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Inverurie and district Advertiser

No. 1501.

FRIDAY, 2nd NOV., 1979.

PRICE — 8p

(Registered as a Newspaper at the Post Office)

Fears Expressed About Unfenced Area Around New Garioch Academy At Kemnay

by Linda Robertson

AN unfenced area around the new Garioch Academy at Kemnay, could attract children towards the river.

This fear was expressed by members of Kemnay Community Council.

Mr David Bailey said that he was not satisfied with a "natural barrier" and would feel happier with a proper fence.

"However," he added, "if a natural barrier is all the region are going to erect, then I suggest that we should write to them now and tell them that we would like to see the trees forming a barrier planted as soon as possible so that they will be a reasonable height by the time the school is in use."

Mr Leslie McKay also suggested that a request should be made for the Academy playing fields to be planted as soon as possible so that they would also be usable by the time the building was completed.

"In this case this is possible," said Mr McKay, "as the way things are situated, the playing fields could be planted without interfering with site traffic."

The Community Council agreed to write to the region mentioning both points.

Concern that the region are "killing off" evening classes was expressed by Mrs Mary Forbes, wife of the local minister.

DISMAYED

She said that she was dismayed to see that the fees were to be increased to £16.50.

"This is bound to kill off quite a number of evening classes," she said. "When I came to Kem-

nay two years ago I was most impressed at the range of subjects offered for evening classes, but I shouldn't think this variety will be available for much longer."

Mr Bill Wainman said that it was regrettable and that Community Councils throughout the region should express their concern.

"The fees will be doubled as from January 1 and I think it is appalling," he said.

The council are to write to the region's education department on this matter.

WALKS

Rights of way and the availability of countryside walks in the area was another topic discussed at the meeting.

Mr Bailey said that he was investigating some of the tracks at Leschangie Hill and he reported that he would be continuing his survey and, with the council's backing, he would approach several local landowners to see what their feelings would be on re-opening some of the old rights of way.

He also mentioned that there was a possibility that the Countryside Commission would give grants towards the cost of providing stiles and similar things for these countryside walks.

ROSEBEDS

The Community Council are also to make a request to the region's roads department to remove some of the rosebeds in Kendal Road as these are creating parking problems and it was said that the roses weren't looking very well anyway.

The council have received several replies from a recent hand-out with the Kemnay Newsletter requesting suggestions about the use of a piece of land in the village centre at Aquithie Road.

Among the suggestions are: Sheltered housing; children's play area; putting green; adventure playground; herb garden and a dog's toilet.

Secretary of the Community Council, Mrs Mavis Wainman, said the response had been quite good and she expected still more replies.

Concert For Oldmeldrum Legion

OLDMELDRUM British Legion Women's Section held a meeting last week when Mrs Baigrie presided and welcomed a good

Evening Of 'Joy' At Port Rural

MISS C. W. Reid, president, welcomed members and friends to the October meeting of Port-Elphinstone W.R.I.

Bailies Of Bennachie Officials Appointed

THE annual general meeting of the Bailies of Bennachie was held in the Academy Assembly Hall, Inverurie.

The Senior Bailie, Mr James MacKay welcomed the company and announced the results of the Art Competition open to schools in the Gordon District.

There were no entries from Secondary schools but the response from the Primary section was excellent, and the standard was very high.

Prizes were awarded and presented to—1 Katherine Low, P7, Kemnay School; 2 Scott McRae, P7, Strathburn School; 3 Jennifer Mair, P7, Strathburn School, both Inverurie; H.C. — Neil McIntosh, P5, Oyne School; Nicola James, P6, Monymusk School; Gail Mearns, P7, Kemnay School.

The office-bearers, Mr James MacKay, Senior Bailie; Mr Algy Watson, Depute Senior Bailie; Mr Leslie Anderson, Treasurer; and Mrs Helen Fraser, Clerk, were re-elected. Dr James Gill retired from the council and he was warmly thanked by Mr MacKay for his help and co-operation since the formation of the "Bailies".

In his report, Mr MacKay made special reference to the new map of Bennachie, prepared specially for the Bailies by Mr P. J. Adams.

This map is now for sale, and may be purchased flat for framing or folded for use on the hill.

After the musical interlude, provided by Miss Jacqueline Norrie and Mr Tom Michie, Mr MacKay showed a selection of his wonderful 'slides' of Bennachie, showing many features which the casual walker could so easily over-look.

Mr Algy Watson proposed the vote of thanks.