

**Kingston Environment Forum meeting**

**AGENDA**

**Date & time:** Tues 21 March, 2.30pm

**Venue**: John Lewis Place to Eat (quiet end if possible)

*Unfortunately there were no notes from this meeting as they were not written up by the person who volunteered to do so.*

**1. Welcome and apologies** - Welcome to new member Kim Bailey (TTK) who has offered to represent KEF to the Council’s Health and Wellbeing Overview Panel (see Appendix 3).   
**Apologies** received from: Hilary Gander

**2. Review of previous meeting minutes**

**3**. **Prep for meeting with Sarah Olney MP** in April/May - what do we most want to ask her / brief her about? Who wants to be there? Where to meet?

**4. Updates and actions on KEF/Council issues** if available and current:

* Air quality (see Appendix 3) - What next?
* Energy
* Biodiversity, green spaces, trees etc.
* Active travel and transport incl. cycling - RBK Go Cycle, what next?
* Development in Kingston - environmental sustainability - is there anything in the (not yet published?) Riverside Supplementary Development Plan that we should be aware of?
* Waste and recycling: any further info on Council move towards Zero Waste? When? How?
* Other recent meetings e g Voluntary Community Sector (16/3. MM), EA on flooding (see Appendix 1), KSP (see Appendix 2) on Kingston Plan (KB)

**5. Future planning, priorities etc...**   
If invited, should KEF be involved in Kingston Carnival again or take a community stall at the Bike Ride?

Should we offer to speak at an All Saints Topical Lunch (Thursdays, 1.00pm)

**6. Upcoming meetings:** KSP sub-group on Kingston Plan 6/3/17 (Kim has offered to deputise at this meeting), VCS/KVA (june 1st)...

**7. AOB** - comms (website, Facebook incl MASC);Recommended website: <http://climateoutreach.org/>

**8. Date(s) and topics for next meeting(s)** - June?

**APPENDICES**

1. Full accounts of the **River Thames Strategy workshop** attended by John L in November are now filed at <http://e-voice.org.uk/kef/about/index?folder_id=28576780>. You can sign up for Info and news on the Environment Agency’s River Thames Scheme at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-thames-scheme>

2. **Kingston Strategic Partnership meeting, Mon 6th Feb 2017, 10.00am - 12.00, Kingston College (**already circulated by email) **- selective report** from MM (full minutes and presentations also circulated by email)

* Meeting was mainly about economic growth, follow-up to previous meetings on the developing Kingston Plan, and also about the South London Partnership of 5 local boroughs collaborating on: constraints on growth; a programme for growth; skills for growth; making links (transport); working together towards a regional economic plan; making the best use of our space… The brochure, “The South London Partnership Growth Proposition”, that Roy Thomson handed out doesn’t seem to be on the SLP website but you’ll get a flavour of it at <http://www.southlondonpartnership.co.uk/growth/> . Not a lot for KEF there, but -
* I managed to shoe-horn in a comment about Kingston being seen as a soft touch by developers, with neighbouring boroughs being more stringent in their environmental requirements (thank you, Alison, for your input on this), which met with demurral from Kevin Davis and Roy Thompson, but at least it was aired.
* Aims include encouraging more local employment and a more varied cultural and night-time offer, to keep residents (and their spending) in the borough - and reduce commuting and transport demands.
* Since they were discussing population, employment, inward and outward commuting, I also asked about the implications of Brexit. Answer: no one knows, there’s a lot of uncertainty out there.
* Cllr Julie Pickering invited KEF to participate in the Health and Wellbeing Panel, which scrutinises the health and wellbeing elements of other Committees, e g Children and Adults on Air Quality - and would send me relevant links and contacts. We could go to meetings (in which case we need a volunteer please) and/or participate by sending them stuff, receiving agendas and minutes. As we may be better than most at seeing the health implications of e g volunteering, green spaces, cycling… this seems like an opportunity we should take.[and Kim has volunteered.]

I have submitted other KEF comments on the Kingston Plan to the KSP and they have been added to the long document which I circulated earlier - these included your offers to participate in implementation of relevant elements, and your comments on the Plan itself.

**Future KSP meetings:**

* March 29 13:00-15:00 @ Kingston Voluntary Action, 50 Canbury Park Rd, Kingston upon Thames KT2 6LX
* June 7 13:00-15:00 @ Kingston University, Penrhyn Road campus, Room 2005
* September 7 10am-12noon  TBC
* November 8 13:00-15:00  TBC
* + presumably working parties on K Plan?

1. **Air Quality review at the Health Overview Panel, 12th January 2017**, links to the agenda paper and audio recording:  
   Click on link and scroll to item 5 and click on the link there for background paper. Minutes are still to be published <https://moderngov.kingston.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=233&MId=8011&Ver=4>  
   The audio on the agenda item starts at 19 minutes and 20 secs on the audio recording link below. <https://soundcloud.com/kingstoncouncil/12-january-2017-health-overview-panelmp3>

1. **Selective highlights from Voluntary Sector Partnership Board meeting, 16/3/17, MM**

While I have been looking away, these meetings and reports seem to have evolved into meetings for “network leaders” and a few council officers, but no longer include councillors. So I have taken to calling KEF a “network”, which fits.

As usual, much of the content of the meeting didn’t seem relevant to us, directly or indirectly, and some of the networking opps of interest to me (for example, because I am also chair of a community choir) would be of no interest to others in KEF. It underlines, for me, the value of sharing out these meetings as some of you might have found other items or organisations or events of interest. (Next one June 1st) When the full notes come, and they may well be fuller than the meeting as we have all been asked to submit reports, I will circulate them so that you can focus on other items.

**Health matters**Health and Wellbeing Board meeting coming up on 28/3, and KVA Health conference on 25/4.

Year of Self care happening in Kingston, with monthly themes - some cynicism about what exactly this means, but also some potential opps for voluntary groups to get publicity for activities involving outdoor exercise, volunteering with others…

Mental health and wellbeing strategy report - the PP presentation will be circulated with the full VSP notes - there may be some opps for KEF members’ running practical projects to take up.

**Funding and staffing**General pessimism about funding streams, and comment that RBK downsizing and collaboration/outsourcing with other boroughs was making voluntary sector’s work harder. But also a comment that RBK staff made redundant made excellent trustees, with useful skills and knowledge.

Brexit - some concern that loss of EU Social Funding will impact negatively.

**Data protection**  
There have been some (unspecified) changes to the law - if you keep data on members etc you may need to find out more and update your practice.

**Kingston Carnival**  
John Azah of KREC is very keen to continue with the Green Zone, green theme, and KEF members would be very welcome in September 2017 if the Carnival happens (depends, like everything, on funds).

KEF/TTK was never invoiced for last year’s stalls, but if your organisation had a stall (KBN? KEC? TTK. Other?) and could contribute £20, Transition Town Kingston undertook to collect it and pass on the total to KREC. It will be a pittance in the great scheme of things, but it would be nice to show willing.

**WWF Earth Day 2017 - big switch off on 25/3, 8.30 - 9.30.** I took the opp to promote this to those organisations that have premises and offices that could join in (as we could too at work or home).