

8/3/23

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Aberdeenshire
AB51 4QN
23rd November 2000

Head of Planning
Aberdeenshire Council
Wodhill House
Westburn House
Aberdeen AB16 5GB

Dear Sir

Aberdeenshire Draft Local and Draft Structure Plan 2000

These plans were discussed at a meeting of the Council of the Bailies of Bennachie on 22nd November 2000. Whilst we are aware that the date for making comments is past, we would be very grateful if the following observations could be taken on board.

We are very concerned that Bennachie and other areas of outstanding landscape in Aberdeenshire have not been designated and will therefore receive no protection from inappropriate development or misuse. All that we have is the vague wording "respect the landscape character of the area as set out in detail in local plans"

In the Grampian Structure Plan 1997 there is a category of open "Areas of Regional Landscape Significance" This category of promoting quality landscape in certain parts of Aberdeenshire and giving them a degree of protection has been completely dropped in both plans. There are no policies in the Draft Local Plan to protect or conserve specific areas of open landscape (except for the coast). This is a major omission for such areas as Bennachie. Why does the coast line get specific protection policies while Bennachie does not? Bennachie is unique in that it is a mountain surrounded by agricultural land and is therefore very accessible providing recreation of a very high order for over 100,000 people annually. As a tourist mecca it contributes to the economic growth of Aberdeenshire, encompasses important natural habitats and is an area of great natural beauty.

We would urge most strongly that certain areas such as Bennachie be identified and categorised as Areas of Regional Landscape Significance and/or Areas of Landscape Conservation for their protection. They deserve more than a woolly statement of "respect for landscape character"

Yours sincerely

Dr. Geoffrey M Gill
Clerk to the Bailies of Bennachie

Copies to:- Cnclr R. Bisset, Convenor; Cnclr C Millar, Chapel and Gadie;
Cnclr S Lonchay, Inch; Cnclr R Stroud, Alford



8/3/23

Our Ref
Your Ref

Please ask for Allan G Garvie
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27 November 2000

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Dear Dr Gill

ABERDEENSHIRE DRAFT LOCAL PLAN AND DRAFT STRUCTURE PLAN 2000

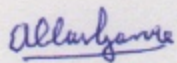
Many thanks for your letter of 23 November 2000. I am passing your letter to Colin Simpson who is dealing with the large volume of representations (making about 5,000 individual points) on the Draft Aberdeenshire Local Plan. You are correct in pointing out that your letter is a little bit late to be received as a representation, so will not be codified on our schedule. Nevertheless, the points you make will be considered further and I am aware from the process of redrafting the Structure Plan that particular reference will be made to Bennachie and other areas of outstanding landscape in the North East.

It is hoped to finalise the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan for submission to Scottish Ministers in the early part of next year, probably around March, at which time you and many other parties have the right to make representations direct to them. The progress on the Aberdeenshire Local Plan will be maintained by considering all the representations timeously made and the publication of a revised deposit version of the Aberdeenshire Local Plan can be expected probably in August next year on which objections will be invited.

Many/

Again, many thanks for your letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allan Garvie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Allan G Garvie
Head of Planning Policy & Environment

cc Colin Simpson
Councillor R Bisset, Convener
Councillor S Lonchay
Councillor C Millar
Councillor R Stroud

