



TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Charity No.SCO41598. Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

**Thursday 8th December 2016 at 7.30pm
The Elms, The Square, Tarland**

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Denise Hansford (DHa), David Hirst (DHi), Lindsay Stewart (LSt), Jan Healey (JH), Kate Redpath (KR).

Present: Lizzy Shepherd (LSh) (Chair), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes), Simon Power (SP), Annie McKee (AMcK), Chris Redmond (CR).

Thanks to AMcK for hosting the meeting.

2. Matters arising

None.

3. Food and Music Festival

AMcK and DHi met with SP and Chris Hockley of the MacRobert Trust (MRT) on 11th November to discuss the potential for grant funding for the Festival from the MRT. It was agreed that any application had to indicate the Festival's transition to financial self-sufficiency. Two options for grant funding are available from MRT – (i) a small grant of up to £10,000 over 2-3 years; (ii) a large grant over 3-5 years. The latter option would require a full application to MRT Trustees, with no decision until May 2017. Chris Hockley also agreed to provide back-up funding for the 2017 Festival if TDG were unsuccessful in May (this late decision would result in costs due to event cancellations).

Does the group think we should go for the bigger grant? Would other TDG applications be affected? We could reduce the period of grant from five to three

years. An alternative would be to ask for £10k over two years? Would this affect any funding support for Tarland Trails 2 (TT2)?

Another option would be to go for lesser support offered by Chris for 2017 only.

Other funding options were suggested and it was agreed that the following applications would be made: Co-op, Awards For All, Tesco and ScotMid. **ACTION: AMCK to make grant applications as agreed.**

Is there energy for doing the Festival for the next few years? This would have to be discussed further but is difficult to predict.

It was considered that the job description for an administrator was too much for the 200 hours proposed. The Steering Group would still have to expect a large amount of input. If TDG partners with other Tarland groups then representatives would be on the Steering Group to take the pressure off TDG Trustees.

ACTION: CR to send AMcK working list of grant applications. AMcK to put on Google docs.

ACTION: AMcK and DHi to attend a further meeting with Chris Hockley on Monday 19 December.

4. Seed Swap Group

A project meeting was held on 29 November. ScotMid and Foundation Scotland grants have been applied for. There is no money for musicians but Megan Albon may be able to get these for free, although it was agreed that they would be a 'nice to have' addition and not vital. The important information and equipment must go out at the end of January. Lots of shoeboxes are needed. Time for design work may be an issue if the grants don't come through. Income would be generated in various ways. It is estimated that 25 volunteers will be required but the Cromar Ladies will be asked to do the teas. The date of the event is 25 February 2017. The maximum loss would be £1,830 but it is very unlikely to be this high. DHi's options of the other two partners, the Aboyne Gardening Club and the Tarland Horticultural Society, are unlikely to be able to provide any financial support. It was therefore agreed that TDG reserves can be used.

5. Bee Group

The group ran an oxalic acid treatment session (by Ian Smith) so that they can go round and treat everybody's hives for Varroa.

6. Composting

The MacRobert Trust has changed insurers and the new insurers want only one named driver (with trailer experience). TDG may want to take out its own cover.

ACTION: DHi to investigate insurance cover. DHa to do updated RA for next year.

7. TDG facilitated brainstorming meeting

The date has been set for 5 February 2017, 10am until 1pm, followed by lunch. The venue will be Douneside House, which has offered a meeting room and lunch for £25 per head. This is a total expenditure of £300, which was agreed. **ACTION: KD to send round the notes from the office bearers' meeting with Mike Powell.** All Trustees were invited to submit ideas. The office bearers will meet two weeks before the event and then send out headline topics to think about beforehand.

8. Path network and Tarland Way

The information boards are looking good and the website is coming on. SP's comments have been passed on to DHi. The landowners should be recognized for the work that they do in facilitating access as per the Outdoor Access Code. Dog issues need to be highlighted with regard to stock health and safety. The Otter Bridge safety for toddlers issue is to be checked by COAT. Other bridges may need to be looked at. **ACTION: DHi to check with COAT what progress is being made to resolve the safety issues at bridges.**

9. Community Garden

Nothing to report.

10. Website (via email from JH)

It transpires that Tarland Welfare Trust (TWT), whose own website is embedded in the Tarland and Cromar Community website, is still managed by DF Communications. Moves are afoot to clarify their position but it may be that they will decide to leave the management situation as it is. This means that they may have substantial fees to pay. A contribution to the website is unlikely to be forthcoming until their situation is clarified.

Cromar Community Council (CCC) is more than willing to make a contribution. £100 was suggested as a one-off payment. **ACTION: JH to ask CCC if they are able to contribute £100.**

11. Tapestry (via email from JH)

Good progress is being made. The Steering Group is very pleased with the design. LSt and JH will begin inking this week. There was a request to see the tapestry at the next TDG Trustees meeting.

12. Film Club

All fine. Progressing well. Reasonable numbers.

13. Tarland Trails expansion

14. The Feasibility Study and associated maps were circulated prior to the meeting.

The outcome of the Feasibility Study is that TT2 is feasible. A SWOT analysis was done and the meeting just focused on the negatives. There is no possibility to extend Tarland Trails 1 (TT1). It is not possible to create links to the village as the car park needs to be high up. Riders want a decent amount of downhill for not much uphill. The preferred car park is Longhill (cheaper track upgrading) and this would be for 40 cars. There could be an overflow car park at the track end on the right on MRT land. It has been suggested that TT2 would need 9,500 people a year to make it sustainable (3,000 cars). Most of the visits would be local repeat visits – this is surprising as most of the visits to TT1 are from outwith Tarland. Currently there are 4,000-5,000 annual visits to TT1. TT2 may not be big enough (in terms of km of trail) on its own but NetCo's trails would be an incentive to do both to get a critical mass. The forestry areas on the slopes of Pressendye are not worth developing without having the top of the hill (currently owned by Tillypronie estate). It would be worth spending more on the build to cut down maintenance costs, which would be less to cover from car park fees. How enforceable are the car park fees? The Feasibility Study figures are based on 80% paying. Season tickets? Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system? Volunteers would be required for maintenance – it was agreed that a list would be drawn up like the compost scheme. There would be part time paid staff for some elements, like inspections, especially during the set up period. There is still the outstanding issue of the landowner rents. **ACTION: CR to plan the next public consultation. Run the details of the final proposal past the Trust and Sandy Dalgarno first to iron out/resolve any landowner issues and investigate insurance costs. ACTION: CR to join a meeting with AMcK and DHi with Chris Hockley to explore grant options and implications for MRT grants for TT2 if MRT supports the Food and Music Festival.**

TT1 Drummy track – a contractor has been asked to tarmac it so progress is being made.

15. Membership

No new membership applications.

16. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

The majority of projects are healthy. The apple pressing made a lot of money this year and the capital costs are nearly paid off. The only project currently in debit, albeit by a small amount, is the Seed Swap Project.

17. AOCB

We were unsuccessful in our Aviva fund application.

Jamie Price won highly commended in the annual Mountain Bike Awards.

Next meeting 24 January 2017.