



# Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 1st July 2020 at 7.30pm  
Video-conference

## Attendees and apologies

Present (9): K Redpath (KR) (Chair), L Shepherd (LS), K Dale (KD), A McKee (AM), D Hirst (DH), Y Davidson (YD), Ana Pena del Vale (APD), Megan Albon (MA), Sam Foster (SF)

Apologies: S Power, C Redmond

### 1. Introduction by new Housing Development Worker Sam Foster

Sam Foster joined the meeting to meet the trustees as the new Housing Development Worker. Sam described how his upbringing in the remote village of Arisaig introduced him to the issues of maintaining a quality affordable housing stock. He then went on to recount his work as an architect and more recently as Development Officer for Rural Housing Scotland and work with Braemar Community Limited.

An inception meeting was held with Sam on 8<sup>th</sup> June, where the key objectives and milestones for his contract were agreed. In the past month, the core Tarland Community Housing group have provided Sam with relevant documentation and contacts for progressing the objectives in his contract.

Sam left the meeting after this item.

### 2. Matters arising – Local Development Plan (LDP), MacRobert Trust Community Engagement Plan, Drone Strategy

KR and AM continue to work on TDG's response to the LDP consultation, comments for which are due on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

AM has put together a comprehensive response to the MacRobert Trust (MRT) Community Engagement Plan. She suggested that trustees read her comments and feedback to her. She also suggested that a conversation with SP about the Plan would be helpful.

MA has made email contact with Richard Humpidge of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), who has generously offered to fly his drone for TDG. MA will put together an annotated map showing sites that trustees would like to be filmed and circulate for any further suggestions.



### **3. Decisions made between meetings**

There were no decisions between meetings.

### **4. Membership**

There were no membership applications, although KD sent out two application forms.

### **5. Cromar Community Council - Cromar Community Helpline and Mobile Phone Mast**

DH gave an update on the Cromar Community Helpline, which is continuing to run smoothly. Volunteers are being trained in how to use the operating system and have also been issued with ID cards.

In the latest Cromar Community Council minutes it states that the offer of a site at Corrachree for the new mobile phone mast will not be taken forward by Galliford Try, acting for CTIL / O2, due to the site being too restricted by the terrain to provide good coverage to the target area of Tarland. The site near the Community Garden is still the preferred site and a planning application is expected.

### **6. Community Garden**

KR was contacted by Scotland's Gardens Scheme to announce that gardens could run open days from August, however given the risk posed by Covid-19 it was decided that Tarland Community Garden would not take part for the foreseeable future.

### **7. Composting**

The scheme has started again and the first two collections have been made. A rota has been devised. Compost produced by the scheme was used to fill the hanging baskets in the Tarland Square.

### **8. Wetlands**

KD reported that a constructive response has been received from MRT to the group's letter expressing concerns over the impact of field rolling on wildlife. The group are planning to further engage with MRT as well as other landowners in the Tarland Burn catchment.

The group are currently concentrating on looking at some of the potential small flood storage sites in the Howe identified by previous studies.

KD and Susan Cooksley from the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP) attended a very interesting seminar put on by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), looking at examples of river restoration and re-wilding in the Pacific North-West of the USA, primarily for salmon recovery. KD will send around a link to a recording of the event to trustees.

KD has been in touch with SEPA to discuss mill pond restoration on the MRT Estate and received a helpful reply. This project is currently not a priority.



MA continues to post on behalf of the group on Facebook. KD has updated the TDG webpage to include the wetlands project, and will be creating a page for the group on the DCP website.

## **9. Paths and Access**

James Davidson of Aberdeenshire Council has notified TDG that progress towards their aim of adding all of the bridges on the Tarland Way to the council's survey list has been postponed due to Covid-19.

## **10. Tarland Trails**

MA notified the group that CR has put in an application to the Co-op Local Community Fund.

## **11. Food and Music Festival**

A survey has been posted via the Facebook page and other TDG networks to gather local opinion on what shape, if any, the festival should take this year. Forty-seven responses have been received so far. The steering group will consider these responses in making a final decision.

## **12. Tarland Bee Group**

YD reported that this is a very busy time of year for beekeepers. Although no teaching is taking place the mentors have been helping new beekeepers with trouble-shooting.

The hives at the apiary are being strictly managed to reduce the risk of swarms.

All of the nucs have been sold but YD is currently breeding new nucs for the new year's beginners, along with some ad hoc queen rearing.

The planters in the community apiary have all been planted up and the wildflower meadow is looking fantastic.

## **13. Electric Car Share**

MA has made contact with Graham McQueen of Paths for All. Their Smarter Choices Smarter Places Fund may be appropriate for the project. The steering group will meet to discuss.

There has been no update from Aberdeenshire Council on timescales for installation of an electric charging point in Tarland, and the group intends to enquire after this.

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

There have been no significant changes in the accounts since the last meeting.



#### **15. Governance - trustee training, Project Plans and Risk Assessments**

KD asked trustees to report any governance training they had undertaken and encouraged them to undertake more. MA will look into this. The group is required to record training to be presented to OSCR if requested.

KD also reminded trustees to complete project plans and circulate for approval, as well as updating project risk assessments to include Covid-19.

#### **14. AOB**

There was no other business.

#### **16. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.