

Agenda for the AGM of the Tarland Development Group

To be held at Cromar Court at 7.00 pm on Monday 26th May 2008

- 1. Attendance and apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting** *(none filed?)*
- 3. Chairman's report**
- 4. Treasurer's report**
- 5. Discussion and AOB**
- 6. Date of the next AGM**

Note dated 27 May 2008:

This meeting took place with the following TDG members present –

Albert Calder; Peter Craig; Simon Power; Lindsay Stewart

Apologies were received from –

Mary Levy, Jan Healey, Paul Anderson, John Dempster.

No members of the public attended, although notice of the meeting was given in the previous week's Piper.

The constitutional requirements of the TDG to hold an AGM were considered to have been duly met.

No formal minutes were taken and it was agreed to publish this document on the Tarland website after email approval by TDG members.

AGM of the Tarland Development Group 26 May 2008

Chairman's Report

INTRODUCTION

This is the first AGM of the Tarland Development Group to be held since August 2006. Shortly after that date, Mike Sweeney (the former Chairman), and Ian Robertson (the former Treasurer), retired from the Group. Mike served the Group very well and helped us to complete several projects. Ian was a founder member and played a key role in the successful achievement of the Group's aims for almost ten years. The unstinting efforts of both are gratefully acknowledged.

It is worth re-stating these aims. They are to:

“plan, fund, organise and promote developments in the Tarland area for the benefit of the community, visitors and local business”

Without the leadership that Mike and Ian had provided so ably between them, the Group went through a difficult period when it looked as if it might cease to operate. However, after a special meeting in December 2006, it was resolved to recruit new members and attempt to continue to fulfill what was regarded by those present as a significant and distinctive role in the local community.

New members recruited include Lyndsay Stewart, Mary Levy, Kate Redpath, Paul Anderson, Justin Irvine and Simon Power. Gillian Masson agreed to take over from Ian as Treasurer and I agreed to act as Chairman for a year. Two other members left the Group – Janet McEwan and Donald Gordon. Their contributions to the work of the group are also gratefully acknowledged.

As a Group we are also heavily indebted to a number of sources of funding and support. In particular, we benefit from close cooperation with, and financial support from the MacRobert Trust and from the Upper Deeside Access Trust, now transformed into the Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust (COAT). We have also received financial support and advice from the Marr Area Partnership and from Aberdeenshire Council.

TDG PROJECTS

Unlike all other local community development groups (MDL, Birse, Ballater Royal Deeside etc), the Tarland Development Group is run entirely by the voluntary effort of local community members. We have virtually no running costs and no regular source of income. We try to achieve our aims by identifying particular needs and setting up projects and recruiting project leaders to carry them forward. Over the years, we have completed a number of projects, we have several in progress, and we also have a number that we would like to pursue when funding and people to run them are identified.

Since this is the first Chairman's Report for some time, it is worth just listing the completed projects as well as reporting on others in hand and proposed.

Completed Projects:

Some of the larger projects we have successfully completed to date include:

- Improving the entrance to the village from Aboyne and planting a Millennium avenue of beech trees

- Erecting a visitor information board featuring local attractions on one side and information about walking routes on the other
- Developing and maintaining a network of way-marked paths leading out from the village into the surrounding area, and publishing walking guides for them
- Developing Viewfield wetlands area as a nature reserve
- Erecting a pedestrian bridge downstream from the narrow road bridge at the southern entrance to the village.

Projects currently in hand include:

- Improving access to the pedestrian bridge; it is proposed to create a new access point nearer the entrance to the Old Manse and to block off the current untidy gap at the village end of the bridge parapet; project leader is Simon Power.
- Extending the local paths network; we have worked closely with COAT and the MacRobert Trust to create new links between existing routes and to make various improvements to drainage and fencing; ongoing maintenance is also a major effort during the summer months; project leaders Albert Calder and Peter Craig.
- Establishing a Farmers' Market; this initiative foundered when too many obstacles were encountered; it is proposed instead to hold a Craft and Produce Fair in the MacRobert Hall in August which will determine the level of support for possible future similar events; project leader is Gillian Masson.
- Developing a Tarland website in cooperation with the Cromar Community Council (see www.Tarland.org.uk); as a result of considerable time and effort this project has been very successful and the number of site 'hits' is growing very satisfactorily; project leader is Jan Healey.
- Increased cooperation with and support for the Tarland Welfare Trust and Cromar Community Council; the possibility of some kind of merger was rejected when it became apparent that, although there are common aspirations, the functions of each group are distinctly different; we do liaise very closely with each other, however, and have recently published a joint Newsletter (with additional input from the MacRobert Trust) which was distributed to virtually every household in the community; the positive response received has led to a proposal to publish future editions of this Newsletter; project leader is Justin Irvine.
- Developing the now established wetland area at Viewfield as an environmental education resource for Tarland School; team leader is Kate Redpath.

Proposed projects include:

- Supporting the COAT in planning a Tarland to Ballater history, archaeology and natural history cycling trail
- Working with COAT and the MacRobert Trust to develop an all-ability trail and other facilities in Alastrean Woods, and a mountain-bike trail in the surrounding countryside
- Liaising with Historic Scotland, MacRobert Trust, and the Cromar History Group to develop an archaeological trail within Drummy Wood
- Improving visitor facilities by proposing and supporting the establishment of a multi-function centre with a restaurant, a retail outlet for local produce and artworks, and a history museum
- Supporting the publication of postcards showing local views with a percentage of the sales to contribute to TDG running costs
- Achieving Charitable Status for the TDG to enable us to receive funding from sources currently inaccessible due to our existing constitution.

CONCLUSION

After regrouping and examining our role in the community, the aims of the Tarland Development Group continue to be addressed through the consolidation and extension of existing projects, and the planning and proposal of several major new projects. I would like to express my gratitude to all the Group members for the effort and time that they put into these voluntary activities, and also to the many sponsors and supporters of the Group mentioned above. Without their commitment and support, the Group could not achieve its aims.

Peter Craig
Chairman

STATEMENT OF TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCT 2006 - 21 MAY 2008

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Balance brought forward	361.90	Web-site design and development (Ian MacIntosh)	650.00
Bank interest	1.15	Materials for Scotways signs (Gordon Coutts)	46.11
Scotways expenses for signs erection	75.00	Cromar Court charges for use of lounge for meetings	70.00
Marr Area Partnership grant for setting up web-site (to be shared with CCC)	400.00	Cromar Community Council share of MAP grant	200.00
Concert teas (less cost of bird box materials for Viewfield)	33.16	Bank Charge	6.00
Sale of original TDG walking leaflets	209.13		
Cromar Community Council	300.00		
Aberdeenshire Council grant for paths maintenance	600.00		
Website advert for P Craig	50.00	Closing Balance	1058.23
GRAND TOTAL	2030.34	GRAND TOTAL	2030.34

Gillian Masson
Treasurer