



# West Garioch

The Country Around Bennachie

## Newsletter

Spring 2017

### Cycle Links To Kemnay

Richard Openshaw was delighted that a dedicated cycle route from Inverurie to Aberdeen looks set for completion. Additionally, he has called for Kemnay to be linked to this path to provide a direct, safe option for residents.

"A dedicated cycle path between Kemnay and Inverurie would have many benefits for the community." Richard said. "It would allow people to safely join the forthcoming Inverurie to Aberdeen route as well as giving access to the shops, services and transport links of Inverurie itself. It would also help to encourage Active Travel, a stated aim of the council".

Richard also believes there is a strong case for a similar route between Kemnay and Kintore. With a new station due to open in Kintore in 2019 and the large number of Kemnay Academy pupils resident in Kintore. Richard wants to work with the community to ensure that any new path suits the needs of local residents. "Any decision made must be based on the wishes of residents" he said.

### A Green Voice For Aberdeenshire

Local campaigner Richard Openshaw has been selected as the Scottish Green Party candidate for West Garioch in the Aberdeenshire Council election this May. Richard lives in Kemnay with his wife and young son.



Local campaigner  
Richard Openshaw

Mr Openshaw said "I am delighted to be standing to represent the people and communities of West Garioch. I intend to campaign for the protection and improvement of services and facilities in the area and across Aberdeenshire".

### Light At The End Of The Tunnel For Insch Station

Richard Openshaw has raised the possibility of finally addressing the limited access to the northbound platform at Insch Station. Following confirmation that work on upgrading the Aberdeen-Inverness line would not be completed by March 2019, Mr Openshaw wrote to Nestrans. He suggested that the work required to allow access could be undertaken in conjunction with the upgrade work. "With work to improve access to the northbound platform ruled out before March 2019, combining it with work on the upgrade would surely prove cost effective while minimising disruption for rail users and local residents" he said.



Richard Openshaw is seeking a solution to access problems at Insch station

Nestrans response was positive, stating that they would raise the suggestion with Transport Scotland and Network Rail as part of their ongoing discussions.

# Save Bennachie

Bennachie, the mountain that sits in the heart of West Garioch, is at risk from the re-routing and dualling of the A96. Recently, Transport Scotland began the process of selecting a design consultancy who would be tasked with establishing a preferred option for the road.

Richard Openshaw is campaigning to protect Bennachie. "Bennachie is often described as Britain's favourite hill and one which means a lot to the people of the North East. I find it appalling that it is under threat from such development. I fully support the Save Bennachie campaign and will actively oppose any route that takes the A96 across this iconic and beautiful mountain" Richard said.



Richard Openshaw is campaigning to protect Bennachie

## Green Success in Council Budget

Priorities identified by Aberdeenshire's Democratic Independent and Green Group (DIGG) were included in the Council's 2017/18 budget passed in February. The DIGG identified active travel, youth work and traffic calming as priorities. They suggested additional investment in renewable energy to reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions while generating a small net income. In addition, DIGG proposed increased funding for third sector and community bodies. All five of these proposals were included in the budget.

Richard Openshaw said "This illustrates the impact that hard working, dedicated councillors can have. I very much hope to become part of this group in order to continue improving services for the people of Aberdeenshire. The impact of these achievements will be more greatly felt by residents thanks to the additional government funding for Aberdeenshire Council secured by Green MSP's in Holyrood."

## Historic Carbon Budget

Richard Openshaw has welcomed the news that Aberdeenshire Council has become the first in Scotland to adopt a Carbon Budget. This is designed to better manage Carbon Dioxide emissions across all council services. Just as with finances, each department and service will be given a budget and made accountable for reducing its own emissions. "This is a great step forward and something that Aberdeenshire can be proud of" Richard said.

The Carbon Budget was an initiative put forward by Green councillor Martin Ford and his colleague in the Democratic Independent and Green Group, Councillor Paul Johnston.

Aberdeenshire Council has bold targets to reduce carbon emissions but has been failing to meet these targets in recent years. Councillor Ford said "Just as with a financial budget, you can't keep overspending. By tracking activity through budget monitoring, we'll know if we are."

## Concerns, Issues, Views? Get in touch!

Richard Openshaw wants to hear from you. He believes keeping in touch with residents is important. If you know of a local issue needing attention or if you have a comment or view you would like to express, please use this form.

My view/comment/concern is:

@ richopenshaw@gmail.com

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Name.....Address.....

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