

**Tues 18th June 10.00am - 12.00**

**John Lewis community room[[1]](#endnote-1), 3rd floor**

**NOTES (actions in red)**

**10.00am - 11.00am**, a useful presentation by Stephen James and Elliot Newton on the **Environment Trust’s Kingston Green Infrastructure, Energy and Water Project** preceded the KEF business meeting. The first part of the morning was attended by about a dozen people, some from KEF member-groups + some guests from CARA, RBK, KEC, NKF… The presentation and the suggestions made afterwards will be circulated separately to KEF members and others who left contact details. **All** - please share the information with your groups, and help ET to reach a wider public (community groups, residents’ associations, schools…) if you can. Thank you to Stephen and Elliot - and the best of luck!

**11.00am - 12.00, KEF quarterly meeting,**

**Present:** Andree Frieze (MASC, Richmond councillor, Green Party), John Legate (KCC, TTK, Kingston Beekeepers), Marilyn Mason (MASC, TTK, chairing and note-taking), Elliot Newton (KBN, ET), Vicky Phillips (SWLEN)

**1. Apologies** had been received from Hilary Gander, Marina Pacheco

**2.** **Review of previous meeting minutes and actions:** the notes were agreed to be accurate, actions had been completed as relevant.

**3.** **Updates and actions** **on KEF/Council issues**, currently:

* **Air quality updates:** Notes on MASC[[2]](#endnote-2) and London ULEZ extension[[3]](#endnote-3) already circulated [with some suggested actions and a DEFRA consultation for **All** to respond to, so please read], and below. Clean Air Day/launch of RBK AQAP on Thurs 21/6 am - MM and others would be attending as “critical friends”, **MM** would mention the opportunity of Car-Free Day on 22/9 - see item 4 below - and report back anything relevant.
* **Development in Kingston** - environmental sustainability was being built into the draft North Kingston Neighbourhood Plan, though mainly for emphasis and for specific locations, as sustainability was already quite well covered in the London Plan, and would therefore also feature in the Kingston Plan. Green proposals had generally had a positive response in neighbourhood consultations. NKF had also met with neighbouring Ham and Petersham NF and Kingston council officers about coordinating proposed cycle and walking routes between Richmond and Kingston, and another meeting was coming up. **AF** cited Liveable Neighbourhoods funding which was available for local sustainability, clean air, cycling etc. We hoped that the new Council might be more amenable to greening projects and taking more environmental concerns into account in planning issues.
* **Waste and recycling**   
  **FAQs** - after some toing and froing these were now as accurate and comprehensive as possible (dealing with KEF questions as well as the kinds of question we hear from the wider public) and so all KEF members were requested to make links to it at <https://e-voice.org.uk/kef/faqs/> and publicise it. **MM** would update it as and when needed.  
    
  For a while MM had been exchanging emails with Martin Bates, a member of the public, and Kingston’s waste dept about lack of **pedestrian and cycle access to the Villiers Road** site, a conversation now involving KCC and a couple of councillors - apparently Martin is not the only one to have complained. The waste dept has done a survey - the main problem is apparently safety - and is due to report back.
* **Other, incl. attendance at other meetings** not already reported: **EN** had attended a meeting about the new organisational set-up with Kingston Volunteering, KVA and Groundwork - Groundwork from their Southwark base encouraging more volunteers to manage other volunteers and voluntary projects); Public Health (Environment Trust attend these meetings and could perhaps keep KEF informed?) …   
    
  See also **Note[[4]](#endnote-4) about KSP meeting** (previously circulated)   
    
  [Updated Action Plan Sheet from **Thames2 Downs Project** meeting on 18 June forwarded separately FYI.]

**4.** **Future planning**, priorities etc...

**KEF: All member-groups -** please use your newsletters (and Kingston Environment News) and networks to share info and activities - and please consider **chairing KEF** if Kingston-based - the chair is supposed to rotate much more frequently than it has recently, and your organisation may get more out of, e g, attendance at KSP or Voluntary Sector meetings than MM/TTK does. Also please consider volunteering to attend some of these external meetings on behalf of KEF as well as your own organisation, and sharing relevant info with KEF via the group email list.

**Green Zone, Carnival 2018, Sunday 2nd September** - **ALL member groups** were urged to participate and to register their interest with Kingston Race & Equalities Council (KREC) via [carnival2018@kingstonrec.org](mailto:carnival2018@kingstonrec.org). KREC is keen to have a GZ and a green USP, and is likely to make concessionary rates available to small community groups without spare funds. All the info we have had so far at planning meetings has been circulated already and is reiterated in endnote[[5]](#endnote-5) - please read and come to future GZ planning meetings if you can. **EN** pointed out an unfortunate clash with Thames Tide Festival, which some green groups incl. ET were committed to.  
 **Car-Free Day 2018, 22 September** - used to be an annual event in Kingston and was raised as a possibility at the recent TTK AGM. **JL** had communicated with KCC and RBK Go Cycle team and commented that the initiative used to come from the Council and would have to again in order to close streets, whether local residential or town centre. **MM** commented that closing central Kingston streets for the annual cycle event and Carnival made for a very pleasant day - but didn’t know how local businesses felt about it these days (**MM** would try to find out more, perhaps via Kingstonfirst?)

**5**. **Upcoming meetings:**   
**Kingston Strategic Partnership meeting, 12/7 -** agenda so far received is largely a review of KSP Ts&Cs, membership and priorities, with the new chair, Leader of the Council Liz Green. **MM** would raise as many KEF priorities as possible, including: Heathrow expansion (on which RBK had been fairly muted up to now); action on AQ - 20mph, cycling, etc; biodiversity - leaving grass verges long, educating the public, improving water quality in rivers + need for an up-to-date Kingston Biodiversity Action Plan which includes light pollution and species surveys; plastic waste - in council and schools, local ban on plastic straws (like Newcastle and Bournemouth?)

**RBK committee meeting on comms**, evening of 19/6 - **MM** would attend and report back[[6]](#endnote-6) if anything relevant.

**6. AOB: Other events of interest -**

**Kingston Green Drinks** is being revived by TTK, at Woody’s riverside bar, central Kingston, starting at 7.00pm on Tuesday 26/6, and then every final Tuesday of the month. See <http://ttkingston.org/wordpress/upcoming-events/>

**Kingston Biodiversity Network** meeting coming up on 18/7 (see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/529736513729812/>)

**London National Park City Week** **events 21 - 29 July** <http://www.nationalparkcity.london/> **,**

**Love Parks week, 13 – 22 July​,** <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/love-parks-week>

**7. Next KEF meeting** (Sept/Oct, depending on KSP schedule) - with proposed focus on engaging with and influencing new Council - other suggestions nearer the time welcome. (There was some discussion about time of meetings - we meet in working hours because we used to have a regular Council officer present and we still do meet with officers occasionally - but if evenings would suit a majority better, please let MM know.)

**NOTES**

1. **John Lewis Community Hub:** If other groups want to book it, it’s open during JL is opening hours, and booking is via email to Lene Wood, Community Liaison Kingston JL [clc.kingston@johnlewis.co.uk](mailto:clc.kingston@johnlewis.co.uk) (working days Monday and Tuesday).   
     
   There is also a **new community room available at the Guildhall** which we could try to book next time. See <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/news/article/746/kingston_council_launches_free_community_meeting_room_in_the_heart_of_the_town_centre> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. **Make Air Safe & Clean (MASC) meeting,  Kew, 13/6/18, selective report from MM**

   These are well attended and informative meetings, mostly with reps from other SW London groups. There was some discussion about setting up local subgroups because it is a bit Richmond-focused with most reps from LBRUT, but I and others thought it useful to hear what our neighbours are doing on AQ, so MASC will continue as it is.

   **Ultra-Low Emission Zone** - Richmond and Wandsworth will be cut in half by the S Circular boundary to the extended ULEZ, and there is much concern about the effects on roads (and boroughs such as Kingston) just outside the ULEZ - will more dirty traffic be diverted in our direction (NB, we are already part of the London-wide Low Emissions Zone for HGVs)? Boroughs can create their own Clean Air Zones, and though they are expensive to set up, they do recoup the costs quite fast - *if Richmond does this, should Kingston? Are there plans to monitor pollution levels before and after extended ULEZ starts to establish baseline data (including PMs) + changes, to enable accurate monitoring of the ULEZ impact (some potential for citizen monitoring)?*

   **Idling -** Richmond have got 120 anti-idling signs to put up and are asking for suggested sites. Kingston was going to order signs - may be announced at the AQAP launch next week? *KEF should chase.*  Ice cream vans - not something I’d ever considered! - in Richmond have to be connected to a socket to get a license. *Is this so in Kingston? Do we have a problem with idling taxis in Kingston? Could schools have a no parking, no idling zone at peak times?*

   **Heathrow expansion** and all the associated increased traffic:*will our new council take a stronger line on expansion than the previous RBK administration?*

   **Cleaner buses:**Putney High Street has reported improved AQ, tho’ not sure yet whether it is because they now have hybrid buses, as the results are patchy - but it looks promising.

   **Clean Air Day, 21st June** - LBRUT is planning a lot of events, publiciity , etc. Kingston is launching its AQAP (I will be attending the event).  **Car-Free Day, Sat 22 Sept** - *what can we do?*

   **Other engagement:** ask Council aboutpossible parking levy on diesel cars (Merton are doing this) and 20mph zones; meet with KingstonFirst to discuss impacts of AQ / traffic on town centre businesses?We were invited to sign up to other umbrella groups such as **Stop Killing Londoners** (which started as high profile disruptive activists but seems to be changing its tactics and would welcome wider support). *Suggest everyone interested signs up to this and others such as LSX, Mums for Lungs…*

   **DEFRA consultaton on national clean air strategy:** <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/clean-air-strategy-consultation/> closes in August - KEF and member-groups should respond. Kew Society witll be circulating their response as a model to borrow from. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. See [https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/pollution-and-air-quality/how-were-cleaning londons-air](https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/pollution-and-air-quality/how-were-cleaning%20londons-air) <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. **Update on KSP (**previously circulated by MM, April 2018)

   **Kingston Strategic Partnership meeting** yesterday afternoon - a brief report of a brief meeting, with not very much on the Agenda of specific interest to environmental groups. (Maybe just before council elections is not an ideal time to be planning or deciding much!) But FYI: There was an update on organisational changes within RBK and his new role from recently appointed Director of Communities Stephen Evans. This is a new Directorate covering policy, strategy, communications, the environment, culture, public health, heritage (almost everything, really), part of the leadership team, with a focus on engagement. He hopes to have one-on-one meetings with KSP members so I may hear more in due course. There were updates from the Action Groups convened after the last KSP conference: Digital platform and data sharing; Volunteer Platform; and Enterprise Hub - a lot of reviewing and scoping and ideas though few of direct relevance to us, I think. What was interesting were the overlaps between the reports: on the need for affordable work spaces for new and small enterprises from the Enterprise AG, and the case study being considered by the Data-sharing AG on sharing info on vacant properties - so it was a good example of one of the benefits of the KSP, in that if it were not for the KSP they probably wouldn’t know what the other AGs were discussing. In this context, and with the added excuse of a reference to the new commissioning process from the Volunteer AG, I put in a good word for the Environment Centre, stressing that it was the only premises that environment groups had in the borough and we would be sad to lose it as, having failed to be commissioned to manage Kingston’s green infrastructure, KEC would have little or no funding to continue, though were actively seeking other sources. Robin Hutchinson added that it would be a pity if a lot of commissioning money went outside the borough. There were some expressions of sympathy, but I wouldn’t bet on much action! The next KSP meeting is set for the afternoon of 12th July, so KEF should probably try to get together before then, maybe at the beginning of July - I will Doodle. There may be a different Council line-up by then, so it could be interesting. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. **Kingston Carnival 2018 (Sunday 2nd September) Green Zone 2018 meetings**

   **April 2018**There have been 2 **Green Zone planning meetings**, thanks to Jean at KEC, one very small in March, and then a better attended one at KEC on April 13th, with John Azah from KREC which organises the Carnival present to answer questions and give us the bigger picture of the Carnival infrastructure. So we now have a steering group (GZSG) with some outline plans and ideas. Nothing much is fixed yet, but John and will be talking to Kingstonfirst and All Saints very soon, taking into account our asks.

   The good news is that because we are planning relatively early, Green Zone (GZ) will feature in Carnival publicity and be on the Carnival map. It looks as though GZ can have 3 of the 4 church lawns, one facing John Lewis next to the bouncy castle and two facing Market Place, and we made a strong case for using the gate/pavement facing the Market Place for a couple of tables and publicity (maybe Green Zone banners? Green footprints?…) attracting and funnelling people into the GZ.

   There will be a formal registration process via KREC (we’ll keep you posted about that), with one price for commercial stalls (and it’s conceivable that there could be a few commercial stalls in the GZ, e g a veggie/organic food stall) and a much lower, possibly nominal, price for bona fide green community groups (probably ones known to KEF, KEC or TTK).

   As in 2016, tables are likely to be available from All Saints during a brief early morning set-up time between church services, and take-down will probably be around 5.00pm, before church evening service, but you will have to provide or hire everything else you need, e g gazebos. Town centre roads will be closed for much of the day, so bear this in mind when planning and preparing. General advice, particularly for newbies, is to include some activity to attract people to your table - a quiz, a petition to sign, a game, giveaways, a raffle, something for children… - as well as your usual info and advice, and to arrange a rota so that helpers can take breaks and enjoy the rest of the Carnival, as it is quite a long day and there will be lots of other attractions around the town centre. Music, which is good to have in the GZ as it does attract people, is likely to be quieter and more carefully positioned than in 2016! It would help with the next GZ planning meeting (7.00pm on Tues 8th May at KEC if you want to join us) if we could have indications of interest - you can let me know by replying to this email, and I will pass it on to the GZSG. Would your group like a table? Would you like to be near the music or the bouncy castle, or somewhere quieter? Or could you be at the gateway to draw crowds into the GZ? Any other special requirements? Nothing is guaranteed at this stage but feedback and interest from your group will help the GZSG to plan the space and pass on our requirements to KREC.

   **GZ planning meeting, 30/5/18, 7.30 @ Woody’s**

   **Present:** Des, Hilary, Marilyn, Nic, Mo **(**from TTK); Prahba Shetty (from KREC), **Apologies:** Jean

   Some issues clarified/confirmed by Prahba (earlier emails from KREC below, FYI):

   * **The space** we can use is the 2 lawns facing the Market Place + the lawn facing John Lewis on the left when facing the church. Probably the most we could put out by the church gates is a table and/or a free-standing banner. \*
   * **Timing** of access to church table store for set-up and take-down has to work around church services.\*
   * **The cost** per table is negotiable but we made it clear that most of the community groups we know would baulk at 75 pounds and we could end up with very few participants. Applications go direct to KREC, first come, first served. All commercial stalls to pay the full trade rate.\*
   * The church does not want **food stalls** on the lawns, and KingstonFirst has strict regulations for food vendors about H&S, clearing up etc. There could perhaps be some suitable (veggie, no-plastic…?) food stalls on the path between the church and the shops. \*

   +

   * Des will continue to investigate **ramp(s)** to make the lawns accessible
   * Prahba gave us a poster about **Carnival clubs** to display, share, publicise - attached - and we would have paper copies at TTK AGM.
   * **Green Police** - we discussed the vast amount of plastic and other waste generated by the Carnival, and suggested that at least some could be collected by Green Police, who could also participate in the parade in their uniform (Des to progress)

   **Date and venue for next GZ meeting** tb decided - Woody’s proved too noisy and so the meeting was quite brief. Maybe back at KEC? Still to discuss – GZ visibility (green footprints?), banner/flag, arranging the space(s), getting green groups to participate…

   **\* Email from Jo Ahmed, KREC, 9/5**With regard to the registration process for stalls, that all goes through me. I send out applications from the [carnival2018@kingstonrec.org](mailto:carnival2018@kingstonrec.org) account, so please inform people to contact me directly. Additionally, I am logging all applicants so that I can ensure that, organisationally, I will be able to monitor and map them all for the day (inc. checking insurance etc.)

   With regard to community groups, they will still apply but, if successful in their application, they will be charged £75 instead of the £150 charged to other traders. But again, please just direct them my way.

   With regard to the types of stalls in Green Zone, this is at All Saints’ discretion but we will not have any food stalls on their grounds. This is due to numerous issues including gas canisters and power supply etc.

   With regard to the front of All Saints, the public footpath actually counts as ‘Highways’ so we cannot have anything on the public footpaths running through the church . Having spoken to a Highways representative today, he suggested that a standing banner or something similar would be fine but we will have to ensure that the footpaths are not obstructed in any way.

   As far as I’m aware, it was not agreed that we could use the front space. There is an exhibition in the church on the day and we must consider that the church is still in active use during the day with the congregation arriving for different services, and choirs for rehearsals. However, I will check with regard to the front space and get back to you.

   **\* Email from Jo Ahmed, KREC, 18/4**I’m emailing you with regards to the Carnival space that you will be utilising at All Saints Church on Sunday 2nd September this year. Reverend Jonathan Wilkes and his PA Kat have kindly gifted us the space for the day but there are certain guidelines we must follow to ensure we do not disrupt them or their congregation on the day as the Church will still be an active space with services and rehearsals taking place. Please carefully read the following information agreed between Rev. Wilkes, Kat, John Azah and myself with regards to the All Saints Church Space  on the day of Carnival:

   * Areas agreed for Carnival are the left hand side of the grass (if your back were turned to John Lewis) including the paved area on this side and the area towards the back of the Church
   * We will have access to electricity but will need keys to access the plug. We will be able to ask for keys for access only in the allotted time between 8.30-9.15am. All wires must be covered with bridges.
   * The Church are supplying us with tables but they must be collected only between 8.30-9.15am and returned between 7-7.15pm after the Church service has been completed
   * There are two morning services, a morning choir rehearsal and a 6pm service at the Church, so all noise and activity must take place between 12 and 5pm. We must make sure we are packed up by 5pm to ensure we do not disrupt the scheduled evening Church service.

   [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. **A very selective report on** **Council's Community Engagement Committee, 7.30, 19th June (MM):** “The main item on the agenda … a discussion paper relating to the way in which the Council communicates and engages with its communities and stakeholders.” Despite (or maybe because of) the long agenda and discussion paper, the meeting was all over the place, feeling its way as a new committee, with the chair, Cllr John Tolley very aware that a committee on community engagement should listen to the community, however irrelevant to comms their remarks and questions might be (e g on the need for improved retail and office space and various pleas for support for community projects). Probably the most useful questions to us were: one on the impenetrability of planning application documentation, where there are often scores of documents, very poorly, if at all, labelled to sift through, making informed response very difficult; also a suggestion about using empty shops as “Urban Rooms” (Sheffield has one) where the community could gather to discuss. Members were receptive to almost all suggestions. Also apparently there is a consultation going on or imminent on 20 mph zone(s), and a poll circulating (within the council?) testing air pollution knowledge, which uses KEF’s killer fact, that people inside cars breathe more pollution that those on bikes or walking (most of those present at this meeting - not me of course! - got the answer wrong and so learnt something). [↑](#endnote-ref-6)