



Tarland Development Group

Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 7.30pm
Lindas House

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Chris Redmond (CR) (Chair), Yvonne Davidson (minutes) (YD), Dave Hirst (DH), Linda Cunningham (LiC), Liz Cooper (LzC), Dave Muirhead (DM), Julian Davies (JD). Karen McHarg (CMCh) Ana Pena del Valle (APV).

Apologies: Hayley Lockerbie (HL), Sandra Van Heusden (SVH)

2. Matters arising

None.

3. Decisions made between meetings

None.

4. Membership

One request approved.

5. Tarland Community Fund

Full discussion with information available, decision deferred until more information is provided.

6. Tarland Trails

OPEN!

Scroll the Facebook page for updates!

Some highlights:

Opening has gone really well.

Lots of happy riders.

Horse riders relationship going from strength to strength (despite a spooking incident)

MRT and SAS tours of site

YouTube videos and radio scotland (watch this if you haven't....https://youtu.be/N32_GguZ78Q).

Some problems/negatives:

Overnight parking (Alastrean)

Some parking in the square and Alastrean avoiding paying.

Trail short cutting

Very busy

A few build snags still to be complete.

Some more positives:

The car park has contained 120 vehicles.

Mike is doing a fantastic job as TTMO - upped him to 2 days a month.

Over 500 passes sold.

Visitors (including from France recently) spending money locally. (With the help of the posters)

Shelter nearly complete

Building a really positive community of riders.

Save the dates:

For ministers/funders - Fri 9th June

Official opening Party - Sat 10th June

Discussion. Signage suitable for rescue purposes required. Grid reference or W3W. CR

7. Wetlands Group

1. Tarland Burn project

There was an overwhelming response from the farming community and the general public to the options proposals for the restoration of the Tarland Burn, which were presented at a drop-in event on 30 March 2023. The consultants are now in the process of analysing all the responses received, to ensure all comments and concerns are taken into consideration before progressing.

Many of the comments received were in relation to flood risk and the Project Team has liaised with SEPA and Aberdeenshire Council to agree the scope of the detailed design modelling, which may include future proposals for flood alleviation in the village upstream of the project site.

Further engagement with the community will be undertaken at a later date; this may take the form of small group meetings and/or one meeting. The timing of these meetings has yet to be decided.

2. Viewfield Wetland

The drawing and text for the new sign has now been agreed. The ponds will need to be dug out again in the autumn.

3. WWTW Wetland

Bird records from the hide are being collated and submitted monthly to the Chair of the Wetlands Group. The WWTW plot has now been topped.

4. Ordie Wetland

A new scrape has been dug at Ordie.

5. Other

A flyer setting out the work of the Wetlands Group is now available.

Discussion at meeting

Trustees noted the progress being made with the Development Phase of the Tarland Burn project and acknowledged the high level of public interest.

8. Paths and Access

Nothing to report.

9. Bee Group

Tesco have accepted TDG for in store 'blue tokens' in April. The project is for Butterfly, bird and bumblebee habitats to be placed on the existing Tarland Path Network with information signs at appropriate places. We have also applied to Marr Area Partnership for the Small Grant Initiative £750. Tesco will be suitable match funding.

We have started our beginner's course with a classroom talk " An introduction to Beekeeping" we had 8 very attentive students who asked lots of questions. We hope to have a practical session next, dependent on the weather, the temperatures are very low for the time of year and first inspections are late. Feeding continues. We have candidates for the SBA Basic and Junior Beekping Exam for 2023.

One of our Junior members Findlay Taylor Age 12 has been selected by the SBA to represent Scotland as part of a team of 3. He will travel to the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB) which is to be held in Slovenia in July 2023. Findlay and his family will attend the RHS in June where he will meet his teammates and escorts. This is a fabulous opportunity for Findlay, we are delighted he has been selected and wish him all the best.

All electrical equipment has been PAT tested and we await the certificate.

We have been successful in our application to Marr Area Partnership for the Small Grant Initiative £750. The project is to provide habitats for butterfly, bird and bumblebee in and around Tarland on the existing paths network.

Work parties carried out:

Flat pack hives have been made up and most are already painted ready for use.

The pond is complete and looks fabulous.

Many thanks as always to our members who volunteer for these tasks.

10. Cromar Food Waste Project

Our pop ups continue to be well attended. We were awarded £750 funding from the IGS fund but have to spend £1500 to get all of that. At the moment we are using our funds in hand, but have the offer of further funding from MacRoberts Trust later in the year when needed. Alison Donaldson (MRT) came to our last popup in Tarland and enjoyed seeing how we operate, and where their money was going.

Our Easter pop up saw us finally using up the 12.5kg sack of Chocolate Muffin mix, making some muffins to give out on the day, and giving out the mix to bake at home during the holidays. Also gone, is the bucket of banoffee caramel filling which was given out with bananas and a recipe for banoffee pie. Our next challenge is copious amounts of Caesar salad dressing!

Our next event is our Fun Day on Sunday 25th June where we will have other activities alongside our soup and rolls & other goodies.

11. Lego Club

Lego Club continues to be popular, with 58 people attending in March and 60 people attending in April. Set building remains the most popular activity, and the monthly challenges providing lively entertainment to both those who participate and those who watch the results.

In April we had a visit from Alison from The MacRobert Trust who was able to see Lego Club in action.

We were able to purchase some additional storage boxes from Lucy in the toy shop at a significantly discounted price, which will be put to good use for the various Lego sets we have.

12. Composting

Composting has started.

13. Community Garden

The TCG had its first work party of this year on the 15th of April. It was well attended, and everybody enjoyed it. It was a great opportunity for new and old members to mingle and chat while doing general weeding, hoeing the herb garden, tidying the soil deposits around the outside beds, collecting the garden waste outside the fence and putting it into compost bags, and cleaning the toilet.

The first growing workshop for TCG members took place after the work party. In it, Megan Woods, our instructor, guided the group through a mixture of practical activities and theory. The funding for this activity came from an application to the MacRobert Trust. The next growing workshop will be held on the 20th of May. The TCG will have a stall at the Horticultural Society Plant Sale, to sell plants as a fundraiser activity.

14. Food and Music Festival

Dave is booking bands. Progress is being made.

15. Cromar Community Council

Bike racks are in hand.

16. Governance – indemnity insurance, Google Drive

Data share and holding of information to be discussed in full at next meeting. ALL

DM to provide a draft of new governance. DM

Time to be set aside for training. ALL

Google calendar to be set up for all TDG projects– DM/CR

17. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

Tesco – TBG

18. AOB

- a. French Guides - Full discussion, sign and return contract - YD
- b. Calendar – JB to make early start.
- c. Foundation Scotland –TBG – Grant award for TBG Presentation - forms to be completed - CR

19. Date of next meeting

Monday 12th June 7.30 at Linda's



Chris Redmond
11/6/23