



## **Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting**

**Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 7.30pm**

**Online**

### **1. Attendees and Apologies**

Present (10): K Redpath (KR) (Chair), D Hirst (DH), K Dale (KD), E Shepherd (ES), Y Davidson (YD), Annie McKee (AM), Liz Cooper (LzC), Linda Cunningham (LC), Julian Davies (JD), Megan Albon (MA)

Apologies (1): Ana Pena del Vale (AP)

### **2. Matters Arising**

KD attended the Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) annual conference online, participating in those sessions relating to food waste and raising community shares for housing projects. Housing Development Worker Sam Foster also attended the latter session.

### **3. Decisions Between Meetings**

- a) The Trustees did not approve the proposal to apply to the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) on behalf of Tarland Community Housing (TCH).
- b) The Trustees approved the acquisition of a card reader.
- c) The Trustees approved the proposal to receive funds from The MacRobert Trust (MRT) on behalf of Cromar Community Council (CCC).

### **4. Membership**

There were no new applications for membership.

### **5. Cromar Community Council**

Simon Welfare has been re-elected as Chair of CCC. Their minutes noted that Sam is giving them a regular update on TCH, and they thanked the Paths Group for their work.

The Cromar Community Helpline is still going and working well. They have a plan to link with the library in the New Year to do some book deliveries.

### **6. Cromar Food Waste Project**

In November the Food Waste Project held their first event in the Bowling Green Pavilion with food from the Aboyne Fairshare Depot and Balmoral Estate. The event attracted 25 people, largely parents but also some other community members. A second event held at Logie Coldstone attracted 16 people. A shopping habits survey was conducted at each event to gauge any conflict with local grocery stores, but this was not found to be an issue. People were asked how regularly they would like these events to be held and the majority thought they should be monthly. The next event will be the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> December in Tarland and Logie Coldstone respectively.



Initially the food provided by Fairshare was just waste food, but now it includes some food provided by the government to help mitigate the impact of Covid-19.

The Food Waste Project are in the process of applying to the Community Food Fund (CFF) through TDG for help with expenses. They would like to run community kitchen cooking sessions with the Brownies and the Guides, which they hope will be possible when the Covid-19 threat is lessened.

## **7. Tarland Community Housing**

Thanks to the help of Dave Ellis the TCH project now has a website ([www.tarlandcommunityhousing.org.uk](http://www.tarlandcommunityhousing.org.uk)) and dedicated email address ([hello@tarlandcommunityhousing.org.uk](mailto:hello@tarlandcommunityhousing.org.uk)). The draft website is awaiting minor adjustment by Sam Foster and should be live in the next week or so. Together with Facebook and Instagram posts the website will boost the online presence of the project and act as a single point of up to date information.

Establishing the new legal body for the housing project has taken a step forward, with the group achieving the requisite number of people to be Trustees and Members of a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Over the next couple of weeks the constitution will be drafted with the aim of submitting an application to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) for registration in time for the festive break. Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) will be providing core support for this next stage.

AM and Sam virtually met Toby and Morven from Community Shares Scotland (CSS) to discuss how the housing project could be set up to raise community share capital in the future. As a SCIO cannot raise share capital it would be necessary (although straightforward) to set up a subsidiary entity to do this, such as a Community Benefit Society (BenCom). CSS and DTAS have a lot of support on offer if necessary.

As well as securing OSCR registration the next step will be to begin the process of applying to the SLF for financial support to develop the previous feasibility studies and obtain up-to-date information on the capacity of the existing infrastructure at the Village Farm site. This will be used to determine the number of homes that could be constructed without the need for expensive upgrades, resulting in a project that is likely to be more economically viable and achievable.

## **8. Tarland Wetlands Group**

New drainage works have been started in the field adjoining the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW). These works will repair the drain pipes, thus draining the current standing water, but the plan is to insert a sluice which will allow water levels in the field to be managed in the future to create wetland habitat for wading birds at certain times of year. Ian Francis has produced a proposed plan for this new management regime which has been sent to SP.





The group's report on wetland opportunities in the Howe of Cromar was presented to the MRT Trustees at their meeting in November. They did not see anything controversial in the suggestions.

The group plan to organize a visit to the re-meandering project on the Beltie Burn near Torphins in the near future.

MA has set up a YouTube channel to show footage from the trailcams at the WWTW wetland and the Tarland Burn. The channel can also serve as a platform for any other TDG videos.

### **9. Tarland Trails**

DH informed the group that there is now enough money to put in the carpark entrance for TT2 and thus keep the planning permission live, however CR was not present to give any further update.

### **10. Seed Swap**

LS has put out a survey to the Seed Swap mailing list to gauge interest in potatoes for a pre-order and collection potato sale next year, with responses due by 9<sup>th</sup> December. DH recommended that the new TDG card reader be used for those buying to pay safely, although there is a charge per payment. KR suggested that the CFF might be a source of funding for the Seed Swap if required.

### **11. Community Compost Scheme**

The collections have now ended for the season. A good number of donations have been received. Normally a celebratory event would be held at the last collection but that was not possible this year. The provision of free coffee and cake from Angie's for volunteers has worked well and been much appreciated.

### **12. Tarland Bee Group**

All of the bees have now been moved from Old Town. Two jars of honey were submitted to the Roslin Institute who are doing a study on the microbial benefits of honey. The Tapestry Group have started doing botanical studies of flowers for the walls of the Education Facility, and slates painted with images of local butterflies are also being created.

YD presented to the Marr Area Partnership (MAP) AGM this year and found it to be a good networking opportunity.

### **13. Drive-in Concert 2021**

MA was contacted by a member of the Students Union of the Royal Scottish Conservatoire, who were enquiring about the possibility of holding a drive-in concert between March and June next year at a beauty spot near Tarland, as part of a series inspired by the 2021 COP26 climate change negotiations. The Trustees were in support of helping facilitate such an event in the area and suggested that the musicians be put in touch with MRT for a suitable location, perhaps at



Douneside. It was also suggested that the concert could be incorporated into Tarland-based events such as the Cello Festival or the Food and Music Festival.

#### **14. Paths and Access**

LzC, as the new Trustee for the Paths Group, reported on progress. There is now a regular group of eight people walking the local paths network, identifying paths to prioritise for maintenance in early spring. They have been in discussions with SP about path maintenance. There have been some discussions within the group and with DH about possible extensions to the paths network. They plan to set up a Facebook page for the group to allow local people to post their experiences and/or feedback any issues with the paths. Gillian Needham attended a Zoom meeting organized by the Lumphanan Paths Group on 2 December, who have convened a forum of similar groups in the area. This is particularly constructive given that the MAP Paths Forum which should have been held in March had to be cancelled.

#### **15. Accounts, Grants, Awards and Funding**

The Cromar Food Waste Project have applied to the CFF as noted in item 6.

#### **16. Governance**

KD has produced Project Plans for the Tarland Food and Music Festival and the Paths Group, both of which were approved by the Trustees.

In 2017 and in 2019 the Trustees attended a Development Day, at which they looked at any issues arising in their roles, refreshed their understanding of TDG's charitable purpose, did some blue-sky thinking, and looked to the future of the organisation and its impact in Tarland and the Howe of Cromar. The next Development Day would ideally be scheduled in February 2021 and should be in person to be effective, therefore it was agreed that it should be organized whenever Covid-19 restrictions allow.

#### **17. AOB**

MA has made all of the Trustees managers of the YouTube channel, and asked them to get in touch with her if they have any issues uploading videos.

#### **18. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January.