

Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

Monday 24th February at 7.30pm
The MacRobert Trust Office, Tarland

1. Attendees and apologies

Present: Kate Redpath (KR) (Chair), Kathy Dale (KD), Lizzy Shepherd (LS), Annie McKee (AM) – via Skype, Dave Hirst (DH), Simon Power (SP), Ed Garrett (EG) - guest, Megan Albon (MA)

Apologies: Chris Redmond (CR), Ana Pena del Valle (AP), Yvonne Davidson (YD)

2. Fareshare presentation by Ed Garrett

The TDG Trustees were pleased to welcome Ed Garrett from Community Learning and Development at Aberdeenshire Council. He is working with Fareshare in their community development team. Fareshare is a UK wide charity which redistributes waste food from the food system, addressing both food poverty and food waste. Whilst seen as a relatively affluent area, Aberdeenshire has pockets of deprivation, and a significant minority of people are referred to the food bank in Banchory.

Fareshare projects differ from food banks in that they do not require a referral from social services. Ed is working with communities across Aberdeenshire to set up new distribution centres for waste food. There are several different models, for example in Laurencekirk a pallet of food is delivered every month and distributed to local groups such as a lunch club, the school, and sheltered housing. Other models include the 'Food Pantry' model, whereby local people pay a token membership fee to gain access to the food that is stationed at an accessible public venue.

By and large the food is dried or tinned, along with some toiletries, sanitary products and pet food. Vegetables can be requested, but perishable food would require refrigeration.

So far Fareshare's only distribution point in the area is at the nursery in Aboyne, which has a relationship with the local co-op.

Ed would like to know whether there is the need or interest in Tarland to set up a Fareshare food distribution project and if so which groups might like to run it and what might be an appropriate venue. TDG Trustees discussed several possible scenarios and decided that the issue required a whole community meeting, bringing together lots of different groups around the village to see if and how a Fareshare project could be run in Tarland.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.



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3. Decisions between meetings

Trustees approved KR's request to purchase more topsoil for the community garden. Trustees wondered whether a formal limit should be set on maximum spend without agreement from the Board of Trustees, such that smaller purchases would not need to be put forward for consideration.

4. Membership

There were no new membership requests.

5. Cromar Community Council

There was nothing to note in the most recent CCC minutes.

6. Tarland Community Housing

AM reported on a recent surge in activity towards organising a new community group to work on the housing issue in Tarland.

Local TCH volunteer Emma Robertson, who has a background in graphic design, had put together a newsletter for the project which AM and MA had delivered to every household in the village.

A drop-in session was planned to take place the following Monday 2nd March, with a meeting proposed for the Monday after (9 March). At the end of March the group plans to meet with Rory Dutton of Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS) to get his expert advice on governance structures.

Given that six months of funding is guaranteed for the Housing Development Worker post it was decided to advertise for the position.

On 28th February MA will be attending the Rural Housing Scotland conference in Dunkeld on a sponsored place.

7. Electric Carshare Scheme

A meeting for the group is planned to take place next week at Angie's Cafe with Council officer Sally Davis.



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8. Tarland Bee Group

Tarland Bee Group were successful in their application to the Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation, receiving an award of £5000. They now need only £5000 to reach their fundraising total, and have applied to the Marr Area Partnership (MAP) Initiative Grant Scheme for part of this sum.

9. Tarland Wetlands Group

KD reported that the group are preparing for their community awareness-raising event on the 11th March. It was decided to hold a planning meeting on the coming Wednesday 4th March.

After several designs were considered, MA is to order a pop-up banner for the event. MA has also submitted a notice to the Deeside Piper.

KD has been invited by the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP) to contribute to their Management Plan at an upcoming consultation to be held at Banchory Lodge.

New signs are required at the Sewage Treatment Works (STW) wetland. The responsibilities of the Viewfield Wetland need to be confirmed. KD will look into both of these issues.

10. Paths and Access

KR reported on a recent meeting with Outdoor Access Trust Scotland (OATS) to discuss the maintenance of the Tarland Way. At present Aberdeenshire Council pay OATS to do maintenance work on both that path and the paths around Alastrean twice each year (SP pointed out that MacRobert Trust (MRT) workers also trim these paths), however this grant money is soon to stop. The council is keen to encourage voluntary paths groups to take on maintenance of the network, for which they will offer small grants for tools. From the meeting it appeared that the status of 'core path' did not affect the amount of money available for maintenance.

David Currie and Gillian Needham have agreed to form a new paths group in Tarland. This will be to maintain the paths, with KD and DH continuing to oversee the path network and attend meetings with third parties on behalf of TDG. MAP is organizing a meeting for paths groups on the 21st March which KD will attend.

The Trustees agreed that the issue of the Tarland Way emphasizes the need to clearly lay out at the beginning of a project the roles and responsibilities for upkeep and maintenance throughout its lifespan. KD is to draft a pro-forma (spreadsheet) document to record this information.

SP is to contact Alastair Aboyne to discuss whether Aboyne Joinery and Construction (AJC) might play a part in resolving the issue of poor drainage of the Tarland Way outside the Castle development in Aboyne.



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11. **Seed Swap**

LS reported that it was an excellent turnout at the Seed Swap and Potato Day on the 22nd February. There are still some potatoes available from the event. The Gone to Seed project will be holding a social on the 7th March to plan the upcoming year of seed-saving workshops.

12. **Spring Market**

The Spring Market will take place on the 25th April.

13. **Tapestry**

Jan Healey contacted KD to give an update on the Tapestry Group. The tapestry is back from the framer and is looking wonderful, even better than had been anticipated. The group is now working on an unveiling event for guests with tea and cake, date and time to be confirmed.

14. **Greening Tarland**

SP has been investigating the possibility of improving the value to biodiversity of public green spaces around the village. He is to get in touch with Aberdeenshire Council Green Spaces Unit to discuss options for moving forward with this project.

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

As above for Tarland Bee Group.

16. **Governance**

No issues to report.

17. **AOB**

KD to ask Julian Barclay for a quote to replace the squirrel bridge.

Local resident Joelle Bugeia has spoken to Trustees about the possibility of holding a sustainable fashion show in the MacRobert Hall. She is to email KD and DH with ideas.

18. **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Monday 6th April.

