

**Monday 1st February 2016, 10.00-11.30am, in John Lewis Place to Eat**

**Minutes**

1. **MM welcomed those present**: Hilary Gander (TTK, KCC, Councillor), John Legate (KCC, Kingston Beekeepers), Marilyn Mason (TTK, Chair), Clive Messenger (SWLEN), Jean Vidler (KEC)  
   **Apologies for absence** Peter Watson (St Paul’s Church); Andree Frieze (Greenpeace); Rachel Monaghan (Young Place Shapers.
2. HG took notes.
3. **MM meeting with Leader of Council and Cllr Terry Paton (2 February) / KSP (4 February)** Marilyn has sent KEF’s ‘Development in Kingston – A KEF perspective’ to Kevin Davis and will discuss its hot topics (see list, item 4) - in the context of Kingston Futures programme. Request made later in the meeting to add to the list ‘what is the Council’s position on the expansion of Heathrow?’ Marilyn will also take the opportunity where it arises to raise environmental issues at the Kingston Strategic Partnership meeting (KSP) later in the week.[[1]](#endnote-1)
4. **KEF Hot Topics – updates** 
   1. Biodiversity / trees / flooding – KEF & KEC is producing a document (work in progress) on RBK’s Flood Risk Strategy, after a meeting (Jean Vidler, Alison Fure, Marilyn Mason, Kim Bailey + 2 river groups) to discuss the local context
   2. Energy
      1. Peter Mason of TTK has set up a visit to a St George district heating facility.
      2. Further, the TTK Energy Group has a series of home energy saving workshops at KEC on three Saturday mornings this month. **Action: Sign up to workshops (ALL)**
      3. Clive reported that SWLEN had funding for home energy checks in Malden Manor and on the Cambridge Estate – an end-to-end service – but they were finding it difficult to get people to sign up for the service.
      4. Further, SWLEN is contacting 27 local schools regarding school energy bills over holiday periods – often there is no change to usage. Shadia Rahman has facilitated access to central records. We discussed the fact that the Council doesn’t have responsibility for schools’ spending any more.
   3. Waste to Energy – We discussed the potential issues of these plants: ‘ a perverse incentive to increase rates of waste’ to make money; the need for a constant stream of waste as costs of shutting down too steep; monitoring and maintenance of the filters and / or risk of release of particulate matter / methane etc.
   4. Active Travel / Cycling – KEF agreed to reinforce environmental aspects relating to the emerging mini-Hollands schemes: for example the need for soft landscaping for flooding and careful planting for biodiversity, whilst supporting the opportunity to encourage cycling and encourage modal shift. Marilyn will request KEF is consulted on the schemes.[[2]](#endnote-2)
   5. Air Quality – KCC and the Liberal Democrats\* had submitted responses to the Revised Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) consultation, stressing the need for greater ambition: skimp now, pay later. **Action: \*JL and HG to circulate, respectively**
   6. Waste – currently landfill is collected free from churches but there is a charge for recycling?

**Action: HG to investigate[[3]](#endnote-3)**

1. **Other KEF member updates**

* Jean reported on the FoE / PCS-organised Climate Rising workshops at which Caroline Lucas was the keynote speaker. Useful workshops highlighted the need for divestment; the fact that bioenergy and CCS would not be good enough to stay below 1.5o and local energy, sustainable travel and waste to energy (etc.) would be needed; Heathrow myths.
* Marilyn / John Legate reported on a successful TTK Energy Group debate on Nuclear including the difficulty in accommodating the solar / wind power we need.
* Marilyn reminded members that they should look out for Voluntary sector updates esp. commissioning that she circulates.[[4]](#endnote-4)
* Jean asked members to note that Kingston Green Radio would be broadcasting on FM from 26th February to 6th March, to coincide with Climate Week and Fairtrade Fortnight and that they were looking for sponsorship.
* Jean reported that a pupil from Tiffin Girls’ was helping KEC further their zero waste ambitions.
* There will be Outdoor First Aid training session in April; contact Jean for details.
* John mentioned that Kingston Beekeepers would be applying for funding from solicitors’ dead accounts. **Action:** **Circulate details to the other members (JL)**

1. **\*\* 19th March Earth Hour\*\*** Marilynis investigating getting WWF posters into libraries.[[5]](#endnote-5) **All: try to get supporters to switch off for the hour.**
2. **KEF comms and admin** – Marilyn reminded members that in order to receive monthly Kingston environmental newsletters monthly they would need to sign up at both TTK at KEC websites. Marilyn will re-circulate instructions and password to the KEF website and twitter account so that members can update and publicise events, newsletters etc.
3. **AOB:** Items have mostly been incorporated into Hot Topics and Member Updates, items 4 and 5, above. **Action: Hilary was asked to circulate** **names and contact details of useful council officers**.
4. **Date of next KEF meeting:** will be aligned with the next KSP meeting– **Marilyn will create a Doodle**.

1. Notes on these meetings to follow. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. At exhibition of mini-Holland plans at URC on 4/1/16 it appeared that at least on the Portsmouth Road section there will be a net gain of greenery and soft surfaces. I have some concerns about the piecemeal progress, with potential for routes that don’t join up or go anywhere useful to e g commuting cyclists. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. MM has also raised with Cll Terry Paton and forwarded the email on this to him. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Cllr Julie Pickering asked me after KSP meeting on 4/2/16 why we weren’t attending VCSS meetings, following up my point made at the meeting about the links between environmental concerns and public health. For KEF it’s largely a matter of capacity (we’re all volunteers with countless other commitments) and partly self-interest (it often seems that there is little for us at these meetings) – but maybe we need to make more of an effort? [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. The Council has got WWF Earth Hour posters and will be distributing them around the borough, including libraries, so we don’t need to! [↑](#endnote-ref-5)