

BENNACHIE WATCHDOG WELCOMED

9/84
original in
Archival box

GARIOCH folk last night gave their support to the formation of the Baillies of Bennachie — a group formed to preserve and improve the amenity of the North-east landmark.

More than 40 people attended the group's inaugural meeting in Inverurie Town Hall last night when chosen as senior baillie was Dr Daniel Gordon, Garioch District Council chairman.

Dr Gordon outlined the main aims of the group:

- Preserve amenity and fight against litter and broken glass and by organising litter-collection parties.
- Preserve paths and rights of way and organise cairn building and signposting.
- Study geological formations and launch a survey of the mountains, plants, animals and ecology.
- Collect all bibliography relating to Bennachie with a view to publishing an updated leaflet about the mountain.

A suggestion the baillies should consider converting an old croft on the hill into a museum was also supported.

DANGER

Earlier, Inverurie Academy biology teacher Mr James McKay said thousands of people had visited Bennachie in the last few years. But he added that there was a danger all these people would destroy the very qualities of the mountain they were seeking.

Mr McKay, appointed junior baillie, said one of their main problems was litter and broken glass left on the hill. With strong sunshine, glass could easily cause a fire, he said.

Dr Gordon said the formation of the group had met with widespread support from the owners of Bennachie.

PICNIC

The main landowners, the Forestry Commission, had been particularly helpful. "There was a new atmosphere at the Forestry Commission," he says. "Where once they said 'keep out,' the Commission now welcomed visitors and are opening paths and forest trails."

After electing a court of baillies the meeting agreed they should hold a picnic on Bennachie this summer.

Dr Gordon said that, at present, the group's only funds consisted of members' subscriptions. But they plan to apply for grants to help them with future projects.

Court elected: Dr James Gil, Dr Douglas Stewart, Mr William Taylor, Mr William Walker, Mr Johnstone Hay, Mr John Stephen, Mrs Helen Fraser, clerks — Mr Aley Watson, treasurer — Mr Leslie Anderson.

SECTION of the people who turned out for the Baillies of Bennachie meeting on the Garioch heritage in the small Town Hall at Inverurie last night.



Per J. Times
May 8th 1973

ABOX
James
for

Abandon all this