

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 24th September, 2008
AT TARLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

PRESENT: Councillor Bruce Luffman, Simon Welfare, (Chairman), Morag Wilson, Bill Gardner, Hugh Kelly, Nigel Healey, 8 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Marcus Humphrey, Councillor Peter Argyle

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present.

1. **MacRobert Trust and the Local Plan: Air Commodore Bob Joseph & Simon Power**

The Local Plan is a 15 year plan that is to be finalised by 2010. To this end, the Trust has been consulting with local landowners with a view to presenting a cooperative and comprehensive plan. Initial proposals have to be presented by 6th November 2008 but, in the absence of consultation being completed by then, these proposals could be amended up until the early New Year on the basis that some sort of consensus had been achieved.

There will still be opportunities for comments on the plan once the Council produce their options paper in February/March 2009

The Trust is committed to consulting the local community on their plans, and would particularly welcome that consultation being part of a wider involvement of the community in the planning process such as that afforded by the 'Planning for Real' initiative.

In order to contribute to a sustainable community, the Trust must also be sustainable and believes that their proposals for increased residential and commercial accommodation will bring mutual benefits in the form of enhanced local services, maintenance of the school roll etc.

Councillor Luffman indicated that the new Local Plan was likely to propose far more land for development as the constraints within the current plan have lead to high density developments that may not have been in the best interests of the community.

2. **Planning for Real: Judith Aylett**

'Planning for Real'© Neighbourhood Initiatives is a tool that Marr Area Partnership has used in the past when working with communities to get their points across to the authorities and organisations that are responsible for the physical development of their areas with a view to maintaining or improving community quality of life.

For the purposes of an initial community meeting MAP proposes the use of a sharper focus tool, Community Action Plans, devised with our colleagues in Aberdeenshire, It is a process which takes a 2 hour open session to instigate discussion and proposed actions,

An event is proposed for Cromar which will consider three questions in the context of the Local Plan:

- What has been done right?
- What could have been done better?
- Have you a pet project?

The greatest possible participation of local people will be encouraged, together with the involvement of the MacRobert Trust, the Community Council, the Tarland Development Group and the Tarland Welfare Trust.

A steering group will meet on 20th October to learn about the process and to start planning for the event.

3. Tarland Report

3.1 **Christmas decorations in the Square:** The proposal for an elevated christmas tree in front of the MacRobert Hall is fraught with difficulties and has been abandoned. Instead, the involvement of local people will be sought in the selection, erection, dressing, maintenance and disposal of a christmas tree located in the traditional position. The MacRobert Trust will, once more, donate the tree.

Icicle lights will be hung on the front of the MacRobert Hall and businesses within the square will be encouraged to decorate their premises. **Action: SW/MW**

3.2 **Traffic Calming:** There is a Aberdeenshire Council roads meeting this week at which traffic calming will be discussed.

The ambulance service has expressed reservations about the reinstatement of sleeping policemen in the drive up to Alastrean House. The MacRobert Trust has indicated that signs will be erected but doubt was expressed about their effectiveness.

Concern was expressed at the potential for an accident on the road between the Play Park and Cromar Cottages. The road forms part of a circuit favoured by younger drivers anxious to demonstrate their driving skills. It was suggested that alterations to the pavement on Aberdeen Road might slow the entry into the road.

3.3 **Vandalism of Public Toilets:** A paper is to be presented to the Aberdeenshire Council Policy & Resources Committee concerning the funding of public toilets which remain open. **Action: BL**

3.4 **Dog Waste Disposal Bin:** The siting of a dog waste bin just inside the entrance to the Alastrean drive has been agreed.

3.5 **Bus transport into Banchory:** There is a Marr Area Bus Forum meeting on 25th September at which the subject of the Banchory 'shopping' bus will be discussed. A Tarland representative will attend. **Action: PA/BL**

4 Logie Coldstone Report

4.1 **Mobile Library:** Recent discussions indicate that the Library Service is likely to be withdrawn from Logie Coldstone due to lack of use. The School is planning to send flyers out to parents to encourage a greater uptake of the service.

4.2 **Notice Board:** Local estimates are to be obtained for the replacement of the notice board. Top-up grants may be available to defray the cost.

4.3 **Squirrels:** The Grampian Squirrel Group (part of Scottish Natural Heritage) advise that householders are sometimes the inadvertent cause of squirrels' road death because they put out food for birds (and squirrels). The food tempts squirrels out of their woodland habitat and, if there is a road between the food and the woodland, they run the risk of being run over.

Road signs which warn motorists of the presence of squirrels are not seen as effective and experiments with rope bridges have failed to stop squirrel deaths in their vicinity.

Apparently the road sense of grey squirrels is more highly developed than that of their red cousins.

4.4 **Poldhu:** Following confirmation of the 2008 funding package, work has recommenced at the Poldhu Wells. Due to the heavy work load of local specialist tradesmen, completion of the project will be delayed into October. **Action:NH**

5. **Coull Report** - Nothing reported.

6. **Ordie Report** – Nothing reported.

7. **Tarland Welfare Trust/Hall Committee.**

7.1 Following consultation, the architect is drawing up plans to reflect the agreed changes.

8. **Cairngorm National Park Authority**

8.1 The Sustainable Design Group is drawing up recommendations for the continuing sustainability of the Park.

9. **Tarland Development Group**

9.1 The Craft and Produce Fair Was successful, with the majority of stall holders expressing enthusiasm and a willingness to return to future events.

10. **Grampian Police**

10.1 There were no police representatives at the meeting and the Community Council has not received a recent police report. The police are to be encouraged to send a representative to the next meeting. **Action: BL**

11. Planning Applications

Week ending

Tarland

29.08.08	Mr & Mrs Erskine Wardfold, Wester Coull Tarland Aboyne AB34 4YS	Full planning permission for repair and alterations of steading for conversion to form dwelling house at Cuttieshillock Steading, Tarland.
02.09.08	Gillian Masson 9, The Square Tarland AB34 4YL	Planning permission for erection of signage.
12.09.08	Mr Richard Arkle Glenview Tarland AB34 4TN	Planning permission for erection of micro wind turbine

Coull

02.09.08	Anke Addy Lecht Cottage Coull Aboyne	Building Warrant for renovation of dwelling house, shop and mill building, single storey extensions to shop and dwelling house at Lecht Cottage, Coull.
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Next Meeting: 6th November , 2008, at 1900 in Logie Coldstone School