



Tarland Development Group

Members' meeting

**Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at 7.30pm
Cromar Court, Tarland**

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present (Trustees and Members are initialed) – Jan Healey (JH), David Hirst (DHi), Simon Spoor, Jason Schroeder, Ian Ross, Peter Craig (PC), Lesley Ellis, Lizzy Shepherd (LSh), Kate Redpath (KR), Yvonne Davidson (YD), Lindsay Stewart (LSt) (Chair), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes), Denise Hansford (DHa), Simon Power (SP), Annie McKee (AMcK), Chris Redmond (CR).

There were no apologies.

2. Matters arising

SP stated that there has been no progress on the wetlands.

3. Membership and advertising/distribution

KD is rationalizing the various contact lists. A list of Trustees and a list of Members must be kept in the SCIO format. It was agreed that membership of TDG should be encouraged so people can receive agendas, minutes and other correspondence. It was also agreed that people who do not reply to the e-mail sent out in October should be removed from the e-mail list. However, the two Members who have not replied will be contacted by telephone first. Two google groups will be set up; one for Trustees and one for Members (which includes Trustees). **ACTION: KD to contact Members and set up google groups.** Anke Addy had raised the point that the community could be more engaged with TDG by being contacted directly by e-mail. This is not possible and the current advertising of meetings and events is considered to be adequate. If people are interested they can approach one of the Trustees.

4. Men's Shed

Jason Schroeder gave an introduction to the Men's Shed movement. It was started in the 90s in Australia for Vietnam Vets and it became more of a community thing later. It focusses on men 'with time on their hands'.

Jason is a full time Men's Shed Development Worker for Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action and founder of the Scottish Men's Sheds Association charity. Men's Sheds are a grass roots movement and so it's the communities who set them up and run them.

The Tarland community needs to decide what it wants. **ACTION: Simon Spoor to organize the next step, which will be a Public Meeting at which Jason will do a presentation.**

5. Future Group

Lesley Ellis re-iterated the background to the idea and the reasons for moving fast on it. Since the last meeting she has done a survey and spoken to people and found that parents are really interested and older people are less interested. She is working hard to do all the organizing for this winter. AMcK pointed out that it may only be travel expenses for speakers that are required. Nevertheless, the budget shows some losses if the talks are poorly attended. It has been assumed that the initial cycling talk will attract a higher attendance than the other talks due to the Tarland Trails and the popularity of cycling in the area. Overall the talks break even with between 30 and 40 people, which is quite a lot. However, it was agreed that a series of talks is an excellent way of getting interested people to spark off other wider reaching initiatives. Lesley would like this to be a sub-group of TDG with a Trustee and this was agreed, with DHi (Treasurer) as the Trustee. Advertising needs to start now and CR agreed to help with Facebook. Lesley is prepared to underwrite this and take the loss but this should not be necessary if it is a sub-group of TDG. The project will be assessed after a year for future viability. **ACTION: AMcK to send press contacts to Lesley and arrange any printing.**

6. Bee Group

Sales of honey were good at Tarland, Tullynessle and Ballater Markets. They are putting the bees to bed now and the talks are starting soon. There is crocus planting on Sunday. **ACTION: CR to check with the supplier that the bulbs are not dipped in neonicotinoids.**

7. Community Garden

The compost toilet is now twinned with a toilet in Bangladesh. World Toilet Day is on 19 November. Some of the committee want everyone to clear out their beds to get rid of pests but some people use their beds for crops throughout the winter. Predators of pests also overwinter in beds. A Steering Group meeting will be called to discuss the issue and the Committee will make a decision about what action should be taken. Any rules should go through the Steering Group. More meetings may be required per year if problems are arising. Almost £1000 was made for Scotland's Gardens at the Open Day. The MacRobert Trustees are visiting on Friday afternoon.

8. Composting

The last collection is this Saturday. It was agreed that there will be no more collections this year. Gary Coutts needs chivvy for payment.

9. Tarland Trails

The donation post has raised £362 to date. To attract more a sign for donations could be added to the information at the car park. There have been 8000 counter passes in August and September. There has been an article in the Dee 'n' Doo. Some trees have been felled but they have been moved out of the way. There is tree planting this Sunday around the car park and the pump track. Community Payback may come to help and stay on for the bulb planting. There is still an issue about how to deter horse-riders from riding directly on the trails as they could get

damaged. **ACTION: SP to investigate.** The Community Council has concerns about bikes running straight down into the car park with people milling about, which could cause safety issues. A one way system is required on the pump track and signs are needed. Tony Yule is interested in becoming a member and developing a bigger trails area. He is starting the ball rolling and will come to the next meeting. He could meet with the MacRobert Trust first to make sure they are on the same page.

10. Paths and Tarland Way

We need to put the maps on the website. COAT don't want the maps from the booklet on in a form good enough to print as they may lose sales. The maps need updated anyway. There is also a need to set up a meeting with COAT and look at other connecting routes. **ACTION: DHi to speak to Murray Swapp.** PC happy to help. We need to look at different ways of producing maps and check the licensing situation. DHa raised the issue that the path through the recently clearfelled Horseshoe Wood that extends from the beech belt on the left hand side of the road on the way from Douneside to Ranna Farm, needs some repairs. **ACTION: SP/MacRobert Trust to sort these out.**

11. Film Club

The next film is this Thursday night.

12. Tapestry

A meeting has been arranged with Andrew Crummy, the designer of the Great Tapestry of Scotland, on 23 November.

13. Apple press

We have stopped pressing apples for this year as there are no more apples. We have sold £320 worth of apple juice, which shows that there is a market for it. We need more people involved next year. The waste apple pulp would go on the compost heap and could go direct to the trailer if we are doing a big press.

14. Website

JH is contacting all the people on the business listing. Another meeting is imminent and the website is going live soon. Its development is ongoing so it can be changed. Posters will be put up in the village asking for comments.

15. Tarland Groups Exhibition

A lot of people in the village and its environs don't know what we do or have a false impression of what we do, in TDG. Also there are other groups in the Tarland area that we know nothing about. It would be good to organize an event in the hall to promote and meet all these groups. There would be tables and stands with information. It was agreed that March would be a good time for everything to get organized, with or without additional entertainment. This will be discussed more at the next meeting. **ACTION: All to find out what groups there are in Tarland.** We could launch the website at this event and invite the Destination Management Organisation (DMO) for the NE to come (Claire Bruce from Glen Tanar is the Chair of the local DMO).

16. Food and Music Day

KD, DHi and AMcK met with Leah Fairlie of the Community Food Fund (CFF) last Friday to get advice on how to apply for funding to enhance the food elements of the day. They are putting together a draft application at the moment. Funding would allow us to have a marquee and a mobile kitchen in the square and possibly some Sunday activities. They are starting to approach people now for commitments and rough costs. DHi has contacted the Council about putting a marquee in the Square. We would need the consent of the local businesses and a risk assessment. We also need to contact the Community Council. The CFF are keen on event sustainability for the future so they are looking at this. Ideas are needed for talks. It would be nice if the farming community were more involved. SNH Natural Larder might fund 'bird to plate' etc.

17. Your Land Your Buildings Your Future event

Due to lack of time it was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

18. Noticeboard

Catriona Littlejohn pointed out to PC that the TDG walks noticeboard is out of date and fading. We need to plan and budget for replacing it in the future. The structure is fine so we just need to replace the map. Can we get hold of a street map of Tarland?

19. Community trees for planting out

PC has trees available for the community to plant out. These include willow, birch, hazel, rowan and oak. **ACTION: Ideas on where to plant trees to PC.**

20. Accounts

Tabled. £70 from oil fund.

21. AOCB

None.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on the 12 January 2016 at Cromar Court.