Dear [insert title and name of councillor],

Re: Scotstown Moor tree planting

I am writing to ask for information about the status of the Scotstown Moor tree planting consultation and about next steps in the process.

I am concerned about plans to plant 15,000 trees on Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve, parts of which are designated a SSSI. I am worried that the extensive tree planting, as proposed, will have a negative impact on the wetland habitat and the specialist wetland species that currently thrive there. I am aware of an alternative proposal, suggested by the North East Biodiversity Partnership, that would deliver much greater biodiversity benefit, namely to restore the original heathland and protect the wetlands in the SSSI part of the reserve.

Aberdeen City Council recently put out a consultation on the tree planting, the deadline for which was 22nd August. The Council has stated in the press that ‘the proposals for Scotstown Moor are far from finalised’ and that the Council will ‘consider everyone’s comments and observations before taking the next steps’.

I would like to understand the status of the consultation in question, what the next steps are and the timing of those steps. Will there be an opportunity to view the plans in full, including the alternative proposal put forward by NESBiP, and to provide further feedback on both or pose more questions?

If the tree planting goes ahead as planned, the opportunity to restore the heathland, a very rare habitat within the city, will be lost forever.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[insert signature]