

**Kingston Environment Forum meeting**

**Monday 9th November, 1.00-2.45pm, in Main Guildhall**

**Minutes**

1. **MM welcomed those present**: Andree Frieze (Kingston and Richmond Greenpeace) Alison Fure (Ecologist), John Legate (TTK. KCC, Kingston Beekeepers), Marilyn Mason (TTK, Chair), Carlos Quemerel (RBK comms).   
   John Fellowes had stood down as he was frequently away  
   **Apologies for absence** had been received from Hilary Gander (Councillor, KCC, TTK) Rachel Monaghan (Young Placeshapers) and Peter Watson (St Paul’s church)  
   Cllr Andrea Craig would try to get to this meeting, no response from Cllr Terry Paton.
2. MM & AF took notes.
3. **Presentation on Kingston Plan and developments in Kingston from Viv Evans, RBK Head of Planning** provided some useful background on targets for housing in the borough set by GLA (26,000 new homes by 2050!), interest from developers, development opportunities from Crossrail 2 – all putting pressure on brown- and white- field sites, as well as on Green Belt. (Crossrail 2 would mostly use existing tracks but would entail longer trains and bigger stations.)  
   **National Policy Planning Framework** standards for environmental sustainability, low carbon homes etc were being loosened up and requirements for sustainability reduced. London Plan requirements were currently being revised, would take NPPF into account, likely to be ready by 2020), + Kingston Plan was also being revised and would have to comply with London Plan. See attached pdf *Update on Environmental Sustainability Standards*, from Viv Evans. Kingston could ask for higher environmental standards from developers, who were sometimes committed to these anyway, and KEF could press for this. Viv suggested that we keep in touch with him and Eric Owens in Planning Dept, so that we were stakeholders in planning applications and Kingston Plan and could help to shape policy, that we (the wider KEF membership) engaged borough-wide in planning consultations, Neighbourhood meetings, meetings about Kingston’s “opportunity areas” e g Tolworth, and that we should contribute to new Kingston Plan…  
   AF pointed out that there was a lot of hard landscaping in the plans for **Portsmouth Road section of mini-Holland** [now called “go cycle” (sic) – see <http://www.kingston.gov.uk/downloads/200355/go_cycle>] and wondered why, and whether anyone at RBK was promoting better softer landscaping, such as green “separation strips” (see also item #4 below). We were advised to contact Tony Antonio, now i/c of cycling plans at RBK, and that Ben Morgan was responsible for trees and landscaping in the borough.
4. **August 2015 meeting minutes** – no one at this meeting had been to previous one so MM approved them and would upload to KEF website [done, see <http://e-voice.org.uk/kef/about/view/keg-kef-meeting-minutes/2015-meetings/KEF_minutes,_Aug2015.doc> + KEG/KEF Minutes 2013 – 2015 are all saved at <http://e-voice.org.uk/kef/about/index?folder_id=14371534>]
5. **Updates and actions/priorities on KEF/Council issues - currently:**

* **Energy:**   
  - TTK were holding a **discussion on nuclear power** on Fri 27/11 – **All** welcome **-** find out more and book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/we-need-to-talk-about-nuclear-tickets-18842106247>  
  - Because of upcoming changes to tax relief on investment in renewables and FITs, **Teddington and Ham Hydro** needed investments (or commitments to invest?) by the 26 November – see <http://www.hamhydro.org/invest/> and <http://www.hamhydro.org/information/frequently-asked-questions/#FAI> for more info if interested (minimum investment £250).  
  - CQ recommended that those of us (or in our groups) interested in energy efficiency and local generation set up a **meeting with RBK officer Shadia Rahman** for updates on Council policy and to see how to work together. **MM** would co-ordinate – please contact MM if you or anyone in your organisation would like to be involved in that. **(All)**
* **Growth and development**   
  – **MM** would revise and recirculate **KEF draft policy** statement in light of Viv Evans’ presentation and input from AF. Closing date for further comment/revision would have to be 18/11, so that MM had an approved set of principles to take to KSP[[1]](#footnote-1) meeting on 19/11 (now cancelled) and to use as needed.   
  - MM and AF had **met with Eden Walk developers British Land** to discuss environmental concerns – and had found them very well informed and with good CSR policies on environmental sustainability.   
  - MM had arranged a **similar meeting with developers St George on 18/11** to discuss environmental sustainability of TOPO development [may not happen if they withdraw their application post-rejection last week?] Contact MM for details/confirmation if interested (**All**).
* **Biodiversity, green spaces, trees etc.**AF pointed out many more instances where scant attention was being paid to local biodiversity and appropriate management of green spaces, e g: loss of trees and sparrow habitat on Gasholder site in N Kingston; 60-Acre Wood in Chessington which was being sold off in parcels, incl to Chessington World of Adventures, despite a protective covenant; and also had concerns about inappropriate management under pylons at Tolworth Court Farm.  
  **AF** would send MM photos for use in meetings, and useful documents for the KEF website [now filed at <http://e-voice.org.uk/kef/about/index?folder_id=22219858>] and was advised to set up a meeting with RBK officer Marie-Claire Edwards.
* **Active travel and transport incl. cycling**  
  – **All** - please respond to the **Council’s consultation on its air quality action plan**, which has quite a lot in in it about cycling and walking, - closing date 07/01/16 [http://consult.kingston.gov.uk/portal/ew/air\_quality\_action\_plan](http://consult.kingston.gov.uk/portal/ew/air_quality_action_plan%20-%20closing%20date%2007/01/16).  
    
  **MM** had supported green separation strips in an earlier KEF response to **mini-Holland** plans [now called **go cycle** (sic) – see <http://www.kingston.gov.uk/downloads/200355/go_cycle>] and would continue to do so, and commented that it seemed inconsistent to allow what look like granite sets for the first tranche of separation strips (see <http://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200355/go_cycle/1235/portsmouth_road_-_gocycle_route>, while requiring householders to have regard to permeability when paving front gardens and developers to include sustainable urban drainage. AF also expressed concern at probable loss of biodiversity along New Malden – Raynes Park link. [For those who want more info, there is a doc on the environmental constraints on the proposals at <http://www.kingston.gov.uk/downloads/file/1484/go_cycle_environmental_constraints_review> ]
* **Waste and recycling:**   
  - TTK had put a consortium together to apply for £1m funding for Kingston from **Sainsbury’s Waste Less Save More** project. [Latest on that is that we did not make the shortlist – does anyone think the “runners-up” offer is worth taking up – see Appendix 2 - **All**]?  
  - CQ reported that the local press had got the date of the launch of the **new recycling collection system** wrong – it was not delayed and would start as planned in January.

1. No other **updates/reports from members**
2. **Future planning, priorities etc**... (incl succession planning, action sharing) not covered in this meeting
3. **Upcoming Kingston Strategic Partnership meetings**: KSP (19 November meeting - now cancelled for number of absences, 4 February 2016) & Place and Communities (?), VCS (?) ...
4. **AOB:**   
   - CQ reminded us that **Dean Tyler** (our main link with KSP) had left RBK, and was unsure about his replacement or any replacement’s remit. KEF remained on KSP circulation lists for the moment, but the future was uncertain.  
   - **CQ** was also likely to be reorganised as part of wider rationalisations and changes at the Council and unable to make future KEF meetings. MM thanked him for all his support for and interest in KEF over the years.   
   - We would continue to invite **relevant councillors** to KEF meetings, sending them Agendas and links to KEF Minutes on the website. **MM** would try to organise meeting(s) with Cllr Andrea Craig and Leader of Council Kevin Davies to discuss how Kingston could be greener etc. (particularly as KSP and Sustainable Communities Partnership meetings had been cancelled).  
   - MM reminded KEF to **please** **pass on info from KEF meetings and emails** to their groups - and vice-versa (**All**)
5. **Date of next KEF meeting:** late Jan 2016, in time for next KSP meeting [if it happens, a lot of meetings have been cancelled recently] – **MM** would create a Doodle, **CQ** could book a room at Guildhall.   
   On the agenda: ideas for Earth Hour 2016, on March 19th, other suggestions welcome.

**APPENDIX I: Note on biodiversity from Alison**

Section 41 of the **Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 - Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in Englan**d (i.e. legislation) means that the presence of a species on this list is material in the planning process.

It is filed, along with other useful documents, in a new folder on the KEF website: Sustainable Development in Kingston at <http://e-voice.org.uk/kef/about/index?folder_id=22219858>

The National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> seeks to achieve net biodiversity gain within new development. As such, consideration should be given to enhancing the ecological value of the survey site in association with any proposals. Where possible such enhancements should consider habitats/ species, which are included within the Kingston, London BAP and National BAP which usually arise out of the NERC Section 41 list such as house sparrows.

**APPENDIX 2: Waste Less Save More application reply**

Dear Marilyn,

Thank you for taking the time to apply for our Waste less, Save more town challenge. I really appreciate how much energy and effort goes into submitting an application.

The challenge has been exceptionally popular with over 150 applications submitted from towns, cities and boroughs across the UK.  The quality of applications has been very high and unfortunately your submission hasn’t been successful in making it through to the short-list of five. The short- listed towns stood out for a number of reasons including the creativity of their ideas, engagement of a wide range of community groups and demonstrating how winning could positively impact on their community.

We would, however, like to invite you to be a **2016 *Waste less, Save more* Discovery Community.** Through Waste less, Save more we are committed to testing as many ideas as possible to help people reduce their food waste and really want to share what we learn as quickly and effectively as possible. We think the WLSM Discovery Communities will be one of the key ways we can achieve this ambition.

Being part of this programme will offer your community a number of benefits including:

* The opportunity to test some of the new ideas we will be exploring next year
* Receiving invites to exclusive WLSM Discovery Community events to share ideas and best practice
* Opportunities to work with your local stores to identify more ways you can benefit from initiatives such as local food donation partnerships
* Joining a growing network of people committed to working collaboratively to cut food waste
* Being featured on our WLSM national hub online which will launch in January

These are our first ideas for how we can work together with the WLSM Discovery Communities and we'll share more details in January. In the meantime we would also love to hear any other ideas you have.

Please reply to this e-mail to let me know whether you would like to be part of this programme.

Thanks again for your application and good luck in continuing all the brilliant work you're already doing to support your communities to waste less food.

If you have any further questions please do give me a call,

Deborah Clark and Rowena Torincsi

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1. For a bit of info about Kingston Strategic Partnership see <https://moderngov.kingston.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=437> – they still have our name wrong! [↑](#footnote-ref-1)