.** * **JL raised concerns about how the £30 million funding secured for Kingston’s mini-holland will be used. In order to encourage more people to cycle the funds need to be used to create segregated cycle lanes and continuous cycle routes rather than new facilities for storing bikes. HG to monitor opportunities for KEF to influence and feedback.**   **KEF members to monitor and ensure they are well represented at consultation events and wider opportunities.**   * **It was also suggested that KCC and KEF organise a special cycling evening meeting in July to discuss the mini-holland etc. JL volunteered to do this.**   **HG to chase Shadia about the energy efficiency implementation plan.**  **CM has discussed green audits with Lou Ragget. KEF to add this to its agenda for later in the year. It would need funding.**  **Flooding/flood defences – it was agreed this would be ‘parked’ for the moment whilst the group focusses on influencing current developments such as cycling and energy efficiency.**  **Schools and energy generation – there are some delays with progressing this work within the council owing to the feasibility study. SWLEN is keen to do energy audits in schools in order to demonstrate savings can pay for the equipment. CM to speak with Shadia to unlock business case.**  **Inducting councillors to KEF – once we know who has been allocated the environmental portfolio within the council they will be invited to attend KEF. Also KEF needs to ensure it is on the radar of the new leader of the council.**  There was a broader discussion about development in Kingston and impact on green spaces and biodiversity. The group agreed that KEF need to engage with the planning and housing departments within the council. JF to talk to BioRegional.   1. **KEF priorities document**   KEF’s priorities are taking shape. The group needs to identify key outcomes for its work in each area in order to ensure it knows what it is working towards and to develop some indicators against which to measure performance. As a starter, the group began shaping outcomes for the sustainable transport and biodiversity themes. JB to update and circulate to the group and upload onto dropbox.  JL offered to work up the sustainable transport area further. All members to deed in as appropriate.  In time project plans will be developed to help operationalise each area.  Attached to this work KEF may want to do some communications activity to raise awareness of its areas of focus and to stimulate dialogue and further interest.  KEF will also need to develop a system for recording achievements across policy and practice so it can report on and share these as necessary and demonstrate its influence and impact.   1. **New administration** – Kevin Davis has been appointed as leader of Kingston Council. JB to find out who councillor with environmental portfolio will be. Simon James is still interested. KEF will monitor changes closely and implications for its work. 2. **Members updates:**   JF mentioned there is a sustainability group linked to St.John’s church in Old Morden that KEF may want to connect with. JF to approach. Also the Lancet has published a document on the links between health and sustainability which he will circulate.  JB mentioned that Young Place Shapers will be hosting its first ‘taster’ on 24th June where young people aged 18-24 will be helping to improve part of Queen’s Promenade. JB asked members if they could help to publicise the opportunity through their networks. JB to circulate details.  KUSU – need to explore representation on KEF. JB has links with KUSU so  will explore. Kevin Burchell is speaking at the university on 29th June.  Wider events – MM to circulate to group  Kingston pound - HG to invite.  Morden Fortnight, July – JV to circulate  JV will be taking a sabbatical in early 2014 and will keep KEF informed of interim staff arrangements.   1. **Appointment of new chair and vice/co-chair**   HG stood down as chair owing to her new role as Councillor for Surbiton Hill.  HG proposed that JB take on the role of chair which was supported by the group.  MM to speak to Elise about her plans for involvement with KEF. If Elise is unable to take on vice-chair/co-chair role, MM volunteered to do this in the interim to ensure KEF is represented at council meetings etc.  The group thanked Hilary, Jo and Marilyn for their work on behalf of KEF and look forward to working with HG in her new role.   1. **Date of next meeting**: Jo to circulate doodle poll for meeting in early-mid July. | **JV/CC**  **HG**  **HG**  **HG/All**  **JL**  **HG**  **CM**  **JF**  **JB**  **JL/All**  **JB/All**  **JF**  **JB**  **JB**  **MM**  **HG**  **JV**  **JV**  **JB** |