



Working to protect and defend Bennachie and its surrounding area from the A96 dual carriageway

www.savebennachie.com

PUBLIC URGED TO JOIN THE FIGHT TO SAVE BENNACHIE

For Immediate Release

The Campaign to save Bennachie will take an important step forward in less than two weeks with an opportunity for the whole community to tell Transport Scotland why the much loved hill should not be blighted by a four lane dual carriageway.

Campaigners fear that a proposed high level route across the foothills of Bennachie may still be under consideration and are urging everyone to find time to attend a public exhibition within the next fortnight.

The Scottish Government has committed to dualling the A96 between Aberdeen and Inverness by 2030 with consultants currently assessing possible routes.

Margaret Garden from the Save Bennachie campaign said:

“It’s vital that everyone who cares about Bennachie comes to these meetings and lets Transport Scotland know how much we value our precious land-scape.

“We have received widespread support for our demand to completely rule out routes that damage Bennachie and the surrounding area, but at this stage we have not received any guarantees.

“It’s important that Transport Scotland and their consultants understand the depth of feeling on this issue. We have a shared responsibility to protect Bennachie for future generations”.

Representatives from Transport Scotland and their Design Consultants Amey Arup will be on hand to talk to the public at each meeting.

Margaret Garden says everyone should make their voice heard:

“Bennachie is a national treasure which should not be blighted by road noise or fumes. We want future generations to enjoy the same landscape which has been valued for hundreds of years. We must not give that up without a fight.

Bennachie is known and loved in Aberdeenshire and far beyond. These exhibitions are a critical moment when we must let officials know how important Bennachie is to the country as a whole.”

The Exhibitions will be set up in,

- Inverurie Town Hall on the 8th and 9th October 2018.
- The Stewart’s Hall Huntly on 10th October 2018.
- Kinellar Community Hall Blackburn on the 11th October 2018.

They will be open from noon until 7pm.

The Save Bennachie Campaign has this advice for people who want to attend the exhibitions

- Put the date in your diary now, and note that the exhibitions close at 7pm
- Make sure your views are recorded on the forms available on the day
- Include your name and address, or at least the first half of your postcode

There will be a window for public consultation following the meetings, and the final route announcement is expected next year.

Those who are unable to attend the exhibitions can see the plans from noon on Monday 8th at the Transport Scotland web site and can submit their comments till 22nd November 2018.

For more information please contact margaret.Garden@savebennachie.com

Editor's Notes

More than 150,000 people visit Bennachie every year.

Local MSPs from across the political spectrum are supporting the campaign.

The Save Bennachie Alliance represents both individuals and a wide variety of and community councils, environmental charities and sporting organisations. It includes,

- The Bailies of Bennachie
- Oyne, Inverurie, Kintore, Kemnay, Cluny Monymusk and Midmar Community Councils
- Ramblers Association
- Woodland Trust
- Cairngorm Club North East Mountain Club
- Mountaineering Scotland Cosmic Hillbashers
- JogScotland
- Feternear
- Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum
- Inverurie Business Association

Further Information

For more information please contact margaret.Garden@savebennachie.com

For further information about Bennachie or the consultative process see our press page at,

<https://www.savebennachie.com/>