

# HISTORIC BUILDINGS COUNCIL

## An advisory Council to the Department of the Environment

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8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Ms Maxime Sizaret  
Heritage Manager  
Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust  
Tilly Molloy's  
18 Main Street  
Armoy, Co. Antrim  
BT53 8RQ

Dear Ms Sizaret

### **BINEVENAGH AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN**

#### **HBC Comments on Consultation Draft: Binevenagh Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2010 – 2020**

##### **Introduction:**

Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on this consultation on the draft management plan for the Binevenagh AONB for the period 2010 - 2020. We confine our comments to those issues in the plan relating to the historic environment.

##### **About Council**

Council is a body established by the Planning Order 1991. Council is a statutory consultee on the listing of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and on the designation of conservation areas of special architectural or historic interest. Additionally, Council advises the Department of the Environment on matters relating to the preservation of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

##### **Comments**

Council is pleased that the Binevenagh AONB Management Forum has recognised that the protection of the built heritage is integral to the overall management plan for the area. This is reflected in the vision for the AONB where the 'natural, built and cultural heritage is appreciated, conserve and enhanced' [p. 10] and in the specific commitment to 'protect, conserve and enhance the ... built heritage of the Binevenagh AONB'.

The draft Plan has identified the rich historic environment within the Binevenagh AONB and Council therefore welcomes the emphasis on the built heritage as one of three key themes in the

draft Management Plan. Further, Council supports the stated objective of seeking to ensure protection of designated listed buildings.

A number of the management objectives in the draft Plan for the historic environment relate specifically to issues of concern to Council. Council would therefore be interested to learn more about plans to deliver these objectives. Specifically, Council would welcome the opportunity to be kept abreast of a number of initiatives, including:

- proposal to develop a Binevenagh programme for European Heritage Open Days;
- creation of a conservation plan for the village of Castlerock;
- development of conservation advice guides in the area;
- creation of a design guide for the Area. For information, in 2008 Council called upon Planning Service to develop individual design guides for AONBs to assist Planning Development Control in assessing design quality as a material consideration in the planning process.

In relation to implementation of the draft Management Plan, Council considers it would be useful to give further background information about the origin, composition and remit of the Forum. Additionally, it would be helpful to understand the fit between this draft non-statutory Plan and other statutory processes, including planning processes. A number of recommendations relate to the work of statutory agencies and clarity about how the Forum will interact with statutory partners would also be helpful. The recommended objectives should clearly designate those bodies who responsible for their implementation i.e. those that require action by a public body and those that require action by the Forum/other groups.

Yours sincerely



**FRANK ROBINSON**  
**CHAIRMAN**

**NB: Please note name of Chairman and change of address and telephone nos.**