

**Kingston Environment Forum**

**3rd February 2015, 12-2pm**

**Minutes**

**Chair:** Marilyn Mason (MM)

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| **Also present**: Jo Butcher (JB), Hilary Gander (HG), Martin Birley (MB), John Legate (JL), Carlos Queremel (CQ), Clive Messenger (CM), John Anderson (JA) | **Actions** |
| **Apologies** received from: John Fellowes, (JF), Peter Watson (PW), Sharon Hartley (SH), Sam Armitage (SA), Chris Cockel (CC) |  |
| * **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:**   Chair and Vice Chair:  For a number of reasons JB is no longer able to chair KEF. Marilyn is happy to continue in a co-chair role and proposed that instead of two co-chairs it would be more efficient for KEF to go back to its previous arrangement to have a Chair and Vice Chair. The group agreed that Marilyn should Chair. Expressions of interest to take on the Vice Chair role were invited but none given, invitation stands. JL offered to attend meetings when MM could not.  JB agreed that she and her colleague Rachel at Young Place Shapers (Save the World Club) would be KEF’s representative on the various RBK voluntary and community sector groups. They will keep the group informed as appropriate and attend meetings when they can - subject to capacity as they are a small team.  Note taking will be shared across the membership. JB volunteered to take notes for this meeting. Volunteers for a note taker for the next meeting in May are invited.  MB mentioned that the Quaker meeting room may be available for future meetings.  **Solar PVs and schools**  HG and CM had a useful information sharing meeting with Shadia last year re: solar PVs and schools.  SWLEN would like to work in Kingston but it is difficult to get into schools. They have volunteered to analyse SMART meter data in Richmond in order to engage with schools and could offer the same in Kingston but not sure whether Kingston Council hold similar data centrally.  CM to follow up with Shadia  **Stakeholder engagement**  KEF would like to engage another University representative  JA to approach his biodiversity contact.  Councillor Cunningham – Repeated attempts have been made by JB and MM to engage Cllr Cunningham. The group will continue to send information and keep him informed and keep the standing invitation to attend a future meeting.  Leaflet – it was agreed that it would be useful for KEF to have a leaflet  summarising its work. JB produced an initial draft last year which she will  update and circulate again and will be discussed at the next meeting.  Members were asked to read it in time for the next meeting.  HG invited Andrew to a meeting and will remain a potential future contact.  JB to invite Associate Director of Public Health, Russell Styles to the next meeting.  **Communications**  Members were invited to provide updates on their work and to update KEF’s  website. Please contact MM if you require membership of KEF’s website so  you can update.  It was suggested that KEF could be a portal for enquiries/complaints about environmental problems in the borough and also for referring people to relevant ‘experts’. CQ suggested it may be possible to capture information.  CQ agreed to explore RBK communications plans and possibilities for including information on environmental issues in mailings, magazines etc .  **Updates**  Energy – TTK are hosting an event on Friday 6th February at 7.30pm.  Edward Davey and Duncan Law will be attending/speaking and there will be  stalls for people to display information about their organisation.  Kingston energy group – MB and HG are members. They have recently been given funds by the council to purchase an infrared camera which can assess energy leaks in buildings. This is helpful for their free energy audits. They also link with SWLEN to enable them to follow up with a free home check as appropriate.  SWLEN – undertaking free energy visits in homes but there funding runs out in April. It was suggested they discuss the potential for a strategic grant with Shadia.  Commissioning – there are wider plans re: commissioning which will be important for the voluntary sector to be aware of. KVA are running a second commissioning workshop in February. JB to circulate details.  JB mentioned it is currently Cold Homes Week which is highlighting the needs of people living in cold homes and fuel poverty. [www.energybillrevolution.org](http://www.energybillrevolution.org/)  Earth Hour will also be happening on 28th March 2015.  It was suggested that KEF seek to engage ‘Friends of…’ groups which tend to focus on green/open spaces. There are groups established in Richmond. SWLEN have further details on their website.  <http://www.swlen.org.uk/help-for-a-group/set-up-a-group/friends-of-groups/>  JA updated on Kingston Biodiversity Network which is going well. Alongside KBN is a steering group which has been concentrating on developing habitat action plans.  KEC are providing training on ancient hedgerows.  Kingston Bee Keepers Association can help people set up hives. JL to share information.  **Cycling**  Consultation on current proposals for mini-holland on Portsmouth road ends  18th February. JL provided an update. KEF members are concerned that the  current proposals will not support the aims of the scheme to encourage  people to get cycling. MM to pull together a KEF response and circulate for  comment.  Kingston Cycling Campaign are continuing to monitor and respond although  have expressed concerned about the consultation process.  **Developments in RBK**  Kingston Futures has published an update on its vision/aims which seems  focussed on economic growth. KEF members will continue to advocate for  environmental issues within this and wider developments.  Waste and recycling: The arrangements for Kingston are changing with dry recyclables collected once a fortnight rather than every week. Food will be collected every week. The Council has earmarked £100,000 for communications to education residents about the changes. KEF is keen to ensure that the new system is monitored to assess impacts on waste generation/recycling etc. MM to draft a note and circulate to members for comment.  **AOB**  Exhibitions and feedback on growth and development in Kingston and All in One Survey planned – range of dates proposed. See link for further details.  <http://kingston.gov.uk/info/200346/all_in_one_-_borough_survey/1124/all_in_one_feedback>  **Dates future meetings**  It would be useful to align future KEF meetings with Kingston Strategic Partner meetings which MM attends.  The next meeting will be held on Monday 18th May  10-12 The Place to Eat, John Lewis | **ALL**  **JL**  **JB**  **All**  **MB**  **CM**  **JA**  **MM**  **JB/ALL**  **HG**  **JB**  **All**  **CQ**  **CM**  **JB**  **JL**  **MM**  **JL**  **MM/ALL**  **MM** |