

Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

**Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 7.30pm
Strathweltie**

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Lizzy Shepherd (LS) (Chair), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes), Dave Hirst (DH), Linda Cunningham (LiC), Yvonne Davidson (YD), Chris Redmond (CR), Julian Davies (JD).

Apologies: Liz Cooper (LzC), Ana Pena del Valle (AP), Simon Power (SP), Kate Redpath (KR).

2. Matters arising

None.

3. Decisions made between meetings

It was agreed that the cost of the new batteries for the defibrillator outside the hall would be shared between TDG and Tarland Welfare Trust.

4. Membership

There have been no new applications for membership. Trustees were reminded that all the information about TDG and an application form are available on the website.

5. Governance

CR will consider the role of Vice Chair. All to consider shadowing the Secretary this year with a view to taking over the role at the next AGM.

There has been no progress on Sharepoint because of DH's poor internet connection.

6. Food and Music Festival

The Food and Music Festival returned to Tarland this year despite regulations and concern about Covid. As many activities as possible were moved outside, which was a great success because the weather was so good. The Saturday concert was sold out and Friday nearly so, and there was also the option of watching on the live stream for anyone who was worried about being in a crowded hall. There was a very good response to the whole festival and everyone seemed to be pleased to be able to attend a live event. An accident occurred on the rear hall steps during the market, however, the person involved is recovering well and our best wishes have been sent. The festival lost about £1800. The grant funding was reduced to £2000 this year and will disappear entirely next year. We have enough reserves for at least another four years but more grant funding will be necessary at some point. We would like to thank Shona Donaldson for doing an excellent job both organising and presenting the bands at the concerts and we are very grateful that she has agreed to take on the organising role again next year. The dates will be 23-25 September 2022. The Trustees also expressed their congratulations to the Steering Group.

7. Tarland Trails

Tarland Trails 1

The next Steering Group meeting is on 14 October to address the issues raised by residents. CR to let the residents know about Chris Roper's October Camp.

JD joined the meeting.

Tarland Trails 2

The Co-op fund is nearing the end. The trails took 3rd place to two more worthy causes. We should know the amount of the award at the end of October.

CR has re-submitted the Sports Scotland funding application for cycling facilities with an additional £32,000 of match funding promised by donations.

8. Community Garden

Everything is going well at the garden and we have two new members. We got lots of wood chips from Julian Barclay, which have already been put in place. Many thanks to Julian Barclay for his contribution. We had the Geordie's Tree celebration on 3 October and we are planning to have a sort of 'closing year tea and cake get-together' on 6 November.

9. Composting

This is all going OK and there is one new member. There is now an email reminder system for the volunteers. DH is TDG Lead Trustee. On 6 November volunteers will be needed to change the old tarpaulin and cover the oldest pile at Alastrean. The pile at the community garden will also be re-covered so the compost can be used next year. Sieving is to be considered.

10. Apple Pressing

This has started and finished already as there were very few apples this year. The press has moved up to Oldtown Apiary. For pressing next year one option is to slab in front of the small shed and get a gazebo for cover.

11. Cromar Food Waste Project

Events

The Community Kitchen at the festival on Saturday 25 September went very well, with around 100 servings of soup (made from donated veg, both tinned and fresh) given out, and a fairly successful food pop up alongside. We collected cut price bread products which were going out of date each evening from the Co-op in Aboyne the week before and froze them till Saturday. Donations from the event were around £270.

Our next event is on 21 October in the MacRobert Hall, where we have a 'Save the Pumpkin' carve and cook session. Inspired by wanting to make use of the innards of the pumpkin, we will be making soup, toasting pumpkin seeds, and making pumpkin pancakes, with families. This is in association with Aberdeenshire Public Health worker Emma Dobson, who will be filming the cooking for use with other groups. Families attending will carve their pumpkins, watch/help with the cooking, taste all the proceeds, and go home with recipe cards and the innards of their pumpkins to use at home.

The next food pop-ups will be on Monday 1 November in Tarland and Tuesday 2 November in Logie Coldstone.

Pavilion Asset Transfer

There has been no progress on this since last month, so the next steps remain as follows:

- Find a group/person who is willing to take the lead in moving this forward; and
- Develop a vision of what is wanted with the building and adjacent space, from within the community.

If/when these are achieved, the consideration of the building asset transfer can begin, including viability, liability and community use. Nick Mardall appears to be a supportive contact at the Council and will be happy to assist when/if we get to the asset transfer stage. There is no proposal for TDG to be the main organisation leading the project.

Food Premises Registration

The cooker in the MacRobert Hall is now operational and the process of registering the hall for food business use is in progress. It should be passed within 28 days of the form going in, after which we will be able to pick up waste food from local supermarkets.

12. Tarland Wetlands

The group has a new member, Jenny Weston, a Conservation Officer from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Ian Francis will remain on the group as an independent. Thanks were expressed to Ian and the RSPB for all their help and support to the group since its inception and going forward.

It was agreed that a dry weather walkover of the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) site with the tenant farmer would be beneficial, which SP and Ian Francis will arrange. Design work can be started on the roadside sign as we have an alternative quote and funds from TDG. Some interpretive material will be provided in the hide linked to COP26 and climate change. The site will need mowing again before March. Susan Cooksley from the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP) has put the re-meandering of the Tarland Burn forward as a potential project for two funding streams.

Ranna Farm is being re-let and the storage bunds are in the particulars. Tree belts are also being considered. There is the potential for leaky dams in the Allt-na-Vackie, which has been surveyed by KD and William Latimer.

The Viewfield ponds have been de-silted by The MacRobert Trust (MRT). Design work can be started on the interpretive sign as we have an alternative quote and funds from TDG.

Some wetlands engagement was done at the market at the Food and Music Festival.

13. Paths and Access

Deferred as LzC was not present at the meeting.

14. Tarland Bee Group

The bees have all been retrieved from the heather and are currently being fed and treated in preparation for the winter.

We continue to progress with the new building. The sedum roof has been installed. The electricity meter has been installed and we have an account. The disabled access paths have gone in along with some other groundworks, however, we are likely to need to do additional works to stabilise the edges, requiring further grant funding. JD will pay a visit to the Apiary to advise on disabled access and to cost up timber. The electrician and plumber are booked and should be on site in the next two weeks, after that our secondhand kitchen will be installed. Many thanks to our members who have been painting the exterior of the building and the internal floor, and doing lots of other jobs.

The wildflower meadow has been strimmed and our thanks go to Gary Coutts who kindly tidied it up with a mower. We had a major tidy up in preparation for our first two public events and our members worked hard to get it all in order.

We had the TBG AGM followed by a social with our neighbours on 28th August.

We had the TDG AGM with Trustees and Members on 4th September.

We were open on Saturday 25th September 10-12 as part of the Food and Music Festival.

YD was interviewed at Oldtown Walled Garden by Frida Morrison from Scots Radio for her weekly programme. There was a 10 minute slot with reference to TDG and MRT and the work done by them in the community, along with a tour of the garden.

We have asked members to suggest names for the Education Facility and they will be asked to vote after TDG have approved the selection and made any additional suggestions.

There will be no classes this winter.

15. Cromar Community Council

There is to be a meeting about broadband on 27 October with some key players from the Scottish Government and Aberdeenshire Council. To join you need to sign up using the link in the Cromar Community Council (CCC) minutes. Dave Ellis (CCC Secretary) should be able to record the meeting for those who can't attend.

The electric car share project being investigated by TDG prior to lockdown is no longer being progressed. CCC have been informed of this and are now the main contact for Aberdeenshire Council in relation to the electric charging points being installed in Tarland. KD to unsubscribe from CoMoUK emails.

16. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

The Housing Group deficit is to be absorbed by TDG funds now the project is closed.

There is a Tesco Banchory funding opportunity. All to think of potential projects to enter.

17. AOB

JD will look at the beech trees on the approach to Tarland with a view to pruning them again.

18. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 1 December at 7.30 at the MRT offices.