



Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 29th July 2020 at 7.30pm
Online

1. Attendees and apologies

Present (8): K Redpath (KR) (Chair), D Hirst (DH), S Power (SP), E Shepherd (ES), Y Davidson (YD), Annie McKee (AM), C Redmond (CR), K Dale (KD), Megan Albon (MA)

Apologies (1): A Pena del Valle

2. Matters Arising:

- a. Local Development Plan (LDP): KR and AM have looked at the LDP and come to the conclusion that it does not have any direct impact on any TDG projects. TDG will not submit any comments.
- b. The MacRobert Trust (MRT) Community Engagement Plan (CEP): SP updated the trustees on the CEP. Ideally a specific community group is needed to look at land use issues. However it was agreed that forming any new group during lock-down restrictions would be challenging. There is no urgent rush to enact the CEP but it is hoped that progress will be made by October 2020.
- c. Mobile mast: Galliford Try Telecoms have submitted a Prior Notification on the Council to seek to proceed with a mobile phone mast development under permitted development rights, failing which they will apply for planning permission for a 17.5m 4G mast to be sited on the verge next to the Community Garden. There was concern amongst trustees that the mast may make any community housing development on the Village Farm site less attractive due to fears of health risks associated with 5G masts (as it is almost certainly going to be upgraded in time). It was suggested that members of the Community Garden should be specifically invited to submit their views on the proposal to TDG via a Survey Monkey questionnaire, so that a response could be co-ordinated. Similarly, KD will email TDG Members so that a TDG response can be co-ordinated. The deadline for comments is Monday 10 August.
- d. Drone Strategy: MA has compiled a map showing points for Richard Humpidge to capture with his drone. Richard proposes coming to do the filming in the first week of September.
- e. Electric Carshare Scheme: the group propose setting up a Zoom call with Stuart Masson of Huntly and District Development Trust to discuss TDG's application to the Smarter Choices Smarter Places fund.
- f. Trustee governance training: MA is to circulate a quote for governance training provided by Marr Area Partnership (MAP).

3. Decisions Between Meetings

There were no decisions between meetings.

4. Membership

There were no new membership applications.





5. **Cromar Community Council, and Cromar Community Helpline (CCH)**

There were no points raised in relation to the Cromar Community Council minutes. The Cromar Community Helpline has been making fewer regular deliveries now that people are out and about more. Aberdeenshire Council recognises the importance of groups such as the CCH in the pandemic and are anxious that they should not disband in case of a second wave. The group are still keen to take on new volunteers.

6. **Tarland Community Housing**

The project plan for TCH, compiled by KD, was formally approved by the trustees. Housing Development Worker Sam Foster will be visiting Tarland for the first time tomorrow, 30th July, to meet with the TCH steering group and look at potential housing sites.

7. **Tarland Wetlands Group**

The group has launched a call for local artists to create artworks inspired by Tarland's wetlands. The group will meet soon to look at sites for potential wetlands. The group are looking to write a plan for the whole Howe of Cromar, outlining options for what could be done to improve existing wetlands and create new wetlands in the area, which is planned for completion by October.

8. **Paths Group**

A resident of Tarland reported via the TDG Facebook page that the Tarland Way south-east of Coull Bridge is almost impassable. CR has arranged to trim it with this resident and DH. DH and KD plan to clear the Knockargety route tomorrow with the help of Gillian Needham and David Currie. The trustees thanked Gillian and David for all the work they have done maintaining the paths. It was suggested that a second attempt might be made at creating a paths maintenance group in Tarland.

SP explained that there may be an opportunity to put in more paths with the approaching change in tenancy agreements. He would like suggestions to be submitted within the next couple of weeks.

9. **Tarland Trails**

A QR code has been displayed at Tarland Trails 1 to allow people to donate via PayPal. People have used this already. The leaflet has been redrafted to include this code. A maintenance session was held in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

SP and CR met at the proposed car park for Tarland Trails 2 to discuss progress on the project. YD said that the apiary will remain in place for as long as possible until works begin. The Project Plan has been drafted and will be shared with trustees ahead of the next meeting.

10. **Food and Music Festival**

The FMF steering group has been meeting every two weeks to discuss the festival, which this year will be held wholly online. Shona Donaldson, FMF Administrator, has been contacting artists to arrange the programme and working out the technical delivery. Graphic designer J-P Shirreffs has offered his support with marketing.



11. **Seed Swap**

LS initiated a discussion on how the annual Seed Swap and Potato Day, held in February, would be conducted next year. The trustees suggested that the event could be carried out via pre-ordering. Collection of tatties and seed swaps could be done in a socially distanced manner. Although this would involve a lot of work for the committee, the regular event format also entails a huge number of volunteer hours so the difference would be small.

12. **Tarland Bee Group**

The lease hives are doing well at the Tarland Community Apiary, and two new beginners have been taken on. The apiary is looking great with the wildflower meadow and planters coming in to bloom. Queen sales have been good, as lots of beekeepers are queenless this year. A call has been made for donations for interior furnishings for the new education facility such as kitchen units. The information panels at the new apiary will be put in tomorrow.

13. **Squirrel Bridge**

Now that Covid-19 restrictions are lifting it was suggested by KD that work on the squirrel bridge repair could resume. Trustees agreed with the proposal.

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

Last year's accounts have been approved by Susan Zappert and will be submitted to OSCR.

The Investing in Communities (ICF) fund payment has not yet come through from the Scottish Government to pay for staff time. DH will submit a HARP claim form. DH has taken part in conversations with Lena Hutton of DTAS, who is gathering views from ICF recipients on the management of the grant.

15. **Governance**

KD reminded the trustees of the charity's commitment to good practice in relation to GDPR.

A discussion was had on the 2020 AGM, which must take place by December 2020. It was decided to hold the AGM digitally in September, most likely on the 15th.

16. **AOB**

KD has updated the Chemist Noticeboard and website.

MA is to check whether the TDG laptop has virus protection from McAfee, following an auto-renew notification.

17. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 26th August at 7.30pm.