

Press release from *Save Gillies Hill*

***Save Gillies Hill* Supporters' Frustration with Council Delay**

Campaigners seeking to safeguard the future of the Gillies Hill expressed frustration this week at Stirling Council's continued silence on the issue

A spokesperson said: "In the spring, Stirling council committed itself to a review of the recent planning history – and its implications for the future - of quarrying on the Hill. We concede these are issues of considerable complexity, and were happy to await the Council's response. But we're now into October, and have heard nothing, and the uncertainty causes our campaign some difficulty – in, for example, planning its next stages."

However, those out of sympathy with *Save Gillies Hill's* efforts should not take comfort from that. Campaigners, the spokesperson continued, "Are in this for the long term, and, notwithstanding the delay, future strategy is already under consideration. Our commitment should be clear to anyone: packed public meetings, over 400 marchers on the wettest day of the year re-enacting the 1314 march of the Gillies, a 3,000 signature petition to the Scottish Parliament, a photocopied version presented to Stirling councillors after a group of them visited the site, high-profile exposure in local and national media, and several very successful fundraisers, such as the Big Widstok in July. Add to that the messages of support - from all over Scotland, certainly, but also from abroad, from people outraged that an icon of Scottish history could be willfully destroyed."

"Whatever – and whenever - Stirling Council pronounce on this issue, it should do so in the full knowledge of local, national and international opinion" went on the *SGH* member, "And unless the solution guarantees the preservation of the Hill, our fight will continue."

(The next fund-raiser in the *Save Gillies Hill* campaign, a Family *Ceilidh*, goes ahead this Friday in the Community Centre. Tickets are going fast, but are available from Liz in the Centre, or from *SGH* members.)