

TDG Meeting 21st April 2009 Cromar Court Tarland

Present: Jan Healey, Denise Hansford, John Hansford, Lindsay Stewart, Peter Craig, Anne McKee, Fiona Brown, Bill Harvie, Alan Young C.V.S.

Apologies: Albert Calder, Kate Redpath, John Dempster

Peter – Welcome to Annie, Alan Young, and to Denise & John Hansford who wish to actively support the efforts of the TDG.

Annie was the PHD student doing her study on rural estates and communities. This will be the last event that she will attend in the Tarland area in conjunction with her study of the area.

Alan Young (KHD voice South Aberdeenshire) attended to help us set out our constitution in a form that would enable us to apply successfully for charitable status.

Mary Levie has decided to resign from the Group. A thank-you to be sent on behalf of the TDG and her name to be taken off the email list. (Fiona)

New Constitution – The current one was written 10-12 years ago. Tony Reddy was the original Chair – then Mike Sweeney then finally Peter took over 2 years ago, (just to keep things running!). An AGM was held last year and the date for this year has been set for 22nd June 2009, 7.30 at Cromar Court. The name of the Group is to stay the same – TDG. We've worked too long to raise the profile to change it now. All the proposals and changes can be seen on the revised edition which I have emailed to you all and which Peter is awaiting your thoughts on (via email). We are a project driven group with a growing list of completed, current and proposed projects. COAT and Aberdeenshire have commented that, as a completely voluntary group, we provide particularly good added value to their financial support. Our membership is taken to be anyone who attends our committee meetings or assists with our projects. We currently meet roughly every 6 weeks. Voting is dealt with as a simple majority. After exploring these issues, Alan agreed to go away and 'finesse' the finer points! He may come back again for further consultation on what is apparently a unique way of managing a community development group, possibly at the AGM. The charitable status form can be downloaded from the OSCA website, and then be completed and signed by everyone before being submitted.

AGM is held annually to elect Office bearers and offer our activities for public scrutiny. Peter intends to stand down as Chair whenever a replacement is found. Lindsay expressed willingness to offer herself for election – but not for another year. Peter advised to set out his various responsibilities and delegate as many as he can in the meantime.

Finances OSCA will require to know about our business plan. Our running costs to date have been minimal. We identify a project and then apply for grants and arrange events to fundraise accordingly. We could do with someone to take on the specific task of applying for grants and fundraising either as an individual or as a sub-group within TDG.

Aboyne Cycle Route – We are advised by COAT that if we ourselves apply for funding from the Climate Change Fund to get the cycle route constructed, we would probably be successful. The recent COAT bid on our behalf was turned down partly because our project was only one of a package of others that were less favourably viewed by CCF. Murray Swap from COAT suggests that attaining charitable status is essential, and that COAT would help us with the application procedure. Alistair Aboyne has already included the Aboyne end of the track in his plans for Kemsley Green. A meeting with Irene Lilburn to discuss access through her land at Coull for the proposed route was cancelled as the family has just put the Estate up for sale and could not expect any future owners to honour any arrangements she had made with us. Annie has experience in bids like ours and reckons we should press on as she is sure we would qualify for the funding.

Homecoming – We decided that we would not organise anything for this as time was tight and folk had other commitments. It was also thought the community was too small to stage an event that would attract enough interest.

A thank-you to Alan at 8.20 pm as he leaves.

Thank-you received from **TWT** for the donation to the Hall refurbishment fund - we donated our profit from the Local Produce Fair.

Your Tarland Event – Simon Welfare indicated that our last minutes summarising the outcome of the event had been inaccurate. However, at the time of our last meeting, information about the outcome had not been released formally and we just recorded what we had heard. We viewed a copy of the CC letter submitted to Aberdeenshire setting out the broad range of community members' responses to the consultations. See the CC section of the Tarland website for details.

BLOG Try to encourage everyone to use the blog! Promote the website? Annie's questionnaire had been linked through our website and she had found it useful. Thanks to Jan.

ROC bunker – waiting for Simon to ascertain Historic Scotland's views. The **History Group** is keen to promote the bunker.

Deeside Access Group – John had attended in Peter's stead. Minutes of meeting available through Peter. Google 'Aberdeenshire walking and cycling' to find out official policies on associated access issues.

The Core Path Plan Aberdeenshire will be obliged to take over responsibility for the maintenance etc of designated Core Paths. The Drummy-Stonecircle route is the proposed Core path for Tarland - and probably also the new all-abilities path through Alastrean woods.

Path usage by different groups. So far, TDG has only managed to focus on developing walking routes. Cycling routes are now being proposed. Riding routes have always been hoped for but have never become a priority. Several parts of our walking routes are unsuitable for horses because of hoof damage and puddling. Seemingly there is a booklet *Are You Riding Responsibly?* downloadable from SNH and British Horse Society websites which gives riders clear guidance on this issue. We would like any horse riders within the community to help the TDG to develop a local riding network - any volunteers out there? Please email us or come along to a meeting. A lady rider attending the Market had approached us and had expressed a willingness to take part in the group and help with route maintenance.

The full **Outdoor Access Code** is available online for all to see and adhere to.

Bank Account Balance at present is £784. Good feedback about the **Market**. Going to have two set dates a year. First Saturday in April and the 1st Saturday in October.

Mike Powell of **MAP** and the **TWT** had emailed to congratulate us on a 'great buzz' at the last market. Possibly a community table in the future? For REALLY local products or produce - for those who can't produce enough for a stall of their own? Thoughts? 16 stalls this time. Possibly 18 next time?

Paths Maintenance – New roundels for way-marking the routes still awaited. The ones that we were going to use have been found to be fading - so awaiting the arrival of better ones.

Volunteer Path Wardens John volunteered to help and will liaise with Peter. More volunteers will be sought to adopt a route once all the currently proposed upgrading has been carried out.

Wall at the Bridge. Community Council to be asked to use their influence to request that Aberdeenshire repair the whole wall and also make a new pedestrian opening for the foot-bridge. Jan to raise this at the CC meeting the following night.

John offered to adopt a route and will liaise with Peter about this.

Next meeting 2nd June 2009 Cromar Court 7.30pm