

Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

**Wednesday 21st October 2020 at 7.30pm
Online**

1. Attendees and apologies

Present (8): K Redpath (KR) (Chair), D Hirst (DH), E Shepherd (ES), Y Davidson (YD), Annie McKee (AM), C Redmond (CR), K Dale (KD), A Pena del Valle (APV), Megan Albon (MA)

Apologies (1): Liz Cooper (LC)

2. Matters Arising:

- a. Electric carshare scheme – KR met with Sally Davis of Aberdeenshire Council. The council is still committed to installing a charging point in Tarland despite the delay due to Covid.
- b. Reflection on the AGM – the Trustees agreed that turnout had been good for the online event that fulfilled TDG's responsibility to hold an AGM.
- c. Reflection on Tarland Food and Music Festival – AM reported that video footage from the Food and Music Festival had had 12,000 views. The festival can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrWI6CLFsNyARBdtZHIUq1Q>. Festival Co-ordinator Shona Donaldson has already started booking bands for the 2021 festival. Following on from the discussion at the festival Shona and her husband Paul have offered to take the Stanardsville twinning project forward informally and, if there is sufficient interest locally, to proceed with formal twinning.

3. Decisions Between Meetings

There were no decisions between meetings.

4. Membership

There were two new membership applications from Nigel Healey and Morna Stewart, both of which were approved.

5. Cromar Community Council, and Cromar Community Helpline (CCH)

There were no points raised in relation to the Cromar Community Council or the Cromar Community Helpline.

6. Cromar Food Waste Project

Project leaders Gillian Needham and Linda Cunningham submitted an outline of the project for Trustees to discuss. In light of the opening of a food waste depot in Aboyne, the Cromar Food Waste Project would promote and distribute this food to the Tarland community. The project has



been developed with the support of Fareshare and Marr Area Partnership (MAP). However, in order to progress it must become part of a constituted group. Both TDG and Cromar Future Group have been considered to host the project. In order for TDG to host the project it would need to have a dedicated Trustee and Linda has offered to be co-opted in order to take up this role.

The Trustees then discussed the project plan. It was pointed out that the project would run as a six month pilot only, hosting a few low key events, so was not a considerable risk for TDG. There are several local examples of successful similar projects such as one in Braemar. On the other hand several Trustees raised concern that the aims of the project might be a bit confused, combining food waste issues with nutrition issues, and was not intrinsically supportive of local growers. They also questioned whether there would be sufficient demand.

Overall the Trustees approved the proposal including the co-opting of Linda Cunningham as a Trustee.

7. Tarland Community Housing

Having contacted many potential members for the new housing group, Sam is now at work producing materials to help them to commit to being on the committee. A minimum of five people is needed to register a SCIO but fewer for a limited company that would have some trading benefits. Sam will be arranging for the nascent Tarland group to link with the more established project in Braemar, and has set about producing an independent website for TCH. Thanks go to Anke Addy, James Dyas Davidson and Dan Christie for providing their wonderful photos for project materials.

In terms of funding Sam is currently working on another application to the Scottish Land Fund (SLF).

Sam is also working on outreach for the group and intends to attend a Cromar Community Council meeting soon. He is looking at organising some kind of engagement with local school children on the Village Farm site.

8. Tarland Wetlands Group

KD reported the latest action of the Tarland Wetlands Group.

The group recently visited the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) wetland and the adjacent field, which is currently flooded and attracting high numbers of geese and waders. The group has written to the MacRobert Trust (MRT) with a suggested management plan for the field so that it can remain wet at certain times of the year yet still be available for farming activities.

The group intends to produce a plan for wetlands in the Howe of Cromar by November 2020. This would include recommendations to protect specific wet areas and refer to the body of



previous work that has been carried out. It would include case studies and possibly farm plans.

Megan continues to provide outreach through Facebook. Tarland Wetlands Group now has a webpage on the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP) website here:

<https://www.deepartnership.org/project/tarland-wetlands-group/>

The group has contributed videos for the Scottish Freshwater Group (SFG) film here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69DuSnLeEkE&feature=youtu.be>

The group is grateful to the North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (NESBiP) for the loan of two trail cameras. These were deployed over the summer months in the Tarland Burn and on the WWTW wetland. The footage has been analysed and provides evidence that there are otters and water voles on the burn and many waders on the wetland, some breeding successfully. The best footage will be on Facebook.

There is currently a wetlands art exhibition in the hide at the WWTW wetland that is well worth a visit. Thanks to Megan Albon, Denise Hansford, Gillian Needham, David Currie and Peter Craig for making this happen, as well as to all the artists that contributed their work. The exhibition is on until the end of October and can be viewed online here: <https://tarland.org.uk/wetlandsart>

The originals of six of the artworks in the exhibition have been kindly donated to the group to be auctioned to raise funds. These are marked with a green dot on their labels and bids can be placed by emailing tarlanddevelopmentgroup@gmail.com

The bird hide has been leaking slightly, and could also do with a screen so that the birds cannot see visitors approaching.

9. Tarland Trails

CR reported that the signs discouraging people from staying overnight in the carpark have gone up. Money is still coming in through the donation post, and Chris Roper has donated to the trails where he is holding his kids camp.

A possible fund has been identified for Tarland Trails 2. This is being set up in conjunction with the Glasgow 2023 Cycle World Championships, which is £8 million.

10. Seed Swap

LS has been in contact with seed potato suppliers and had some constructive discussions on how they might help facilitate online sales. The steering group is considering the impact of the limit on the number of households in terms of packing people's orders.



12. **Tarland Bee Group**

MA gave an update on the Bee Shed. She has been working with Bill Boggia, a local structural engineer, who is kindly volunteering his time to support the project. He has designed new foundations to overcome the issues presented by integrating the compost toilet and the green roof into the building. MA is now consulting the groundworks contractor to agree a quote for the work.

YD reported on the wider activities of TBG. The bees at the apiary have been moved in anticipation of the building work there. Honey has been given out to members to sell jars to their family and friends. TBG would like to thank MRT for mowing the grass.

14. **Accounts, grants, awards and funding**

There was nothing to report.

15. **Governance**

KD suggested that office bearers should have TDG email addresses so that they don't need to use their personal email addresses for charity correspondence. In general the feeling among the Trustees was that this wasn't worth it for the hassle of having another account to check. It was decided to leave the suggestion for now.

16. **AOB**

KR noted that the Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) EGM and AGM is upcoming and TDG was encouraged to have a Trustee in attendance. However, no-one is available.

KD asked if anyone is planning on attending the upcoming Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) conference. Trustees will book sessions themselves as they see fit.

Aberdeenshire Third Sector Week is coming up. It had been planned for councillors to visit projects across the shire but the programme is now happening online.

17. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 2nd December.