



Forestry Commission

Mr Paul Stallard  
Clerk to Bailies of Bennachie  
St Ninians  
Monymusk  
Inverurie  
Aberdeenshire

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My ref: FM 10/7/3



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District Manager  
Norman Davidson

Dear Sir

#### VIDEO OF BENNACHIE

At the recent launch of the new video of Bennachie I was pleased to see that considerable prominence was given to recently reconstructed paths. This was entirely proper but the voice-over appeared to give all the credit to the Bailies whereas although members of your organisation were very supportive, all the works shown had been carried out and financed by Forest Enterprise.

I would suggest that perhaps on the production of further copies of the video proper credit is given.

Yours faithfully

F Thom  
District Forester FM  
for Forest District Manager

*Response*  
*Sympathetic with*  
*construction - uncontentious*

6/2/12/2

Dear Mr. Thom,

The council of the Bailies of Bennachie were disappointed, even if not in every case surprised, to hear of your concern over a portion of the new video. I was personally disappointed not to have been invited to discuss the issue with you before a council meeting was held and at which your letter would be tabled.

It is regretted and unfortunate that you have construed the production as claiming credit for the Bailies for work which as you rightly point out in your note, was both undertaken and paid for by Forest Enterprise.

I assure you that at all stages of the production, the team were at pains to ensure the accuracy of the video and having again critically reviewed and discussed the issue, they remain satisfied that it is accurate and that at no point in the video is credit ascribed to the Bailies in isolation, for ensuring the paths on the Hill are maintained or are funded.

It is alluded to however, that groups of Bailies do go on to the Hill, unpaid and in their own time to work to help to prevent a worsening of erosion caused by walkers.

The tracts of the video which mention the paths on the Hill are;

- i. when the Ranger is leading a group of walkers on the all ability walks in the vicinity of the Bennachie Centre. The narration says that the all ability walks have been provided or exist and does not ascribe to any organisation, credit for their construction or maintenance,
- ii. when the Senior Bailie is quoting the aims of the Bailies from their constituted aims and objectives,
- ii. where the view from Mither Tap shows the path to Rowan Tree with narration about 'single lane to motorway' in respect to erosion caused by walkers. This view cuts to one of the newly reconstructed paths and over this the narrator says that the Bailies 'with others', work to maintain the paths. This is true.

However, and in the interests of maintaining our good relations with Forest Enterprise and yourself, we would propose including in every copy of the video which is produced in the future, an insert which will explain those elements of the work of Forest Enterprise which are relevant to the maintenance of footpaths as in this moment of time.

Finally, you should appreciate that the video was only made possible through funding provided against the principle that it was produced to meet a need and not to give credits for anything. Indeed the Bailies of Bennachie have much to be proud of in respect to their contribution to the Hill, but the video does not give specific details because this is not the place to do so.

I hope that this allays any fears you may have that the Bailies are seeking recognition for anything which is not appropriate and that you are reassured that there was neither the intent nor the actuality of this having happened.

Yours sincerely,  
Paul Stallard and Clare Smith.

copy: Cinecosse.

THE BAILIES OF BENNACHIE ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONTRIBUTION THAT FOREST ENTERPRISE HAS MADE TO THE UPGRADING OF PATHS ON BENNACHIE, AND APOLOGISE FOR THE OMISSION IN THE VIDEO CREDITS.