**Kingston Environment Forum meeting**

**NOTES (& Actions in red)**

**Date & time: Tues Feb 13th, 2.30 - 4.05pm**

**Venue: John Lewis Place to Eat**

**1. Welcome** from MM (chairing and taking notes)

**Present:** Sam Hermitage (SH, KEC); Peter Watson (PW, Kingston Fair Trade, St Paul’s); Marilyn Mason (MM - TTK, Greener Kingston); Kim Bailey (KB - TTK); John Legate (JL - KCC, Kingston Bee-keepers); Jean Vidler (JV - KEC) Elliot Newton (EN - Environment Trust, KBN); Des Kay (DK - Save the World Club); Cllr Hilary Gander (HG - KCC, TTK); Colin Cooper (CC - SWLEN); Berny Simcox (BS - Environment Trust); John Anderson (JA - Environment Trust)

**In attendance** for part of the meeting: Deborah Flintoff, RBK waste and recycling manager

**Apologies** had been received from: Marina Pacheco (KBN); Andree Frieze (Green Party)

**2. Previous meeting notes were** approved (not many **actions** as only 3 people present!)

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

* **Kingston green infrastructure bids:** JA and BS from the Environment Trust and JV and SH from Kingston Environment Centre spoke about, and sought KEF support for, their respective bids for RBK’s Green Infrastructure commission, which has a very wide remit. KEF did not want to take sides on this, though would miss KEC if it was lost, but would definitely prefer a local group that knew the area and was well connected locally (including via KEF) and would cooperate with other local groups. Both ET and KEC would help and work with the other and with KEF if its bid was successful, and SWLEN, which had decided not to bid, is working with both ET and KEC in their respective tenders seeking to deliver work around their skill set and experience.
* would also support whichever won. **MM** was delegated to prepare brief statements of support for each group to use as required (the process for supporting was not very clear) - deadline approaching very soon! **HG** would enquire about the decision process and panel.
* **Kingston’s Environmental Management Plan -** <https://moderngov.kingston.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=8282>- **HG** reported that it had been discussed and approved, with a request for clearer targets and actions, at the Residents’ Committee meeting on 0/1. HG would find out what the next stages would be: Consultation? An Action Plan with dates and funding? Waiting for the London Plan to be approved or for results of Council election?
* **Kingston’s waste and recycling** - we had a very useful update from Council officer **Deborah Flintoff**, who answered a lot of our questions. Many of the issues and confusions arise from recycling being a market and every council or council consortium having to find its own waste handling and processing companies. Kingston recycles a lot of waste that other councils can’t, and the good news was that the total amount of local waste is going down, while the proportion of recycling is going up. **MM** would circulate DF’s replies to our questions, and work with DF on some FAQs for our websites [f you come across any other questions from the general public, however naïve, do send them to me for possible inclusion, **All**]
* **Oher regular/occasional updates** (Air quality (see Appendix 1); Flooding, water quality; Energy; Biodiversity, green spaces, trees etc; Active travel and transport incl. cycling**;** Development in Kingston - environmental sustainability) were deferred to future meetings and/or when there were developments.
* **Attendance at other meetings**: **KB** continued to go to health sector meetings but there was little relevant to KEF to report.

**4. Updates from member-groups:** activities, events, support needed:

* **SH** appealed for participants in Kingston Green Radio’s VHF broadcasts - volunteers and ideas to **SH** **(All).** Already planned was Love Kingston Day (14/2) and a discussion on air quality with Andree Frieze and Sustrans.
* KBN were planning an environment hustings at their next meeting on the evening of 18th April
* **MM** reminded **All** about Kingston Environment e-newsletter, edited by TTK and KEC, which goes to around 500 subscribers at the end of every month - this month’s deadline would be Fri 23rd Feb and everyone welcome to send news and upcoming events.
* **EH** reported that London National Park City - <http://www.nationalparkcity.london/> - now had enough support from local wards and councils, including Kingston, to move to next stage.

**5. Future planning, priorities etc...**

* **Green Zone**, **Kingston Carnival, Sunday 2nd September 2018**. **KB** was organising this and would welcome ideas and participation **(All).** Comments on 2016 event focussed on noise (some groups could cope with being near music, others couldn’t) and visibility of and footfall to the Green Zone - could Green Zone expand into the Market Place this year?
* **All were reminded to respond to current environmental consultations** - member-groups and/or individuals should respond to the following, as we could be sure that, e g, the motoring and developers’ lobbies would be responding. **MM** was delegated to respond on behalf of KEF, closely based on previous KEF responses, priorities and policies.   
  - **London Plan** (you can respond just to environmental sections)by **Friday 2 March** <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan>   
  - **Kingston Riverside SDP** consultation <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/riverside> by 18 March - like some other consultation docs this seems quite attractive but lacks real substance (targets, dates, funding etc)  
   **- Heathrow consultation** (see Appendix 1) [www.heathrowconsultation.com](http://www.heathrowconsultation.com) by 28 March - although they are not consulting on pros and cons of expansion, this is another opportunity to express opposition. There are also opportunities to go along to presentations in the area (**JL** had been to one) see website. **CC** recommended Richmond Heathrow Campaign’s info - <http://www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org/>

**6. Upcoming meetings:** **next** **Kingston Strategic Partnership meeting** had been postponed to April 21st (and could be postponed again?), so no Agenda yet, though likely, like previous meetings, to include discussion of Kingston Plan (see Appendix 2). **MM** could attend on 21st.

**7. AOB -** no time for anything else!

**8. Date of next KEF meeting** wasleft open as it depends on KSP schedule. **MM** would Doodle in due course. Suggested topic(s) welcome **(All)** or it could just be a catch-up.**APPENDICES (incl reports previously circulated)**

1. **Air Quality**

**From RBK:** “We are looking to finalise the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) on AQ pre-election 2018.The intention is this will inform a 2018 Annual Public Health Report on AQ that will be launched at an event (post-election) at Guildhall on Clean Air Day on 15th June, a keynote speaker is currently being explored too. Of course, an invitation to the launch event will be extended in due course to you and KEF colleagues.”

**Notes from recent MASC meeting** which none of us could attend forwarded separately FYI. If interested in AQ, do join the MASC Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MakeAirSafeClean>

**Heathrow consultation** (from John Legate) [www.heathrowconsultation.com](http://www.heathrowconsultation.com)

Basically it’s a series of "consultation events" run by Heathrow, during which we are asked to comment on 2 things:

“The physical changes on the ground needed to build----an expanded airport & Potential principles we could apply when designing the new airspace required for an expanded airport.” (I'm not sure what that means) Interestingly they are not discussing flight path options.

The nearest events to us are;

Twickenham, Thur 8th Feb 12-00pm to 8-00pm @ York House TW1 3AA

E. Molesey, Fri 9th Feb 12-00pm to 8-00pm @ Imber Court KT8 0BT

Richmond, Thur 15th Feb 12-00pm to 8-00pm @ Adult Community College TW9 2RE

1. **KSP meeting, December 4th 2017 (MM)**

Kim and I attended this, with the new London Plan the item on the agenda of greatest interest to us: <https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/new_london_plan_december_2017_web_version.pdf>. It is a fairly massive document with sustainability proposals at the end. We were advised to read the first part (I haven’t yet) which sets the agenda and uses health and wellbeing as a starting point. There is going to be an event in Kingston on 25th Jan to disseminate the content, with no doubt the strongest reaction from both the public and the council being to the doubling of the housing target for outer London boroughs like Kingston (some have even more than doubled). You have till 2nd March to respond to the consultation, but the implication was that most of it would remain and be the basis for local planning and development.

At first reading of the London Plan my only current reservation is on the encouragement of river travel – my experience and some comments at London AQ meetings I have attended is that pushing craft through water is not an efficient use of energy, and river boats use dirty fuel and create a lot of pollution. (If they were sailing boats, or pulled along by horses, it might be a different matter!)

Post KSP conference, some working groups on the main themes have been set up. I didn’t volunteer for any of them, but times of meetings will be shared so there will be opportunities to participate if anything seems relevant to KEF.

**Update**: several of us attended the 25th Jan event and, as predicted, there was considerable resistance to the increased housing target, and also to building on any green space.