

Inverurie Advertiser

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A BYPASS and 215
A new homes for Oldmeldrum have been turned down by Gordon's planning committee.

The bid offered an alternative to Grampian region's relief road which sparked outcry from residents fearing the route would cut Meadows Vale estate off from the rest of the village.

But councillors voted to refuse the proposal after their deadline for the applicant, Newmachar landowner Susan Fichtner, of QHR Irvine's Executors, to come up with detailed information on

Knockout blow for bypass offer

how she proposed to fund the road expired.

She planned to contribute £1 million if the proposed housing development was given go-ahead.

Grampian region's transport and roads committee were also to give a further £1 million and asked officials to draw up a joint funding agreement with the developer.

Yet they warned that if this was not done in three months, the

By STEVE MCKENZIE

council would drop the partnership idea and go back to its original relief road.

Gordon district had deferred the application at several meetings to give Mrs Fichtner's agents time to speak to prospective developers and come up with the requested information.

But at recent committee meetings, Gordon planning chief Bob

Tinch warned councillors to make up their minds soon or the region might pull out of funding a new route all together.

Councillor Jock McGregor told the committee: "I think if we allow this to go forward and through the rigours, then we have served the people of Oldmeldrum and the region very well.

"I would agree that we be

mindful to grant this."

Local member councillor Patrick Sleigh called on the bid to be turned down.

He said: "This application has been before us time and time again. If we delay any more, Oldmeldrum is going to lose this road and traffic will be coming through the centre of town for another 10 or 15 years."

He added: "I am tired of this coming up so often. There is no sign of any money and if there is

money I'm still not in favour of this road."

Mr McGregor said: "By refusing this we are in actual fact transferring this problem to another part of Oldmeldrum."

Councillors supported Mr Sleigh's motion for refusal by nine votes to three.

And the decision has left mixed feelings among local people and those involved in the project.

Mrs Fichtner's agent Savills chartered surveyor Ewan Barclay told the *Advertiser*: "I am disappointed.

"We should have been given more time to discuss this as this was a complicated application and they were asking for answers in a very short time scale."

In a letter to the committee, Patrick Hart, of Oldmeldrum agricultural firm George Sellar and Son, supported Mrs Fichtner's bid.

He later told the *Advertiser*: "Basically we were just commenting and we feel that the current proposed bypass is far too close to the village and doesn't give adequate breathing space.

"We prefer a bypass at a better alignment and felt that the additional houses pose no threat to our business.

"I think that if the bypass is

LEGACY OF DR DANNY

running out for board

INVERURIE Academy school board is in danger of folding through lack of interest.

And chairman Ian Stewart has warned that youngsters' education could be affected if parents don't make their voices heard over changes in the education system.

"Urgent action is needed," he said. "There are more than 1100 children at the school,

Dr Danny Gordon who died this week aged 92, was known throughout the area as a devoted family GP and former county councillor.

But he was also recognised as a champion of the North-east countryside, whose vision led him to form the Baillies of Bennachie in 1973.

His contribution was honoured this summer, when he attended the Baillies' 20th anniversary celebrations and received a piece of inscribed granite from the Little Oxencraig quarry.

Former senior Bailie Algy Watson said: "He was very much ahead of his time in conservation, and inspired a lot of people. He was the catalyst behind a lot of work in this area."

Born in 1901 at Tayloch, Clatt, Dr Gordon was educated at Kennethmont School and the Gordon Schools in Huntly.

He graduated in 1921 from Aberdeen University, and began his medical career in Inch and London.

However, he returned to the North-east after a few years, and joined an Ellon GP practice in

By ALISON DUNCAN

1928. Except for service during World War II as a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps - when he was mentioned in dispatches - he remained there until his retirement.

During his long career, Dr Gordon held posts on several medical committees before and after the birth of the National Health Service. He was also made a Fellow of the British Medical Association.



Dr Danny Gordon

Ellon ambulance campaigner and former community councillor Sybil Fowler said: "He was the most charming man you could meet, and very popular as a doctor.

"He was very well known, of course, and there are still a lot of people in town who remember him."

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much ahead of his time in conservation and inspired a lot of people"

The Advertiser, December 3, 1993

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Dr Danny

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Regional councillor Rhona Kemp said: "He was one of the old school, and he certainly made an impact, because he is still talked of in Ellon.

"He was a very caring man, who did a lot for his community, and he was well-loved and respected."

On retiring, Dr Gordon moved to Coldwells Farm, Inverurie, which he inherited from an uncle. He had a keen interest in forestry, and particularly delighted in the beech wood on the farm's land.

Many people in the area were given trees from his nursery, with the advice: "Aye keep stickin' in a tree, it'll be growin' when yer sleepin'."

His many other interests included the church and Doric culture. He served as an elder of Ellon and Inverurie West churches, and became a founder member of Garioch Probus Club.

His interest in Doric led to his membership of the David Rorie Society and chairmanship of the Charles Murray Memorial Trust.

Gordon Provost Raymond Bisset paid tribute to his work as a county councillor and chairman of Garioch District Council.

"Danny Gordon was one of the great characters of the district," he said. "He is a great loss.

"I knew him for many years, and enjoyed his company. He

had a sharp intellect, great wit, and a great love of his fellows and the land around him.

"And although as a doctor he was much loved and respected by his patients, he contributed much more than his hard work as a GP to the communities he lived in."

He added: "Perhaps his greatest legacy is the Baillies of Bennachie. The care with which Gordon district and other bodies approach any projects involving Bennachie is a testament to the awareness Danny Gordon created of its valuable place in our heritage."

The Baillies now have more than 4000 members around the world. And Dr Gordon's dream of a footpath over Bennachie by the Brindy and Suie hills to Rhynie came to fruition when he was invited to open the West Gordon Way at the age of 88.

An updated guide to Bennachie, which will be published in the New Year, is dedicated to Dr Gordon.

It describes him as a: "beloved physician, man of vision, literary giant, upholder of the Doric, raconteur par excellence, tree and shrub wizard, lover of nature, a born leader but friend and servant of all, and founder of the Baillies of Bennachie."

Dr Gordon is survived by his wife Betty, and children Peter, Margaret and Betty, from his first marriage to Dr Peggy Mitchell who died in 1939.

JOHN McPHERSON, trading as GORDON DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR PATRICK SLEIGH
 Councilor for Ward No. 12 (East Garioch)
 will be available for interview at OLDMELDRUM HALL
 Between 6.30 p.m.-7.00 p.m.
 TARVES SCHOOL
 7.15 p.m.-7.45 p.m.
 BEATON HALL, METHLICK
 8.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
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