



Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

**Wednesday 6th July 2022 at 6.30pm
Oldtown Apiary**

AGENDA

1. Tour of the apiary with refreshments

Thanks were expressed to YD and LS for the tour and refreshments. The apiary is a wonderful resource and is well used. It is a credit to all those who have worked so hard on it and continue to use it to its full potential.

2. Welcome and apologies

Present: Chris Redmond (CR) (Chair), Kathy Dale (KD) (minutes), Lizzy Shepherd (LS), Yvonne Davidson (YD), Dave Hirst (DH), Linda Cunningham (LiC), Liz Cooper (LzC), Dave Muirhead (DM), Hayley Lockerbie (HL), Julian Davies (JD).

Apologies: Ana Pena del Valle (APV).

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Decisions made between meetings

None.

5. Membership

One new member was approved.

6. Tarland Show

No update.

7. Tarland Trails

TT2

CR and DH met with Simon Power on 14 June.

CR is engaging/making initial enquiries with the planners about the overflow car park and cycle parking in The Square.

CR and another steering group member met an objector on site to discuss her concerns.

The solicitor continues to work on registering the lease and confirming there are no burdens.

Monthly meetings continue with Scottish Enterprise (SE)/Sport Scotland (SS)/Will Clarke.

There has been a business approach about providing bike uplift.

The build continues at pace and on schedule. The Pittenderich Red trail is complete, the Pittenderich East Climb is nearly complete, the Blue Jump Trail will start soon, the Orange (Black) Jump Trail has just been started.

The cattle damage has been repaired.

There are no major hold ups due to ecology.

CRC is investigating a revised Upper Pressendye Red trail to reduce costs whilst still protecting ecology. To liaise with planners if a change is needed to the trail line or the construction plan due to ecology.

The parking meters are now installed in the car park.

Additional funding is being pursued from a number of organisations and individuals.

TDG now needs to be audited as our income is over half a million pounds in this financial year.

TT1

Simon Power met with the residents' representative.

8. Cromar Food Waste Project

Pop-ups in Tarland and Logie Coldstone have continued successfully, fortnightly for the last six weeks. Over the school holidays we will have fewer, the next being 18th/19th July (three weeks since the last ones). The doubling of the number of pop-ups is appreciated by our customers, but does require double the effort from volunteers, including the admin. LiC is in the process of documenting all the contacts, requirements and processes for the pop-ups so that anyone can take them over.

We received £500 from South Aberdeenshire Food Bank which received a large donation and passed on some to us. So at the last pop-up, for the first time, we bought in some items from Aldi to supplement what we had received from the depot in Aboyne. We are indebted to No. 1 in Banchory for their good quality food and veg leftovers.

Since the start of the project we have maintained a rudimentary spreadsheet of what we give out each month, and can see that we gave out five times the amount of items in June 2022 compared to June 2021. In order to make best use of such data we need to have a clear idea of what we want/need to know and collect other info from our customers as we go.

APV is part way through the CAFE (Creating Access to Food for Everyone) project which will create a Food Information Hub where all Marr area food projects can post information available to the public on what is available locally to them.

9. Wetlands Group

There has been a meeting with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the MacRobert Trust (MRT) and the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP) about the Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) bid to NatureScot for the re-meandering of the Tarland Burn. It was all very positive and the Expression of Interest (EOI) is due in by the end of July.

The group met yesterday to progress actions on the other wetlands. It was noted that to have five wetland areas on the agenda was very positive.

David Currie has made a roadside sign for the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) wetland, which looks excellent. Thanks were expressed.

Ian Francis has completed the breeding wader survey of the Tarland Burn area this year. There were two clusters of breeding waders (the WWTW general area and the lower Coull area).

There has been no progress yet on flood management. Simon Welfare has said he will organise a meeting. A Trustee is needed on the group when KD steps down from being a Trustee at the AGM.

10. Paths and Access

Maintenance

Thanks to the volunteers who cleared the path from Tomnaverie to Scrapehard.

The Tarland Way at Coull is next on the schedule (delayed by rain) followed by Knockargety.

New path to Craiglich

There has been a discussion with Aberdeenshire Council (AC) re planning costs. It has been confirmed that planning is only needed for bridges and road crossings, not the path along the field margins.

The costings for bridges have been received from CRC (two different suppliers). The price is substantially higher than the allowance from grant providers. However, this gives a rough guide of what to expect when applying for funding.

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) is being undertaken for inclusion with the planning application.

We are still aiming for planning applications to be submitted in August.

11. Bee Group

The Walled Garden, Apiary and Bee Bothy was officially opened on 3 June. Rear Admiral Chris Hockley CBE DL and John Woods kindly did the honours by cutting the ribbon. All our funders, members, neighbours and supporters were invited along with members of the bee keeping community from Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA) and the Scottish Government Bee Inspectorate.

We also had an evening for all the artists who have contributed artwork to the project. Many thanks to all artists who have contributed work.

The new apiary has been in use for our 2022 beginners class. The course is now complete, and we have gained new members from the beginner's class.

We are holding weekly 'Open Hive' sessions for our members.

We are preparing for our winter talks to members and will seek funding for the purchase of IT equipment to allow this to go ahead.

We are making a funding application for honey extraction equipment for the education facility.

The library is being catalogued by HL and Lizzie Bacon and we should have a lending system for members in place soon. Dave Woods and HL are going to run a competition with Aboyne Academy pupils to design a bookplate for us.

Members volunteered at the Royal Highland Show.

SBA Practical Exams are underway by members.

12. Composting

The scheme is running normally.

13. Community Garden

There was a meeting of members held recently. There is a need to re-start some activities following Covid.

The committee needs strengthening as two members are stepping down. There was a reminder that any complaints need to follow the TDG procedure.

14. Food and Music Festival

All the bands are now booked. Siobhan Miller with Arthur Coates as support on Friday, Manran with Ross Ainsley and Tim Edey as support on Saturday. We received a grant of £1,000 from the William Syson Foundation but we still need more funding. Tickets are starting to sell - 47 so far despite the only advertising being through the Aboyne Festival programme. We are struggling to find street food vendors, otherwise the programme is complete.

15. NESCAN – video, climate resilience event on 22 June

The video has been done. No event was held.

16. Cromar Community Council – AGM

The resilience group is not making much progress.

17. Governance – indemnity insurance, Sharepoint, Away Day, AGM

DH chased the insurers but received no response.

Sharepoint is in progress with HL and DM.

KD to re-circulate the notes from the previous two Away Days.

It was agreed that we need to raise our profile with more external outreach, meeting other groups. We could have a stall at the F&MF all weekend. Update leaflets and posters (LiC and J-P Shirreffs). Purchase sails (HL). Order TDG tote bag to hand out at market (HL). Do we need an alternative structure? SCIO is best but we can amend our constitution if required.

The AGM will be held in the evening, hopefully in the café. The 14 September at 7pm was suggested. A screen and projector will be needed. KD to organise.

18. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

Nothing to add.

19. AOB

The ICF application has been submitted to the Scottish Government and we can expect a decision in December 2022.

A Microsoft Office licence is available for use from the Bee Group.

A Trustee is required on the Seed Swap group when LS steps down from being a Trustee at the AGM.

20. Date of next meeting

Away Day 28 August, 10am, Douneside.

AGM 14 September, 7pm, café (tbc).