



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

## **Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting**

**Tuesday 30th January 2018 at 7.30pm  
The MacRobert Upper Hall, Tarland**

### **MINUTES**

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Kate Redpath (KR) (Chair), Simon Power (SP), David Hirst (DHi), Lindsay Stewart (LSt), Chris Redmond (CR), Lizzy Shepherd (LSh), Yvonne Davidson (YD), Denise Hansford (DHa), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes), Joanna Fraser (JF) (Member and Guest), David Currie (Guest)

Apologies: Annie McKee (AMcK)

#### 2. Matters arising

None.

#### 3. Decisions made between meetings

None.

#### 4. Membership

There have been no new applications for membership.

#### 5. Cromar Community Council (CCC)

The new date for the 'Have Your Say' event for the Community Action Plan (CAP) in the MacRobert Hall is 24 March. In addition to this meeting, it is planned to conduct a combined digital and paper based community consultation.

The last CCC meeting discussed an email from CR on the progress of Tarland Trails 2 (TT2) and the plans to submit a planning application in 2018. CCC did not think it appropriate to contribute to the cost of submitting the planning application.

#### 6. Chair Art Project

DC presented the idea for hosting this project, which has been running for the last four years, at the Food and Music Festival (F&MF), preferably in the Square. Shelter could be provided in the room at the back of the Aberdeen Arms and DC has already preliminarily investigated this as an option. Most chairs can be sat on but some could be hung up. The chairs are auctioned on the day and DC would be available to organize sales. Chairs are delivered in February to people who apply to decorate them. The group can offer some chairs but most artists need to find (or make) their own chair. A website and facebook are used for advertising and there is a mailing list. There is no upper limit but it is likely to be around 50. Transport has been organized with a local lorry driver. The money goes to charity and this year it could be the patient transport group. It was agreed that this is a good idea in principle and DC was invited to the next F&MF Steering Group meeting.

#### 7. Tarland Community Housing (TCH)

Four architects have been asked to tender for the feasibility study and 9 February is the deadline for submissions. Can the site be developed to meet the housing need in the village and how could the plans be changed to meet these aims without changing the masterplan and re-submitting to planning? The group will apply for £10k of funding from the Rural Housing Fund once the tender bids have been received. They have received funding from the Marr Area Partnership of £620 for start up costs and from the Scottish Community Alliance of £674.12 for a visit to Findhorn. An application has also been made to the Self and Custom Build challenge for £8k – they have not heard back yet. TCH is exploring the costs of self building and how a collective building group could be set up. They are also finding out what is affordable housing. There is a rural housing conference in Perth at the end of February – this is funded and there is one free ticket. The MacRobert Trust (MRT) is still in the process of securing the planning permission as it is so that the bell mouth can be constructed. This should not affect the community garden and should start at the beginning of May. There are now about 25 plus in the TCH group - 24 houses have been gauged on the housing need survey that was carried out last summer. This includes social housing, rent and mid-market rent, with low cost home ownership. TCH need some help with paperwork to take the pressure off JF. TDG have applied for core funding for TDG but have not heard back yet. This required TCH help could be a contracted person. TDG's involvement ends at the end of the feasibility stage – a couple of months – but will wait to hear from bidders.

## 8. Seed Swap Group

The group needs a few more volunteers but otherwise all is going well for the Seed Swap and Potato Day on 24 February. KD will email TDG members and ask for volunteers. LSh to contact Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) for volunteers. There is a meeting tomorrow night to finalise plans.

## 9. Bee Group

The bees have been treated for varroa. The talks have started and LSt did an excellent talk last Tuesday. The Scottish Bee Association (SBA) are still in the process of amending their constitution to allow bee groups within community associations to become full Affiliated Beekeeping Associations (ABA's). They hope to gain member approval for that change at their March AGM. Up until that time the Bee Group will in effect be an Institutional member and the apiary will not be covered by the SBA Insurance and Compensation schemes. However, the group is still covered under TDG's insurance. The new apiary project is coming along but the planning application has not been submitted yet. Two grant applications have been submitted but they can't apply for any more until planning permission is gained. YD is ordering books and sitting more exams. The Bee Group was invited to River Dee Radio this month.

## 10. Tarland Trails

CR tabled information on Tarland Trails 1 (TT1) and the ecology report for TT2. At TT1 signs are being deliberately damaged which is a shame. Can we make a claim on the insurance? A trail maintenance day will be organized for either Saturday 7 or Sunday 8 April. Jamie Price has won two Saltire awards, for 25 and 50 hours volunteering.

There are some constraints to the TT2 development that will have to be taken into account in the design to protect the ecology and wildlife of the area. The report is valid for 12 months so if construction doesn't start within 12 months a re-survey for protected species may be required. Accurate mapping is required to see whether sensitive vegetation communities would be affected – there will be a further survey in May. The car park plan has been drafted up – cars and minibuses have been allowed for and space for events but the cycle path needs adding. Charlie Langan can produce the trail maps. The new council planner is the one who dealt with TT1. CR is meeting the horse riders soon for further input.

## 11. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

For TT2 there is the same issue with the Marr Area Committee funding as with the apiary, regarding timing and planning permission.

There is the possibility of using crowd funding for the F&MF. There is already a donation button on the TDG webpage. The MRT funding reduces every year.

The Film Club has surplus funds and could show films at the F&MF with the club paying for the licence and with the proceeds being donated to the F&MF. The Upper Hall safety limit is 50 people.

#### 12. Format of meetings

KR and LSh propose shortened agendas to deal with the main projects in development and seasonal projects. This was agreed.

#### 13. The Shop

There is a tenant for the property and a café is proposed, therefore a change of use is required. It is hoped that the lease will start on 1 March but it is likely to be delayed due to this issue. Fitting out of the upstairs is in progress but these spaces can't be used without separate access and stairs. This can be inside but will involve some alterations. A 'rent a shelf' system is proposed in the café and it should be possible to use it for the F&MF. The café could also be used for other TDG produce and events, so we could ask the tenant to a TDG Trustees meeting over the summer.

#### 14. AOCB

Composting – DHa has made the SEPA return and made the application for renewal of the exemption licence. A meeting is planned on Thursday 29 March to attract volunteers, especially drivers. SP to see if the insurance can be relaxed from named drivers only. Volunteer drivers need to have a clean licence and be trained on this particular tractor. Lifting training is also required again so DHa will advertise this soon. Start in April – which date?

The April market date is required but a clash with the Ballater Farmers Market should be avoided. Saturday 21 April would not clash.

The F&MF Steering Group has had its first meeting and has reappointed Sarah Smith as Organiser.

Date of next TDG meeting Wednesday 21 March.

Office bearers meeting to be rearranged once Aileen Longino has got back to us with more information on policies etc.