

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

## **APPENDIX 4b**

**2018/0375/DET**

**REPRESENTATIONS  
GENERAL**





Brig O' Dee Cottage  
Braemar  
Aberdeenshire  
AB35 5XQ



**Head of Planning and Building Standards**

Aberdeenshire Council  
Planning and Building Standards  
Viewmount  
Arduthie Road  
Stonehaven  
AB39 2DQ

10 October 2018

Dear Sir,

**Notification of Planning Application for Development on Neighbouring Land:**

**Reference: APP/2018/2401**

I write with regard to the recently received Notification of Planning Application for Development on Neighbouring Land – Reference No: APP/2018/2401 – Deeside Way to Braemar, and wish to comment as follows:

Having viewed online all of the supporting information, photographs and reports provided of the proposed route of part one (1) of the track from the Keiloch Road end to the Invercauld Bridge, it would appear that the proposed route is not following the well-trodden and established path already in existence, which has routinely been used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders etc., for many, many years.

It would appear that the plan is to deviate from this well established route, effectively making two (2) meter erosion in the scenic land involving the felling of 10 mature trees, 6 of which are mature pine trees.

If the proposed path were to follow more closely the route of the existing path:

- there would be less requirement to fell mature trees (irrespective of the species)
- less disruption to wildlife, bats (a protected species), squirrels, woodpeckers to name but a few, not to mention the plant life
- the path would be more obscured and less of an eye sore/ erosion on the scenic countryside
- the path would be better utilised, as it would follow the original more scenic route already in situ
- there should be no requirement for two paths, creating an additional man made two (2) metre scar on the countryside, which will effectively leave the proposed new path underutilised as walkers, cyclists, horse riders etc., prefer the scenic route already in situ
- the route of the path would be further away from residential property

Due care and consideration should be taken when proposing the route for a path in the countryside, and It should be at the forefront of consideration that this site is not the "Speyside Way" or the "Deeside Railway Line", but a scenic site leading to a historic bridge in excess of three (300) years of age. The existing path, blending in with the country side and well hidden from public view, should be developed where possible. It would appear that this is not the case in this instance?

It doesn't seem appropriate that a two (2) metre scar be driven through this scenic and historic site, which could be loosely termed as nothing short of a pavement! At what point do we cease to bring city style paths to the countryside, when there is already a natural well-trodden path in situ?

It is incumbent upon all of us, to ensure that developments in the countryside are done in a sympathetic way, with as minimal disturbance to nature as possible, whilst blending in with the natural surroundings, so that they are not effectively viewed as a blemish on the countryside.

Nature will be here long after we are gone, and Aberdeenshire Council and the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland, should be ensuring that they do not leave unnecessary additional scars on the countryside, when there is an already existing well-trodden path in place for part one (1), of this proposed route, which could and should, only if deemed absolutely necessary, very easily be sympathetically developed to the benefit of all, whilst ensuring that it remains largely obscured from view, and not turned into something that would more loosely be termed to resemble a pavement!

Yours faithfully,

Jane Wright