



TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Charity No.SCO41598. Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

**Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7.30pm
Cromar Court, Tarland**

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Lindsay Stewart (LSt) (Chair), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes), David Hirst (DHi), Peter Craig (PC), Chris Redmond (CR), Tony Yule (TY) (invited guest), Annie McKee (AMcK), Simon Power (SP) (invited Member), Yvonne Davidson (YD), Lizzy Shepherd (LSh).

Apologies: Denise Hansford (DHa), Kate Redpath (KR), Jan Healey (JH).

2. Matters arising

There has been no contact from Simon Spoor with regard to the Mens Shed. The Film Club was cancelled in January due to floods. There has been no action from PC on the noticeboard yet but SP has a street map of Tarland and the MacRobert Trust (MRT) have copyright. There have been no suggestions on where to plant the trees yet.

3. TDG membership (re. the Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) application)

LSh reminded Trustees that we should consider our geographical area of TDG membership for DTAS membership. This would affect CR and TY as they live in Aboyne. AMcK suggested two tiers of membership to deal with this or co-option. This issue comes through the legislation for land reform. DHi spoke on the benefits of joining DTAS. The issue of membership could be deferred for a year as

we are currently only a provisional member. To be a full member we would need to be more financially sustainable and we would also have to represent the community perhaps more than we do already (see Community Action Plan item below). To do this we need more outside ideas and we need to respond to community needs and action them. We have to show that we are aware of these priorities and the role of a Development Trust. There may be scope for housing in Tarland – SP and the MRT are interested in exploring this need and a specific meeting may need to be called. We also need to think about getting more members. Currently people aren't interested in joining but we could make membership of TDG a requirement of being a member of a sub-group, such as the Bee Group, although some sub-group members live outwith Tarland. Membership applications have been received from TY and DHa and they were both approved as members. TY has a degree in forestry, is now a Quantity Surveyor and works as a Commercial Manager in the oil industry. He is an experienced Mountain Biker (MTBiker) and races for shop in Ballater. He is involved in the Tarland Trails II proposal (see below). DHa has been working as a Trustee since the incorporation of TDG as a SCIO but was omitted from the membership list in error.

4. Tarland Trails II

CR and TY spoke to their draft Business Plan, which was tabled. TY sees huge potential for a Mountain Bike (MTB) Trail Centre in Tarland and benefits for the surrounding economy and community. The draft Business Plan has been produced using the recommended model by Sport Scotland but there are still some financial details to be added. Key to its success would be getting Cromar Community Council (CCC) and the local Councillors to support it. A group called the North East Trail Cooperative is thinking of a Trail Centre closer to Aberdeen so we may be able to work together under a LEADER application for two Trail Centres. The Glenlivet Trail Centre on the Crown Estate has offered a site visit for the relevant Tarland landowners to see how it might look (LSh suggested getting grants for these site visits). It would also be useful to visit a community owned Trail Centre too as will need to have community input. What the Trail Centre would comprise is still under discussion but it would depend on the predicted number of visitors. DHi is not convinced of the economics for a private venture

and SP suggests that we start small. The minimum infrastructure is probably a Pay and Display car park and toilets. DHi said there are two routes to achieving this project: MRT at Wester Knowehead (commercial), or a café in the village (community). AMcK says a third option is both of these. Other external opportunities could also be taken up, such as a Farm Shop. The next stage is to produce a Feasibility Study for the MTB routes. The question arose as to whether a Feasibility Study would be enough for the planners, MRT and the community. The overall timescale for completion, if it goes ahead, is 3-5 years, which ties in with MRT plans. There was general agreement that further exploration of the idea should be progressed but with a larger sub-group and using as much external advice as possible. An initial questionnaire has already been circulated amongst Tarland Trails I (TTI) users and the results collated. These show that a high percentage of TTI users spend money in the village, either at the Spar or in The Commercial. There are stages at which the Tarland Trails II (TTII) proposal could come back to TDG. Community consultation should probably be facilitated by an independent body and should be a specific separate event. AMcK is happy to help but we need people with facilitation expertise. Grants are available for a full-time Project Manager for two years. DHi and SP are willing to be on the sub-group. **ACTION: CR to set the date of the next sub-group meeting as soon as possible.**

It was also noted that TDG needs to fund the tarmacking of the track to TTI. SP said that MRT would part fund the section to Drummy car-park.

5. Community Action Plan

Marr Area Partnership (MAP) advice is to follow the normal standard process. We are waiting to hear back from CCC. MRT and TDG would want to be involved. **ACTION: SP and LSt to contact CCC on behalf of each respectively.** Other groups should also be on the Steering Group. Community Action Planning takes time so it may not be in time for a Spring event (see below), although this could be an introduction. The Community Action Plan (CAP) needs community involvement to discuss priorities.

6. Spring event to publicise TDG and other groups in Tarland

We need to think about a date and the groups to invite. The Tarland Community Website launch should be the focus. This event is separate to the CCC CAP event

and should come first. We need to find out the date of the CAP event and work back. The Tarland Market is provisionally 30 April so it could be 14 May.

ACTION: LSt to contact all groups and work with JH and Nigel Healey.

7. Future Group

There have been two meetings so far, the last one was postponed. The meetings have been attended by 47 and 40 people respectively, therefore they have been successful. The coffee and cakes are going down well. The next meeting is 20 January.

8. Bee Group

SP and YD have talked to Ronnie Greenlaw about a honey cooperative. This is being investigated and MRT may play a part.

9. Community Garden

The water pipe got washed out but there has been no real damage due to the recent floods.

10. Path network and Tarland Way

There has been very little damage to the Tarland Way from floods. **ACTION: Other paths should be checked – volunteers would be appreciated!** All path reports should be sent to KD or DHi or to tarlandpaths@gmail.com

11. Website

Photos and some re-wording of TDG text is required. **ACTION: LSt to work on this with JH.** Another meeting is to be arranged. A map of the path network is still required. DHi contacted Ian Mackintosh and we would need to pay Ordnance Survey (OS) annually for a licence. Otherwise we can get free shapefiles and then pay a GIS person to create the maps. This would have the advantage that we could update them as required. **ACTION: KD to investigate GIS mapping with work colleagues.**

12. Tapestry

Collecting imagery to use.

13. Food and Music Day

This has been scheduled for 23 and 24 September. We are waiting to hear about our Community Food Fund (CFF) grant application and then we can press on with the detailed arrangements. Could there be a link to the Dee and Don Ceilidh

Collective? **ACTION: AMcK to schedule a date for a sub-group meeting in early February.**

14. Accounts

All looking very healthy. **ACTION: LSh and SP to investigate the use of the Youth Project money, which was ring-fenced for repairs to the playpark (from MRT).** This could go towards paying for the TTI track to be tarmacked. Accounts submitted to OSCR. Daisy Roger should be rewarded for her work on the accounts. **ACTION: a case of wine to be ordered by LSt.**

15. AOCB

Applicants for membership should ideally not be present when approval is sought. This was agreed.

Insurance for TTI comes out of TDG general funds, as it's part of our overall insurance now with Highland Council. Oil money contributes.

Dates of next meetings are as follows:

DTAS specific meeting: 8 February

TDG Trustees meeting: 23 February