

HADAS Committee 2010

There have been a few changes to committee membership since the AGM and the current membership with duties is listed below.

Firstly, we have to record that we are very sorry to lose Roger Kirby one of our founder members and a stalwart on the committee for many years. Roger resigned from the committee last year after 13 years of continuous service. During those years he held the positions of Vice Chairman (1999-2001), Chairman (2001-4), General and Minutes Secretary, and Newsletter Editor. Anyone involved in committee work will be aware that organisations depend on the hard work of relatively few people and Roger's contribution has been immense. As well as his committee duties he co-ordinated the installation of the railings at St Mary's Haddington and has written a book on Haddington's trees. We look forward to welcoming him as one of our lecturers in April. His efficiency, concern and energy will be greatly missed. AR

On a positive note we are pleased to welcome Chris Clark from Humble as a new Committee Member. Chris lives in Humble and before that was in Haddington for over 20 years. He is a professor emeritus of the University of Edinburgh, where his subject was social work with particular reference to professional ethics. Chris also has wide experience of the voluntary sector. He would like to see better public understanding of the relation between the quality of the natural, built and social environments and the everyday choices of ordinary citizens.

In addition Bill Rarity, who was a History Society observer has now become a full Committee Member. The HADAS Committee as we move into the New Year of 2010 comprises:

Andrew Robinson	Chairman
Peter Stephen	Treasurer & Planning
Brian Young	Local Projects
Ian Arnott	Gifford Statement of Significance
Helen Robertson	Website management
George Barton	Rural policy
Bill Rarity	History Society Rep.
Francis White	Newsletter
Bob Oliver	H.C.C. Observer
Sheena Richardson	E.L.C. Councillor Observer
Chris Clark	Environmental issues

Programme of HADAS Events for Winter/Spring 2010

27 Jan	The John Gray Centre, Haddington "The story so far." Speaker: <i>Alan Marshall</i>
24 Feb	Whose Churches – What Future? Speaker: <i>James Simpson</i>
24 Mar	Look Forward– Look back: Managing Scotland's spaces for the future. Speaker: <i>Terry Levinthal</i>
21 Apr	The Trees of Haddington Speaker: <i>Roger Kirby</i>
All events will be held at The Trinity Centre, Church Street, Haddington, starting at 7.30 p.m.	

HADAS

Haddington And District Amenity Society

Registered Charity No. SC038857

www.hadas-el.org.uk

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Tesco's Revised Town Centre Strategy



Tesco - proposal for Gateside East

In our last newsletter we discussed Tesco and Sainsbury's planning applications for out of centre stores at Gateside East and Gateside West respectively.

These planning applications are still on the table with the planning authority but Tesco have now unveiled revised proposals in an attempt to alleviate expressed concerns.

Tesco presented their revised plan in-store in November and subsequently in the Maitlandfield. We have had meetings with both operators and now report on Tesco's latest proposals.

Tesco's original proposal for Gateside East was for a 51,000 sq ft supermarket and petrol filling station. The new proposal is for a scaled down supermarket of some 39,000 sq ft but making use of the same land area. This would be approximately double the floor area of the current store at Calder's Lawn and would be split approximately 2/3 food and 1/3 non-food. The new store would be very close to housing at Knowesley Park. It would be very intrusive and cause a significant increase in local traffic. The location of the store and the land area taken up is shown outlined in green on the enclosed map. The small red circle identifies Gateside Avenue.



Tesco site at Gateside East [outlined green]

At Calder's Lawn Tesco propose to refurbish their existing store and build two new non-food retail outlets each of 6,500 sq ft floor area at the east end of the car park entailing some reduction in car parking space overall. The revised proposals for Calder's Lawn are

shown on the enclosed site plan. Tesco intend to sell or lease these new and refurbished facilities to other operators. They say that there is interest from quality operators but were not in a position to say who they might be.

Tesco have therefore abandoned their proposals to develop Calder's Lawn with housing and remove the centrally located supermarket following very strong local objection. However, Tesco wish to provide continuity of trading and employment between the existing and new sites which means that the Calder's Lawn site cannot be refurbished and reoccupied until they have moved out. This will result in a significant break in trading at Calder's Lawn while the refurbishment takes place and the new operator moves in.

Our main concern relates to the potential damage which might be inflicted on the town centre by the opening of a pristine new supermarket on the outskirts of town before a refurbished store in the town centre can be opened by potentially a down market operator. The consequences are predictable and could be very serious. A strong presence at Calder's Lawn is essential if the town centre is not to decline further. National Policy guidelines heavily emphasise protection of town centres and this has to be given overwhelming consideration.

Moreover, we have no information on potential new operators at Calder's Lawn and how they would be able to compete with a new store on the outskirts of town. The two new retail outlets at Calder's Lawn would probably be trading in the same range of

goods as the non-food part of the new Tesco store.

Should Sainsbury be given planning permission for a new store at Gateside West we don't think the consequences for the town centre would be so serious. However, Sainsbury would hope to take a significant amount of trade currently going to Calder's Lawn and this would also have an impact on the town centre.

We remain of the view that there is no requirement for a major new supermarket in the town at the moment as the predicted population increase is unlikely to materialise over the next 5 years. We support a smaller scale neighbourhood store in the west end of town to meet local needs.

AGM/Frank Tindall Lecture

A good turnout was achieved for the AGM and the Frank Tindall Lecture when approximately 60 people attended. John Hume's lecture was very well received including his thoughtful responses to members' questions. John is now preparing an account of his lecture and will provide HADAS with a copy in due course.

Membership Subscriptions 2009/2010

A reminder that subscriptions for the current year were due at the AGM last October. If you have not yet paid your subscription please send it to **Peter Stephen, Spottiswoode, West Road, Haddington, EH41 3RG.**