**KEF meeting, Tues 3/1/17**

**John Lewis Place to Eat**

**Present:** Jean, Marilyn, Clive, John L

**Apologies:** John A, Tariq (via Doodle poll)

**NOTES**

1. **Kingston Plan - responses to KSP conference notes sent round earlier**

What can we add?KEF comments on the notes for **MM** to send to RBK officer Grace Abel asap for addition to her notes and/or the next KSP agenda:

* The Kingston Plan needs to have SMART targets and be more specific to Kingston (as the broad objectives/desired outcomes stand, they could apply to anywhere).
* What “teeth” does a Kingston Plan have? Is it just aspirational/advisory? Is it mandatory on developers?
* There is no point in discussing projects already under way, e g cycle infrastructure, for which RBK has been awarded funding and which is now just(!) a question of implementation. A new Plan should build on what already exists, and be adaptable to future needs.
* Difficult to see why some issues (e g education) feature in this Plan and not others (eg, waste and recycling) - is it just about future development/built environment in Kingston or more than that?
* In order to coordinate Council action on environmental sustainability and climate change, and how growth will affect these, we request that the Council has at the very least an interested Councillor and Council officer, or better still a Council committee, to provide an overview of and direction on all the interlinked local environmental issues: sustainable transport; green spaces, trees, biodiversity; flooding and water quality; waste and recycling; air quality; energy efficiency and sustainable buildings… At the moment responsibility forthese issues is divided between many different RBK departments, committees and councillors, with, as far as we can see, only KEF making real connections between them.
* Ideally, Council structures would reflect the priorities and objectives of the Kingston Plan.
* Many environmental issues overlap with some public health concerns, e g air pollution, need for healthy exercise - we need to build on that somehow.

**Implementation / delivery:**   
We need to clarify that most KEF members, as smallish voluntary organisations, lack funds and capacity to deliver RBK desired outcomes. We can contribute towards delivery by advising, assisting with drafting policy and action plans, supporting and publicising environmentally friendly initiatives, and via specific projects given sufficient funding and volunteers. E g:

* **Kingston Cycling Campaign** would offer whatever support it could to the Go Cycle project
* **Kingston Biodiversity Network** would advise and support on green spaces, water quality and biodiversity, has worked with the Council to produce relevant Action Plans, and undertakes practical conservation projects.
* **SW London Environment Network** and **Transition Town Kingston Energy Group** would advise and support RBK on energy efficiency measures, and can disseminate energy advice via workshops and home visits.
* **Kingston Environment Forum working groups** can offer advice and support on, e g, air quality and flood risk; we have some expertise, and sufficient interest in this kind of issue to do the necessary research.
* **Transition Town Kingston** & **Kingston Environment Centre** can publicise local green news, initiatives and consultations via their monthly joint e-newsletter. Both organisations are also involved in practical projects such as community gardens.

1. **AOB:**

**Next KEF meeting** to precede KSP meeting on 29/3, i e, in last fortnight of March (**MM** to Doodle) - on the **Agenda:** what to feed into the next KSP meeting; next project for KEF?; KEF deputies/co-Chair/leads on KVA, public health issues to take turns at attending meetings (see Appendix 6 for future KSP meeting dates); looking ahead, would we want to participate in Kingston Carnival again?... **All** to contribute other items for discussion.

**APPENDICES**

**Reports etc (with some actions** - you’ve had most of these before so this is just so they are all in the same place for reference and action as needed)

1. **EA River Thames Flood Scheme Seminar, 21/11/16 (JL)**

“I did attend this last week on behalf of KEF. An interesting day but no immediate interest to us as it's a very long term project & they have not got a significant proportion of the funding in place yet. They did say they will send some "notes" through in due course. I'll comment more when I get them.”   
**Action: JL** to update

1. **Meeting with John Anderson of Environment Trust, Nov (MM)** - informal meeting

to discuss local issues of mutual interest, the difficulties of influencing local councils and lack of capacity as we are mostly volunteers.

1. **KVA AGM 1/12/16 (AF)**

“I went to this yesterday. TBH there wasn't really much of relevance for us. However, two things I picked up are:

1 KVA is organising training courses for the Voluntary Sector in association with Richmond Adult and Community College and Kingston Adult Education at Hillcroft College in Surbiton. They have produced a questionnaire to ascertain charities' needs - see attached.

2 KVA is offering free tech development for Community Organisations via Superhighways. They have a Challenge Development Day on 9th Dec if anyone wants to go along and find out more. Basically, Kingston computer students can help charities develop an app, website, tech project to help you do your work for 3 months - see attached (ignore my scribbles!).”

**Action:** **All interested** in KVA to subscribe to KVA monthly newsletter to take advantage of these and other opps.

1. **12/12/16 Response from RBK’s waste department**

From: Deborah Flintoff [<mailto:deborah.flintoff@kingston.gov.uk>]   
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 4:51 PM  
To: [marilyn.mason142@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.mason142@gmail.com); Vivian Onyes <[vivian.onyes@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:vivian.onyes@kingston.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Re: Thank you to Kingston Council Waste department

Dear Marilyn

Vivian passed on your email to me for a response - I'm sorry not to have got back sooner.

Thanks very much about your message about the restart party, I have fed back. This was provided for by Resource London, with events offered in all London Boroughs and so not something we would normally be able to do without that extra support, although it was great to be able to provide it.

The amount of food waste collected for composting continues to decrease at a rate of about 1.5% each year. Without knowing how much food waste is in the landfill bins, it is impossible to know if this is a positive or a negative. There has been a lot of attention nationally to reducing food waste as you will be aware for example deals with supermarkets to reduce wasteful offers like buy one get one free and TV coverage such as BBC's "War on Waste". We'd like to hope that has had a positive effect on behaviour but we don't really know for sure. We have also seen a year to date reduction in waste sent to landfill (or energy recovery) which is positive although again it is difficult to pinpoint one reason to explain this.

We undertook a trail of food waste containers with different locking mechanisms last year and have found a new product that we think will be more resistant to animal ingress. We still have a stock of the current containers and then we will order these in to replace on request.

We have a number of activities planned for the new year targeted at reducing waste to landfill and increasing recycling. These include changing over the containers at all flats in the borough, which should ensure that those properties that don't currently have the full range of bins can recycle all materials. We also received some external funding to promote recycling for residents in flats which will support this (with doorstep visits to all flats and option to participate in a "recycling rewards" scheme). We will also be reviewing the waste collection provision at properties that are producing a lot of landfill waste to encourage more recycling.

At Residents' Committee in June, RBK agreed to developing a Zero Waste Strategy. The first steps of this include some of the activities mentioned above but this still needs to be further developed. That is perhaps one area where we could get input from KEF? This needs to largely focus on reducing waste to landfill or energy recovery, for the obvious environmental and financial benefits.

Kind regards, Deborah Flintoff, Service Manager - Waste  
**Further action: MM** has offered KEF help with developing a Zero Waste Strategy - waits to hear more

1. **15/12/16, RBK Kingston Plan meeting (MM)**

“I attended the “Kingston Plan” meeting at the Guildhall yesterday afternoon, largely a post-it note exercise commenting on RBK’s proposed outcomes, which are pretty much as before and pretty much motherhood and apple pie (health and wellbeing, resilience, social inclusion, good education and jobs, affordable housing…). I just took the opportunity wherever relevant, or even half-relevant, to post comments stressing the importance of environmental sustainability, green infrastructure, clean air, natural capital, cycling (someone had put up a post-it note wanting fewer cycle paths so I put one up wanting more!), etc. I wouldn’t want to be the person trying to sort out all these comments and I suspect that many will be edited out – but I did my best!”

**Action: MM and KEF members** commented on notes circulated, 3/1/17 - for MM to pass on to RBK officer i/c of KSP, Grace Abel, and/or at next KSP meeting

1. **Kingston Strategic Partnership meetings in 2017:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Time** | **Venue** |
| February 6 2017 | 10:00am - 12noon | Penny School Gallery, School Of Art & Design (Creative Industries Building), 55 Richmond Rd, Kingston upon Thames, KT2 5BP |
| March 29 2017 | 13:00-15:00 | Kingston Voluntary Action, 50 Canbury Park Rd, Kingston upon Thames KT2 6LX |
| June 7 2017 | 13:00-15:00 | Kingston University, Penrhyn Road campus in the John Galsworthy building – room 2005 |
| September 7 2017 | 10am-12noon | TBC |
| November 8 2017 | 13:00-15:00 | TBC |

**Further action:** **MM** can attend the next 2 meetings, though if someone else (**All, JL? JV?**) would like to represent KEF, they would be welcome to attend the March meetings or ones after that. There are certainly groups in KEF that could benefit from getting to know councillors, council officers, how RBK works, more direct input to RBK policies, the networking opps… and it would be sensible to share these opportunities.