



## **Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm  
Outdoors in the Community Garden**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Present: Lizzy Shepherd (LS) (Chair), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes), Gillian Needham (Guest), David Hirst (DH), Yvonne Davidson (YD), Linda Cunningham (LiC), Simon Power (SP), Annie McKee (AM).

Apologies: Chris Redmond (CR), Ana Pena del Valle (AP), Liz Cooper (LzC), Julian Barclay (JB), Kate Redpath (KR).

#### **2. Talk by Gillian Needham of Tarland Climate Crisis Group**

Gillian gave an informal update on the group and its activities since its inception in January 2019. In the run up to COP26 in November, and with the support of Marr Area Partnership (MAP) and North East Scotland Climate Action Network (NESCAN), TCCG are willing to support community events with an environment and/or climate change focus by providing information and in-person conversation, and will be using a specifically designed logo to signpost their activities. This includes the Community Kitchen at the Food and Music Festival on 25th September. TCCG hope to signpost climate fun facts on paths around the estate and would like to encourage TDG projects to use the logo as part of their publicity and signage during the run up to COP26.

There then ensued a discussion about the merits of TDG being seen to support the UN COP26. Whilst there was consensus that climate change and environmental issues were important and merited community engagement (the environment is one of TDG's charitable aims), there was a reluctance to engage with what some Trustees perceived to be a political movement (TDG cannot be political). Instead, a focus on resilience and adaptation for our community through awareness raising was thought to be more appropriate.

#### **3. Matters arising**

None.

#### **4. Decisions made between meetings**

None.

#### **5. Membership**

None.

#### **6. Governance – OneDrive, IT security, Project Plans, AGM (proposed amendments to Constitution), Governance Day, Training**

DH, KD, YD and LiC attended a Microsoft online training event today. Teams and Sharepoint are the most appropriate platforms for our needs rather than OneDrive as they are for groups rather than individuals. DH to set up. There has been no progress on IT security and no more Project Plans have been submitted to KD. The AGM will be held on Saturday 4 September outdoors at the Apiary or in the Community Garden. All to send LS project updates. The Resolution wording about virtual meetings is to come from LS. DH to check OSCR reporting requirements. Due to Covid it was agreed to leave the Governance Day until next spring. Again, Trustees were encouraged to undertake training using some of the ringfenced TDG training funds. If this is on governance then it has to be logged by KD.

## **7. Tarland Trails**

CR provided an email update as follows:

Aberdeenshire Council Mediation Service have been involved with the issues at TT1. There is a plan to move the meeting place for groups further away from the houses. This is still ongoing. Regarding TT2 CR has had a discussion with a local businessman concerning a donation to help kick start funding and is waiting to hear back from him. TT2 is looking more promising as Sport Scotland and other funders have indicated that they may provide funding. Planting plans for the Pittenderich land will be progressing this autumn and CR has been contacted by the forestry company for a project update (TT2 has been accounted for in the plans).

## **8. Community Garden**

A recent work party was very successful. Another work party is planned for September. AP is to be the new TDG Trustee on the committee. Paul Middlemiss is the communications person and will check the emails when he has the password. The committee is doing a great job in KR's absence.

## **9. Composting**

Everything is going OK. Volunteer contact details have now been shared on a need to know basis. The large compost pile at the community garden needs sieving and bagging up, which Denise Hansford has agreed to arrange. There is too much of it and it is unsightly. In the meantime, it was agreed that AM would advertise on Facebook that it is free to uplift but that donations can be made. If there is any left by October then SP will spread it out.

## **10. Cromar Food Waste Project**

The last pop-ups on Friday 28th May in Tarland and 1st June in Logie Coldstone were less well attended again so we decided to make our next event a bit different. There wasn't time to fit it in before the end of the school term, so we are scheduled to have a Fun and Food on the Green day by the pavilion on Sunday 1st August 2-4pm in collaboration with TCCG. There will probably be another food pop-up after the schools are back at the end of August. There will be a Community Kitchen on Saturday 25th September 11-3 as part of the Food and Music Festival, similar to the last one, with donations of bread/veg and providing soup and bread. We hope to involve the school/brownies with this and will again have other side shows.

The application to the Co-op Local Community Fund was submitted in May and we will hear the outcome in October. Unfortunately we weren't eligible for the Marr Area Committee (MAC) Initiative Grant Scheme, as we have had funding from Aberdeenshire Council in the last year. This also applied to Tarland Welfare Trust (TWT) who were going to apply for the double sink. The group will approach the MacRobert Trust (MRT) about funding.

## **11. Tarland Community Housing**

Sam Foster submitted his final report, summarised as follows:

TDG's job description had four key tasks for the Development Worker to achieve.

1. Work closely with the community to establish a newly constituted community organisation dedicated to the delivery of affordable housing in Tarland (complete);
2. Work out the best course of action to meet housing need in Tarland (incomplete);
3. Identify appropriate sites and negotiate with key partners, e.g. the MacRobert Trust (complete);
4. Develop the Tarland Community Housing project to ensure that funding applications could be made (where available) by March 2021 (i.e. have an 'oven ready' project for this date) (incomplete).

The last 13 months have resulted in some achievements, like the formation of a new SCIO and progress on places for community-led, affordable homes, and some failures, like not having more success in engaging local residents to a greater degree. However, it is clear that the project is much-needed. It has a strong founding board and clear remit. With funding support for a Development Worker more positive steps will be made quickly.

## **12. Tarland Wetlands**

YD to pass on to KD contact details for obtaining another quote for the signs at the Viewfield Wetland and the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) Wetland. Subject to a competitive quote it was agreed that TDG funds may be used for them. The group needs to work towards an 'oven ready project' to take advantage of grant opportunities that come up at short notice. As such sites are being investigated at Ranna and on the Allt-na-Vackie for flood storage bunds and leaky dams respectively.

## **13. Paths and Access**

LzC provided an email update as follows:

MAP and Paths for All grant applications are still pending. A pre-planning discussion with Aberdeenshire Council about proposed maintenance on the Black Path and creation of new path to link Tillychardoch/Stoneyford has been held. There was a successful clear-up of the degraded tree tubes between Douneside and Ranna Beech Belties on 19th June (7 volunteers). The next maintenance day is on Saturday 24th July 10.00 – 12.30. The Tuesday 'Tramps' have been re-painting waymarkers and replacing arrows/doing minor maintenance etc. The group is looking at some fundraising - Alastair Diack has contributed some great photos from Tarland Paths FB page.

## **14. Tarland Bee Group**

There is now a fairly firm schedule in place for the Education Facility at Oldtown of Kinragie. Cabin construction begins in the week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> July, with completion on Wednesday or Thursday of that week. Julian Barclay donated a large amount of bark chippings to the group and these have been laid in the bee shelter enclosure. Wooden barrels have been installed to collect rainwater from the roof of the bee shelter - a gutter will be installed in due course. Two group members (Arnie and Bill) performed a good deed for a neighbour and in return one of the neighbours has donated some signage to TBG. A local artist and fine art wood carver is going to donate a wooden bee mobile for the apiary which will 'grow' from the western hemlock tree stump in the southeast corner of the site. Butterfly Conservation have agreed to supply leaflets. A grant application has been made to install a butterfly bank, after consulting with MRT. If successful it will be for a number of the TDG projects, giving them some landscaping for pollinators. A funding application has also been

made to the Peoples Postcode Trust for funding for a Resource Library to be housed at Oldtown. Books appropriate for bees, apple pressing, seed saving, pollinators and general conservation have been requested. Hayley Lockerbie, local librarian, has kindly offered to help to set up this library. A grant has been secured from the Woodland Trust to supply more hedging saplings as before and these will continue the line in front of the shelter and run along in front of the new Education Facility. The meadow at Oldtown will need cut around September and the plan is to scythe it. Ian Anderson, a neighbour at Oldtown, has offered help and will perhaps give a little bit of instruction.

Once the education facility is erected the kitchen will need to be installed, painted and furnished. The first priority when complete/nearly complete will be to invite all TBG members to an open day/evening, hopefully in person (Covid restrictions allowing).

The subgroup policy was approved.

### **15. Food and Music Festival**

We are still planning for the festival to go ahead as normal, but we are waiting for the next announcement from the Scottish government to decide how many tickets we can sell and therefore what price we need to charge.

We are also investigating live streaming the concerts but have not made any decisions about this yet.

It is important to make sure that people know that we are putting it on based on the results of the questionnaire. The Risk Assessment (RA) is being started now. We will need more volunteers than usual. AM to ask Shona to circulate the results of the survey.

### **16. Cromar Community Council**

Item deferred.

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

Interest bearing account to be set up. Scottish Government funding decision delayed for another month.

### **18. AOB**

It was agreed that text for the minutes would be provided by each contributor from now on to allow KD to participate fully in the meetings and to ensure an accurate record.

The lease for Angie's Café is passing to Shannon Black, who is renaming it Tarland Tearooms.

### **19. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be the AGM on 4 September.

