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SC049120

Torphins Paths Group SCIO

TORPHINS
PATHS GROUP

Second Annual General Meeting

15th April 2021

Chairman's Report

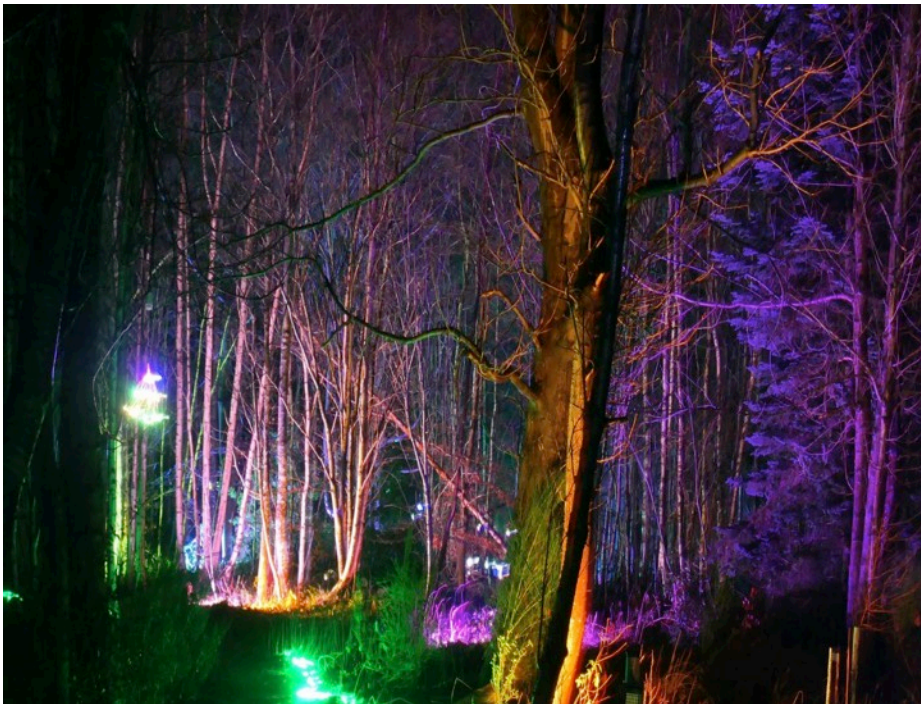


Chairman's Report 2020/21

Summary



The difficult year of COVID was for Torphins Paths Group a year of achievement



- Support from the community, funders and sponsors
- Delivery for the community
- Ambition for the future

Chairman's Report 2020/21

Support - Thank you!



- Our first crowd funding was an outstanding community success to fund our first Woodland Wonderland
- Donations in cash and kind enabled pursuit of planned projects
- Grant support encouragingly continued
- Volunteers worked when safe to do so within the bounds of our risk assessment
- Cooperation for development projects was maintained



The Bread of Life

Learney Estate

*King George V
Wind Turbine Fund*

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Personal Donations

Business Donations

Chairman's Report 2020/21

Woodland Wonderland



- Illuminations in Torphins Wood with booking system and stewarding for safe enjoyment by the whole community during a trying festive season. Scouts did their bit too.
- 490 registered group visits!
- Enabled by outstanding community crowd-funding generating personal and business donations £3,300 and grants £2,100
- Ecology study confirms no significant potential impact to wildlife and habitat



Chairman's Report 2020/21

Waulkmill Farm and Bridge



- Completed new fenced path to safely bypass the Waulkmill Farm yard through cooperative project addressing long standing community and farm concern
- Aberdeenshire Council Outdoor Access donated £1,000
- TPG funded £250
- Farmer agreed plan, prepared site, delivered and positioned quarry material
- Local resident agreed siting
- Learney Estate donated all fence timber
- Christie Fencing were contracted to install posts
- TPG volunteers built the path and fixed the fence rails



Chairman's Report 2020/21

Local Path Maintenance



- In Autumn 2020 we grabbed a few safe days to cut the overgrowth on the railway line and in the Torphins Woods
- Now in Spring 2021 we have started on a major refurbishment of the popular Monboddo to Craigmyle West Lodge path. Drainage repairs by landowners should help preserve the path in future
- Installed new safety barrier at Monboddo



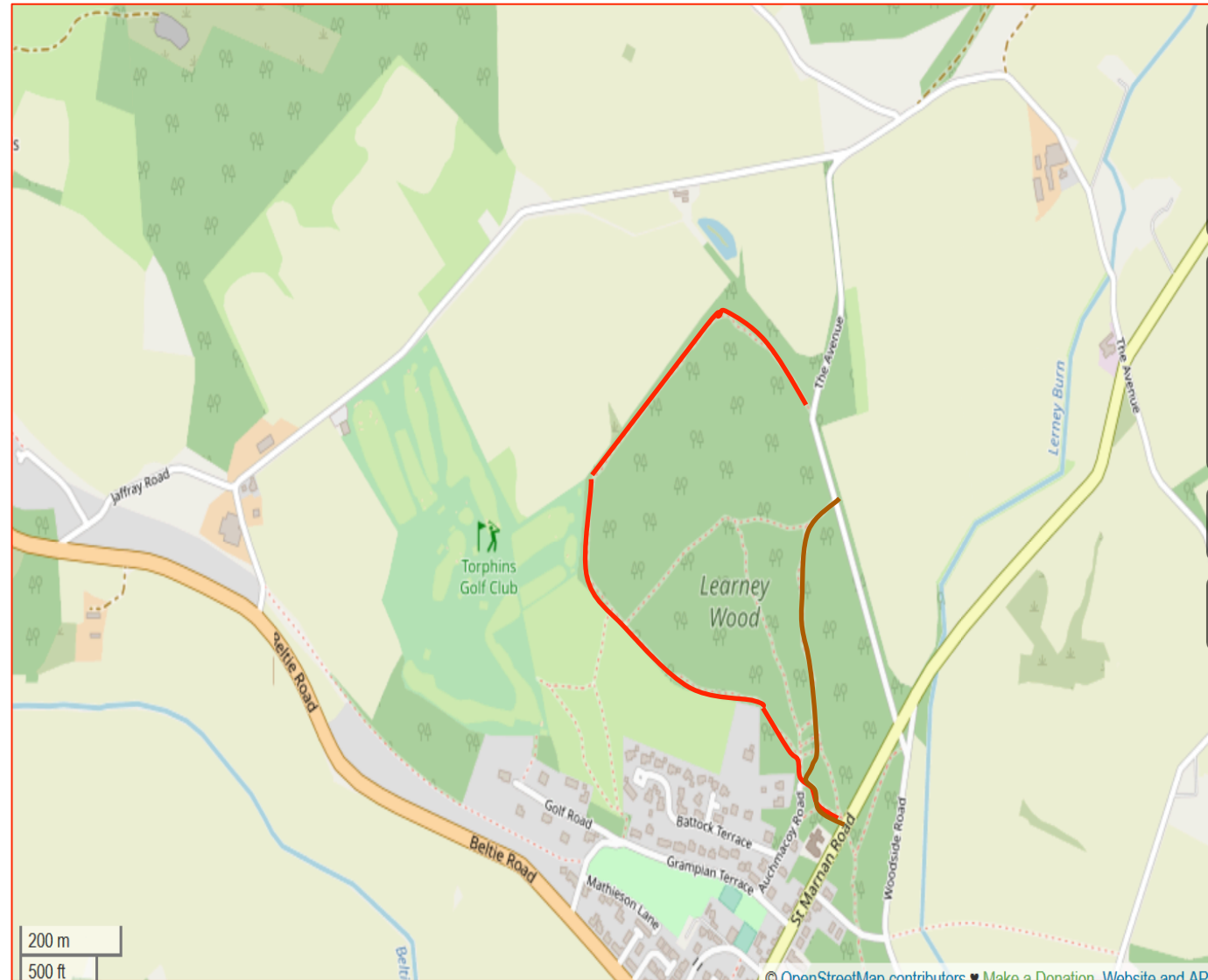
Chairman's Report 2020/21

Local Path Development



Learney Woods Green Route Proposal

- An existing core path
- Buggy/wheelchair ready route through the woods :
 - Gives a complete green circuit with return via the Avenue
 - Gives dog walkers a good off road circuit
- Next steps:
 - Survey route and agree with Estate
 - Fund raise
 - Execute

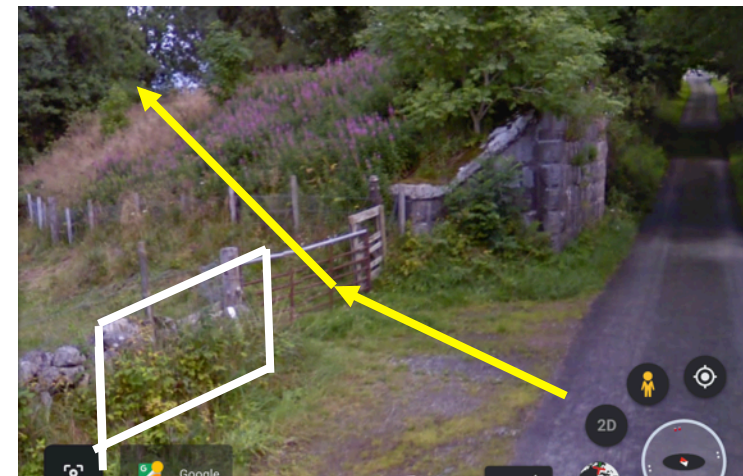
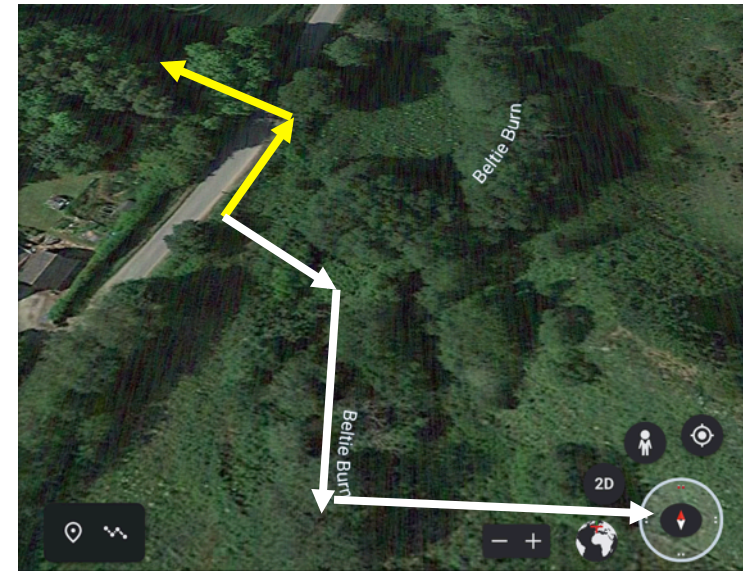


Chairman's Report 2020/21

Lumphanan Path



- Landowner agreement progressed to provide broad confirmation of whole route, with some details to be finalised
- Seeking funding of work for full planning application and bridge design
- Meeting regularly with Lumphanan Paths Group who have pledged active support



Chairman's Report 2020/21

Banchory Path



- APP/2021/0186 by Bert McIntosh for car park and access path referred to Area committee
- APP/2021/0470 by TPG for path and bridge through Dam Wood awaiting decision by 8th May
- If approved agreement to be finalised with FLS, and construction funding sought
- Continue to seek route past Glassel and around Greenpark



Chairman's Report 2020/21

Engagement



Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- **take responsibility for your own actions**
- **respect the interests of other people**
- **care for the environment.**

Visit [outdooraccess-scotland.scot](https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot) or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



**KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO**
[outdooraccess-scotland.scot](https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

- TPG is now meeting regularly with Lumphanan Paths Group in an inter community effort for the path project to connect the villages
- TPG participates in the quarterly meetings of the new Deeside and Upper Donside Paths Forum. The latest meeting included a presentation by Michael Combe, Scotland's expert on public access, at the invitation of TPG's Brian
- Marr Area is proposing a revival of Marr Paths Forum, including documenting path routes
- Our website is under maintenance and available as a significant redesign proceeds

Chairman's Report 2020/21

Business Plan



- TPG Business Plan was adopted in March 2021
- The Plan documents the purpose, organisation, approach, achievements and ambitious future plans of the Group
- A point of reference for all who want to understand our objectives and how we go about our business, particularly funders, landowners and relevant development authorities
- The Business Plan is available at:
<https://www.torphinpathsgroup.org/about-us>

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Chairman's Report 2020/21

Next Steps by Project Area



Local

- Complete the refurbishment of Monboddoo to West Lodge path
- Develop the Torphins Woods Green Route
- A Community Event

Lumphanan

- Agree remaining details with landowners
- Submit Lumphanan Path planning application

Banchory

- Agreement with FLS at Dam Wood and possibly Kynoch Plantation
- Fund and construct path from Easter Beltie to Glassel road
- Agree Torphins to Easter Beltie route with all landowners
- Identify route from Glassel road to beyond Greenpark

Chairman's Report 2020/21

Conclusion



**Thank you from the Chair and the Board
to all Members, Volunteers and Supporters**

**Best Wishes
for a fit, healthy and successful year
2021/22**

Will Maclean, 15 April 2021