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| MAB/LJC 11 February 2016  Ron Kitchen, Chair, Cleish CC  Trudy Duffy-Wigman, Chair, Fossoway CC  Alistair Smith, Chair, Kinross-shire Civic trust | The Atrium  137 Glover Street  Perth  PH2 0JB  Tel: 01738 475000    Email: [mbarnacle@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:mbarnacle@pkc.gov.uk)  [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)  Moorend  Waulkmill Road  Crook of Devon  KINROSS  KY13 0UZ  Tel: 01577 840516  **An Independent Councillor** | Councillor Michael Barnacle |

Dear Colleagues

**Supplementary Guidance on Landscape for PKC’s adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) and the emerging LDP2.**

I thought it necessary to update you on the latest position regarding the above and enclose as background my letter to PKC of 19/1/15 and attached article I wrote for Rural Scotland’s Spring 2014 Newsletter, that also appeared in the May 2014 edition of Kinross CC’s Newsletter.

You may recall that the Enterprise and Infrastructure (E & I) Committee of 25/3/15 discussed the proposed Local Landscape Area (LLA) Designations recommended by the PKC consultants, which excluded from designation the former Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV’s) of the Cleish Hills and the River Devon and its gorge. Unlike the SNP Convener and Vice-Convener (Councillor Giacopazzi) of E & I, I as a local member had attended all the Review Panel meetings held by the consultants and noted the strong representations for the inclusion of these areas based upon meeting the consultants’ own criteria. I am highly critical of the consultants’ exercise on this, especially ignoring the significance of cross boundary designations, particularly with Fife and PKC Officers’ response (to the strong representations made) that to include the Cleish Hills and Devon Gorge “would diminish the merits of other Local Landscape Areas in Kinross-shire (namely Lochleven, Ochil Hills and Portmoak).”

The Reporter to our Local Plan 2004 Public Inquiry clearly didn’t share our planners’ view either and endorsed the strong community campaign to extend the AGLV’s to cover Kinross-shire’s hill and river borders.

At the March 2015 Committee an amendment by myself, supported by Councillor Robertson, calling for reconsideration of these former AGLV areas as LLA’s was defeated, all 6 SNP members voting against the community’s wishes.

Subsequently on 26/3/15 at a meeting with Forward Planning, local members requested reconsideration of their position in the Main Issues Report (MIR) for our emerging LDP2.

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When we debated the MIR at Full Council on 18/11/15 I did not move an amendment on Landscape Guidance because we were assured that the opportunity to consider again landscape designation for the Cleish Hills and Devon Gorge would be afforded at the E & I Committee in January 2016. At that subsequent Committee on 20/1/16, in an update on progress with Supplementary Guidance on Landscape, the planners dismissed a further review of designations. I again moved an amendment against this view, on the same ground as the March 2015 amendment, being defeated again by the block vote of the SNP members.

The next opportunity for re-consultation on Landscape Guidance will now be in September 2016 when our Proposed LDP2 is published and not in the current consultation on the MIR which concludes on 16/3/16. I suggest strong objections against the continued exclusion of the Cleish Hills and Devon Gorge from landscape designation should be made then.

I noted that at both E & I Committees afore-mentioned, Councillor Giacopazzi had stated that there was no development pressure on these former AGLV areas but residents of Naemoor Road in Crook of Devon will know differently; although I succeeded in persuading the planners to exclude this large development site from our LDP in October 2011 (after a long campaign by the community over many years) noting that it does not feature in the MIR for LDP2 (covering the period 2018 to 2028), I understand that the land to the west and north of the Crook in our former AGLV is owned by a development company for just such a long-term purpose.

In summary, it is, I believe, important to the people of your areas that the landscape designations we fought for in our Local Plan 2004 should not be lost as a result of a change in Scottish Planning Policy and a flawed PKC consultants’ exercise; being particularly aggrieved that the SNP minority administration members have shown their usual slavish acceptance of the corporate senior officer view and dismissal of local community and members’ concerns that has been a feature in Kinross-shire this Council term, especially in relation to planning issues.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Michael Barnacle

Independent Member for Kinross-shire

cc Councillor Dave Cuthbert

Councillor Willie Robertson