



The Bailies of Bennachie

Treasurer:
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Senior Bailie:
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Clerk:
Michael B. Davidson
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7th July 1986.

The Conservator
Forestry Commission
Conservancy Office (North)
21 Church Street
Inverness
IV1 1EL

Copy to Mr R. Marnie
Forest District Manager.

Dear Sir,

At the meeting of the Council of the Bailies of Bennachie of 16th June 1986, concern was expressed regarding the long term future of the Hill. It was felt that, because of the uncertainty of the Commission's land policies, there could be a possibility that the part of Bennachie above the tree-line, which is considered unplantable by the Commission, could be sold into private ownership. If this happened there could be considerable problems regarding access and management of what is a unique leisure and recreation area in the N.E..

As you know, we have enjoyed and continue to enjoy a very happy working relationship with the F.C. but should the Commission be forced into selling off to a private party this state of affairs could be threatened.

We therefore ask the Commission to seriously consider the possibility of the land above the tree-line, from the Mither Tap in the East to the West of Hermit Seat, being offered for sale to the Bailies of Bennachie. We believe that such a suggestion was mooted by the Commission some time ago, but Forest District Manager Ron Marnie advised against it. Mr Marnie is a highly esteemed and valued member of the Bailies Council and his view point is based on the possibility that the character of the Bailies could change, leading to possible conflict with the Commission. We however cannot see this happening. We respect the right of the Commission as landowners to manage the Hill in accordance with their well considered policies for recreation, environmental safeguard and timber production. We consider that the constitution of the Bailies would guarantee a continuation of existing policies. However, to overcome Mr Marnie's fears, it would be possible for the Commission to write into any agreement whatever clauses of a protective nature it considers necessary. If the Commission still has reservations, we are sure that it would be possible to also involve Gordon District Council in a trustee capacity. We would be grateful if the Commission would give this suggestion serious consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Senior Bailie.

Clerk.