

DRAFT Kingston Nature Recovery Group

Minutes of meeting: Tuesday 9th January 2024 - Kingston Pavilion

Members present: Helen Sida (Chair), Ellie Rotheray, Steve Berry, Alison Mayo, Chris Moulder, David Hoare, Tim Ambrose

1. **Apologies :** Grahame Mayo, Crispin Holloway, Louise Holloway
2. **Minutes** for the meeting on 7th November 2023 were approved.
3. **Matters arising:** HS has sent our comments on the KPC Environment Policy and Action Plan to Julie. We would like to know the support shown for biodiversity in the Parish Priority Survey. DH will ask if we can have access to the survey file at the PC meeting on the 17th Jan.
4. **St Pancras Green update.** The plan hasn't yet been finalised, though we now have a scale map with suggested patches of wildflowers marked. Marion Brandis is working on it and it will be ready in 2 weeks time. HS will circulate it to the group, and then send it to the Parish Council. We will have a meeting with the PC to further inform them about the proposed plan prior to the PC meeting on 13th March, when the scheme will be considered. The Parish Clerk has already agreed we include a suggestion that mowing the green is reduced from 16 times a year to 10 (except for the football pitch).

Action:

CM to finalise plan with Marion

HS to ensure revised proposal fits with new plan

HS to circulate plan and proposal to group for approval and then on to PC for discussion ahead of their March meeting

All as many of us as possible attend 13 March meeting to support the proposal

5. **Kingston Wildlife Gardening Forum (formally the garden pledge scheme) update.**
CM The first meeting was held on the 8th November. CM, HS, AM & DH met with 4 interested Kingston residents and had a helpful discussion about our plans and ideas. The pledge scheme idea was not popular, so it was decided we would change that to have a forum to support and encourage wildlife friendly gardening in Kingston. CM & HS have designed an A4 leaflet with information and useful links. TA suggested including some reference to Kingston Community Wildlife Garden on the leaflet. We have a talk by Michael Blencowe booked for the 16th March at 3.30 in the Parish Hall. CM will write an article for the March edition of Kingston News to advertise the talk and an A5 shorter version of the leaflet will be delivered as an insert. CM will write to the WI, church and PTFA to advertise the talk. We plan to have a map at the talk where residents can mark their wildlife friendly gardens with a sticker. We also plan to sell wildflower plants at the Village Fete, and can have the map on display and leaflets to hand out. Kingston Community Wildlife Garden and other local gardeners have volunteered to grow the plants. There are plans for further talks such as The Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

Actions

HS to add reference to community garden to end of leaflet

CM to write Kingston News article

CM & HS to contact local groups to advertise talk and forum

CM & HS to arrange printing of A5 leaflet as insert.

AM to write to Nikki Gammas, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, to request a talk in summer

- 6. KNRG future plans** HS had circulated with the minutes a note on her proposed way forward for the KNRG. She explained it seemed an appropriate time to focus on what the priorities of the group should be and share the tasks in terms of leading on the key areas identified. There is no requirement to take a lead, and all member should continue to contribute to all areas. The key areas identified (as detailed in the note) where (with the person/s who volunteered to lead in brackets): Wildlife Gardening Forum (CM), Wildlife monitoring (ER & HS), Communication (SB & TA), Management of KPC land and liaison with other large and medium landowners (?), Habitat protection Issues (?), Chair (HS), Secretary (?)

It was agreed we should reduce meeting frequency to every 2 months, alternating with the PC, so in order to do this we will meet next month, then 2 months after that.

There was a discussion about potential monitoring opportunities and TA suggested we link in with the large, annual citizen science events such as the RSPB Big Garden Bird Count. ER suggested getting the school involved and said she had been approached by the Year 5 teacher, Mr. Cogger, who is keen.

Actions

HS to ensure future agenda's have an item for each lead to report on progress with the issues they are overseeing.

HS to ask group member unable to attend this meeting if any of the roles are of interest.

7. Biodiversity monitoring

Documenting important trees. No progress to date. *HS* will ask *GO* if he is still interested in being involved with the group

Southwood Foundation volunteer *HS* We have been offered the services of Errol, a Senior Ecologist from ERM for 40 hours.

Actions

HS to email *GO*

HS & ER will liaise on tasks to ask Errol to assist with

8. Information Dissemination

The Kingston News – Steve has written an article on trees for the February edition.

Chris will write about the Wildlife Gardening Forum & Michael Blencowe talk for March, and Ellie will write about Hoverfly Lagoons in April.

Talks – Wakehurst, the NT and other wildlife charities were suggested as good sources of speakers.

Actions

CM to write March KN article
ER to write April KN article
SB & TA to consider the best methods for community engagement

9. Letters to landowners update SB There has not been much progress on this so far,

Actions

SB requested assistance with addresses

10. Networking HS

Wave to Weald – Kingston is now in their Gardens and Green Spaces catchment area. It is possible to register interest on their website.

Lewes Climate Hub: HS will meet with Dinah Morgan Wednesday 17th Jan at 2pm.

Southwood Foundation - Caroline Croft will visit for a tour of the village on Wednesday 17th Jan at 10.30am (HS, CM & SB)

Actions

HS to invite Amy Hearn (WtoW) to visit village

11. Working parties /Actions any updates

- a) Wart biters. GM No developments
- b) Cuckoo flowers. HS The verge has not been cut yet, HS been in liaison with the Parish Clerk to ask ESCC what is happening. SB suggested taking photos of the verge to monitor if our actions make a difference.
- c) Cockshut. Meeting with Tim Bartlett, LDC. LH is arranging a meeting, ER and HS will join.

Actions

HS to keep pursuing ESCC about wildlife verge
LH to organise meeting with Tim Bartlett

12. AOB. HS forgot to mention at the meeting that she has been asked to attend the PC meeting on 17th Jan to give a verbal report of the KNRG progress to date. Anyone able to join too is welcome.

13. Date of next meeting: 20th February 7.30pm 2024