



# Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 3rd June 2020 at 7.30pm  
Video-conference

## Attendees and apologies

Present (8): K Redpath (KR) (Chair), K Dale (KD), A McKee (AM), D Hirst (DH), C Redmond (CR), M Albon (MA), Y Davidson (YD) – unable to fully participate due to internet problems, Ana Pena del Vale (APD)

Apologies: L Shepherd (LS), S Power (SP) – unable to participate due to internet problems

## 1. Matters arising – Local Development Plan, MacRobert Trust Community Engagement Plan

The Local Development Plan (LDP) consultation, which had been paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic, is now back out for consultation. Comments are due on the 17<sup>th</sup> July. **KR and AM will co-ordinate TDG's response.**

The MacRobert Trust (MRT) would like feedback from TDG on their draft Community Engagement Plan. As SP was unable to attend the meeting there was no further discussion on this item.

## 2. Decisions made between meetings

Three candidates were interviewed by KD and MA for the Housing Development Worker post and recommendations were made to TDG Trustees. The Trustees approved the appointment of Sam Foster under a contractual arrangement with his employer, Rural Housing Scotland (RHS).

## 3. Membership

There were no membership applications.

## 4. Cromar Community Council, Cromar Community Helpline and Community Action Planning

There were no new CCC minutes to comment on.

DH gave an update on the Cromar Community Helpline. The helpline is continuing to run smoothly, and the operating system has now been perfected.

There have been no developments relating to the Community Action Plan (CAP).



## **5. Composting**

Aberdeenshire Council has restarted its green waste collections. Members of the public are being encouraged to take green waste that has accumulated over lock-down to the skips in Aboyne, Ballater or Alford from Saturday 6 June.

Community composting is now a permitted activity and KR has discussed the reopening of the service with Denise Hansford. They propose that collections this season should be free, as it is possible that the scheme may be disrupted by future lock-downs. Beneficiary households would then be asked for a donation at the end of the season in November.

## **6. Tarland Community Housing**

AM reported that the main development of the TCH project is the appointment of Sam Foster as the new Housing Development Worker. Sam brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to the role, having worked for over a decade in sustainable architecture and, more recently, having taken on work in the field of community-led housing. To make sure that there is no conflict of interest (AM is the present Convener of RHS) KD appointed Sam and will manage the contract with RHS. Sam will begin work on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June and a start-up meeting is scheduled for that morning.

AM suggested that Sam might join the next TDG Trustees meeting for a short time to introduce himself.

KR was approached by a Ballater resident keen to find out more about TCH. AM was aware of the inquiry and is keen to connect the inquirer with the new Housing Development Worker.

## **7. Wetlands**

SP, KD and MA visited a couple of mill ponds on the estate to scope out their potential for restoration. The Cromar History Group (CHG) is involved in this initiative. KD has contacted the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for advice on good practice and licensing under the Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR). Due to high demand no reply has been received as yet. The expression of interest to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Coasts and Waters Heritage Fund was accepted. Funding may be applied for for a feasibility study in the first instance.

TWG will begin looking at potential sites for field storage of water in the catchment once lock-down restrictions are lifted, with the support of Susan Cooksley from the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP).

TWG have been loaned two trail cameras by the North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (NESBiP). MA continues to post footage of birds at the Tarland Wetland on Facebook. KD plans to create a page for the group on the TDG website, as well as a mini-page on the DCP website.



TWG have written to MRT expressing their concern about the deleterious effects of grass rolling near the Tarland Wetland in the area which is under a management agreement but have not received a reply as yet.

### **8. Paths and Access**

Gillian Needham and David Currie put out a call for volunteers to help with the management of the paths network but have not yet had any offers of help.

CR cleared two drains on the Tarland Way.

### **9. Tarland Trails**

CR has received guidance from Development Mountain Bike Scotland (DMBS) on how to manage trails as lock-down is lifted.

**CR is to call SP to discuss developments on TT2.**

### **10. Tarland Food and Music Festival**

In the face of continuing uncertainty, the FMF steering group have decided to postpone making a decision on whether or not, or in what format, the festival will go ahead until July. A more detailed discussion will take place at the next Trustees meeting.

### **11. Tarland Bee Group**

YD reported that TBG has been busy raising queens. They were delighted to receive a grant from the David and June Gordon Memorial Trust of £525 towards the Education Facility. They also received a donation of equipment from two members.

Lizzie and Philip Bacon have restored an old hive that is now on display at the new apiary. Dave Croll also restored an old hive. Mentors are allocated for members and lease hive owners. There are no swarms yet for the isolation apiary. The new apiary is under constant management to avoid swarming. Wild flowers are beginning to bloom. The grass is mowed by LS, William and Josh Latimer. There is a June gap coming up so advice is going out to members. The hedge planted last year is looking good.

The group had successfully prepared lots of nucleus hives for the beginners but as they did not complete the practical sessions due to Covid-19 they have been sold on to experienced bee keepers.

MA is doing great work applying for grants.



## **12. Accounts, grants, awards and funding**

MA gave an update on fundraising for the Education Facility at the Community Apiary. The David and June Gordon Memorial Trust made an award of £525 to the project. There are five other grant applications pending a response from funders. It was agreed that MA could act as signatory on the FCC Scottish Action Fund grant application, as she has on other grant applications.

## **13. Governance**

**KD reminded Trustees to complete their project plans.**

## **14. AOB**

**TDG is to draw up a strategy for filming using the offer of free drone flights.**

## **14. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July.