



TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Charity No.SCO41598. Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

**Wednesday 5th December 2019 at 7.30pm
The MacRobert Trust Office, Tarland**

1. Attendees and apologies

Present (7): Kate Redpath (KR) (Chair), Kathy Dale (KD), Simon Power (SP), Lizzy Shepherd (LS), Yvonne Davidson (YD), Annie McKee (AMK), Ana Pena del Vale (APV), Megan Albon (MA) (Development Officer, Minutes).

Guest (1): Iain Taylor (IT).

Apologies (2): Chris Redmond, Dave Hirst.

2. Matters Arising:

- MA has been trained as a First Aider.
- The Marr Area Partnership (MAP) AGM took place at which LS presented TDG as a case study. KR reported that feedback from the event was good.
- The Jo Walters Trust were happy for the hives purchase to be postponed until the Boxing Day sales.
- No potential new Trustees have been found among the Film Club members.
- LS sent MA the online grant spreadsheet.
- APV will submit her Declaration of Interest (DoI) form to KD.

3. Decisions Between Meetings

There were no decisions between meetings.

4. Membership

Iain Taylor was approved as a Member of TDG. The Trustees welcomed Iain who joined the meeting to find out more about how TDG operates.

5. Cromar Community Council

The Trustees noted that Simon Welfare of the Cromar Community Council (CCC) had suggested developing an up to date statistical account of the community, to feed in to the latest Community Action Plan (CAP). They agreed that TDG would be happy to offer whatever support they could in this endeavour.



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6. **Electric Car Scheme**

LS reported that Sally Davis of Aberdeenshire Council had followed up on the installation of an electric charging point at the car park next to the play park. As yet it is not clear who will control the charging point or pay for the electricity. At the moment the council does not charge for the electricity from its charging points but they plan to introduce charging in 2020.

LS spoke to Nigel Healey, Treasurer of the CCC, who agreed that TDG and CCC should collaborate on the charging point project.

KR, LS and MA have been carrying out level of interest surveys amongst locals at events such as the Tarland Primary School Parents' Association Christmas shopping night, and at the North East Open Studies (NEOS) opening event.

LS, DH and KR plan to visit the Moray Carshare scheme on 9 December. KR has spoken to transport innovation consultant Jenny Milne who has suggested she may also be able to offer some advice.

7. **Bee Group**

The first two talks of the Winter Talk Series have been held. The first looked at various methods of honey extraction and was held in the Bee Cabin. The second, which attracted 36 attendees, was about swarm control.

The beginner class is now full.

A bulb planting session is planned for Saturday 7 December. Bulbs will be planted in the Market Stance. The session will be advertised via the Community Garden and Gone to Seed mailing lists.

MA and YD met the Trustees of the Gordon and Ena Baxters' Foundation to discuss the new education facility at the apiary. It is hoped that the Foundation Trustees will visit the apiary in January next year.

The application to the Crerar Trust was successful and £10,000 has been awarded to the education facility. Unfortunately the application to the Robertson Trust was unsuccessful.

MA will continue to apply for further funding. It has been agreed to apply to the planning department for a variation to the current design. The idea is to replace the living roof with a more cost efficient steel roof, and plant the equivalent area in wildflowers elsewhere.

8. Wetlands

The Wetlands group held a meeting on the 27 November. William Latimer was present and this was his first meeting. MA and Ian Francis have been working on an awareness raising event to be held in February. The date is not yet confirmed as they are waiting to hear about the details of the Cromar Future Group programme so that it can take place after a talk they plan to hold on flooding.

TDG has agreed to fund publicity materials for the Wetlands project such as a roll up banner, which can be used to create a presence at local events.

The format of the awareness raising event has been agreed. There will be a series of short presentations given by KD and Ian Francis detailing the impetus behind the project and the work completed thus far, with case studies, followed by a facilitated discussion. The event will be targeted to a broad audience.

9. Paths and Access

There was a discussion following on from the last Trustees' meeting about the ongoing maintenance of the Tarland Way once the Council maintenance contract ends in the New Year. As yet it has not been possible to identify who will be responsible for the grass cutting. LS was of the view that the council would not extend their contract. DH has tried to contact OATS (Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland) but has had no reply. He has also spoken to and emailed the council. SP volunteered to contact OATS again. KR advertised the Marr Area Footpath Forum on 21 March as a venue to discuss the issue.

KR had looked in to whether the Aberdeenshire Local Outdoor Access Forum (LOAF) might help but found that the last entry on their website was 2016.

SP invited suggestions for new footpaths in case there were opportunities for the MacRobert Trust (MRT) to provide them. LS said that the council were keen about new footpaths so long as community groups would maintain them. The need for a paths maintenance volunteer group was discussed.

10. Tarland Trails

CR had nothing to report on the Tarland Trails project.

11. Seed Swap

John-Paul Shirreffs has produced a new poster for the 2020 Seed Swap and Potato Day taking place on 22 February. Volunteers are wanted for this event. KR will be co-ordinating the childrens' activities. MA and LS will arrange a meeting before the event to look at changes that could be made to the workshop programme for 2020.

12. **Tapestry**

Lindsay Stewart and Jan Healey visited the Belvedere Gallery on Rosemount Aberdeen on the recommendation of the Embroiderers' Guild. They took the tapestry with them to show them and to aid the discussion. They came away feeling very confident that the Guild could carry out the work needed, however, they did say that it would take up all their work space so it would need to be tackled after Christmas. The tapestry will be hung in the hall foyer. There is no date yet but it will definitely be early in the New Year. It has been decided to stretch the tapestry on a board which will then be in an enclosed frame viewed through perspex. This is the best and safest method as it will be in a public place.

The tapestry was on display last weekend at the NEOS popup exhibition and was declared finished! 389 people (over and above the 15 regular stitchers) have put in a stitch with signatures recorded on 19 sheets of A4 paper. These will be added to the scrapbook.

13. **DTAS Membership**

The Trustees agreed to subscribe to DTAS as a full member at the cost of £90/year.

14. **Accounts, grants, awards and funding**

Tarland Bee Group were successful in their application to the Crerar Trust for £10,000, but unsuccessful with the Robertson Trust for £5,300.

Tarland Community Housing Group was awarded £54,000 through the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES).

15. **Governance**

There were no governance issues arising.

16. **AOB**

KR reported that Joanna Fraser had sent a card to the Trustees thanking them for their support during her time as Housing Development Worker.

Sarah Smith, who has been employed by TDG as Food and Music Festival Administrator, is stepping down. The Trustees would like to thank her again for her fantastic work over the last three festivals.

The Festival Administrator job will be advertised before Christmas.



SP and APV met with Gillian Needham of the Tarland Climate Crisis Group (TCCG) to see whether practical projects relating to the climate crisis might be co-ordinated with TDG. As the TCCG is not constituted they would like to work with constituted groups in the community, either TDG or Cromar Future Group. AMK wondered whether TDG might restrict the actions of TCCG, as TDG could not be engaged in anything political.

17. **Housing**

MA explained that DH, LS and MA had met with Local Energy Scotland (LES), Community Housing Scotland (CHS) and the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust (TGDT) on 3 December.

Both TDG and TGDT have been awarded funding for a feasibility study looking at the introduction of holistic low-carbon energy systems at their respective housing developments. Within the grant conditions is the requirement that the two organisations procure the work jointly.

In order to secure the grant there is the need for the MacRobert Trust to write to CARES to indicate that they are supportive of the proposed investigation and also supportive, subject to certain conditions, of the community group purchasing plots on the Village Farm site.

MA reported that the funding was only promised until March 2021, the end of the financial year. At this point there is a possibility that funding would not be continued. To guard against TDG being left with any outstanding debts to the consultant, break-clauses will be included in any contracts. LS pointed out that this represented a significant risk which should be further evaluated.

The Trustees agreed that they were generally in support of research into innovative energy systems in Tarland. However, without proper analysis of the financial risk involved they could not sign the grant agreement at the present time.

MA reported on the progress made in setting up a new housing organisation. A public meeting was held in early November providing an update on progress in the housing project but there has been no further development of the housing organisation.

AM and MA spoke on the phone to Calum Couston of the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) and got valuable feedback on TDG's recent unsuccessful application.

19. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14 January at the MacRobert Trust offices.