To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Kincardine & Mearns Community Planning Group – one of the six local Community Planning Groups in Aberdeenshire – with our response to the call for evidence on the Community Empowerment Bill.

We endorse the response made by Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership and would like to add that in our Group has understood the wording of the bill to effectively exclude community councils as a statutory body within Community Planning Partnerships by not including them in Schedule 1. Instead they seem to be included as a ‘community participation body’ and even these community participation bodies do not appear to be statutory partners and may be excluded. If that is not the case, then the bill could be worded more clearly. Our group feel that it is important that community representation is necessary and statutory within Community Planning Partnerships, and furthermore it is preferable, at least in our location, that Community Councils are the nominated body acting as a hub for other community organisations in the area.

Relating to the section on Common Good Land – we feel that it would be unmanageable and unadvisable that every community council in Aberdeenshire be located on every possible change of use of common good land – our area is too big for this to be a good idea. We do feel that consultations should ideally involve community councils and also go wider.

Thank you.
Emma Kidd

Local Community Planning Officer
Kincardine & Mearns
Aberdeenshire