

# Kingston Nature Recovery Group

## Minutes of meeting 1 August 2023 in Kingston Pavilion

**Members present:** Helen Sida (Chair), Louise Holloway, Crispin Holloway, Ellie Rotheray, David Hoare (KPC); Steve Berry, Grahame Mayo, Alex Worsley (SWT), Chris Moulder (Sec)

**Apologies:** Tim Ambrose, Louisa Adams, Tom Simpson (SDNPA)

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on 29 June 2023 were accepted.

2. **Matters arising:**

HS reported that KPC have allocated the group £200 for printing, meeting room and other admin costs.

ER had inadvertently been missed off the email list. CM apologised and will remedy this.

3. **Information dissemination**

**Kingston News:** Louise presented her draft article on nesting birds. The group welcomed the article and made a few suggestions. The group would like to write a monthly column for KN but there may be problems with this.

**Action:** HS & DH to follow up with the editor of KN  
DH to explore the possibility of financial help for KN from KPC

**Press release:** TA was thanked in his absence for drafting the press release. It was agreed to slightly change the wording re arable land and that it is important to involve SDNPA and Wild Business and to be clear about the next steps. KPC should issue the press release.

**Action:** HS to follow up with Tim, SDNPA and Wild Business  
DH to liaise with KPC

**Wildlife WhatsApp Group:** There are over 90 members in the group. It was agreed to focus the discussion on the following topics in the immediate future;

- the big butterfly count until 6 August although the bad weather will limit butterfly activity
- The Cockshut Recovery project
- Ponds and conducting a pond survey; the problems in giving personal details (location) were recognised and so it was decided to try using a simple questionnaire and google form. The pond discussion will signpost the Pond Dipping Day at KHF on 12 August.

**Action:** Members to contribute to WhatsApp discussion  
HS & ER to prepare simple questionnaire for the pond survey

#### 4. Mapping Project

**Timeline:** TA and CM have completed the timeline of the development of the Mapping Project. This will be put on the KPC website and sent to SDNPA.

**Feedback to SDNPA:** The SDNPA case study template passed onto us by KPC is unclear. We need to discuss with SDNPA what they want.

**Action:** HS to contact SDNPA

#### 5. Bio-diversity monitoring plan

There was a wide-ranging discussion about the complexity of developing a monitoring plan but agreement that the focus should be in engaging more people and that we should be ambitious but start small. There was discussion about the merits of iRecord and iNaturalist for naturalists with different levels of experience. It was suggested that a simple information sheet setting out the key information needed, what initially to look for and how to do it would be useful.

There was a wide-ranging discussion about all the species groups it would be interesting to collect data on. It was agreed to initially focus on a few key species that would engage residents: butterflies in the immediate future (see above) and later, hedgehogs and birds. Residents would be invited on WhatsApp to join. We should aim to develop specialist groups each with a champion to co-ordinate the group.

There was further discussion on the value of specific events / activities to engage residents e.g moth trapping and bat monitoring.

**Action:** HS highlight butterfly monitoring on the WhatsApp group.  
HS to further develop the notes on a monitoring plan to incorporate ideas from this meeting for discussion at the next meeting.

#### 6. Gardener pledge scheme

There was a wide-ranging discussion about the purpose of and how best to organise the garden pledge scheme. Louise has drafted additional helpful information about the scheme.

**Action:** HS and LH to further develop plans, with a timeframe, for agreement at the next meeting: this will likely include an initial low key session at the pavilion advertised on the WhatsApp group, an event in the spring with Michael Blencowe to speak about managing your garden for wildlife, and a stall at the fete next summer along with the plant stall with information about the garden pledge

scheme and the opportunity to sign up. We would endeavor to have nature friendly plants and also to ask the Community Wildlife Garden to grow plant plugs for the fete. SB to liaise with the community Wildlife Garden.

## **7. Draft letters to large and medium-sized landowners**

The group agreed the text of the letters and group members suggested more recipients.

**Action:** HS to liaise with KPC and make a start at sending letters out

## **8. KPC Land**

There was a full discussion of SB's helpful paper setting out the options for improving the management of KPC land. It was suggested that a map detailing ownership and plans would be helpful. It was agreed that our focus initially should be on preparing a wildflower strip on the western edge of St Pancras Green and that this needed to be done in October as well as leaving an area of long grass on the opposite side. A more detailed plan of verge management to follow shortly afterwards.

### **Action**

SB and AW to prepare a map to accompany the paper

HS and SB to present the finalised paper at the KPC September meeting with a covering note seeking approval for the immediate work on St Pancras Green.

## **9. Collaborations**

Communication has been established with key groups; nothing specific to report.

## **!0. Funding**

Nothing to report

## **11. AOB**

Nothing to report

## **12. Next Meeting:**

It was agreed to meet on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 29 August** in the Pavilion

CM 3/8/23

