

Save Bennachie Newsletter

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Welcome to all our new Alliance members!



Thanks to everyone who attended our second public meeting in the Chapel of Garioch Hall on 3rd March. 85 people attended a busy meeting, with the team updating everyone on our progress to date, and demonstrating the website. There was lots of discussion around the key issues, with plenty ideas coming forward, along with a few, much appreciated, offers of help. Check out our website for the minutes of the meeting, www.savebennachie.com

Whilst running a strictly non political campaign, in the end the choice of route will be made by the Transport Minister. That's why, over the past few months, the team has written to all local MSP's, and met with all who have responded. Now that the Scottish Parliament has dissolved, we are busy meeting with as many candidates as possible. Please talk to your candidates for the Scottish Parliament about the threat posed to Bennachie by Options C and B.

Aberdeenshire Council will be consulted by Transport Scotland as a stakeholder. Consequently the past few months have also seen us meeting with Local Councillors. We were therefore delighted to hear Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Committee saying that the council should work with Transport Scotland to solve common problems. A route to the east of Inverurie could alleviate concerns about effects on the landscape around Bennachie while improving safety and journey times on the A947 Aberdeen-Banff road (P and J 22/03/2016). Please talk to your Local Councillor about the campaign.



The press and media have been very interested in our campaign. On 27th February the Press and Journal carried a large page 3 item highlighting the campaign and website. The Inverurie Advertiser also carried a large report on 11th March following the last public meeting, and on 22nd March the Press and Journal ran a report on the Aberdeenshire Council Infrastructure Committee's meeting, entitled, 'Look at danger route during dualling drive'. Mark was also interviewed by BBC Radio Scotland, and we even made it to BBC Reporting Scotland with a short feature on the public meeting!



Save Bennachie Flyers

We have 5000 flyers about Save Bennachie ready to go! Do you have a shop, business, coffee shop, hotel, pub etc. and could display a few for folk to pick up? Are you part of a club or organisation that loves Bennachie? They are professionally produced in postcard format and very attractive. An easy way to get involved.

Please contact us for more information.

hello@savebennachie.com

Scottish Elections - URGENT!

We are now in the run up to the Scottish elections. Prospective MSPs have started calling at doors etc. Please speak to them about Bennachie and the detrimental impact the A96 will have on the hill. One of them may be in the Scottish government when the final decision is made in 2018 by the Transport Minister.

Preliminary Report - Available Now

March saw a key milestone for the Campaign, with the production of our Preliminary Report. It has been delivered to the Transport Minister, all local MSP's, and Local Councillors on the Garioch Area, Infrastructure, Formartine and Banff Area Committees. If you haven't already seen it, you can find it on our website, www.savebennachie.com

Get Involved

Add your photographs of Bennachie and the surroundings to our website gallery which showcases the breathtaking beauty of the area.

You can also contribute to the Save Bennachie Blog - Share your memories and tell us what Bennachie means to you!

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The Maiden Stone



The Maiden Stone is situated by the side road between Chapel of Garioch and the Oyne Fork (NJ703247). This magnificent example of a Pictish stone with a fine cross on the West side and Pictish symbols on the East side dates from the 800s AD.

Legend has it that the Laird of Balquhain's daughter made a bet with a handsome stranger that she could bake a large amount of bread before he could build a causeway right up to the Mither Tap. The stranger, who turned out to be the devil, won the bet and on returning to claim his reward she tried to escape. The devil chased the maiden, she was caught and turned to stone.

If the new dual carriageway follows a route South of the current A96 then The Maiden Stone will potentially be only metres away from the new road. Thousands of people visit this historic landmark every year and enjoy the tranquil location – we do not want this to change – support **Save Bennachie!**

Clubs and Groups

Are you a member of a club which has an affinity to Bennachie?

If so invite your club to support us in one or more of the following ways;

1. By making all your members aware of the proposed routes skirting the lower slopes of Bennachie and asking them to sign up to www.savebennachie.com, like our Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram.
2. By asking your members to write either individually or collectively to MSPs, prospective MSPs, MPs, local councillors and Transport Scotland to raise their concerns about the proposed routes of the A96 dualling which encroach on Bennachie.
3. By becoming a member of our Alliance as a club. This can simply mean having the club name on our website alliance page or going as far as taking an active part in the campaign. Individuals are welcome to play an active part even if their club does not choose to sign up to the Alliance. If any members of your club have particular expertise, for example, in marketing or media and would like to help us, please get in touch at hello@savebennachie.com

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