



TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP
Charity No.SCO41598. Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

**Wednesday 22nd June 2016 at 7.30pm
Cromar Court, Tarland**

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Lindsay Stewart (LSt) (Chair), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes), Lizzy Shepherd (LSh), Jan Healey (JH), Peter Craig (PC), Chris Redmond (CR), Denise Hansford (DH), Kate Redpath (KR), David Hirst (DHi), Yvonne Davidson (YD)

Apologies: Annie McKee (AMcK)

2. Matters arising

Information board and walks promotion – TDG has been awarded both grants that were applied for, one from Paths for All and one from the MacRobert Trust (MRT).

Inspiring Aberdeenshire Awards – TDG were nominated for the Best Of Marr Award so LSt and KD attended the evening at Haddo House on Friday 17 June. TDG did not win the award, which was won by the Ballater Chiels, but received a nominee's framed certificate.

3. Tarland Trails expansion

CR tabled the maps, overmarked aerial photos and the business plan. Mr Delgarno has agreed to the routes and the MRT doesn't expect any difficulties with tenants as the routes don't encroach on farm land. New access has been suggested close to Eastown Farm. There is very little conflict with the walking routes – there are only two crossing points and the cyclists would be coming uphill, which is slower and therefore safer. For landscape reasons the trails are

not in open areas and when they're built they will be angled into the hill to reduce their visibility. There is not going to be a black route as the landscape doesn't offer it but this ties in well with the family and intermediate focus. The red route would have black options for expert riders. There is also an easy green route that links with the Tarland Way/Deeside Way and Tarland Trails 1 (TT1), which is not offered by most other trail centres. Netco are looking to build a more red/black trail centre so this would be a natural progression for experts that wanted to move on from Tarland. The plans are based on a car park at West Knowehead for 50 cars and a toilet block (this will be a visual impact but could be mitigated). Other car parking in Tarland would be available and would encourage people to go to the village. CR is still working out the management of the trails, which may be a ranger employed by the estate. The Business Plan needs more financial projections and also needs editing. There is a consultation meeting on Monday 27 June. CR is looking for 70-80% agreement in this initial stage. At detailed plan stage a door to door information drop would be useful.

4. Drummy Wood users meeting

The most recent meeting on 13 June was very positive. Toilets are the issue so The Commercial Comfort Scheme will be encouraged and signed. Management of the wood is the responsibility of the MRT. Responsibility for TT1 is TDG's as we have the lease with the MRT. Any work that needs doing has to go through the MRT. Mountain Bike (MTB) Club information was given to Graeme Ross, who may come to TDG to promote it. Pic-nic benches have been set up but these will be moved to the other side of the boulders away from the bottom of trails in due course.

5. Food and Music Festival

All in hand. Nicola Henderson is now on board and is a great asset. Save the Date posters will be put up soon.

6. Future Group

Lesley Ellis has an agreement with Tarland Primary School to do Science Workshops but there are no details available yet. The responsibilities need to be clearly set out, which depend on a member of staff being present.

7. Seed Swap

The first meeting entitled 'Gone to Seed' was held on Saturday 18 June and was well attended (45+ people). The talk by Gill Butler-Orli and John Fraser was very good and was positively received. Information from the talk has been sent out to the mailing list. Demonstration plots have been planted at Tarland Community Garden (TCG). The next workshop will be in the autumn - a speaker from Kew Gardens will come up to talk on the Millennium Seed Bank. There will be a seed swap and potato day in February to start the process.

8. Bee Group

This is doing fine and now has a Steering Group that met two weeks ago.

ACTION: YD to forward the Minutes to the Trustees. The annual party will be held on 3 September at Simon Spoor and Claire Fraser's house. There have been quite a few swarms and this has been a good PR exercise. Honey has been extracted from oilseed rape. The group may try a model of Varroa control supported by Aberdeen University who want to test a landlocked area. Stuart Donaldson MP visited and advertised Tarland Bee Group on his website and around the House of Commons.

9. Community Garden

Everything ticking along fine. Help is needed for Cushnie Games on Saturday 25 June.

10. Composting

There have been some complaints about bags not being collected but this rarely happens. The bags need to be prominent. This scheme is a voluntary effort and people make mistakes. There are now labels to attach to bags that are too heavy and therefore uncollected. It is assumed that the age range for the tractor insurance is 18+ with no upper limit. The tractor will need replacing soon for long term sustainability as it was purchased new in 2003.

11. Path network and Tarland Way

Progress can be made on putting the maps and walk descriptions on the website now that the grant funding has been received (see above). **ACTION: DHi and PC to meet up and discuss next week.** The scrub needs cutting back on some of the paths and the black roundels need painting. A new signpost is required at the Tarland end of the off-road section of the Tarland Way. **ACTION: DHi to contact COAT/Marr Area Committee about funding.**

12. Website

Sandy Cooper has taken over but doesn't have full rights. TDG need to host the website. Ian Mackintosh will speak to DF Communications. There are issues for the Food and Music Festival – there is a Facebook page only at the moment as prominence is an issue. It is clear that the website management is still in a transition period.

13. Tapestry

Still at the drawing stage but some progress has been made. One stage is nearly complete.

14. Membership

Charlie Langan's application was approved.

15. Accounts

All healthy. **ACTION: DHi to confirm that Foundation Scotland grant has been received.**

16. AOCB

AGM date is 23 August at 7.30pm. To be tied in to a social event with drinks and nibbles. **ACTION: JH to approach The Commercial. ACTION: KD to write the invitation e-mail and sub-group leaders to distribute.**

[KR left the meeting.]

DHi suggested that TDG may need to think about employing a part-time administrator in the near future as there are now so many projects and good governance is required. An income stream would be needed to fund it.

Next Trustees meeting 6 September.

Likely Food and Music Festival (F&MF) volunteers meeting 19 September.

Film Club – the Hall are taking over the licence. **ACTION: DHi to pay Tarland Welfare Trust.**