



TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Charity No.SCO41598. Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

**Monday 6th April 2020 at 7.30pm
Video-conference**

Attendees and apologies

Present (6): K Redpath (KR) (Chair), K Dale (KD), A McKee (AM), D Hirst (DH), C Redmond (CR), Megan Albon (MA)

Apologies (4): Ana Pena del Vale, Y Davidson, E Shepherd, S Power – unable to connect to online platform

1. Matters arising – Fairshare, spending approval limits, greening Tarland, squirrel bridge, fashion show

- a) Fairshare representative Ed Garrett spoke at the last TDG trustees meeting at which the trustees agreed to consult community organisations in Tarland to see how a Fairshare food distribution point might be managed. However, due to the coronavirus outbreak this work is currently on hold.
- b) At the last meeting TDG trustees raised the question of what size of spend by any individual project required agreement from the board of trustees. Treasurer DH suggested a maximum spend of £500, provided of course that the project had this money in its account.
- c) It was not possible to discuss SP's idea of increasing the ecological value of green spaces around Tarland as he was unable to join the meeting.
- d) KD has contacted Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels (SSRS) to find out about the right kind of rope to use to replace the squirrel bridge, and has arranged with landscaper Julian Barclay to carry out the work on the basis that TDG would do traffic control. However, this is now also on hold until the lock-down restrictions are lifted/relaxed.
- e) KD reported that Tarland resident Joelle Bugeia has not made any further contact about her proposed fashion show.

2. Decisions made between meetings

There were no decisions between meetings.

3. Membership

There were no membership applications.



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4. Cromar Community Council – Community Help

The Cromar Community Council (CCC) has not released any agendas or minutes since the last trustees meeting. The Cromar Community Helpline, set up to shop and deliver for self-isolating people, seems to be working well.

5. Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan – Development Plan Scheme 2020 Consultation

The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan will be going out to consultation in April. In the past TDG has commented on the plan. AM suggested it might be the remit of the Tarland Community Housing (TCH) to take this on.

6. Composting

SP has confirmed that it is still fine to use the tractor. In order to minimize inter-household contact, teams will be limited to members of the same household where possible. Collections may be reduced to once a month rather than once a fortnight. KR will devise a rota based on people's availability.

7. Tarland Community Housing

TCH held a successful drop-in session for the community on 2nd March, with several longstanding community supporters in attendance. The meeting that was due to follow a week later had to be cancelled as AM was unwell, and rescheduling has not yet been possible due to the pandemic. However progress has been made in researching governance structures. AM, LS and MA had a video call with Rory Dutton of Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) who has an in depth understanding of different institutional models.

Following the news last week from DTAS that the Investing in Communities Fund (ICF) funding for staff has been confirmed until March 2021, TCH is now in a position to appoint a housing development worker. AM will update the job advert put together last year and circulate it once it has been agreed by the office bearers.

8. Wetlands

The wetlands group held a very successful community awareness-raising event on 11th March. There were 25 members of the public there and most of the attendees joined the mailing list. The notes from the event have been circulated. Since then the group has met once remotely and a next steps email has been circulated. MA has also been doing some outreach via Facebook.



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The next steps are field visits to ground truth some of the sites identified as suitable by the Aquarius project for small wetlands, bunds and leaky dams. It is planned to set up several demo sites so that the public can come and visit them.

Another arm of the project is to promote garden ponds in the village. It is also crucial that the group keep the existing community wetlands, at the former sewage works and at Viewfield, in good condition.

9. Paths and Access

Unfortunately the Marr Area Partnership (MAP) Spring Gathering looking at paths was cancelled. KR has had some informal discussions with Andrew Fyfe of the Aboyne Paths and Tracks Group. He has indicated that they may be able to take on some of the management of the Tarland Way up to the Coull bridge.

At present the section of the Tarland Way outside the Castle Park in Aboyne that had been flagged up as requiring maintenance is closed off for works connected with the housing development.

10. Tarland Trails

CR reported that there had been lots of offers to help maintain TT1. Someone has also offered to sponsor one of the trails, which will be acknowledged by the placing of an A3 sign.

CR has taken the counters home as they are not working properly.

Due to the pandemic, several people have emailed CR to suggest that TT1 is closed, as the trails have been busy. However, it remains open, as use of the trails should not contravene the government restrictions provided bikers do not travel there by car.

At present deliberation is ongoing as to how TT2 might be progressed, with the funding leads available, volunteer capacity at hand, and within planning timelines. It was agreed that the community should be kept abreast of all steps forward in the project.

11. Food and Music Festival

Planning is continuing for this year's festival at the end of September, despite the pandemic.

Shona has booked all of the evening musicians apart from Frigg, the Saturday night main act. They are interested in performing but, like most performing artists, have had their 2020 schedules disrupted. It may be necessary to line up other options.



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If it is not possible to hold the festival as a full weekend due to the lock-down restrictions or their aftermath then a reduced programme will be considered.

12. Accounts, grants, awards and funding – Coronavirus costs, ICF Authorised Signatories Schedule

DH asked trustees to report on any losses to revenue resulting from coronavirus, as it may be possible to reclaim this through relief funds. KR added that if any trustees came across such funds, she would like to add them to a directory being compiled by MAP.

As part of the conditions of the ICF funding, TDG are required to submit a copy of the Authorised Signatories Schedule. It was agreed by the trustees that Kate Redpath (Chair), David Hirst (Treasurer), and Kathy Dale (Secretary) should be on the schedule. They will submit an electronic schedule, as face-to-face meetings are not possible under the coronavirus social distancing rules.

13. Governance – Project Plan, DTAS membership renewal

KD has circulated a draft project plan and is awaiting comments from all trustees before finalizing it.

DTAS membership was up for renewal in March 2020, although we have not been contacted by them yet. It was agreed that TDG should renew membership.

14. AOB

KD requested the new logo file, and MA promised to send this around to all trustees.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 4th May. The trustees regretted the absence of those who could not get in to today's meeting for technical reasons, although the meeting had been quorate. The suggestion was made that meetings should be more frequent but shorter.