

Baillies of Bennachie . . .

THE INCREASE in visitors to Bennachie has led a group of Garioch men to set up a body to preserve the amenities of the hill and its environs.

They are to call themselves "The Baillies of Bennachie" and they hope to get under way officially at a public meeting in the Inverurie Town Hall next Monday.

Already they have the blessing of the Forestry Commission who own most of Bennachie and are to work in conjunction with the commission and the other landowners.

As yet plans are in the "embryonic stage" but the general idea is that members of "The Baillies of Bennachie" will pay a small membership fee and will then act as wardens — with the prevention of litter, vandalism and fire among their duties.

LITTER

One of the group is Dr D. G. Gordon, chairman of Garioch District Council.

Bennachie had become increasingly popular with visitors over the past few years, he said, since the provision of various picnic sites and car parks.

"The increasing ease of access has meant an increasing number of people going on to the mountain and we want to avoid litter, vandalism and the danger of fire," said Dr Gordon.

"We also want to preserve the rights of way and to work with the Forestry Commission in preserving the amenities."

TEACHER

Another of the group, Mr James McKay, a biology teacher at Inverurie Academy, said they had no definite plans worked out but hoped to raise a small amount of money by charging a membership fee of about £1.

The money would be used in a number of ways, such as small improvement schemes and postage to keep the members informed of what was happening.

About a month ago some outdoor groups from Inverurie had laid stepping stones on a boggy part of the path to the Mither Tap, said Mr McKay. This was the sort of thing "The Baillies of Bennachie" intended to do.

"There is going to be tremendous pressure on Bennachie and we want to keep it in its natural state," he said.

They also wanted to compile a list of literature on Bennachie.

Other members of the group are:—Treasurer, L. G. Anderson, Oldmeldrum; Dr J. M. Gill, Inverurie; Mr Alex Gray, a retired baker of Inverurie, and Mr Alex Watson, a geography teacher at Inverurie Academy.

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