



TDG Meeting 4th August 2015

Present: Lindsay Stewart, Lizzy Shepherd, Dave Hirst, Kate Redpath, Denise Hansford, Chris Redmond, Yvonne Davidson, Fiona Murray

Apologies: Peter Craig, Simon Power, Annie McKee, Jan Healey

Tarland Trails.

CR updated the group on Funding – the Aviva Award has been received, plus Aberdeenshire Council developers' contribution. Money from Google not yet forthcoming. The donation post in the Trails carpark has taken in £115 to date.

The trails counter is up, with 876 counts over 5 days. The trails are busy, both with local adults and children, and tourist from France and Germany. There were 15 cars in the carpark at one point last weekend. Leaflets are being taken and replenished, and reviews of the trails are very favourable. The Spar shop has reported extra business due to trail users. The trails have been accredited by Visit Scotland, which means they can get a brown sign to direct tourists to the site. Chantal Wood has offered to organize this. Info on the trails will go onto the updated website.

The trails will open officially on 12th Sept, in conjunction with Cycle Highlands demo day, where there will be 60 different bikes to test out on the trails. Help on the day will be needed with the BBQ. LSh LSt and YD have offered. There will be a ceremony at the top of the trails to officially open the trails. It's possible that Kerry MCPhee, commonwealth cyclist, will be able to officiate. Ellie from Wag Design will make a poster for the event. Tables from the hall and benches from the Community Garden will be needed.

Active Aboyne may use the trails for an event.

CR is thinking of the next phase, and it was suggested that evidence of the trails use and success should be gathered. DHa to make up a survey sheet.

Horse Riding.

Fiona Murray, a local horse owner concerned about the changes to Drummy Wood (logging/bike trails), was invited to attend the meeting so that the possible planning of specific horse routes could be discussed. FM to take this forward with other local horse riders, and The MacRobert Trust.

Bee Group

YD updated the group on the seriousness of the poor weather with regard to bee survival. It's the first time in 26 years of bee-keeping that bees have had to be fed in the hive during "summer". There had been a national warning to that effect, and it's possible that colonies might

not survive the coming winter. A “save the bees” campaign was suggested, where people could donate sugar via the Co-Op. YD to look into this. YD will be judging the honey entries at the Tarland Show. The Bee Group are planning a party, date tba.

Community Garden

The sub-committee met on 3rd August. Work parties will be held to get the garden ready for the Scotland’s Gardens open day on 26th Sept. The funders’ sign has been coordinated by LSh and will cost £200 (includes design and production) Thanks, Lizzy.

Community Composting

Jan has made up the 2nd rota – thanks, Jan. There is now an accidents/incidents book with the tractor so that vounteers can record any problems.

Path Network/Tarland Way.

There was disappointment that the wild flowers along the south bank of the Tarland Burn had been cut down, as they were a good source of food for bees, and looked amazing. LSt. will ask SP about why this happened.

LSh reported a new fence she has put up near the Tarland Way at Coull – this is necessary due to expansion of property close to the path.

Film Club

Film Club will be starting again on 3rd Sept. There’s a possibility that Youth Club may run a youth cinema again in the future.

Food and Music Day

DHi updated the group on progress. All is going well, and there will be a meeting for volunteers wanting to help out on the day nearer the time.

Tapestry

Helpful info has been gathered from the Gordon Highlanders who are creating a tapestry designed by the Tapestry of Scotland designer. LSt will talk to them about the design process.

Apple Press

DHi to proceed with the press purchase and find out about regulations for selling juice. CR had a contact for this kind of info. The group discussed different ways for the press to be used by the community. Dhi will orgainse apple day this year.

Oil Group

TDG can benefit from J.Oils Community Fund. The group will receive 1p for every litre of oil sold to members of the local buyers’ group. Oil users can join the group by phoning J.Oils.

Accounts

DHi updated the group on the accounts. CR hopes that arrangements made by him with the ETAP cycle event will result in some funds for TDG

Date of next meeting is the AGM, 15th Sept 7.30pm Cromar Court

