

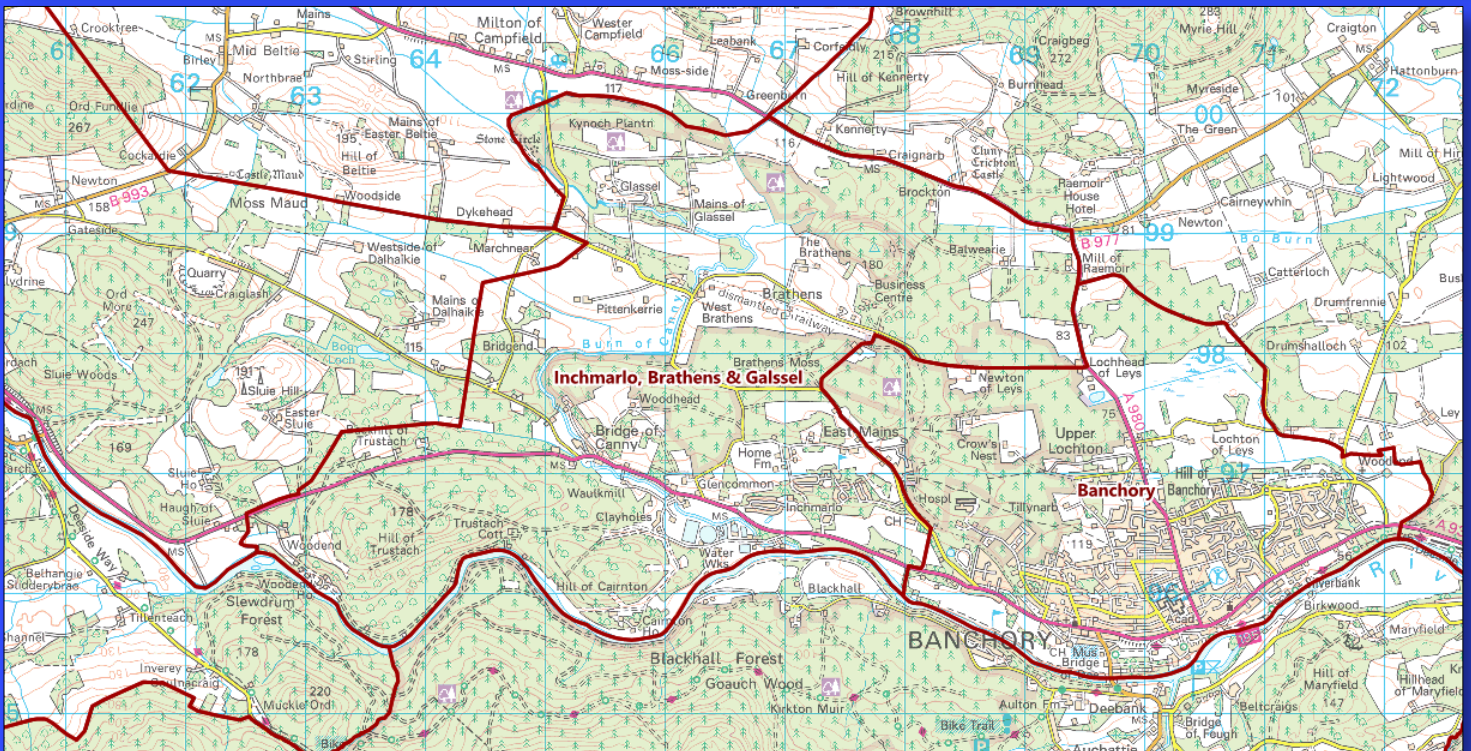
## Inchmarlo, Brathens and Glassel Community Council (IBGCC) Newsletter 2024

**About the Community Council** - we are sending you this newsletter because you live in the IBGCC area and we want to 1. Keep you informed of local activities, 2. Seek your involvement and 3. Highlight an important new planning process that will give our community a greater voice in future developments.

The CC is run by local residents and represents the community to Aberdeenshire Council and other bodies including the Scottish Government. We are consulted on, and petition on a wide variety of local issues. As a recent example, IBGCC was a consultee for the Hill of Fare Windfarm proposal, and is still actively involved with both the local council and Scottish government. You can find information on our current projects overleaf.

The CC also provides a means for residents to get directly involved in the workings of government, and what is going on locally and nationally. The role of CCs is likely to grow, a recent example being statutory involvement in local development plans ie. early approval of housing and other developments.

The IBGCC area is shown below, and can be found online here <https://gis.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/maps/>. Residents can get in touch by emailing [secretary@ibgcc.org](mailto:secretary@ibgcc.org), and you can read more about community councils at <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities-and-events/community-councils>.



**Opportunities to stay in touch and to get involved** - Local residents are actively encouraged to come forward as prospective community councillors. We are keen to have a representative spread of councillors from across the area and from different walks of life. We have provision for junior and associate members, as well as a small amount of funding for a secretary. If you would like more details please email [secretary@ibgcc.org](mailto:secretary@ibgcc.org)

As well as contributing to the local community, community councillors learn about local democracy, work with local Councillors and Aberdeenshire Council, develop skills in community and 3rd-sector projects, and gain experience of running an organisation including finance, project management, recruitment and decision-making. Conferences and training programmes are run for community councils across Scotland. Our small community is fortunate to have its own well-funded CC, and its sustainability is dependent on volunteers coming forward.

IBGCC also passes on significant notifications that we receive from Aberdeenshire Council and other bodies. For example we acted as a channel of communication during the recent storms. If you would like to receive these notifications, please send your email contact details to [secretary@ibgcc.org](mailto:secretary@ibgcc.org). Residents can also attend and request to speak at CC meetings. We meet at 2-month intervals, and these meetings include local Aberdeenshire councillors. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes are loaded onto our website at <https://www.ibgcc.org/>

IBGCC's current projects are described overleaf. If you would like to comment on, or get involved in these, please again contact [secretary@ibgcc.org](mailto:secretary@ibgcc.org).



## IBGCC's Current Projects

**Road safety.** IBGCC successfully petitioned for a reduction of the A93 speed limits through Bridge of Canny to 40mph. We are also working on a speed limit reduction at the A93 entrance to Inchmarlo Retirement Village. We are interested to hear of any other road safety issues that local residents may be concerned about.

**Mid Hill windfarm funds.** IBGCC works with Fred Olsen, owner of Mid Hill windfarm, to allocate funding to local community projects. Funding has been provided for improvements to Glassel Hall, Inchmarlo Hall, the Bothy workshop, Banchory Woodland Trails and other projects. Details of how to apply for funding can be found on our website <https://www.ibgcc.org/>

**Paths.** IBGCC is working with Torphins and Banchory paths groups to support their development of paths in the area. Torphins Paths Group recently opened a new multi-user path section from Easter Beltie to Glassel. Details can be found on their website at <https://www.torphinsspathsgroup.org/>. Please note There is a car park at the west (3 bridges) end.

Collectively our ambition is to re-instate a route from Torphins to Banchory using where possible the old railway line, and to link this in with the wider path network including the Deeside Way.



**Resilience.** Recent storms and floods have highlighted the requirement for the community to be organised in case of emergency.

Inchmarlo Community Hall is putting plans and equipment in place, and there may be more that other groups can consider.

IBGCC would like to hear of any concerns and issues from residents. Again, please email [secretary@ibgcc.org](mailto:secretary@ibgcc.org)

**Planning applications.** IBGCC is a statutory consultee on planning applications and keeps a watching brief. The CC can be contacted by residents, and for example was actively involved in the the recent Kirkwood Homes development, and is involved with further development of the Inchmarlo Retirement Village.

**Telecommunications.** The Scottish Government continues to deliver the fibre network via its contractor Openreach. There are a variety of exceptions and complications to this scheme which the CC can help residents with, in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council's digital engagement team. IBGCC is currently working with Bridge of Canny residents to improve their connections.

**Development Plans.** The community has a new opportunity to present its views on further development of the area. The Scottish Government has recognised the need for better community engagement in its planning and approvals process. IBGCC is working with its neighbours to develop a "Local Place Plan". This will become a formal input to Aberdeenshire Council's Development Plan. This is an important chance to influence further development of the area, in the form of housing, infrastructure, community facilities etc. The IBGCC plan, to be submitted by end-2024, will likely consist of a simple map and document that needs to reflect input from residents.

**To this end IBGCC will be holding 3 public exhibitions, and would very much appreciate your attendance.** The events are designed as drop-ins, with a presentation at the start, maps and background material in posters, and an emphasis on capturing ideas and comments;

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|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Glassel Hall  | Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> August  | 6:30pm until 9.00pm |
| • Inchmarlo Community Hall                              | Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August  | 6:30pm until 9.00pm |
| • Inchmarlo Retirement Village Marquee (Residents Only) | Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> August | 2.00pm until 4.00pm |