

# Climbing Bennachie

SIR, — Last Sunday was an ideal day for climbing Bennachie, my favourite mountain.

Being a senior citizen and having had a hip replacement three years ago, I had to step carefully with my walking stick. I was left far behind by my young family, but I was overjoyed to reach the cairn at least half-way up, and to sit on the most comfortable flat stone and feast upon the beautiful panoramic view.

Please, Bailies of Bennachie, have mercy on me. Everyone's need is most urgent, indeed. But what a let-down when one has to sit down at the foot of the Ben behind a bush.

Mrs C. Forman,  
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24/5/2001*

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27th April 2000

Mr Alan Campbell  
Chief Executive  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Woodhill House  
Aberdeen AB16 5GB

Dear Mr Campbell

**Reduction in Ranger Services in Aberdeenshire**

The Council of the Bailies of Bennachie wishes to express its dismay and disappointment at the reduced resources available for the Ranger Services in Aberdeenshire.

A number of organisations such as the Bailies of Bennachie, the Bennachie Working Group, Scottish National Heritage and Forest Enterprise have worked hard to implement aspects of the Council's policy on biodiversity and Agenda 21 and raise awareness of these policies over the past several years. The Ranger service had implemented these philosophies before Agenda 21 and biodiversity were official Council policy.

The curtailment of the Ranger service can only have a detrimental affect on the public's view of the Council's seriousness in implementing these policies.

Yours sincerely

Dr Geoffrey M. Gill  
Clerk to the Bailies





8/3/22

Our Ref AGG/ME/DRGILL  
Your Ref

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5 May 2000

Dr Geoffrey M Gill  
Bailies of Bennachie  
Beechcroft  
Old Chapel Road  
Inverurie  
AB51 4QN

Dear Dr Gill

**Reduction of Ranger Services In Aberdeenshire**

Alan Campbell, my Chief Executive, passed your letter to me to reply.

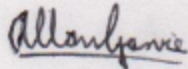
I can appreciate the concern and dismay that you express in your letter of 27 April. The reduction in expenditure in the Ranger Service has been reluctantly put in place by the Council to enable it to live within the Guidelines set by the Scottish Executive. In no way are these reductions in any sense associated with any lack of regard that the Council has for its ranger service working in association with the Bailies and many other parties. Indeed the type of agenda which you set out in your letter of biodiversity and Agenda 21 will be increasing components of the way in which the ranger service will be developed over succeeding months and years. Nevertheless the Council, to live within its means, has had to effect serious restrictions on its expenditure with effect on a wide range of services.

At present ranger services are the subject of what is called a Best Value Review which is looking at the way in which it might be refocused to enable its links with the main stream Council policies on biodiversity and sustainability can be taken forward in association with other parties. There are a number of other changes in the Council's services which are yet to be worked through, all of which I can assure you will be done as harmoniously and carefully as possible. Nevertheless it is readily understood that you are concerned about the reduced resources available. It just means that we have to try and focus on what the Council and the community think are the most important ways in which the Ranger Service can be developed in the future. I should add that arrangements are already in place to promote the Ranger Service working more as a team with rangers reinforcing each other from different bases when special events are organised.



I suggest that that is a sensible way forward in which our resources can be used effectively and that we have recently been able to invest in a new mobile display which will allow the Ranger Service to make the connections with its communities in a wide range of locations across Aberdeenshire. I hope that that shows that we are seeking to make the best use of the resources at our disposal.

Yours sincerely



Allan Garvie  
Director Acting

Cc John Williams  
Graham Waters  
Fred Gordon, Gordon House

