



Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

**Wednesday 25th May 2022 at 7.30pm
Upper Hall**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies

Welcome to potential new Trustees Hayley Lockerbie (HL) and Dave Muirhead (DM).

Present: Chris Redmond (CR) (Chair), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes), Dave Hirst (DH), Ana Pena del Valle (AP), Liz Cooper (LzC), Julian Davies (JD).

Apologies: Stephen Young (SY) (Tarland Show), Linda Cunningham (LiC), Lizzy Shepherd (LS), Yvonne Davidson (YD).

2. Matters arising

None.

3. Decisions made between meetings

None.

4. Membership

None.

5. Tarland Show

Deferred due to illness.

6. Tarland Trails

Tarland Trails 1

- Pump track Take Care of Your Trails event – Sunday 29th May

Tarland Trails 2

- With the contractor and TDG spend as of 25/5/2022 we have satisfied Scottish Enterprise conditions (subject to auditor report)
- An auditor has been appointed
- Sport Scotland conditions have all been satisfied with the exception of the solicitor's letter, which is in progress
- A company has been contracted to get a ruling from HMRC on VAT registration
- The crowdfunder is doing well, with 221 donations and more than 10 businesses contributing
- A donation has been received from a private donor
- Further grant applications have been made
- Work has been suspended in the Doune Wood area until the end of the squirrel breeding season (September)
- The project was reported to the Wildlife Crime Officer but the Officer was happy with the detail supplied on the protection of wildlife
- The build is going well and is of very good quality
- Sandy Dalgarno is very pleased with the trails on his land and impressed with the car park

- Some cattle broke out of a field on 21/22 May and damaged 500m of trail, which will need to be repaired. Discussions will be had with The MacRobert Trust (MRT)
- Aberdeenshire Council will now fund the path to Tarland, which will be constructed towards the end of the project
- At the moment the Pittenderich Blue trail is to be excluded from the scope to cover increased costs
- The car park is mostly complete
- Two litter bins have been provided FOC from the council - TDG is to be charged for emptying
- Ellie Flather is working on signage drafts
- There has been a request from a member of the public to look at employing a ranger, the possibility of which will be discussed with MRT

7. Cromar Food Waste Project

Food Pop-ups

Our April pop-ups at the end of the month were busy, and we had a fun weekend event on Sunday 15th May, combining another pop-up with the Aberdeenshire Health and Wellbeing Festival. We had a cook-in at the MacRobert Hall on 13th May with an international flavour, thanks to the presence of Daria Muir, who made an amazing Romanian celebration cake, and her Ukrainian visitor Anna, who made delicious Borscht. The rest of us cooked up a community soup using waste veg from the Coop, and scones. All were served at the fun day along with other donated soups and treats, breads from the Co-op, and ice-cream with strawberry puree and sprinkles. Apart from food, there was pickle ball on the tennis court, football in the park, petanque on the lawn, a repair shop, CPR and defib training, and a TDG information board. The sun shone and we had over 100 attendees, enjoying a super afternoon out. Thanks to all the hard work of the volunteers, those who donated food, and all the sports coordinators. The next pop-ups are on 30th/31st May, 13th/14th June and 27th/28th June.

Future Events

As part of the Investing in Communities Fund (ICF) application process (see item 17 below), we had a constructive meeting with the Headteacher of Tarland School, who confirmed that the school (post Covid) is now open and welcoming to visitors. Regardless of whether the ICF funding comes through, the Food Waste Project hopes to go into the school to do cooking and food waste management workshops next session with the children and perhaps teachers and parents too. We will also aim to have our pop-up shops in the school playground on occasion.

The Community Kitchen will be at the Tarland Food and Music Festival on Saturday 24th September.

8. Wetlands Group

We have two new members of the group, Hans Kruuk and Gus Spirit. Hans is a well renowned ecologist, now retired, and Gus is also an ecologist who used to work for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and now works freelance. Steve Redpath has re-joined the group in a low key capacity.

Hans Kruuk raised concerns about the Gellan wetland. This an area of wetland on Aboyne Estate and Dinnet Estate that was drained before the war and again in the 1980's. Diversity, both plant and bird, has declined over the years and it would benefit from some conservation management. Actions are being progressed.

The Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) wetland – the primary school are interested in doing a mural on the hide, David Currie has agreed to do a roadside sign, William Latimer has sprayed the site, the farmer has erected an electric fence to manage the grazing, and Simon Power will manage the water control structure with him.

Tarland Burn – a meeting is to be set up with the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB Scotland) and MRT to discuss the Nature Restoration Fund bid to NatureScot. The bid could include upstream flood storage.

Ordie wetland (Green Moss) – thanks to MRT and to Jim Anderson for doing such a good job of the scrape.

More of these would benefit wildlife on the wetland. Some trees still need to be cut back.

Tarland flooding issues were raised by Steve Redpath. He is working with Cromar Community Council (CCC) and MRT. He is concerned that there has been very little action from the Council since Storm Frank.

9. Paths and Access

After a period of inactivity, things are slowly moving forward again.

Working with MRT

Fallen trees on the Brown route (near Tonley, where the path crosses the road) have been cleared – thanks to MRT. A fallen tree over the Blue Skyline route (above Ranna) and a few trees over the paths where it descends through Davoch Woods are due to be cleared soon.

A pedestrian gate is to be fitted near The Petts (at present there are two tied-up stock gates), funded by North East Scotland Climate Action Network (NESCOAN).

Maintenance

Maintenance work parties will be organised soon. There is a list of things to be fixed/strimmed etc. on the Yellow and Brown routes. Any info on the Tarland Way or other routes would be useful. As always, thanks to MRT for cutting the grass paths.

Improvements to Black Path/Drove Road

At present this path is very difficult to access near The Petts in bad weather/winter. LzC is speaking with the Cromar History Group (CHG) with a view to highlighting the historic aspects of this route. There is the possibility to include Hillhead Stone Circle as a spur. They are discussing having interpretative panels en-route (stone circles, earth house, droving etc.) and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have indicated that this would be a suitable project. The majority of the finance would go on drainage, fencing etc. plus panels.

New path to Craiglich

The route is currently being finalised. Funding is required for planning and a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA). Funds have been received from NESCOAN and are promised from Marr Area Partnership (MAP). Further funding applications have been submitted.

A discussion is being held with Lumphanan Paths Group re the long-term vision for joining paths using the Right of Way (RoW) over Craiglich/Mortlich to give a (mostly) off-road route between the villages. We have agreed to support each other on relevant projects (e.g. support for planning and funding applications).

Marr Paths Forum

The next meeting is on 1st June by Zoom.

10. Tarland Bee Group

Beginners classes are underway and going well. We now have artwork displayed in the Bee Bothy from Tarland Art Group and Tarland Tapestry Group, along with two stained glass art works. Fencing is finished and a new gate has been made. Seven bird boxes were gifted and have been installed at the apiary. The grass has been cut around the paths. Again, a big thank you to our members who have attended many work parties, to paint, move aggregate, spread chuckies, put up curtains, put up shelves, connect water barrels, arrange the resource books etc. All our funders, neighbours and members have been invited to an official opening. Chris Hockley has very kindly agreed to cut the ribbon and our youngest member, Megan Woods's son, will also be helping in his bumble bee suit. Attendance will be high, and parking an issue, however, the neighbours have been informed and invited and are very patient and understanding. Another evening will be arranged for all the artists who have contributed art work and TDG Trustees.

11. Composting

There are two new members of the scheme. New bags are now available. Everything is carrying on as normal.

12. Community Garden

Paul W. Middlemiss and Frank Yule have continued their excellent work managing and maintaining the common areas of the community garden, including a new herb garden. Clearer, and more frequent, communication with all members is needed, including, perhaps, in-person gatherings, and this is being progressed. The managing group is considering growing plants to be sold in the annual fund-raising plant sale. The group is currently exploring options for participating in the next Food and Music Festival. One option is the Open Gardens Scheme.

13. Food and Music Festival

Planning is going well. All the bands are booked apart from the support for Saturday. We have received a grant of £3,100 from Scottish Museums and Galleries to put on a concert on Sunday afternoon under the "Year of Stories" programme. We have applied for funding from two bodies (the Ness Energy Project and William Syson Foundation) for additional funding and should hear in the next few weeks.

14. NESCOAN

AP to contact NESCOAN with regard to the offer to video a project. JD to attend the climate resilience event on 22 June.

15. Cromar Community Council

TDG is providing a First Aider at the Jubilee event on 4 June.

16. Governance

The quote for indemnity insurance has not been received yet. DH to chase up.

A central repository for TDG documents will need a data hierarchy within the organisation. KD to check what our current policy is. Sharepoint is free and training available, but the detail is complicated for us as an organisation due to the requirement for Microsoft email addresses. HL and DM to investigate further.

17. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

As above.

ICF update - AP, Gillian Needham, LiC, DH and LS have continued to work on the grant proposal. The application has not yet been submitted because the Scottish Government website has not made the application form live. This is expected to happen by the end of May and we will have a month to complete it.

18. AOB

None.

19. Date of next meeting

6 July. DH to book the Upper Hall.

Tarland Show meeting 9 June. DH to book the Upper Hall.

HL and DM agreed to be Trustees. They were co-opted and warmly welcomed.