

Julie Millman

From: Helfrich, Dr Marie H. [mailto:marie.helfrich@abdn.ac.uk]
Sent: 06 March 2011 13:48
To: Planning
Subject: re plans Mr. Innis, Tomintoul, Braemar
Attachments: Planning officer Innis'.docx

Dear Mr. Grant,

Please find attached a submission in support of this application. We realise the deadline for this was Friday, but we hope that you will still consider this with the other submissions for this application.

We are highly supportive of developing this site and happy to give more information if required and happy to do so in person.

Sending this from my work address, which is my only email address.

Please let me know whether you have received this, and feel free to ask for more information,

Miep H. Helfrich

An Concan Dubh
Braemaer AB35 4XX

The University of Aberdeen is a charity registered in Scotland, No SC013683.

Mr. Robert Grant
Cairngorms National Park Authority
Albert Memorial Hall
Station Square
Ballater
Aberdeenshire AB35 5QB

Aberdeen March 4th 2011.

Re. Planning application for erection of dwellinghouse at Tomintoul Croft Braemar.
Mr & Mrs Callum Innes

Dear Mr. Grant,

We write in support of the above application of Mr and Mrs. Innes. We are neighbours on the site as owners of "An Concan Dubh", the house further down the hill towards the Clunie and part of the Tomintoul Croft area. When we bought the former Tomintoul Cottage in 1997, the house was in a similar derelict stage as the cottage of the Innis'.

Having rebuilt our cottage pretty much on the foundations of the former cottage and having started to live in it, some 12 years ago now, we realise increasingly how important it is that there is a human presence on the site. Previously the local land was used by a farmer to graze his sheep for several weeks in the year. There was no natural regeneration and all the woodland around the former Croft area was dying. We have now planted hundreds of native trees, and negotiated with the landowner that this land is no longer used for grazing. We hope that this small part of the Morone will look like it did a century ago, covered in local birch, rowan and cherry.

We have seen the house which is now bought by Mr and Mrs Innes fall increasingly into disrepair. Our children used to call it "the haunted house". We have also witnessed the total devastation when the large trees around the property came down in a storm some years ago. It totally baffled us that nothing was done even when major trees crashed onto the building leaving a derelict property in a prominent position, with one of the best views in the area, exposed, unloved, and for all to see. The message this sends is not one of taking care of the land, its history and its future.

Mr. and Mrs. Innis have taken care of the old cottage. They propose to leave it in its original state instead of changing its unique appearance to make it suitable as a twenty first century dwelling house. This is fantastic news; the cottage will be a testament to what the community looked like 150 years ago. They propose to build a new house in keeping with the character of the site a short distance away from the cottage where in the past the stone outbuilding used to be.

These buildings will have a romantic association with the times of old, not as a museum, but as a natural evolution from past to present. There is such brilliant architecture in Scotland and we should not be afraid to build new alongside old in such prominent sites. As close neighbours, we would welcome seeing a habitable house on this spectacular plot and we would welcome developing access routes to the whole of Tomintoul, something the Innis' have indicated to their local neighbours they are keen to lead but do as a community. All this is for the good of this old Crofting community, an entity that deserves to be preserved.

We wish to very strongly show our support for this plan which will sustain the Croft of Tomintoul going forward as a community. We hope that you will consider this application favourably and we are very happy to provide further support in person if that was helpful.

Your sincerely,



Mr. Roelf S. Dijkhuizen and Mrs. Miep H. Helfrich.
An Concan Dubh, Braemar AB35 5XX



Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning Application No. 11/0241CP
PWSR REPRESENTATION
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