

TDG AGM 15th Sept 2015 Cromar Court

Present. Lindsay Stewart, Dave Hirst, Chris Redmond, Jan Healey, Simon Power, Kathy Dale, Lesley Ellis, Lizzy Shepherd, Denise Hansford, Yvonne Davidson, Annie McKee

Apologies. Peter Craig

Chair Lindsay Stewart welcomed Lesley Ellis, then read the chair's report. A copy will be available online.

Accounts

Dave Hirst reported on the accounts, to be published with the minutes. The current balance stands at £17K. The J Oils Buying Group will be promoted at the September market. A new section, "apples" has been added to the accounts, and includes purchase of the apple press.

Election of office bearers.

Lindsay Stewart will continue as Chair. Kathy Dale will replace Kate Redpath as Secretary. Dave Hirst will continue as treasurer. Office bearers were nominated and seconded by trustees attending the AGM.

Lesley Ellis attended to talk to TDG about the possibility of arranging science and technology talks (café scientifique model) and events in Tarland. Members had received Lesley's proposal prior to the meeting. PC thought that the proposal should be simplified initially and this was echoed by members present. LSh explained how TDG projects work, and suggested LE draw up a business plan, which would include a survey to gauge community interest in the idea. LE has already booked the hall and will underwrite that cost. LE will liaise with Satrosphere in Aberdeen re. events for children in Tarland. It is proposed that the project is self-funded through charges for the talks. AM will create a space for LE at the market, to launch the survey and talk to people about the idea.

Tarland Trails

The official opening of the trails was very successful. 200 people demo'ed bikes. CR has conducted 25 user surveys so far. The demo day raised just over £300.00 and £300.00 has been received from Google. Donation post money has reached £266.00. There may be money from the Etape Royale cycle event, for which TDG is supplying volunteers at the Tarland feed station. There may also be money from the Aboyne Games committee – CR has been speaking to Graham Ross re. this. There are some issues with the track surface from the road to the carpark. The MacRobert Trust may help with this, it would cost between £10K and £20K to get it tarmacked. CR has ordered 5 thousand more leaflets, which will be paid for by Cycle Highlands. They have benefitted from the trails via cycle hire and sales. Benches have been installed by Jamie and Patrick Price, and a track repair session has taken place. Community Payback may help with repairs in the future. CR is now gathering info re. the second phase of trails. CR will put forward the second phase idea to the community planning process, under "aspirations". LEADER funding may be available for this next phase. CR thanked DHa for the survey design.

Food and Music Day

The program is now online. There will be a volunteers meeting Mon 21st Sept to finalise details.

Bee Group

Despite the poor summer, it has been a good heather season. Honey will be extracted at the weekend, for sale at the market. Next year's events are being planned. The Bee Party held on Sunday was a great success. Bee group members can now buy equipment from local supplier Ronnie Greenlaw. YD thanked SP for repairing the track to the community hives site.

Community Garden

A meeting for volunteers for the Scotland's Gardens open day will be held tomorrow to finalise details. Work parties to get the garden ready have been well attended. KR reminded SP about the French drain that needs to be dug across the front of the site, to prevent flooding.

Composting

Collections are continuing until mid-November.

Tarland Way

LSt read out info re. the data counters as follows: In the first three and a half years of operation, 25,647 walkers (over 12,500 two-way trips?) were recorded at Otter Bridge and 6751 cyclists (over 3300 two-way trips?). The counters at Heughead Bridge register on average around half as many walking trips and slightly fewer cycling trips

Film Club

The first meeting of the year was well attended and teas/coffees enjoyed beforehand.

WebSite

Ian Macintosh has sent a demo website for people to comment on. Feedback will go to Ian to fine tune the site.

Tapestry

There will be a meeting at Cranbrook at 2.00pm on 21st Sept to discuss ideas

Apple Press

DHi has tried out the press, which is very good. Environmental Health have checked the set-up, and it is hoped that pasturised apple juice can be sold at the market. DHi will coordinate this.

Wetlands

KD and SP will look at Viewfied wetland, which has become overgrown. On 15 September KD and SP met with Stuart Jennings (RSPB), Linda Mathieson (Aberdeenshire Council), Doreen Bell (Scottish Water) and ?? (Scottish Water) at the bird hide on the Coull Road to discuss the management of the wetland for birds. It was agreed that the tall vegetation should be cut this autumn and that the site will be grazed to keep the vegetation down. There is still open water present and this should be visible from the hide when the vegetation height is reduced. KD cleaned the sign and discussed with SP and Aberdeenshire Council whether it could be moved to a more prominent place at the entrance. SP has produced minutes from the meeting and will action the management. RSPB will provide guidance and Scottish Water will confirm access arrangements.

AOCB

Simon Spoor is interested in organizing a Tarland Men's shed, and a party.

TDG will be hosting Shooglenifty in December at the MacRobert Hall

Date of next meeting 3rd Nov 7.30pm Cromar Court