

Committee List 2010-2011

<u>Office Bearers</u>	
Chairman	Andrew Robinson
Vice Chair (acting)	Ian Arnott
Hon. Sec. (acting)	Frances Wright *
Hon. Treasurer	Peter Stephen
<u>Committee Members</u>	
George Barton	Agric. & Rural issues
Prof. Chris Clark	Planning/Environ. Policy
Bill Rarity	Monitoring Planning applications
Helen Robertson	HTCAG; Website; Newsletter co-ordinator.
Peter Stephen	Membership
Karen Stevenson *	Urban Design/Town Centre regeneration
Brian Young	Case Works / Grants
<u>Representative Members</u>	
Jan Wilson	Hadd. Comm. Council
Sheena Richardson	Local Councillor (ELC)
Bill Rarity	Hadd. History Society
Mike Lemmon	Hadd. Business Assocn.

* co-opted members

Spring Programme 2011

Wed. 16 March – Talk by Gareth Hoskins, Managing Director of Gareth Hoskins, Architects, based in Glasgow. His firm's recent projects include the Masterplan for Donald Trump's controversial Golf and Housing development at Menie, Aberdeenshire; The V & A Museum at Dundee; and a Hospice for terminally ill children overlooking Loch Lomond.

Wed. 13 April – Talk by Petra Biberbach, Chief Executive of Planning Aid Scotland (PAS). Scotland has recently gone through its biggest planning reform for 60 years which includes strong emphasis on community and people involvement. PAS is a Charity which helps people throughout Scotland to engage in the planning process.

Wed. 11 May – Talk by Kate Rycroft of Amisfield Preservation Trust. Kate's illustrated talk will include a brief history of the garden, work in progress to date, and the Trust's ambitious and exciting plans for the future. A follow-up guided tour of the garden is planned for **Sunday 15 May** – finalised details will be circulated later.

Please note: Our talks begin at 7.30 p.m. and are held in The Trinity Centre, Church Street, Haddington.

HADAS

Haddington And District Amenity Society

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www.hadas-el.org.uk

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Edge of Town Supermarkets

The September Newsletter referred to our surprise at the Council's report in March 2010 preferring Harperdean as the site for an out-of-town supermarket. The report was subsequently not accepted by the ELC Cabinet and was returned to the planners for reconsideration.

At the ELC Cabinet Meeting on 9th November 2010, a new report was considered which abandoned Harperdean in favour of Gateside West. It is not clear how the earlier report in March 2010 favouring Harperdean could have been superseded by a report in November favouring Gateside West. Both March and November reports were published only a few days before the respective Cabinet meetings, allowing little time for consultation. The explanation given publicly for the change of location was that recently available information on traffic flows justified the change of recommendation. The explanation lacked conviction.

Our position remains that of the three sites on offer the best is Gateside West. We have little

doubt that development at Gateside West would damage the town centre through diverting sales, but this would also happen with the other sites. Nevertheless, Gateside West does have the advantage of putting to positive use a site which is currently an unsightly approach to the town and is not in agricultural use.

As we entered the new year we expected that Sainsbury's would submit a fresh application for Gateside West because their original application, which was still before the planners, was for 5379 sqm (gross) and the Council has since stated that it will not permit a supermarket in excess of 3000 sqm (gross), including 20% non-food. However, we understand that the original application is presently being considered. Sainsbury's recent report of strong growth in the clothing, homeware and gifts sectors raises fresh concerns that they may wish to increase these sectors at Gateside West.

It goes without saying that non-food provision would be likely to have a serious impact on the town centre and we hope that the Council will remember what it has said publicly (March 2010) about the need to restrict out-of-town floorspace "to minimise impact on the vitality and viability of the town centre".

Haddington Town Centre Advisory Group (HTCAG)

HTCAG has been set up by the Council to advise on issues relating to the implementation of the Haddington Town Centre Strategy 2009-2014. HADAS is a member of the Group and we argued at its first meeting (19 May 2010) that the remit should extend even

to peripheral issues which are likely to affect the town centre. The credibility of efforts to tackle town centre problems will be reduced if decisions taken on the edge of the town undermine those efforts. Joined-up thinking is needed.

Wind Turbines in Lowland East Lothian



Already the Lammermuir Hills are home to scores of wind turbines and a recent decision by Scottish Ministers granted consent for a further 48 turbines at Fallago Rig.

New Government policy supports renewable energy under the 'Feed-In Tariff Scheme', which promotes turbines associated with rural businesses. Predictably there are a number of applications under consideration throughout East Lothian with more to come.

HADAS expressed concern regarding the potential damage to the landscape in the lowland parts of the County. The Council has now issued supplementary guidance which we have welcomed. It is a good start but in our view there is further work to be done.

It is essential that potential applicants are aware through a clear policy statement that the availability of Feed-In Tariffs does not amount to a free-for-all in attractive rural areas of the County.

Scottish Civic Trust Nomination



92/93 High Street, Haddington

HADAS is nominating the former Jackson's the Jewellers building in the High Street, Haddington, for a Scottish Civic Trust Buildings Award. This 18th Century Category B listed building has been extensively renovated at significant cost while maintaining the impressive original pharmacy shop fittings dating from 1860.

The result of the repair work has been to restore a building of considerable historic importance. The completed work presents an attractive piece of townscape in a conspicuous location, and demonstrates the local Councillors' commitment to maintaining the town centre fabric.