

Save Bennachie Newsletter

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



Welcome

Design Consultants Appointed – Amey Arup Joint Venture have been appointed for the contract, worth up to £50 million, to carry out the route assessment and detailed design work for dualling the 26 mile eastern section of the A96 between Huntly–Aberdeen.

This marks a key milestone for the Save Bennachie Campaign as within the next 2 years these design consultants will arrive at their preferred route choice for the Bennachie area. Once they have made their recommendations to Holyrood, it will be nigh on impossible to make significant changes, therefore it is vitally important for us to be influencing them at the earliest opportunity.

Amey Arup will be hosting ‘Meet the Team’ presentations during October in various centres along the line of the eastern section. Once known, we will inform our members of the dates and venues for these sessions. It is vital to encourage as many people as possible to go along, so collectively we can make our opinions known, and have our say on the future of Bennachie.

!! IMPORTANT !!

Help Spread the Word

The consultants have now been appointed so we need to spread the word as the next 2 years will be crucial to the future of Bennachie as we know and love it.

Save Bennachie car stickers can be collected from The Old Post Office Tearoom in Chapel of Garioch, from Watsons in Inverurie and from The Fennel.

Please contact us for more information.

hello@savebennachie.com

Get Involved

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

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

hello@savebennachie.com

Save Bennachie Hits the Headlines

“Politicians unite to save Bennachie from the New A96

Save Bennachie have met with all North East MSPs - Alexander Burnett, Gillian Martin, Bill Bowman, Peter Chapman, Liam Kerr, Jenny Marra, Lewis MacDonald, Mike Rumbles, the local MP, Colin Clark as well as Andrew Bowie and Lord Bruce of Bennachie. The politicians all agree it would be both completely inappropriate and unacceptable to site the new dual carriageway anywhere likely to impact adversely on the integrity of Bennachie and its surrounding area”.

We have received fantastic media coverage of this recent press release, with STV carrying a live feature from the bottom of the hill on their news bulletins, and various local and national newspapers as well as radio stations covering the story.

Remember, Save Bennachie is a strictly non-political campaign. Bennachie is way above party politics, that's why we are absolutely delighted and very grateful to receive such cross party support from all these politicians.

Bennachie Becomes a Special Landscape Area

Bennachie has been awarded Special Landscape Area Status. This protects Bennachie on a local scale and is a significant piece of the justification to protect the hill. Whilst Special Landscape Area designation won't in itself be enough to rule out the potential dual carriageway, it is a key piece of the jigsaw in the argument to protect Bennachie.

Find out more from the Aberdeenshire Council YouTube video, [Bennachie Special Landscape Area 05](#), and the [Aberdeenshire Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance \(Proposed\) \(PDF\)](#).

Save Bennachie Alliance Welcomes Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum

Following a presentation in June by Save Bennachie team members, we are absolutely delighted to welcome the Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum to the Alliance.

It is fantastic to have this support to add to the 12 other groups which have joined forces with our individual members in the Save Bennachie Alliance.

If you are a member of a group, and you would like to join the Alliance, please contact us at hello@savebennachie.com



Save Bennachie Banners, Stickers and Posters

The consultants have now been appointed so we need to spread the word. Keep a lookout for the Save Bennachie banners posted around the countryside and you can help us by displaying a car sticker or poster.

The car stickers can be collected from the Old Post Office Tearoom in Chapel of Garioch, from Watsons in Inverurie and from The Fennel. We want people to be aware of our campaign and to sign up to support us, so if you have a car, van, lorry or tractor please display a sticker.

Both A3 and A4 Save Bennachie posters are available for you to display in shop windows and on noticeboards. They can be delivered to you, just send an email to hello@savebennachie.com and let us know how many you would like and the sizes you need. If you have a printer we can send you an electronic version.

Do you know of a particularly good spot for a banner? We plan to move them around so send us an email on hello@savebennachie.com

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

twitter.com/savebennachie

facebook.com/SaveBennachie

www.savebennachie.com

A Richt Bourachie o'Fowk – The Save Bennachie Alliance

In the first of a series of articles from members of the Save Bennachie Alliance we hear from the Bailies of Bennachie.

The Bailies were hoping that by now the idea of a road going anywhere near Bennachie would have been dropped - but obviously not! We continue to support the Save Bennachie partnership as we work together to prevent the dualling of the A96 near Bennachie. Together we hope that we will get all those involved to realise that the foothills of Bennachie are not about to be carved up by a road!

This year, thanks to The People's Postcode Lottery, we have run many workshops with trainees who have learning about identifying and recording mammals, birds and plants on Bennachie; in fact the mammal group have been using cameras to record wildlife in different parts of the hill and often put their sightings onto the Bailies Facebook page! It is very important that we start to build up a picture, and gather evidence, of the wildlife that is living on the hill so that we know what would potentially be destroyed by the dualling work.

Wildlife Watch on Bennachie, by Margaret Garden



This year, I have been one of the lucky participants in the Bailies of Bennachie 'Workshops on Mammals', funded by the Bailies and the People's Postcode Lottery. It has been a real privilege to be part of, and I have learned so much.

The standard of teaching has been outstanding, as has the commitment to understand, protect and preserve the wildlife and their habitats on Bennachie. Walking on the hill has now been transformed for me, as I look for signs of the creatures for whom Bennachie is home. I have found myself utterly fascinated in the dissection the barn owl poo, differentiating fox poo from pine marten poo, and completely absorbed following otter, badger and deer tracks in glorious sunshine and pouring rain. I have also learned how to use a trail camera to record wildlife and in this way we can catch a glimpse of, and identify, the various species living on the hill. A by-product of this is that we can demonstrate the impact the proposed dual carriageway will have on Bennachie's wildlife, many of which are rare and notable species.

The images above are taken with my trail cameras, hidden in secret locations in and around Bennachie. Check out the **Bailies Facebook** page for more.