



## **Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Annual General Meeting Angie's Cafe, Tarland on Wednesday 4th September 2019**

### **1. Attendees and Apologies**

Present:

Members (13): K Dale, K Redpath, P Craig, D Hirst, Y Davidson, S Power, L Stewart, J Healey, L Shepherd, C Redmond, A McKee, M Hare, C Bond.

Non-Members (7): R Brooker, L Cooper, S Cooper, M Cuthbert Wood, K Ader, Pip Delamere-Wright, Florence Bond Butler.

Apologies (3): M Craig, D Currie, and G Needham.

### **2. Welcome**

Kate Redpath (TDG's Chair) welcomed everyone to the 21<sup>st</sup> AGM of the Development Group and introduced the office bearers of the Group.

She then gave a short overview of TDG, explaining that the Group was founded in 1997 and was a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). She described the two tier structure of the Group: with a board of Trustees and ordinary members. Anyone could apply to become a member of the Group by filling in a membership application form. The benefit of membership is the right to vote at the AGM, and regular updates on TDG's activities via the mailing list.

The Group aims to advance community development and supports a wide range of activities in the Parish of Tarland and the Howe of Cromar. The most recent addition to TDG's aims is beekeeping, and Tarland Bee Group is one of the largest and most dynamic projects. TDG works in partnership with a wide variety of organisations including the MacRobert Trust, Cromar Community Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Marr Area Partnership and the Development Trust Association Scotland.

Kate reported that this year the Trustees held a Governance Day with a facilitator at Douneside. The Trustees do this every two years, and it is valuable in making sure that the overall direction of the Group's activities is still in line with TDG's charitable purposes.

She also explained how TDG is a member of DTAS who offer advice and funding for TDG's staff members: the Development Officer Megan Albon, the Food and Music Festival Co-ordinator Sarah Smith, and the Housing Development Worker Joanna Fraser, who has recently stepped down.



### 3. **Chair's Report**

The Chair provided an update on the Group's current activities. The detailed report is attached at Annex A.

### 4. **Project Presentations**

Jan Healey of the Tarland Tapestry project gave a special presentation describing their recent activity. They started in June 2017 following a visit to the Great Tapestry of Scotland, and have had 14 stitchers who have been with the project throughout. The tapestry is very nearly finished and will be displayed at NEOS this September. More than 200 people have put a stitch in the tapestry over the course of its creation. The tapestry's permanent home will be in the MacRobert Hall. Various ideas have been raised for the group's next project, and discussions are ongoing.

Annie McKee of the Tarland Community Housing Project also presented on the work of that project. At the beginning of the presentation Annie invited Simon Power, Estate Manager of The MacRobert Trust, to give a short history of the development site.

Simon explained that the site was zoned in the Local Development Plan in 2002 for 24 executive homes but this was not seen by the Trust as an appropriate development for the community. Planning permission was granted in 2015 for 36 houses and the housing was originally to be delivered through a partnership with developer Bancon Homes and the Housing Association now known as Osprey. However, this partnership fell through and it wasn't until 2017 that the development was revived through the idea of a partnership with the community.

The first task of the newly formed Tarland Community Housing Project was to identify housing need. A survey was carried out with support from Rural Housing Scotland, and concluded that there were 25 households in Tarland who were living in housing that was inadequate or inappropriate for the needs of the occupiers.

Having confirmed need in the community, the financial viability of the development was then explored through a Feasibility Study funded by the Rural Housing Fund and The MacRobert Trust and conducted by Makar. Subsequently the MacRobert Trust appointed Community Housing Scotland to produce a business plan that would identify the optimal mix of tenures to meet the need and the financial viability of the development.

At the end of August 2019 an application was submitted to the Scottish Land Fund. Subject to the outcome of this application, further funding will be sought from the Rural Housing Fund, and other grant sources, to enable the project to go ahead.

The Tarland Community Housing Project is in the process of setting up a Community Interest Company separate from Tarland Development Group to carry forward the next phase of the project.



## 5. Annual Accounts

Dave Hirst (TDG's Treasurer) gave a summary of the financial situation of the Group. The Group's income in the last financial year was £105,000, and expenditure was £90,000. This increased level of turnover in comparison to previous years was largely due to staff funding. All bar one of the projects had a surplus.

The bank balance as of 4 September 2019 is:

TDG	£ 8,949.10
Market+F+M	£ 15,289.73
Bee Group	£ 1,084.14
Apiary	£ 2,555.63
Apiary Phase 2	£ 6,501.05
Film Club	£ 650.34
Composting	£ 1,477.74
Community Garden	£ 6,678.03
MTB	£ 2,817.92
Apples	£ 761.03
Seeds	£ 2,238.49
Paths	£ -76.83
Tapestry	£ 1,396.56
<u>Housing</u>	<u>£ 163.10</u>
Overall balance	£ 50,486.03
Start of year balance	£ 34,257.33

As of the end of the last financial year (numbers not yet approved by the Assessor Susan Zappert):

Total income	£105,745.00
Total expenditure	£ 89,380.00
Surplus	£ 16,366.00

The majority of the income (£74,593) is from grants, the principle ones being for the Development Officer (£27,367 from the Scottish Government), for the Apiary (£27,578 from various sources), the Housing Project (£10,057 from the Scottish Government), for the musical walk app (£5,000 from the Council and £1,000 from the MRT), and for the Festival (£3,321 from the MRT). We also received £5,081 in donations (principally for the Apiary and Tarland Trails). The rest of the income (£26,071) is from trading activities, primarily from the Festival (£15,206).

## 6. Election of Trustees

Kathy Dale (TDG's Secretary) explained the election process. Each year all the Trustees resign and put their names forward for election (unless they want to step down), along with any Members who want to become Trustees.



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Denise Hansford had decided to step down as a Trustee and Kathy thanked her for all her hard work, particularly in leading the Composting Scheme and the Film Club.

Joanna Fraser stepped down as a Trustee earlier in the year in order to take up the paid role of Housing Development Worker, while Ana Pena del Vale was co-opted as a Trustee during the same period.

As there were no new nominations, and only nine nominees for 12 Trustee positions, there was no requirement for an election. Peter Craig proposed and Jan Healey seconded the following Members becoming Trustees:

Kathy Dale	Yvonne Davidson
Dave Hirst	Annie McKee
Simon Power	Chris Redmond
Ana Pena del Vale	Lizzy Shepherd
Kate Redpath	

Kathy explained that three Trustee vacancies remain and that the Trustees could co-opt up to three Trustees over the year to fill these vacancies.

She then explained that the current office bearers had all agreed to stand again and so they were re-elected by a show of hands:

Chair	Kate Redpath
Vice Chair	Lizzy Shepherd
Secretary	Kathy Dale
Treasurer	Dave Hirst

### 7. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.



## Annex A

# Tarland Development Group Annual General Meeting 4th Sept 2019 Chair's Report

## Trustees

Kate Redpath (Chairperson)  
Lizzy Shepherd (Vice Chairperson)  
Kathy Dale (Secretary)  
David Hirst (Treasurer)  
Chris Redmond  
Yvonne Davidson  
Denise Hansford  
Annie McKee  
Simon Power  
Ana Pena del Valle

## Introduction

Tarland Development Group (TDG) operates as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). The organisation's purpose is the advancement of community development and, in particular, promotion of the arts, culture, heritage, environmental enhancement and protection, and the provision of recreational activities, all within the Parish of Tarland and the Howe of Cromar in the Marr area of Aberdeenshire. It has a two tier structure, with a board of Trustees and a group of ordinary Members. Anyone interested in becoming a Member and supporting the work of TDG should speak to one of the Trustees; contact details are on the website [www.tarland.org.uk](http://www.tarland.org.uk)

TDG was founded in 1997 and has carried on its work to maintain and develop several projects in Tarland and the Howe of Cromar. The group works in partnership with, and is supported by, The MacRobert Trust, Cromar Community Council, Tarland Welfare Trust, Aberdeenshire Council, the Marr Area Partnership, plus individual members of the community. The year started for TDG with their second governance day, held at Douneside House, and moderated by Roisin Daly from the Marr Area Partnership. We intend repeating this event every few years to make sure we are fulfilling TDG's aims.

TDG remains a provisional member of DTAS (Development Trusts Association Scotland) and as such can access helpful advice, plus the opportunity to apply for funding to support





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the aims of the group. TDG continues to employ a Development Worker and a Food and Music Festival Co-ordinator, and hopes to employ a Housing Development Officer once further funding from the Scottish Government is confirmed.

We welcomed new Trustee Ana Pena del Valle whilst Jo Fraser stepped down as a Trustee in order to take on the Housing Development Officer role.

With the extra help from our staff, TDG has had another very productive year, and continues to manage existing projects as well as initiating new ones.

## **Projects**

### **Apple Pressing**

2018 was a fantastic year for apples and we were only limited by the time available to press them. There are now 70 people on the list of volunteers and we regularly got 10 or 15 helpers for our pressing sessions. We made about 650 bottles, about 400 of which were sold to volunteers at £2 each, the rest at the market or through Angie's Cafe at £4. We had a big enough surplus to buy a new hydraulic press over the summer because the old one was getting worn out. We also bought a second pasteuriser to speed up the bottling process. We are looking forward to another season of fantastic Tarland apple juice starting very soon.

### **Bee Group**

Tarland Bee Group is in its 6th year. This year we have seen the completion of Phase 1 of our new Apiary in the walled garden at Old Town of Kincaigie. This includes the provision of a car park, disabled paths, electricity and water on site, a small shed and a bee hive shelter. The group have planted a wild flower meadow and a shelter hedge. There were various work parties to plant flowers/heathers, paint sheds and shelters and generally tidy up. All these were very well attended by our members. It's taken two years of hard work to get to this stage and we hope to continue with Phase 2 which is the Education Facility and Compost Toilet in the coming year. We have some funds in place and continue to apply for others. We are currently at 48% of the total required.

The Bee Group was honoured to receive a visit from HRH The Prince of Wales, who appeared to be delighted with the work at the new Apiary. He was presented with a TDG hamper including honey, apple juice, a Tarland Tapestry tea towel and some locally saved seed.

We received a very large donation of equipment from a local family and are making good use of it for both display and use. A lot of it is museum worthy and a small information area will be set up when the new Education Facility is completed. In the meantime the group will have work parties over the winter months cleaning and renovating the hives and other bee related items.





This spring we ran our first Beginners Class which comprised of four evening class room sessions and two practical sessions in teaching hives. The course was a great success and already places are filling up for next year.

We expanded our lease hives from 4 to 10 in order to meet demand and hope to have a good honey harvest from these for the Tarland biannual market in September.

One of our young members, Martin Leahy, was selected to represent Tarland Bee Group, The Scottish Bee Keeping Association, and Scotland, at a Meeting of International Young Bee Keepers (IMYB) in Slovakia this year. He won the individual competition, beating off competitors from 29 other countries. We are all extremely proud of his achievement.

We continue to teach our members, both at the community apiary and, in emergencies, at their own hives. We will run a series of talks again this winter, inviting guest speakers from the bee keeping fraternity.

Members have given talks around the community to various primary schools, SWRI, Gardening groups, Cubs, Brownies etc. and have lots more booked over the winter. We are spreading the word about pollinators and their importance.

This year we were well represented at Cromar and District Horticultural Show, with lots of honey and honey products exhibits. Well done to everyone who took part and supported the local community and very well done to our winners in both the adult and junior sections.

Our grateful thanks to the all our volunteers on the steering group and all our members, they all join to make it possible to run this very active community group.

### **Community Composting**

The garden waste collection and composting scheme is now 10 years old. A party was held at the Commercial Hotel, and members of the scheme were all invited to come along to celebrate, and to sign up again for this year's collections.

The composting site was very comprehensively tidied to make way for this year's heaps. Fully composted material was sieved by volunteers and made available to the community.

### **Community Garden**

The community garden continues to be a thriving productive space, and has hosted groups of visitors keen to learn about the project. The garden opened with the Scotland's Gardens Scheme during the Food and Music Festival, and was the venue for a Gone to Seed workshop.



## Film Club

The Film Club had another successful year in 2017/18 with 49 members and a further 20 guests. The films shown on the first Thursday of each month are chosen from a selection by the members.

## Food and Music Festival

We held a successful Food and Music Festival last September, and we are currently planning for the sixth festival, from 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019. In 2018, we held a sold-out concert with Blazin' Fiddles (supported by The Rowies), and enjoyed a wide range of food and music events, including vegan baking and fermentation, bread baking, a Community Garden performance by the Banchory Singers, as well as concerts by Runrig's Malcolm Jones playing with Paul Anderson, Project Smok, and the Finzean School of Piping. The Festival programme included an auction for the Chair Art project, which raised money for local charities through the sale of artistic chairs, and the launch of the 'Singing Land' app, which accompanied Paul Anderson's walk. A valuable record of last year's festival is a professional video kindly filmed and produced by Euan Gray. The film can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/TarlandFoodMusicFest/videos/389994214913171/>

## Footpath Network/Tarland Way

There have been no major projects for the path network this year. Regular maintenance has been done and some damaged gates have been mended by Douneside Estate. They have also done some work on the Old Drove Road path but it is still not up to the standard of the other paths. Gillian Needham and David Currie did a survey of the red and blue paths and pointed out the need for replacement roundels. These have been ordered but have not arrived yet. There has also been some broom clearance on the brown and yellow paths which were becoming difficult to walk.

## Gone to Seed

The Gone to Seed project continues to grow and develop. The Seed Swap and Potato Day held in Feb 2019 was very busy, with approximately 250 people attending. For the first time we sold onion sets, garlic and shallots as well as seed potatoes which were very popular and this will be repeated next year. We also had a seed packet amnesty for the first time. Feedback received from attendees indicated that more seed saving workshops would be valued so we scheduled a series of three workshops throughout the 2019 growing season, covering a range of topics, including:

- Seed saving basics - why and how
- Rogueing carrots
- Isolation techniques
- Hand pollination of cucurbits





- Germination tests
- Cleaning and threshing seeds
- Storing seeds

The workshops were successful and we now have a few more seed savers enthusiastically saving seed for the 2020 Seed Swap and Potato Day.

Gone to Seed was asked by the Gaia Foundation Seed Sovereignty Project to give a workshop on seed saving techniques in Glasgow in August.

### **Singing Land App**

At the Festival last year we launched a mobile phone application of Paul Anderson's walk around Tarland. If you download it you can go to 30 locations on the path network from the Square to the top of Pressendye and hear Paul tell a story and play a tune. Shona Donaldson also sings some songs.

### **Tapestry**

The tapestry has progressed at a 'relaxed rate' this year. We have met to discuss the way forward and to admire what has been achieved each week. It has been much travelled in order for our 14 dedicated stitchers to work from home. The main elements are all but finished and we are aiming to leave just a small patch of seeding to be completed by visitors to the Creative Cromar for NEOS (North East Open Studios) event at Balmuir in September.

During the year Jan Healey and Jess Gibb gave talks to a variety of groups including the Embroiderers' Guild in Aberdeen about the development, content, design and stitching of the Tarland Tapestry.

Tea towels and fabric bags featuring images from the tapestry sold out during the year and there is a plan afoot to produce some cards.

After NEOS and on final completion the tapestry will be stretched and mounted ready for hanging in The MacRobert Hall, where there will be a grand unveiling.

### **Tarland Trails #1**

Tarland Trails continues to be popular with all ages and types of rider. TT is now a base for a Donside mountain bike coach who runs sessions for 'Little RIPAs' to shred the trails with increasing confidence and air! This year as part of the Take Care of Tarland Trails event we had Aberdeenshire Trail Association lead the maintenance of the trails. ATA's mission is 'to maintain sustainable mountain bike trail networks in Aberdeenshire' and it was great to have them there to help. Tarland Trails was included in the Developing Mountain Biking In Scotland Strategy for Scottish MTB, 2019-2025 - part of an emerging destination as part of 'a





world class trail network'. The trails will also feature in a soon to be released promotional clip showcasing mountain biking in Aberdeenshire.

TT coordinator and TDG Trustee Chris Redmond was recognised for his volunteering contribution at the Volunteer Awards in June 2019.

A tribute is paid to Steve Roberts, a supporter of the trails and a regular volunteer, who passed away in April 2019.

## **Tarland Trails#2**

TT2 has remained mostly dormant this year but the Food and Music Festival Bikes and BBQ event will be a big kick starter for funds and profile raising again. Some funding work has been going on in the background.

## **New Projects / Collaborations**

### **Tarland Community Housing**

The Tarland Community Housing Group and The MacRobert Trust have been working closely with Community Housing Scotland (the arm of the Highlands Small Community Housing Trust in the rest of Scotland) to develop a business plan for the Village Farm Development site. A draft business plan produced by CHS suggests that it might be possible to bring the development to fruition, but it would depend on a number of key currently uncertain issues falling into place:

- grant support from the Scottish Land Fund for the purchase of serviced plots;
- grant support from the Rural Housing Fund to support the construction of housing, (although there is some uncertainty about grant aid beyond spring 2021, the expectations are that it will continue);
- the involvement of a Housing Association;
- the creation of a new community organisation to take the project forward with The MacRobert Trust; and
- commitment from The MacRobert Trust to construct serviced plots that could be purchased by the community housing group and the Housing Association.

Whilst these are all challenges, and they may appear daunting, there is a belief in the group that the project could be realised with some hard work and a bit of luck!



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## Community Kitchen

The Tarland based Community Kitchen is a potential long-term project to raise awareness around local food production, creating community cohesion and wellbeing through cooking and eating together. The Community Kitchen would be a physical cooking facility linked to a growing space that anyone in the community could access, and cooking events that would be open to groups and individuals to create healthy, nutritional, local meals that focus on reducing food waste and food bills.

The trial will be held at the underutilised Pavilion Building, owned by the Council, in the Tarland Playpark. The venue is close to the centre of the village and would be a neutral space where all member of our community might feel able to attend. By using donated vegetables from the Tarland Community Garden and other local growers the Community Kitchen would be in the position to provide the basis for a free meal accessible to everyone.

In preparation for the event we have approached the Tarland Community Garden members to donate one vegetable each to the soup, the Tarland School and Nursery children are growing a variety of potatoes and we aim to ask other community growers to donate fruit or vegetables to contribute towards the meal. The venue will provide a location for community cohesion and intergeneration mixing. The event will also focus on the impact of food waste and how individuals can reduce their own waste and food bills.

To make the Community Kitchen event a success and as engaging as possible we wish to bring together relevant local projects to deliver an informative and engaging 'From Seed to Soup' display tent. This will provide the opportunity to learn about the food cycle with hands on activities, information and photographs. The event will look to deliver workshops to engage all community members from children activities and outdoor cooking with the Outdoor Woodland Learning School (OWLS).

The food preparation element of the day will be delivered as a workshop and will produce the lunch meal for 50 people. It will also bring in other groups, such as the Climate Change Group to highlight food waste reduction and its effects on climate change, as well as a local veg box scheme.

The venue will be a taster for a future long term project and will give an opportunity to explore perceptions and interest in a permanent Community Kitchen venue within the community. It will also indicate which groups would want to access such a venue and what classes, workshops and events could be run from a purpose built kitchen, as well as how we might use it as a community asset which is self-sustaining and a hub for a focus on producing food locally.



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## **Electric Car Scheme**

Initiated by the interest of several Trustees, alongside the limited public transport available in Tarland highlighted by the Community Action Plan, TDG decided to put in an application to the Energy Saving Trust to set up an electric car share scheme. Inspired by comparable schemes in Huntly and Forres, the car would be available to rent for any drivers who have held their licence for more than one year. Should our grant application be successful we would also apply for funding to put in an electric charging point so that electric vehicle drivers would be able to charge up in Tarland. The outcome of the application will be known in early October.

## **Wetlands**

The Tarland Wetlands Group originally came together to look at how the land in the Howe of Cromar could be managed for wading birds such as lapwing and curlew, as there have been declines in these species in recent years. A Wetland Vision has subsequently been produced, which aims to create a system of drainage and flood storage that mixes farming activities with larger and more varied wildlife habitats together with water retention and release at different scales. Carbon storage could potentially be increased and the quality of water entering the River Dee could be further improved beyond what has already been achieved with the extensive creation of buffer strips. This system would slowly build a wildlife and recreational resource, consistent with farming activity, around Tarland and Coull, that local people could value. It could also take account of the real need to manage local flooding and address potential problems with drought as the climate changes.

Currently the Waste Water Treatment Works and the Tarland Wetland are managed by TDG and The MacRobert Trust in partnership with other organisations. These are open for local people to enjoy and provide a range of benefits to the environment, such as flood storage and bird habitats. The Wetlands Group has recently received funding from the Dee Catchment Partnership and The MacRobert Trust to collate information from all the scientific studies undertaken in the Tarland Burn catchment since the early 1990s. This study has found that there are a number of opportunities to create wetlands in the Howe that could be explored further. A public consultation exercise is proposed for early December at which some ideas will be presented and the views of local people will be sought.