

Transition Town Kingston core group meeting
Tues 25 October, 6.30pm, Spring Grove

NOTES (Actions in red)

Present: Marilyn (chairing, note-taking, MM); Damon (DH-D); Peter (PJM); Paul (Treasurer, PMc) Toni (TI); Hilary (HG) + Janine (Sunray Recycle). No absences or apologies.

1. **August & September core group meeting notes** were approved for publication with some minor corrections (**MM**); matters and actions arising and ongoing issues dealt with below (or postponed)
- 2 **Updates:**
 - **KE News** - **MM** was on the point of issuing the November issue so any new items should be sent to her immediately (**All**) or left to the December issue.
 - **Sunray Recycling Minds** meetings - Janine updated us on her request for TTK, as a community group with a strong interest in sustainability and waste reduction (see also Repair Café in #4), to take over organising and running these currently bi-monthly meetings, which included other groups and relevant Council officers and were intended to educate the public and influence the Council to recycle more. A visit to Southwark recycling centre was planned for 31 Oct. **HG & PMc** had offered earlier to lead on waste issues and would liaise with Janine about taking this forward, planning meetings and activities (on-line or IRL) etc.
 - **Kingston Environment Forum** - MM & DH-D reported on KEF relaunch on 29/9 and a post-meeting meeting. It looked as though KEF would survive in some form, with DH-D as interim chair, though probably very different from earlier KEFs as almost everyone there was new to KEF, didn't want continuity and there was now a Climate Action team to work with, so there would be a lot of new things to set up, e.g. comms. (FYI, MM's farewell presentation is on the KEF website at <https://e-voice.org.uk/kef/assets/documents/kef-relaunch-presentation-mm>) To think about (**All**) - should someone else from TTK attend meetings to represent other strands of TTK work, and can/should we offload some of our more general commitments to KEF? DH-D thought that KEF should not take on tasks, should be mainly for exchanges of info and working with the Council, so maybe not.
 - **Energy Group - GZ presentation** recordings - are they available yet? DH-D updated on **radiator stickers** which would help reduce temperature of boilers and energy consumption - but were not widely available yet - **DH-D** would send a summary of what needed doing next, FYI, and for *KE News*. [“An Energy Group member is trying to help householders with combi gas boilers to save up to £100 over winter without even turning down their house thermostat. If anyone would like to help test this in their own home please look at the current version of the instruction sheet and send an email to the address at the bottom of the sheet.
<https://www.earth.org.uk/img/OperationTuneup/radiator-sticker-instructions/V0.2/StickerInstructionsV0p2.pdf>
 - **Green Zone 2022 feedback** along with other comments and criticisms that had come MM's way had been conveyed to the GZ organisers, and there were no further comments, apart from the need to organise it better, make the green inputs more visible, next time, if there were a next time, and that organising it might be a task for the revived KEF.
 - **Waste matters:** TI reported that Community Brain had hosted its first clothes swap event, and now had a community fridge at the Museum of Now in Surbiton. MM commented that it would be useful to the green community and wider public if Community Brain informed *KE News* and generally publicised their green events better - **TI** would send MM some info.
- 3 **Progress reports**
 - **Repair Café:** TT and Veolia funding applications had gone in and it was agreed to start a new funding pot for this project, which was likely to grow, with the £500 from John Lewis, which would enable a small-scale launch with textile repairs (**MM**) and computer software advice (**DH-D, PMc**), popular asks

in recent market research and at other local RCs (+ electrical appliances), while we gathered more volunteers and expertise. Info gathered so far (including on items to purchase and a few costings) and in future would be saved for reference at <https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/ttk-repair-cafe-project/>. We could make links to Recycling Minds - diagnoses might find things that can't be repaired, in which case advice about how to recycle could be offered and/or RBK encouraged to provide recycling bins nearby. It was agreed to begin by joining the **Repair Café network** (<https://www.repaircafe.org/en>) which had lots of useful advice, including logos, disclaimer forms, and would publicise our RC for a one-off payment of 49 Euros (**MM**). We should also consider joining/registering with <https://therestartproject.org/> and <https://www.ifixit.com/>, which had lots of repair guides, especially on electronics, and campaigns and seemed compatible with the Repair Café network.

Venue - MM would arrange a meeting with Kingston librarian Faye Jackson as their new community room (early 2023) seemed the most suitable space, though lacking a kitchen and power points - others (**DH-D, Maya...**) were welcome to come along, and to combine if possible with a visit to Kingston Workmen's Club (<https://www.kingstonworkmens.club/hall-hire/>), which ticks all the boxes but would cost. DH-D also wanted to view STWC's new premises, though MM thought there would be no suitable space there; PMc and MM thought Kingston Hive's meanwhile space at the Cycle Hub next to Kingston Station would be too small. Other suggestions of suitable spaces would be welcomed - central and accessible, large enough for several tables/work-spaces, airy (Covid hasn't gone away), storage, with a bit of outdoor space for messy work, available on Saturdays which seems to be the optimum time for this kind of thing, lots of power points... + a kitchen would be a bonus... Guildhall community space/empty offices maybe? (**HG?**) Other points - check whether soldering would be permitted (fire regs, alarms), ask if there could be a recycling bin nearby for appliances beyond repair. CG members could try to visit Twickenham Repair Café <https://www.twickenhamrepaircafe.org/>, open on 3rd Saturday of each month 10:30 to 13:30; and/or Elmbridge Eco Hub repair café <https://elmbridgeecohub.org.uk/repair-cafe/> open on 2nd Saturday day of every month 10am -2pm as they would have other questions and observations.

KE News: MM had drafted an item about the RC project to clarify the possibilities and requirements as there seemed to be some misconceptions around.

- **Library of Things:** Leonard, RBK Waste Reduction Officer, was drafting an application for LoT funding which we will support and put our name to as a relevant community group. He and his colleague Louisa had helpfully nudged Kingston Library re a repair café space.

- **Talk(s):** we could plan some public talks (but not at the Market House - other possible venues could be Quaker meeting house, Kingston Library, Kingston Workmen's Club...), including Janine on Recycling, Rupert Read, Energy Group (for the **EG** to plan)... We should recoup costs by asking for donations at events (see #6 on funds). MM pointed out that it was difficult to make environmental talks sound attractive or relevant to a general audience (and there was little point in just talking to the already committed). DH-D suggested talks during Repair Café events - there would be a ready-made audience, but talks might not fit with chat, repair activity, sociable aims of RCs?

- **Kingston Green history** (spread sheet at <https://1drv.ms/x/s!AuMF5Ud8LGmKj0oYLuUwERqBEZwE?e=5LwgsR> - was probably not a task for KEF so we (**PMc**) would continue with this, setting up a simple time-line in whatever format seemed right, and then adding pics and links to detailed text as and when they could be collected and edited (**MM, All**).

4 TTK future-proofing/sharing responsibilities/decisions/succession planning

- MM pointed out that while chairing was useful for CG agendas, CG meetings, taking notes etc, and was a useful job-title for some other meetings and tasks (e g funding applications), she reiterated that she not want to be the sole source of information or to make decisions undemocratically, and was keen to delegate responsibilities and training opps (e g, **TT training sessions** <https://forms.gle/FPZnyeD3G2t25kK46>, postponed from Nov-Dec to 2023, and **KVA opportunities** (see Appendix in October Agenda).

- **CG comms** and working together: if CG had questions or updates or relevant info or items for agendas between meetings, they (**All**) were requested to send to all the CG so that we would all be fully informed

and share in decisions. **MM** agreed to limit the number of emails she sent the CG to post-meeting Notes and pre-meeting Agendas with Appendices collected over the previous month [+ v occasional urgent updates + a compilation of Repair Café info and updates for the CG on the TTK website at <https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/ttk-repair-cafe-project/> (with no visible links to this page as not intended for public)].

- **TTK in other meetings/ forums:** Mental health and wellbeing - MM had done her best to promote the positive impacts of access to green spaces to this group and to Kingston's Biodiversity officer, to little avail, and it was agreed that we would step down from this group, though we could continue to promote the value of accessible, joined up green spaces across Kingston; **DH-D** would represent TTK in KEF and in the Council's Green Business Group; **HG** and **MM** would maintain contact with KingstonFirst and participate in their upcoming visioning sessions; K Uni Sustainable Design dept (**MM?**) Other?

5 TTK resources:

- **TTK funds:** Neither PMc nor MM had been invoiced for the **GZ hire of the Market House**, and now that the event was over would not send any further reminders.

The **cheque(!) from John Lewis** had arrived and would be banked asap.

PMc explained that the **Open Collective accounting system** could be used in much the same way as previous expenses claims and invoices, but also provided usefully transparent accounts. We still needed to set up different account pots for different projects, including Repair café now..

We could now take **donations** via Paypal (but PP takes a percentage) and Zettle by phone - **DH-D** would send us a summary of how to use this, e.g., at events and Repair Café, and would organise purchase of necessary kit. Ways of donating should also be added to the TTK website (**MM, PMc?**)

- **TTK info boards** - we agreed that the info was outdated, of historic interest only, and that we should take good quality (text readable) photos (**PMc**) for the website history project, and then discard or archive them somewhere (but how and where?) The triple folding stand could be offered to The Kingston Hive (**MM**) as useful for posters and notices and portable when necessary.

- **Storage of TTK assets** - currently mostly in MM's garage, to be moved back to STWC when they moved into their new premises, but we should ask for secure, separate storage (even if we had to provide or construct it ourselves) in return for an annual payment of £120, to avoid the losses and untidiness we had experienced in the past.

6. AOB:

Held over from previous meetings, and deferred yet again...

- **Website page on community gardens and conservation projects**, draft now created at <https://e-voice.org.uk/ttkingston/ttk-groups-and-projects/outdoor-volunteering/outdoor-volunteering-opportuni/> - How do we get more gardens to participate – or should we give up or hand this on to a revived KEF? (**MM**)

- **Contact us emails** - website contacts go to MM; where do hello@ttingston and ttk@ttingston go?

- Should we transfer or update our **URL registration (PMc)?**

- Should we close down the **Green Directory** – with circular economy maps being created by Ioanna @ RBK and PMc as better more regularly updated alternatives? (**MM**)

- **TTK gazebo** - can we lend it to Muddy Toddlers in CCG (**MM**)? This would depend on being able to deliver and collect it by car, not currently feasible, tbd...

- **TTK 15th birthday** in (April?) 2023 if we survive that long and want to mark it in some way

7. **Date of next meetings:** Tues 29 November, 6.30pm, followed by a **Christmas meal** at the Spring Grove at 7.30pm. **DH-D** would book, **All**, including **TTK stakeholders/elders** to let him know who was coming.

December meeting cancelled as it falls on a post-Christmas bank holiday, next date after that would be Tuesday 31 Jan 2023. MM tentatively suggested that we move meetings from Tuesday as there were too many other meetings on Tues evenings, but it was considered too difficult.

GREEN DRINKS - no one joined us for GDs, and so the business of the meeting ran on into this time, though Janine had to leave at 7.30pm.