

Kingston Nature Recovery Group
Meeting notes 30th May 2023

Attended: Helen Sida, Chris Moulder, Louisa Adams, Louise Holloway, Crispin Holloway, David Hoare, Tim Ambrose, Steve Berry

- 1. Aim of group:** To support Nature Recovery and promote Resilient Biodiversity in Kingston Parish. **Action:** *Seek KPC approval at council meeting on 14th June. HS*
- 2. Large landowners:** A spreadsheet detailing all large and medium sized parcels of land and their owners was circulated for any additions/correction. It was agreed we wanted to engage with the largest landowners (farmers) in the parish. We appreciate significant positive action is being taken already (stewardship schemes etc). The group would like to understand and celebrate the positive nature recovery steps being taken. We also felt there is always more that can be done. **Action:** *Write to the largest landowners, sharing the report, aims of the group, and asking what actions they are involved with and if they would be happy for these to be included eg on the website. To be done after the Village Meeting on June 16th. LA*
- 3. Medium landowners:** It was agreed we similarly want to engage with medium landowners. There are many more of these and they are more diverse (detailed on spreadsheet). To start we will focus on:
KPC land. Actions: *1) Publicise the success of the wildflower area on Kingston Green via pictures on Kingston Massive WhatsApp Group SB. 2) Start to gradually progress plans for St Pancras Green in terms of edges and margins (while the new sports equipment is being installed is a good time for more change). Kingston Action Group may have funds available for new planting /wildflower seeds SB*
LDC and ESCC verge cutting regimes. Action: *To understand the current ownerships, cutting regimes etc and to draw up an ideal regime. HS*
Other medium landowners. Action: *write to landowners (perhaps start with a priority group of around 6-10 landowners) sharing the report, aims of the group, and asking if they are involved with any nature recovery work and if so would they be happy to share details. Asking if they would like any support and/or information to make a start. To be done after the Village Meeting on June 16th. LA*
- 4. Gardeners:** It was agreed to explore establishing a garden pledge scheme. **Action:** *To identify the specifics of what gardeners would be asked to pledge – maybe 5-6 things. How to publicise the scheme and engage garden owners in the project. HS and LA*
- 5. Biodiversity monitoring:** It was agreed that Biodiversity monitoring is something the group would be very interested in supporting throughout the parish and there are many levels at which we could engage with it. We agreed it is something we could look for external funding to develop, from the SDNP as a follow on step from funding the mapping report, and also elsewhere. There is a lot of expertise within the group and in the village that could be tapped into. **Action:** *Draft an outline plan to circulate to all group members for further ideas and suggestions with a view to developing a project we can seek funding for. HS*

6. **Information dissemination:** It was agreed information dissemination and public engagement is vital. It was agreed the main methods we have available are: KPC website, Kingston News, Village noticeboards, WhatsApp groups (Kingston Massive and Kingston Wildlife Group), Village events. **Action:** *The project will be presented at the Village Meeting June 16th ER/HS. The Mapping report and work of the group will be added to the KPC website as soon as possible after the village meeting. HS/LA/Julie.*
7. **KPC Environmental Policy and Action Plan:** This is due for updating. It was agreed the KNRG would like to support KPC to update the plan and include measurable targets. **Action:** *Plan to be circulated to members. In due course, once the groups plans and ideas are better formulated, to feedback ideas to KPC. CM*
8. **Funding possibilities:** It was understood there is no guarantee of further funding from the SDNP. The group felt that with an appropriate project directly building on the mapping work so far it would be worth applying. KPC has a small grants scheme which could be approached for small projects such as a moth trap. ESCC have a funders digest. Kingston Action Group have funds earmarked for new planting. **Action:** *Explore further HS.*
9. **Date of next meeting:** HS to ask Julie if there are any rules or requirements on this. Possibly monthly or 6 weekly.
10. **AOB:** LH asked for clarification on criteria for group membership. It was agreed anyone interested in taking nature recovery in Kingston forward is welcome. Ideally group members will be willing and able to take on tasks to progress the groups work.