

8/3/9



GORDON DISTRICT COUNCIL



MICHAEL C. BARRON
Chief Executive and
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Our Ref. MCB/JWB

Your Ref.

Date 25th August 1989

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If telephoning or calling ask
for Mr Barron

Mr H. Cadenhead
Senior Bailie
15c West High Street
Inverurie
Aberdeenshire

Dear Bert

BENNACHIE - VISITOR/INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

As you are aware the Forestry Commission for some long time has been suggesting a major visitor centre could be contemplated at Esson Car Park. It was confirmed earlier this month that the likelihood of capital becoming available for this purpose was remote and consequently consideration had to be given to the proposition. As you are aware it is possible for a "voluntary" agency which is properly constituted to apply for funds from the Countryside Commission. Such a move if undertaken by the Bailies of Bennachie could find favour with the various interested parties. To this end an exploratory meeting was held with the Forestry Commission earlier this week and they intimated willingness to sit down to discuss a brief, project (following consideration of the aims and objectives) through a Working Party and it was felt that this should be a further remit of the existing discussion group as presently constituted.

Councillor Raymond Bisset, Chairman of the Gordon District Tourist Board, welcomes such initiative and would hope that your next meeting could debate the desirability of moving this project forward.

Considerable work needs to be done on the concept but recognising the need for a "bid" for capital, particularly from the Countryside Commission for 1990 or 1991 an outline agreement to the principle should be hopefully reached at your next meeting.

I would welcome an opportunity of discussing the various financial scenarios with your Executive Committee.

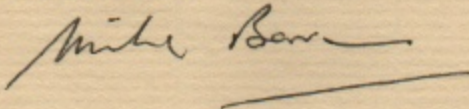
Subject/

Subject to considerable work and a formal proposition being tabled there appears willingness on the part of the Forestry Commission and certainly this Council to consider financial involvement.

At a recent debate in terms of major projects the case for a major Bennachie project was accepted in principle.

I take the liberty of forwarding a copy of the letter to Jim Mackay/Algy Watson both of whom were contacted in connection with the Forestry Commission meeting and to your Secretary, Sheenah Cobb, for information.

Yours sincerely



MICHAEL C BARRON
Chief Executive

cc Mr James McKay, The Dell, Blairdaff, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire
Mr A. Watson, Springbank Cottage, Oyne, Aberdeenshire
Mrs Sheenah Cobb, 62 Bremner Way, Kemnay, Aberdeenshire

See minutes for 25th Sept