

Save Bennachie Newsletter

Note: If you wish to sign-up for future newsletters and other news please use our [Newsletter Sign-Up Form](#).



Welcome to all our new Alliance Members!

Our Save Bennachie Alliance member list is growing as word spreads about our Campaign.

We are delighted to count everyone below as members. If you would like to join the Save Bennachie Alliance, please complete the Registration Form (www.savebennachie.com/join) or get in touch for more information, hello@savebennachie.com



Save Bennachie Flyers

Do you have a shop, business, coffee shop, hotel or pub etc.? Or are you part of a club or organisation that loves Bennachie?

We have professionally produced flyers and would love you to help spread the word by handing these out to like-minded people or display in your establishment. An easy way to get involved!

Please contact us for more information.

hello@savebennachie.com

Overview Report Since Our Last Newsletter

- * Input at Inverurie Business Association meeting
- * Input at Inverurie Community Council AGM
- * Regular updates given at Bailies of Bennachie monthly meetings
- * Meeting with Alexander Burnett MSP for Aberdeenshire West
- * Meeting with Gillian Martin MSP for Aberdeenshire East
- * 13,652 sessions on our website with 25,181 page views
- * High conversion rate with over 600 signed up members
- * Over 2000 likes on Facebook

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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Scottish EU Funding

The Scottish Government site informs us that;

Under Structural Funds 2014-2020: Scotland's 2014-2020 Programmes,

For the 2014-2020 programming period, Scotland secured a total investment of €941m split across the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF):

ERDF allocation - €476m

ESF allocation - €464m

What will happen to the funding now and how will it affect the A96 Dualling?



**SAVE
Bennachie**

Spread The Word

Remember to "Like Us" on Facebook and Follow Us on Twitter. This is a simple way to help spread the word and allows us to engage with more people.



facebook.com/SaveBennachie/



twitter.com/savebennachie

Our Wee Mountain...

by Mike Flaherty, The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS)

My pal Graham and I have an impressive record in mountain ranges on several continents, I specialise in failing to summit and Graham is renowned for falling, at least once, on most of the mountains that we've been on. 2 stone and 10 years ago, training for these proud achievements was mostly on our wee mountain – Bennachie. I used to run in the evenings to avoid the crowds, well actually I would wait until nearly dark in order to avoid being seen. I could make an action that resembled running but in slow motion, accompanied by heaving breath and profuse sweating. For me being 'in the zone' meant having insufficient oxygen left for higher consciousness. I was in the zone near Mither Tap one evening when our local super-athlete Freyja Prentice skipped past, gazelle-like, barely a glow to her cheeks, humming along to her MP3 player. After my hypoxic brain registered the humiliation I consoled myself with the thought that I was sharing my training ground with an GB team member and Olympic hopeful – go Freyja!

I called Bennachie our wee mountain. If you look up the definition of mountain you will see that dictionary.com talks about: 'a natural elevation of the earth's surface rising more or less abruptly to a summit' and Bennachie certainly does that. But the Oxford English Dictionary says that a mountain in the UK generally rises to greater than 2,000ft. I would argue that that's merely stature and what Bennachie lacks in stature she (?) more than makes up for in character. Bennachie is a granite and heather icon that defines the heart of the north-east. She's on every calendar, tourist brochure and postcard sent to far flung friends. She offers a little package of wildness on our doorstep, a place of relaxation, education or bite-sized adventure. She's welcoming but not to be taken for granted, every year the Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team is called out to help someone who has made that mistake.

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS) was founded in 1970 to represent the interests of hillwalkers, climbers and ski tourers who enjoy the hills of Scotland. By the end of 2012 MCofS had 11,500 paid up members, either individuals (like me) or through one of the 135 associated clubs. They are the consultants to Sports Scotland on all matters to do with mountain safety, training and good practice and their opinion is highly respected by Parliament and planning departments on matters of conservation and access. In May the MCofS agreed to join the Save Bennachie Alliance. They are powerful allies. A small but dynamic Board with a dedicated (volunteer) Planning Director who since 2007 have returned over 400 responses to planning applications affecting Scotland's wild places.

The MCofS have offered us their support and they bring significant weight and experience. I hope that together we are successful. When we are finished I also hope that you will support MCofS in their continuing campaigns to protect Scotland's wild places to the benefit of us all.

You can read this full blog post on www.savebennachie.com/ and find more information about MCofS at: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/home.asp>

twitter.com/savebennachie

facebook.com/Save-Bennachie

www.savebennachie.com

Award for Western Section & Scottish EU Funding

The Western Section has been awarded to Mott MacDonald Sweco about 5 months after the bar chart schedule. We Spoke to Adam Gould for an up-date and the current situation remains that they will go out to tender for the Eastern Section later this year. There are no other developments that he could comment on at this time.

Transport Scotland Press Release:

A96 Dualling Pressing Ahead - Multi-Million Design Contract Awarded
Transport Scotland today announced the intention to award a contract worth up to £50 million, to carry out route option assessment and detailed design work for dualling the 29-mile western section of the A96 between Auldearn and Fochabers.

Subject to the mandatory standstill period, Mott MacDonald Sweco Joint Venture will start design work on the project next month.

New Minister for Transport & Islands, Humza Yousaf said:

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to upgrade Scotland's trunk road network which includes dualling the entire length of the A96, some 86 miles of upgraded road between Inverness and Aberdeen, by 2030.

"This major design contract marks a further milestone towards the dualling of the A96 with all the investment and improvements that it will bring to local economies right across the north of Scotland.

"Road users will not only enjoy the benefits of improved journey time and reliability, better connectivity between destinations but also, crucially, improved road safety for all those who use this key artery connecting two of Scotland's economic hubs.

"In addition, this contract will also provide a huge boost for the local and national economy, with the successful bidder securing steady work for years to come and many more opportunities for small and medium enterprises through subcontracted work.

"We also remain on track to finalise the preferred option for the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme, with draft Orders due to be published later this year.

"Along with our ambitious plans to build over 80 miles of new dualled road on the A9 between Perth and Inverness, delivering the new £1.3 billion Queensferry Crossing over the Forth, and the £500m M8 M73 M74 improvements in Glasgow, this contract is yet another example of the significant investment the Scottish Government is making in transport infrastructure right across Scotland."

Notes to Editors - Design work for the western section, between east of Auldearn and east of Fochabers, will now be stepped up a gear with route option assessment work getting underway. It is expected that the route option assessment work will take approximately 2 years to complete.

Publication Date: 27 May 2016



Jock o' Bennachie

Legend has it that Jock o' Bennachie was a huge giant who guarded Bennachie. Being a somewhat enormous fellow he needed an equally large bed-Known as Little John's Length, the bed is situated between two groups of exposed rocks some 600' apart to the east of Craigshannoch-that's one humungous giant!

Jock dried his 'sark in an area to the north west of Craigshannoch where the heather and turf must have been cut away from the hillside.

Jock's nemesis was Jock o' Noth, a giant who lived on Tap o' Noth, near Rhynie, about 13 miles from Bennachie. The two giants would throw large boulders at each other. Of course they had fallen out over the love of a Maiden-she had decided she preferred Tap o' Noth! Some say that there is a stone, on the Tap o' Noth which was thrown by Jock o' Bennachie, which bears the marks of his 5 enormous fingers.

But in general, Jock was a gentle and benign giant, and the scurrilous rumours about him throwing boulders at the priest from Kemnay were completely fabricated!

For now, Jock lies buried in a hidden cave on the hill, trapped under an enchantment by lock and key-the key long since lost.

Perhaps one day when out walking on the hill you might find the key, and the prophesy of Jock coming back to Bennachie to hurl boulders at anyone daft enough to try to build a dual carriageway on Bennachie may be fulfilled.

Source: Based on "Bennachie" by Alex Inkson McConnachie

Have Your Say

If you have some interesting facts, folklore or local history about Bennachie, or if you would like to write an article for our Newsletter, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch;

hello@savebennachie.com

