

# Council To Finance Study Of Bennachie

27/5/88

GORDON District Council are to finance a vegetation study of Bennachie and also a visitor survey.

In a report to the Planning Committee, the District's Planning Director Mr Robert Tinch said that the Bennachie Working Party has been assessing gaps in the knowledge of the range that might be of interest to visitors to the hill.

"A comprehensive vegetation study has never been carried out and with the District Council's increasing involvement in forestry matters it is an obvious time to commission such a work," he said.

The Group have suggested Mr James Mackay, a prominent Bailie and former teacher at Inverurie Academy to carry out the study over the summer months. He has said he is willing to do this. It was recommended and agreed that the Committee should approve an honorarium of £1,000 and make allowance for a maximum of £500 for expenses. They also approved £1,000 for a visitor survey.

Mr Tinch said that as part of its commitment to the study of the recreational uses of the Bennachie range the District Council have been asked to carry out weekday surveys in 1988. These will augment weekend surveys carried out last year by the Bailies of Bennachie.

The data collected from the surveys will be analysed by computer in the Planning Department. To obtain a reasonable coverage over the

summer season, 20 four hour surveys will be carried out at each of the four Bennachie car parks.

The Council are also to provide a car park at Tap O' Noth, Rhynie.

Several conditions set by

the Divisional Road Surveyor have to be met.

The car park is a small one and only intended to accommodate six or seven cars and it is not designed to take coaches or other large vehicles.

