**Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting**

**Date: 28/2/23, 6.30pm**

**Venue: Spring Grove

NOTES (Actions in red)**

**Present**: Damon (DHD, Deputy, Energy Group ), Hilary (HG), Toni (TI, Abundance), Marilyn (MM, Chair, note-taking); Peter (PJM, Energy Group), Paul (PMc, Treasurer) - with **no CG absences or apologies**.

1. **January meeting’s notes were** confirmed and approved to publish **(MM).**
2. **Matters & actions arising** not covered elsewhere: MM had uploaded all meeting notes since January 2022 as pdfs to the website. This was considered sufficient for any enquiry (and earlier Notes/Minutes were hard to come by anyway as most of us weren’t at 2020-1 meetings).
3. **Updates, TTK events/projects:
- Energy Group** (PJM, DH-D): members had been out and about speaking about energy efficiency etc, and had more invitations lined up. Thanks to Marcus Oxley’s draft, they had responded to the Kingston Plan consultation (as had several of us as individual residents). DHD had published a report on the EG visit to Reading Hydro at <https://www.earth.org.uk/Reading-Hydro-TTK-visit.html> (just in time for the newsletter), and the EG were working on a response to the current Thames Water consultation.
- **Canbury Community Garden** (MM): Canbury Community Chicken Collective were on the point of ordering a nice new hygienic plastic coop and maybe extending the chicken run in view of their long bird flu incarceration; this would use up all the funds allocated for this (CCCC was self-funding for regular expenses). CCG has small amounts of petty cash donations to spend on seeds etc, but no spare funds, and could do with more volunteers - MM had been more proactive about publicising locally.
**- KE News** (MM): March issue went out immediately after the meeting. [NB deadline is usually about a week before the end of the month and determined by events happening v early in the following month.] Thanks to All for items, including updates on history and mapping projects, which would no longer be TTK responsibilities or regulars in KE News.
**- Repair Café** (Project group): notes from now monthly RCK project group meetings had been circulated and saved on TTK website in the usual place - <https://www.ttkingston.org/ttk-repair-cafe-project/> - for those interested. First ever Repair Cafe Kingston had gone very well, news items at <https://www.ttkingston.org/news/an-excellent-start-for-repair/> and <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/news/article/370/a-broken-toaster-calculator-and-teddy-bear-take-a-trip-to-the-library> and in <https://www.saraholney.com/post/richmond-park-news-24-february-2023>.
It was agreed to transfer £500 to the RCK kitty **(PMc)** as a loan for upcoming big-ticket purchases (a PAT, a Zettle card reader...) for which many thanks, while the project group investigated and applied elsewhere for funds to repay this loan and do more. MM had met Kevin Taylor at STWC, Council Officer responsible for helping community groups access funding, and he seemed positive about RVK and potentially helpful. More generally, it looked as though donations on the day would cover RC running costs. The project group had some funding leads to follow up, and **MM** would be attending an on-line Surrey RC network meeting later that week where she could ask about likely funding sources, whether other RCs operated under umbrellas like TTK or as independent entities and, if so, what kind of entity (a CIC of some kind? Did that make funding applications more likely to succeed?). See also #5 about TTK funds.

- **Recycling Minds** meeting (HG): had had a well-attended and wide-ranging meeting that week at Genuine Solutions. **HG** would circulate notes and a the Zero Waste map and recycling form [<http://southlondonpartnership.co.uk/place/slp-zero-waste-map/>, a: map showing businesses, facilities and workshops within the sub-region that encourage the circular economy by eradicating waste packaging, encouraging reuse, upcycling and repair or offering facilities to recycle goods and materials once they have reached end of life. The form at the bottom of the page means anyone can add sustainable businesses.] More activity planned for March, e g, a relaunch of the Mayor’s Mobile Mop-up..

Since PMc and HG belong to this group and HG will probably be chairing it for a while, they accepted that it made sense to be under TTK's umbrella. Its aim to build a coalition to promote waste reduction is complementary to our existing special interest groups about food growing / food waste saving and energy generation / reduction. **HG** would update the TTK Waste page accordingly.
**- Kingston Green History** website/web page/data had been handed over to PMc (and KEF?) as an independent website resource. Some discussion about how and where - to be continued by **PMc** and **DHD** outside this meeting.
**- A proposed outdoor volunteering opportunies resource** had had very little input from other groups - but they were listed regularly in KE News, and **PMc** would integrate the active ones into his mapping project. So we would let this undertaking lapse.
**- Green Directory:** MM had communicated with Ioanna @ RBK about checking and taking over the relevant info and integrating it into Council / South London green business maps, so we can ultimately let it lapse. The Council will be in a much better position than we are to keep it accurate and up-to-date**. PMc** would archive the info somewhere in case it was useful for his mapping project (though it would need checking before use).
**Updates re other groups:
- Save The World Club** had moved into Southsea Road and held open days on 25th & 26th and AGM on 23rd Feb. MM had visited on 25th, tools and PAT that might be useful for RCK and the base for our GreenZone flag still in transit or unpacked or mislaid. Storage for TTK stuff still to be organised and cost negotiated - central location and planned longer opening hours would make TTK stuff more accessible when needed.
**- Kingston Environment Centre** AGM Th 2 March - no one from the CG was available to attend, so **MM** would send apologies and good wishes. **PMc** thought our membership was up-to-date.
**- The Kingston Hive** (PMc) now had a full programme of events, listed on their website. **PMc** had done a Climate Fresk training. [Hive planning days, in case anyone wanted to join in, are on some Tuesday evenings.]
- **Kingston Environment Forum, RBK Climate Action team, Green Business initiatives** (DH-D): RBK and Chamber of Commerce were planning a Kingston Efficient Homes Show in May - local environmental groups would be invited to participate, MM would publicise in upcoming KE News if sent copy before the deadline.

**- The Climate Coalition** (MM): notes from TCC Feb meeting had been included as an Appendix to the Agenda.Great Big Green Week [greatbiggreenweek.com](http://www.greatbiggreenweek.com) was coming up in June, but it seemed unlikely that RBK or KEF could undertake a big programme of events as the Council Climate Action team were focusing on Sustainable September (see #4 on Future events).

- **Transition Together -** *From TT’s Vive posts, re England and Wales Transition Hub:*“We need your help! We’ve been speaking to Regional Transition hub, International Hubs, and now we want to hear from local groups in England and Wales. There are three questions that we are inviting you to consider, converse about and share with us, they are; 1. What do you need from the Transition movement to feel that you belong? 2. How could a Transition Hub help your group to thrive?  3. What would make an England and Wales Transition Hub accessible to your group? We have a handy form you can fill out here - <https://forms.gle/eooBMgoWLM7CkaWN7>  Or you could choose to join us on a zoom call/workshop on either Saturday the 18th of March at 10.30am - 12.30 or Tuesday the 21st of March from 7 - 9pm. You can sign up to these here - <https://transitiontogether.org.uk/events/> <https://transitiontogether.org.uk/key-questions-for-our-future/> Huge thanks from the Caretakers - Phil, Kate, Amy, Monica, Declan and Richard x" [Transition Together](https://vive.transitiontogether.org.uk/s/transition-together/) - [see online](https://vive.transitiontogether.org.uk/s/transition-together/post/post/view?id=1288).”

There was little interest in the CG for getting involved in the wider TT movement or deciding its future, as above.

*TT Training*- PMc had run out of time, no one else offered to join MM, so she cancelled and sent part of the course round as a sample. For another day, another CG? (See AOB for a question about this that we didn’t get round to.)

1. **TTK - coming up:**
* **TTK’s 15th birthday** after the **AGM, April 25th:** birthday celebration in the pub confirmed, pub’s back room reserved (thanks to DHD), nibbles would be purchased ad hoc on the evening depending on how many turned up. Still to be decided: who to invite, whether the AGM Agenda(draft sent earlier) would do; project reports and review of the year to arrange **(All).** The TTK financial year would run up to beginning of April and **DHD** would assist **PMc** in preparing the accounts. HG very kindly offered to stand as Chair; other plans should be a priority at next CG meeting.
* **TCC’s Great Big Green Week, 10 - 18 June:** it seemed that we were unlikely to do anything huge during “the UK’s biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature”.See [greatbiggreenweek.com](https://greatbiggreenweek.com/) for info and updates and <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/training/>for trainingand networking opportunities. (See also update in **Appendix**.)
But we could time a talk or event for that week and/or take a stall if something was arranged by another group, and gain from the extra publicity of GBGW. Maybe in June, an EG talk about energy efficiency in summer - keeping cool in heatwaves?
* **Sustainable September** - RBK Climate Action team would be organising this. As with GBGW, we could time a talk and/or another Eco-Homes Open weekend for September and/or take a stall at a GreenZone type event - the kinds of thing we would normally do anyway -but MM’s experience of big GreenZone events was that loud music (and there always is some) makes talks and interaction with the public with visitors difficult, and ipeople and musicians for whom environmental issues were not a priority could be hard work. MM would not be offering to organise anything (and would be away on holiday from 14th - 23rd Sept).
* **Talks at Library** now that it opens late on Thursday evenings? Recycling (HG would ask Janine)? Food waste? (Chris Rimington in the Council’s Comms department asks if any groups working on food waste reduction/recycling would be interested in collaborating on a food waste campaign or workshop to encourage food waste reduction and recycling in Kingston. Rupert Read? **MM** would discuss possibilities with Faye at the Library, maybe book June and September evenings for TTK talks, to coincide with GBGW and Sustainable September?

1. **Resources:**,
- **TTK Assets list** at

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1e0BDYMeWSyjiQyP5l1bizdoPYGRTw6-GQ-DuDramHo8/edit#gid=0> … **MM** agreed to Freegle the now spare portfolio carrier.

* **TTK email addresses** - **PMc** agreed to send an update on TTK emails, which ones are active and who they go to.
* **TTK Google docs -** HG asked **PMc** for a reminder of how to access shared docs [others would benefit from this too].
* **TTK funds** - a loan to Repair Café was agreed, and all project groups were reminded that if/when they had surplus funds a contribution to the general TTK kitty to cover shared expenses such as insurance, venue hires and storage would be appreciated, as we had almost no regular income, our reserves, though substantial, wouldn’t last for ever, and getting funding for ongoing expenses is virtually impossible. Also, a reminder to ask for donations at TTK events, stalls and talks.
1. **AOB:**

We ran out of time**,** as usual, so some items/decisions were held over to future meetings:

* PMc had wondered if we wanted to look at **TT** **training materials** together rather than attending an on-line courses?
* **Voice website -** MM had attended most of a quite useful Voice users’ on-line meeting in Feb, where <https://superhighways.org.uk/files/view/training-resources/e-voice-training/Voice_beginners_2021.pdf> was recommended. It would be useful if others in the CG could familiarise themselves with the TTK website, how to edit it and add events. [Updating your pages and adding your events creates reminders for end-of-year AGM reports.]
* **XR big demo, weekend of 21 April,** should we go, with TTK banner? XR is changing tactics to be more legal (e g, talking to Met police), and is keen to include many more organisations and local groups (already have some mainstream orgs signed up, and the recent TCC meeting was the first time MM was aware of that they had talked to TCC). Groups can get involved via <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lcKv0OwlxGwP2N51Swh5TekoTRCgqhKRsSZY3FjJav8/edit>. See also <https://extinctionrebellion.uk/the-big-one/>.

**7. Dates of next meetings**: Tues 28 March, + **AGM and TTK's 15th birthday on Tues 25 April**, atwhich, whilst a relatively low-key affair at the Spring Grove it would be lovely to see our friends..

**APPENDIX: Update from TCC, 27.2:** The first version of our [Great Big Green Week Comms Pack](https://theclimatecoalition.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e71f91445b512de23a42499e6&id=75f77d76ba&e=759593d989) is here! This contains promotional information, timelines, copy and content for you to promote the Great Big Green Week to your audiences. Please share this link with colleagues and encourage them to bookmark it, as we’ll be adding new content there each week. On Wednesday, we ran a training session for community organisers on how to run a Green Week and the recording of this session will be available on the [training page](https://theclimatecoalition.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e71f91445b512de23a42499e6&id=2d75bc8d9b&e=759593d989) next week. Our next training session is on how to have political impact during Great Big Green Week, organised by Hope For The Future. Please encourage your supporters to attend [and register here](https://theclimatecoalition.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e71f91445b512de23a42499e6&id=037cde355b&e=759593d989)!

**The meeting was followed by Green Drinks**, but no one else joined us and so conversations on the above issues continued + politics/EU + travel options + weather and blossom and harvest prospects for 2023.