

Minutes of Tarland Development Group Meeting

Cromar Court, Tarland

7.30pm, Monday 6th October 2008.

Present: Albert Calder, Jan Healey, Lindsay Stewart, Fiona Brown, Gillian Masson, Peter Craig, Simon Power.

Apologies: Tom Veitch, John Dempster, Kate Redpath, Bill Harvie.

Minutes of the last meeting checked and approved.

Finances- Gillian

The craft fair did well. After card sales, treasure hunt and paying for the hall etc. we now have £850.00 in the bank with BCTV insurance still to pay.

TWT Meeting

Lindsay had attended the recent meeting and reported. The plans are progressing well and can be viewed on the Tarland website. Funding applications for the actual refurbishment are being taken in hand by Mike Powell. There are several fundraising events over the next month or so - *On the Black Hills*, *Tasmin Little* and the *Pampered Chef*. The puppet show, *Beauty and the Beast*, was held in the hall on 3rd Oct and was attended by local Primary schools. All this to raise funds for consultants to draw up detailed plans and costings. An energy audit (finding how to reduce draughts etc and improve insulation) is likely to suggest expensive improvements. A ball park figure of £150 000 for the finished project was mentioned.

Walking route surveys

Kate (via Peter as she could not attend) - **Tomnaverie** – not too bad, struggled with some of the big metal gates. **Jan – Corachree/Pond Road** - very muddy in places, a lot of damage obviously done by horses. The signs asking horse riders to try and avoid the walkers tracks need to be replaced. One rider involved to be contacted by Simon Power and asked to consider alternative hard base tracks, as the walking routes are largely maintained by voluntary effort. **Tillychardoch – Lindsay** - no problems reported. **Peter – Skyline Route** - needs more markers; one roundel pointing the wrong way! Peter will report survey results in more detail on Wed am. at COAT meeting with Albert and Simon Power.

Charitable Status

Nothing to report.

Community Newsletter & Website

So far, Fiona has only received the History Group report for Newsletter 2. Jan reported that Ian is to make minor changes to the layout of the website to be more user friendly. Also anyone giving him anything to put on the website needed to be very specific about the intended location. A digital form of the newsletter will be posted on the website as soon as all contributions have been received and been put together by Fiona. File formats have been causing Fiona some problems. Proposed TDG topics for Newsletter 2 – cards and their availability, footpaths, craft and produce fair, date of next meeting, community council. Peter to write in consultation with Gillian. October still the planned release date for Newsletter 2.

COAT Projects

Mark Haggart (formerly with UDAT) is still keen to see progress made with the Tarland/Ballater cycle/walking route as an important extension to the existing Tarland path network. Simon

Power has a detailed design for a possible mountain bike track in Alastrean woods (to be discussed at the COAT meeting on Wed.) The proposed track would have a good potential for youth fun and also to bring people to the village. Consultation with local young folk proposed.

Viewfield Wetlands

After consultation between Kathy Ader, Kate Redpath and Simon Power, it was agreed that annual dredging (by MRT) would be needed to maintain clear water. A rare plant has also been discovered, a first for the wetlands.

Christmas Cards & Postcards

The Christmas cards have cost us £385.00. We are selling them at £1.30 each or £6.00 for 5. Suggested we take photos of the four seasons for possible future cards. Xmas cards to be distributed to various outlets. Fiona will put them on her stall at the Church Christmas Fair; Gillian to approach Toddlers for their Fair and Ingrid for the Pharmacy. Fiona to ask Lucy at The Toy Shop. Gillian thought of supplying the outlets with a collecting box to help keep the monies separate. Postcards very disappointing. They seem to have had bits chopped off by the printers and two have a strange colour to them. Peter to have a word with the printers checking original files with Gillian. £102.00 paid for the 4 prints to be made into postcards.

Craft & Produce Fair

Cleared £120.00 - £46.00 for the treasure hunt, the rest from the Stall holders' £20.00 pitches and Xmas card sales. The kitchen was paid for directly by the Senior Citizens and they reported that they were quite happy with their return on their teas. The stall holders all said they were very happy, except the sweetie man who didn't do so well (not a lot of children on the day). It was also noted that the time was too long, 10.00 – 12.30 would be long enough for another time. Also more advertising in the square – eg boards or banners at the door of the Hall to let people know what was going on. The smaller stall holders also thought £15.00 would be enough for a pitch in Tarland at that time of year and this was agreed upon also. Avoid clashes with Banchory and Inverurie when fixing future dates. Gillian has been approached by the Horticultural Society with a view to holding a similar sale alongside their Plant Sale in May. Gillian to get in contact with Maureen Cuthbert and Sue Erskine of the Horticultural Society to sort out details. Agreed to hold TDG Fairs bi-annually. Propose possible joint one in May and then the first Sat in September for the next TDG craft/produce fair. Considered more important to make success of fairs as outlets for local traders than as TDG fund-raisers.

Village Development

A new 15-year Local Development Plan is to be produced by Aberdeenshire Council. This requires discussions with local landowners and the community to discuss the future development of Tarland. Bids for plans to develop land have to be in to the Council by the 6th Nov. this year. In planning developments on their land, MRT intend to keep the interests of the community as a key priority. The Plan has to be seen in the context of the recent drop in the school role from around 95 to around 75 - and also the drop in the Church congregation. The need for affordable housing has been highlighted. When considering the next 15 years, it was suggested that the community needs to bear in mind the changes in the village in the last 100 years from a small hamlet of 60 odd houses to over 300 now.

Holding a *Planning for Real* event is one way of documenting a community's aspirations and is being considered by a steering group set up by Cromar Community Council. *Planning for Real* consultations have already been run on Deeside and focus on community issues, local facilities, transport links, health and well being. The Marr Area Partnership is offering to support the CCC in planning for and running a *PfR* event to take place in the village. The

outcome would be a document that Aberdeenshire Council would have to consider when taking decisions affecting the Cromar area. CCC invited a member of the TDG to join the steering group. Peter agreed to attend the first meeting on 20th October.

Proposed Conservation area

It was brought to our attention that the Council were proposing to make The Square a conservation area.

Homecoming

It was thought to be far too difficult for such a small village to get enough people back at the same time to justify a large event. Possibility of a family dance on the night of Tarland show thought to be the only reasonably viable possibility.

Notice Board

It had been brought to Peter's attention that the information board in the Square has super maps of the walking routes around Tarland, but that strangers to the village had difficulty trying to find the starts of the routes. A more detailed village map with instructions of how to find the starts should be displayed in the adjacent glass-fronted noticeboard.

ROC Tomnaverie

Albert reported that a digger has been working at the Quarry at Tomnaverie and the hill is coming back into shape. He thought that it would be a good idea to have an information board with pictures on it explaining about the Royal Observatory Corps' bunker and its history. All agreed that this was a good idea. History Group members are to see about photos and possible sources of funding. MRT has a key if new photos need to be taken.

Kincraigie Path

A maintenance agreement is already in place with a local farmer and there is an overlap with TDG voluntary efforts. Recent funding arrangements may change this. Simon to look into.

Next meeting Mon November 24th 7.30pm.
Cromar Court.
(Jan to book)