



TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Updated Minutes from Trustees Meeting 13th December 2022 at 7.30pm

Venue – Linda Cunningham’s House

1. **Attendees and Apologies**
 - a. **Attendees: (9)** Chris Redmond (Chair); David Hirst (Treasurer); Sandra Van Heusden (Secretary); Karen McHarg; Linda Cunningham; Yvonne Davidson; Dave Muirhead; Julian Barclay; Hayley Lockerbie
 - b. **Unable to attend: (2)** Ana Pena del Valle; Liz Cooper

2. **Matters Arising**

Nothing of note

3. **Decisions made between meetings**
 - a. Calendar Print Run reduced to 100
 - b. Pricing for Tarland Development Group (TDG) Bundles for Creative Pop-up set at £20
 - c. Karen McHarg added as Trustee
 - d. Request to allow Tool Library Lending Scheme to use TDG Bank Account was put on hold, (given the short time frame and concerns raised). TDG have invited Frank Paterson to a future meeting.

4. **Membership**

New Application from Gavin Jones from Aboyne approved.
Gavin has been notified

5. **Tarland Trails (TT)**

(Trustee Report to follow)

Key Highlights discussed at meeting

Awards

Chris Redmond won Trail Advocate of the year at Scottish Mountain Bike Awards

Funding

Awarded £215,000 by Opportunity North East Adventure Tourism as part of the Just Transition funding. Earlier grant of £100k to be spend by the end of March

Concerns were raised re deadline as current weather has stopped building works

Other

TT are investigating

- a. MacRobert’s Trust request for an overflow carpark
- b. setting up a stand-alone TT website



- c. amalgamating logo for TT1 and 2
- d. Timing and events for official and unofficial opening. (Unofficial opening potentially Easter Holidays, official opening in Summer).
- e. **Dave Muirhead to explore availability of Danny MacAskill for opening.**

6. **Tarland Show**

Over 50 people turned up to the meeting in the Hall. Steven Allardyce and Ian Smith from Bogentassie Farm will be key figures in taking the project forward. The AGM is scheduled for January 11th, 2023, and the Show scheduled for 2nd Saturday in August. While the heart of the show will remain agricultural, the scope needs to be expanded to attract more crowds. Below is a list of some of the ideas that could involve TDG future involvement.

- Farmers Market
- Mountain Bike Trail Event and Stall Holders
- Lego Tent
- Horticultural Show
- Bee Group

The location of the Show is under review, with requests to bring it back into the village. The previous site is seen as fit for purpose with electricity, toilet facilities etc.

7. **Cromar Food Waste Project (CFWP)**

A team of 6 volunteers had a very successful evening with the Tarland Guides in November. The Guides (Aged 10 – 14) chose to make a three-course meal of soup, chicken pasta bake and fruit crumble – all from food picked up from the Coop the night before (bar pasta, flour, and some condiments). They all had a bowl of soup with flatbread (the Guide leaders were amazed at how many of them ate vegetable soup!) in the hall and took away their choice of pasta bake or crumble to share at home.

There was a bumper windfall of waste food from the Coop last week as the computers broke down and they were unable to mark down their out-of-date produce. This meant that the food wasn't bought and came to the CFWP, where it was passed on at the pop ups on 5th /6th December. There is still a lot left in the freezer for the next pop ups.

- **Funding & Aboyne Fareshare** - As Fareshare is now receiving less surplus and waste from supermarkets, an Aberdeenshire Council has set up a Food Challenge Fund to address the impact the rising cost of living is having on food providers, their clients, and the wider community. Aboyne Fareshare (who supply CFWP with ambient food) will be accessing this fund for our supplies. This means the Project doesn't need to apply to the fund, however, CFWP will continue to purchase a fair amount from Aldi with donated funds.

To address the fact that a fair portion of the food CFWP give out is donated, rather than waste, donations and waste are clearly separated on displays.

The CFWP was delighted to receive a donation of around £550 from Creative Cromar, the proceeds of the raffle and soup and scones at their Art exhibition on 3rd December. One person donated £66 – her heating subsidy which she said she didn't need. Very generous.



- Next pop ups are 19 th /20 th December, where mulled apple juice/wine, mince pies, and some Christmas treats will be provided alongside the usual fayre. The CFWP will resume in the New Year on 9th January and continue with fortnightly pop ups, which have been scheduled till the end of March to date.

Monday dates may need to be amended. (Potential clash with new athletics club.)

Linda Cunningham to investigate impact of club on attendance

It was suggested that Tesco Tokens might be a future funding option if needed.

8. Tarland Wetlands

1. Viewfield wetland

More bunds are being considered in the field, below the hedge. Other measures such as leaky dams higher up are also being considered. The drains and the ploughing direction need attention (the drains have been cleared by MRT below the wetland). The wetland requires to be de-silted as it was not done completely last year.

2. Tarland Burn

Kathy is writing the brief for consultants. Ian reported that there were some good bird records during the floods at Coull.

3. Ordie wetland

Simon is waiting for a date for the new scrape to be constructed; it is too wet at the moment. The wetland is holding back the water well, although Ian's dam has been overtopped. Ten dead geese were reported from bird 'flu.

4. WWTW wetland

The new plug mechanism is working. The grass needs to be topped before the spring. Kathy to reply to Ian Halliday to accept his offer of collating bird records from the hide.

5. Gellan wetland

The maps have been digitised by Amanda Biggins at RSPB. Kathy will complete the report and put the wetland in context with others in the area from a list provided by NatureScot. Species records will be submitted to NESBReC.

6. Date of next meeting: Monday 13 March at 4pm in the MRT office.

The Seed Swap Day on the 25th of February was seen as a good opportunity to promote the Wetlands. **Chris Redmond to pass on Lizzy Shepherd's details to Karen McHarg**

9. Paths and Access

Nothing to report - still to have discussion with chairman re. Tarland Way



10. **Tarland Bee Group (TBG)** The bees are tucked up for the winter and well strapped down against the weather. TBG were delighted to receive a grant of £10,000 from MacRobert Trust and are currently spending it on

- Lean-to shelter behind the Bee Bothy
- Extraction equipment
- Events Shelter
- Outdoor seating
- Heaters, and other small items.

TBG are very pleased to be working with Aboyne Academy again. This time to design book plates (ex libris) for our library. Dave Woods has set up an amazing brief for the students. There will be three plates, one for each project (Bees, Apples and Seeds). The winners will receive a prize of honey, apple juice and seeds. The winning design will then be printed and glued into the front of each book.

The TBG AGM was held in the Bee Bothy on 3rd December and was very well attended. Financial report, Annual report, presentation of SBA certificates followed by tea and cake. It was a very social afternoon, and lots of folk bought along lovely home-made cake and all shared their bee stories.

TBG had 7 candidates undertake their SBA Basic Bee Keeper exam this summer and all passed.

- Dave Muirhead
- Graeme Nicol
- Ken Johnston
- Marlice Taylor
- Findlay Taylor
- Helen Bilsby
- Julie Sayer

There was also a special exam for Imogen Taylor age 6, the youngest active member. This was set at a very high standard for a 6-year-old, and she passed with flying colours. Candidates were presented with their certificates and shared a wee story from their experience on the day. Well done to all. Hopefully we will have a few more next year

Other

- a. Lizzy Shepherd applied to Aberdeenshire Council for a green initiative and was successful. Bulbs, hedging and trees will be planted at the apiary. (Bulbs - Crocus, daffs, snowdrop, and wild garlic already received and planted)
- b. Pond liner in place and should be filling up with current weather.
- c. Yvonne Davidson requested more bark. **Julian Barclay to action**

Yvonne raised the creation of butterfly banks and Bird Box Walks. This could become a sub project for the Bee Group. Fun walks can be integrated into other projects e.g., Wetlands, Paths, and Access etc.

Yvonne to investigate cost of Bird Boxes from Kraftwork, Aboyne

11. **Lego Club**

The Lego Club were granted funding of £6058 at the start of November 2022 from The MacRobert Trust. This will allow the club to run monthly for 3 years, without charge to



those attending. An initial interest poll was circulated on Facebook and within 48 hours there were 45 responses:

- 64% lived in Tarland;
- 62% yes, 33% maybe attend;
- Nearly 90% attending as family;
- Many offers of volunteers and donations.

Once funding was in the bank, Intense purchasing began, many storage boxes and sets of lego were bought and sorted. Donated Lego washed, sorted and boxed.

26 sets have been purchased, along with mixed boxes of general building Lego & books for inspiration. About half came from Strachans in Inverurie who gave us 10% discount and will do so in future. Other half came from Lego directly, but bought during "VIP weekend" which meant we got double points which we can use for future spending.

21 sets donated, along with lots of loose Lego and books. Some purchased second hand from homestart in Aboyne.

All sets are boxed with branded labelling and QR code for instructions.

Snacks purchased from Gillian in Spar who has set up an account for Lego club. Set up as regular user for hall so get reduced rate.

Set up Facebook group (closed) which now has 50 members. Set up Instagram account. First session held on Friday 9th December and 55 people attended. Good mix of ages (most primary ages, four academy age, two adults without kids, parents, grandparents). Really lovely buzz in the hall. Different areas of play set up - free play/challenge builds and set building. Inspiration station with books, duplo area for littles with rug/pillows/foam mats. Creation Gallery on stage for completed creations. (pictures in original report)

One dad said they would never have managed to sit and play Lego with their son, uninterrupted, if they hadn't come along to the club. Feedback form shared in Facebook group, 4 responses so far:

What did you enjoy most about Lego club:

"How engaged families were with the Lego and the lovely productive buzz in the hall"

"Really well organised zones and range of activities. Good guidance from Hayley - e.g. telling the rules and saying when tidy up time starts. Great having snacks!"

Ideas to make Lego club better:

"No, it was perfect! So well thought out"

"A home bake for the adults - happy to bring something to share?"

Anything else you want to let us know?

"We will be back! The boys absolutely loved it!"

"Nice to mingle & meet with Tarland folks as we are Logie Coldstone"

The Trustees congratulated Hayley Lockerbie on the brilliant start to the Lego Club.



Next Steps Hayley to update Alison from the MacRobert's Trust on the successful launch.

Hayley to launch the lending library in January

Hayley to look at running the clubs/Lego competitions at key Community Events e.g., Seed Swap Day, Tarland Food and Music Festival, Tarland Show etc.

12. Composting

(Nothing to report. Finished for the season)

13. Community Gardens

(Nothing to report)

14. Food and Music Festival

(Nothing to report)

Trustees discussed having a mountain bike event at the Festival on the Sunday, starting from the Square. More details to follow.

15. Northeast Scotland Climate Action Network.

(Nothing to report)

16. Cromar Community Council (Agenda and previous Meeting Minutes circulated)

Social Media being used to share key Community Updates

17. Accounts, grants, awards, and funding

Chris Redmond and Sandra Van Heusden to be added as Bank Signatories

Dave Hirst to start the process of adding them as Signatories

18. AOB

a. **Calendar Update** – Project was seen as an overall success and is projected to break even.

There has been very favourable feedback regarding the Calendar at the Creative Pop up and at the Post Office.

Key Learnings

- Have clear guidelines for photo submission to improve quality
- Run Calendar Entries as a competition with different categories, for example Children's competition, Winter scenes etc.
- Limit number of photographic submissions per household (suggested 3 per category)
- Change printing company – Format to be landscape photo on one side, with spiral binding and calendar below, laser jet printer to be used to improve quality

Next Steps

- **Julian to negotiate discount on print costs (print colour error on some dates)**
- **Julian to liaise with Duncan Lockerbie re. next year's calendar**
- **TDG to decide when to cut price calendar and what to do with any unsold stock**



- b. **Google Drive** is being tested, to facilitate sharing and locating information across projects. Hayley provided positive feedback on her experience using Google versus Dropbox. Google has increased storage capacity and integrated approach (emails, surveys etc.)

Points raised by Trustees

- Each project owner will need a G-Mail Account
 - No cost savings (but no significant increase either)
 - Training will be required for Project Leads. **Hayley and Dave Muirhead to action**
 - GDPR architecture required. **Dave Muirhead to investigate and make recommendation**
- c. **Away Day Follow Up Actions** - This will need to be carried over to the next meeting. There were too many items to allow for a full discussion. The creation of an electronic newsletter was seen as a priority and “Quick Win”. The newsletter will be available for both TDG Members and Nonmembers. **Hayley agreed to draft a newsletter for Trustees to review**
- d. **Damage to Tarland Notice Board.** The damage will not be covered by Insurance. **Chris Redmond to follow up with local builder Adam Coutts**
- e. **Bird Hide Vandalism.** Books to record bird sightings will no longer be used, (due to repeated vandalism). Books will be replaced with a poster informing bird watchers where to report sightings. Draft poster by Ian Addison reviewed, but will need additional feedback
- f. **Storage of archived TDG files** – Sandra Van Heusden (SVH) to investigate digitizing them
- g. **Storage of TDG Publicity Material** – Specific TDG Storages boxes are now available in the Hall.
- h. **Posting of Minutes on notice board** – SVH to trial replacing actual minutes with Notice advertising where to find information.
- i. **Publicity Material required to promote TDG at events.** Feather Flag Banners were approved for portability and visibility. **Chris Redmond to donate £200 from Tarland Trails budget to purchase banner. Linda Cunningham to work on banner design. Chris to forward Ellie Mather’s details to Linda to help with design format.**
- j. Mid Deeside Community Council expressed interest in finding out more about Tarland Development Group. **Linda Cunningham to liaise with Fiona Sawyer from the Mid Deeside Community Council,**
- k. **Love to ride – Winter Wheelers** – Poster circulated to Trustees with updates. No action required
- l. **SRN Funding re-opening for new applications. SVH to forward current and future e-mails to trustees.**
- m. **Community Housing Group have requested TDG to provide banking facilities** while they wait for OSCR approval. Trustees approved decision. **Action David Hirst to make Annie McKee aware that the Housing Group have the same fund provider.**
- n. **TDG Sales at Creative Pop-up** - 5 bundles plus 5 bags, 14 calendars, 18 honey, bottles of juice tbc. The Creative Pop-up was seen as a success and is likely to be repeated.
- o. **Search and Rescue Mountain Dogs** are looking to hold a training event on this side of the Cairngorms. 3 members live locally. Accommodation and parking for campers will need to be sourced. **Julian to liaise with Dave Hirst to check availability and**



obtain a price for hiring the hall. Several Trustees volunteered to act as bodies for the training exercise.

- p. **Film club** – Charlie has tested the equipment in the Hall, and everything is working. Hayley has volunteered to be the trustee representing the Film Club. Due to workload, Hayley confirmed her role will be to promote the events. Charlie needs to be the lead organizer and develop a schedule.
- q. **Warm Space Funding.** Funds might be available to create a warm space in the Hall. Simon Welfare has contacted Hayley to find out about the experience in the Aboyne Library. There is a currently a slow, but steadily increasing uptake in Aboyne. Currently 7 individuals use the facility, with a maximum of 4 coming to each session. Trustees discussed the potential of funding synergies by linking with a social event e.g., the relaunch of the Film Club. **Dave Hirst to follow up from a Hall funding perspective.**

Date of next Meeting. 25th Jan.7.30pm.at Linda Cunningham's house.