

**Kingston Environment Forum meeting**

**NOTES**

**(Actions in red)**

**Tuesday 30th May: 11.00am - 12.30ish**

**John Lewis: Place to Eat**

**Present:** Kim Bailey (KB, Co-Chair, KEC, TTK), Hilary Gander (HG, Councillor, KCC, TTK), John Legate (JL, Kingston Beekeepers and KCC), Marilyn Mason (MM, note-taker, Co-Chair, TTK), Marina Pacheco (MP, KBN)

**1. Welcome. Apologies** received from Des Kay.

2. **Review of previous meeting:** no notes available but those present thought they had done the tasks allocated to them in March (some updates also in Appendices below).

**Some items revisited:**

* **Was it worth turning up at Kingston events** if invited, e g Surrey 100 cycling event, 30/7, Kingston Carnival (1st Sunday in August if it happens)? Possibly/probably, though preferably in better positions than previous year. This had been aired at the post-Carnival meeting last year.
* KEF had offered to pay £20 per KEF member stall at 2016 Carnival via TTK - so far only TTK and JL had contributed so if you were there, please transfer £20 to TTK who would donate the total amount (£80+?) to John Azah for the Carnival fund (**All**)

**2. Updates and actions on KEF/Council issues as needed - currently:**

* **Air quality:** still no funding for implementing RBK AQAP - **HG** would report back on next meeting of RBK Adults and Children Committee.

MM’s letter re Walk to School Week in May had been published in *Surrey Comet*, and **MM** would send another re Clean Air Day on 15/6 (relevant events welcome - **All**). HG had established useful contact with teacher keen on sustainability at Lime Tree school.

MM had responded to Heathrow consultation on behalf of KEF, largely, but not only, on AQ grounds - see <http://e-voice.org.uk/kef/assets/other/heathrow-consultation-response%20>

See also *Appendix 1*. AQ update with some webslinks (already circulated)

* **Flooding/Water quality/Water efficiency:**  **MM** to send last year’s KEF statement on flood risk to **KB** for Trello (see *Appendix 2* for that and other useful links to use)
* **Energy:** The Climate Coalition Week of Action would be from 1 to 9 July, this year linking up with Community Energy Fortnight (24/6 - 9/7) so there would be lots going on. Relevant events welcomed - should include trying to involve or speak to your newly elected MP (**All)** - see <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/woa/>  
    
  **HG** to chase Shadia at RBK re Council policy, action, progress on energy.
* **Biodiversity/Greenspaces: HG** would keep us posted about any consultations or issues re local Green Belt - something to watch.  
    
  Lots of KBN events and activities coming up, incl. networking evening on 14/6 (topics hedgehogs and light blight - see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/529736513729812/>
* **Sustainable Travel:** Work had begun on next stages of cycle infrastructure, and **HG** would keep us posted re Go Cycle consultations coming up so that we could respond individually and/or collectively. Lighting was an issue on the New Malden - Raynes Park route (TLS had researched bat-friendly low-level lighting - can anyone in KEF direct us to it? **All**)   
  14/6 RBK Residents’ Committee meeting includes transport…
* **Development in Kingston:** latest big development in town centre not providing public cycle parking, despite obvious benefits to tenant retailers (see <http://www.cyclinguk.org/campaigning/views-and-briefings/cycling-and-economy> and <http://www.citylab.com/cityfixer/2015/03/the-complete-business-case-for-converting-street-parking-into-bike-lanes/387595/>   
  10 cycle stands = 1 car parking space! Both points worth making when commenting on developments or planning issues.
* **Waste & Recycling:** RBK had congratulated residents on 45.8% recycling rate, but that was not all that good, and as JL pointed out, 45.8% of a growing amount of waste might be bad news! How big was the total? **HG** to take up with waste dept.
* **Trello System** – update from **KB**, who offered to be responsible for adding info from KEF - please send to her, **All**). See also *Appendix 2* with some useful links for Trello - more welcome.
* **Tesco Bags of Help applications** - KBN requested votes at local Tescos, though how was unclear! Deadline for this round next week but there would be future opps to apply.
* **Heathrow – third runway consultation,** KEF response sent by deadline and at <http://e-voice.org.uk/kef/assets/other/heathrow-consultation-response%20>
* **Community Led Housing** - FYI, request for support sent to TTK in *Appendix 3* - should we support? Any comments please send to MM **(All).**

**3. Upcoming meetings:**

**MM requested regular volunteers** (or confirmation of previous volunteers) to attend the various meetings KEF is invited to, ideally groups or individuals with a particular interest in that area who could benefit from it, but who would also report back to KEF:  
- On Public Health, Health & Wellbeing, Air Quality **(KB)**  
- On Voluntary Sector/KVA - mostly concerned with commissioning and funding issues (**Jean or others from KEC** already go, so please could they speak for the wider KEF group as well and report back anything of interest? Next one coming up - 1/6, 10.00am - 12.00 at St Peter’s Church Hall, Norbiton. See *Appendix 4* - brief summary about KEF requested by KVA and sent by MM.  
- Kingston Strategic Partnership (KSP, (MM currently attends, but would be happy to hand on to a **new Co-Chair** if anyone volunteers - **Al**l to consider). See brief report of last KSP meeting in *Appendix 5.*  
- KSP working groups on volunteering (**JV, KB?)** and sustainability (**MM, Vicky Phillips of SWLEN** - tho’ neither of us has heard any more about this)  
  
- **Kingston Strategic Partnership meeting** due on 7/6 had been postponed to 12/7 because of general election. MM would go, but no agenda yet so difficult to plan for this. **MM** would circulate agenda when it arrives for comment and suggestions, especially if there are new issues.

- **Meeting with Sarah Olney MP:** MM had had some positive-sounding email exchanges with Sarah Olney and her assistant, but had not managed to firm up a meeting time before general election was announced, so **MM** may try again after June 8th.

- **All Saints Topical Lunch, 1.00 - 1.45** – **Thursday 16th November**, KEF on 'Making Kingston greener, cleaner, better - the Kingston Environment Forum'” - an opp to reach a general local audience. MM willing to introduce KEF and KEF issues, but would welcome expert supporting speakers (**All**), e g on biodiversity, energy efficiency. Speaker(s) allowed 15 mins in total, so the more of us, the less time each speaker will have, though there is plenty of time (30 mins) set aside for Qs and discussion.

**4. AOB**

- General concern expressed at lack of environmental issues in General Election campaigns. Maybe of interest in *Guardian*, May 2017 - environment experts weigh up the manifesto pledges on issues such as air pollution, climate change, energy, and waste... <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/may/21/how-do-the-four-main-parties-compare-on-the-environment> [FoE have also rated the party pledges on the environments - <https://www.foe.co.uk/general-election/election-manifestos-scores-are>]

- Recommended reading “Cancel the Apocalypse” by Andrew Simm of NEF

- Recommended event: at Museum of the Future - Kingston’s Cycling Heritage

- MM recommended **All** to sign up for KVA’s newsletter if they hadn’t already, as KVA events and training might be relevant and there wasn’t always time to select or forward items of interest.

**5. Date(s) and topics/guests for next meeting(s)**  
Possibly in September, **MM** would Doodle once KSP autumn meeting date fixed. **KB** to invite Grace Abel to initiate us into uses of Trello

**APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX 1**

**On Air Quality** (already circulated update from MM): Andree and I have since then had a very useful meeting with a local parent concerned at the air quality at her child’s nursery school near Richmond Road, Kingston, and made worse by building work and traffic on the Bingo Hall site. We shared what we hope was useful advice, and I have since sent round a letter to the Comet/press release about Walk to School Week (15-19 May) and if you can publicise in any way, please do – the website is <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/walk-to-school-week>. Next date to publicise might be Clean Air Day - <https://www.cleanairday.org.uk/> 15/6/17 - pledge, resources, events etc on website

I expect you’ve been following the ups and downs, mostly downs, of the government’s AQ action plan – see for example <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/may/05/government-fails-to-commit-to-diesel-scrappage-scheme-in-uk-clean-air-plan> . If you’re interested in this aspect of KEF’s work do join the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MakeAirSafeClean/> where much of this stuff gets posted.

**APPENDIX 2**

**Useful links / documents for KEF space on Trello:**

KEF on sustainable development in Kingston, <http://e-voice.org.uk/kef/about/view/sustainable-development/Development_in_Kingston,_KEF_statement.docx>

KEF on Flood Risk, 2016 <https://e-voice.org.uk/kef/about/view/flooding/Flood_Risk_Position_statement_with_photos.pdf>

KEF's September 2016 statement on local air quality - and what we should do to improve it can be read at [http://e-voice.org.uk/kef/assets/other/kef-statement-on-local-air-qua](https://e-voice.org.uk/kef/assets/other/kef-statement-on-local-air-qua)

KEF on Heathrow expansion, May 2017 - <http://e-voice.org.uk/kef/assets/other/heathrow-consultation-response%20>

Member organisations and other useful links at <https://e-voice.org.uk/kef/links/>

**APPENDIX 3**

**Email to TTK from Ecomotive, a not-for-profit consultancy focused on enabling self-build and community-led housing:**

“We have been asked by Kingston Council to support the development of an action plan and local strategy to enable more community-led housing in the borough. I found your website and I wondered if someone from Transition Town Kingston would be interested to speak to me about housing issues in the area? We are in the early stages of mapping out need, interest and local activity, with a view to creating an action plan for the council, hopefully unlocking support, funding and future projects in the area over the next couple of years, and it would be great to make sure your experiences and voices are heard in this work, especially as Transition groups have been instrumental in putting community led housing on the agenda in communities all over the UK.”

**APPENDIX 4**

**Account of KEF network by MM sent to Voluntary Sector on request, after last meeting, March 2017**

**Kingston Environment Forum** (<http://e-voice.org.uk/kef/>) **2016 - March 2017**

KEF meets quarterly to share local environmental information and concerns, and to prepare for KSP and associated meetings. Our recent activities fall into 2 broad areas:

* **Raising awareness and sharing expertise**  
  **Collectively,** KEF has made statements and gathered much supporting information on:   
  - Sustainable Local Development;   
  - Local Flood Risk;   
  - and, most recently, on Air Quality, on which we have made links with air quality activists in neighbouring boroughs and set up a new Make Air Safe and Clean Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MakeAirSafeClean/>   
  We also have a KEF Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1169702973039705/>  
  Member-groups have also continued to work on local biodiversity and green spaces, energy efficiency and waste and recycling, sustainable transport…
* **Practical environmental projects around the borough**Member groups continue to offer advice on energy efficiency to residents and schools, and to run community gardens and conservation activities around the borough, providing opportunities for volunteering with all the associated benefits to health and social integration.For some of these projects, groups have received grants from RBK:   
  - South West London Environmental Network has received 3 grants: New Initiatives : £1,800 for "Home Energy Visits" where volunteers run energy audits of homes, install simple, free, energy saving equipment, issue a 1 page report of tips and help with any larger improvement. Your Kingston : £750 to work at schools by running energy audits, issue them a 10 or so page report, an analysis of AMR data (Automatic Meter Readings) and to install simple energy saving measures. Your Kingston : £750 to train 1 or more of SWLEN's energy advisers in energy management, such as City and Guilds run by NEA. This will enable SWLEN to market services better and to satisfy requirements from insurers if they seek fees for services.  
  - Transition Town Kingston received a Your Kingston grant of £413 towards equipment and topsoil for Canbury Community Garden

**APPENDIX 5**

**Report of a very short, not very well attended KSP meeting, 29/3**, with most people there including the Chair, rather ill-prepared IMO! (already circulated by MM). The brief agenda included:

* Actions from the last meeting - little relevant to KEF, but we have made contact with the Health and Wellbeing Board, thanks to Kim
* Kingston Plan - there was some discussion about the need to share info and coordinate the various forums e g business, development, cultural, KSP etc, and I did raise the importance of environmental sustainability as the necessary basis of economic sustainability, and the importance of air quality, including the impacts of Heathrow expansion. I also passed on a summary of the effects of air pollution on children - at <http://www.monbiot.com/2017/03/05/car-sick/>  - the new RBK head of public health Iona Lidington was there and assured us that AQ was on their agenda. (Kevin Davis said in answer to my Q that Kingston did oppose Heathrow expansion, preferring Gatwick, but that Kingston was not participating in the joint councils’ court action because Kingston was split – Chessington and New Malden wards don’t care about Heathrow apparently!)
* Systems leadership - Grace who is working on this was not present, so no update, but I have told her that some of us might be interested.
* Meet the buyer - a request to publicise an event coming up to share and improve procurement, unlikely t b relevant to most of us but will pass on details as and when.
* Under AOB, Hilary Garner mentioned updated crisis response plans and the need for more volunteers who would be trained. I mentioned that flooding seemed the most likely crisis and recalled that my predecessor Bernadette didn't rate the Council's preparedness for flooding very highly. The police superintendant Anthony Enoch said they were looking at improving bollards for busy pedestrian areas (Market Place, Clarence Street) as protection from terrorist drivers. I also announced that we now have a co-Chair, who might attend some meetings.