



8/3/26

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date: 20 September 2002

Please ask for: Linda Mathieson Direct Dial 01467 628380

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LP-3 INVERURIE

Anna Baillie
Clerk to the Bailies of Bennachie
Birchbank
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Dear Ms Baillie

BENNACHIE HERITAGE LOTTERY BID

Thank you for your letter of 2 September 2002 regarding the proposed Heritage Lottery Bid for Bennachie.

I am not sure why the questions in your letter have been addressed to me as I thought that in discussions with Fred Gordon and separately with representatives of Forest Enterprise and Scottish Natural Heritage I had made it clear that although the Environment Section officers of the Council (Access and Archaeology) were keen to see a combined bid as this was felt to be the most efficient and likely to be the most successful package for a Heritage Lottery Bid we were not in a position to suggest that this is what should happen or to lead the project.

The Access Officer of the Council would be involved in the development of the Aberdeen Turnpike Road linking up the access points at Essons, Rowantree and Back of Bennachie but the remainder of the project proposals would be with Forest Enterprise, Pittodrie Estate and the Bailies.

The proposal to expand on the centre refurbishment to included improvement and development of the paths and interpretation across the Bennachie Range arose from a project to improve access to the top of Mither Tap that was undertaken in the last financial year.

The group involved in this project, Aberdeenshire Council, Forest Enterprise, Pittodrie Estate, Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland are keen to see other improvements undertaken and called a meeting to discuss putting together a combined funding aid to the HLF. At this meeting we became aware that the Bailies were already progressing a bid to finance the refurbishment of the Bennachie Centre.

Further meetings of the above group which included James McKay and Fred Gordon highlighted concern from the Bailies that the paths element of the project may delay the Centre refurbishment element of the bid. As a result of this the "paths" group met again on 25 July.

At this meeting the group agreed to work up path proposals that would fit in with the timescale of the Bailies Centre Refurbishment proposals which we understood was to have a proposal ready by the end of September.

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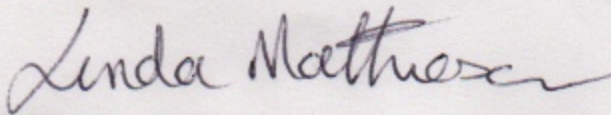
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At this meeting (25 July) Aberdeenshire Officials stressed that they were not in a position to recommend that there should be a combined bid but suggested that Forest Enterprise and the SNH Officers raised the issue at the next Bailies meeting and to identify, if a combined bid was accepted that between themselves and the Bailies it should be agreed who should lead on this bid.

From the July meeting Forest Enterprise and ourselves have been investigating the costs and likely source of material funding for the "paths" element of the bid. I am assessing that between yourselves and the project partners Forest Enterprise, Scottish Natural Heritage etc you will decide the format of the bid and who will take the lead. The Council would then become a supportive minor partner for the works to the Aberdeen Turnpike and possibly works at the Rowantree Car Park.

I hope this helps to clarify the Council 's role in this project.

Yours sincerely



Linda Mathieson
Environment Planner (Strategic)
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