

Proposed one-way system

HADAS has taken the opportunity to comment on the proposed permanent one-way system. We believe that it is essential that traffic flow and regeneration of the High Street should not be seen as separate issues and that the current traffic-flow proposals should not be considered in isolation. We are concerned that a hasty decision taken now for convenience could turn out to have a negative effect on the economy of the town in the future.

The Council is pushing ahead with its proposals and the relative documentation is available for inspection within the Council Offices until Friday 14th October. We are advised that a public meeting to discuss the proposals is being arranged and will be announced soon.

HTCAG - (Haddington Town Centre Advisory Group)

The Haddington Town Centre Advisory Group was set up in 2010 to oversee the implementation of the Town Centre Strategy to 2014. The group comprises Council officers, elected officials, and representatives from Haddington District Council, Haddington Business Association and HADAS. We meet 4 times each year and our discussions centre on significant issues which are likely to affect Haddington's historic town centre. However, the main focus is on the restoration and long term preservation of the fabric of the townscape which is an essential element in

the economic prosperity of the town. With many of our High Street buildings in urgent need of repair and redecoration there is much work to be done.

We are pleased to be part of this group and can confirm that we hope to be able to assist the Council in the promotion of currently available shop front repair grants and our ambition is to work with ELC in the preparation of a guide to shop facades appropriate to an historic town centre.

The Frank Tindall Lecture and AGM

Wednesday October 12th 2011

Trinity Centre, Church Street,
Haddington at 7.30 pm

This year's lecture will be given by Graham Duncan, deputy to Frank Tindall in the East Lothian Council Planning Department. Graham has called his lecture "*Memories and Reflections of the County Planning Officer*" which echoes nicely the title of the Frank Tindall Memoirs which were published in 1998. The world is a much changed place since Tindall and Duncan led the planning service in East Lothian.

We look forward to a fascinating evening to which all are welcome. **The lecture will be preceded by a short AGM.**

HADAS

Haddington And District Amenity Society

Registered Charity No. SC038857

www.hadas-el.org.uk

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Supermarkets Update

In February we reported that we expected Sainsbury's to lodge a new planning application in order to comply with the Council's statement that 3700sq.m was to be regarded as the maximum. This new application has now been lodged and can be viewed on the Council's website, Planning Application reference 11/00729/PPM.

On the reasonable assumption that an out-of-town supermarket is inevitable, it is good news that it is for a much reduced size – 3700sq.m as against the 5700sq.m originally proposed.

Even so, the claim in the supporting statement that "the proposal will not harm the vitality and viability of Haddington Town Centre" may strike some as surprising. We wonder how this assertion can be justified.

The Sainsbury's application is for permission in principle and there are no drawings showing how the proposal would appear on this important approach to the Town.

We are now preparing the HADAS comments on this application. ***Members are invited to let us have their views on this proposal by the end of September.***

Haddington Town Centre Vision

As a result of continuing pressures on the town centre and town centre businesses we have combined forces with Haddington Community Council, Haddington Business Association and Haddington's History Society to promote a study of the town centre.

East Lothian Councillors, including Haddington Councillor Sheena Richardson, have supported this initiative and the Council has now made a major contribution towards the appointment of Consultants. Haddington Community Council has made a further sum available and we are about to issue an appeal for the balance of the sum needed.

At the time of writing a study brief is being prepared and this will be sent to 4 firms because the Council requires the work to be put out to tender. A copy of the brief is available on request. Our intention is to appoint Consultants very soon in the hope that work can start in the autumn.

Wind turbine developments

In April members of the Committee made contact with SABEL (Sustain a Beautiful East Lothian). SABEL was established last year to campaign for the protection of the East

Lothian landscape and challenge proposals for wind turbines over 25 metres tall, especially in the central plain and other sensitive locations. We found that SABEL had considerable common ground with HADAS: neither group is against wind turbines in principle and both recognise they may have a part to play in providing renewable energy. However both groups are concerned to oppose unsuitable developments in inappropriate locations. Of their nature, wind turbines have to be prominent – but they should not be placed where they will intrude upon significant landscapes and historical sites, or dwarf important features of the natural or built environment. HADAS has also decided to focus its main attention on turbines over 25 metres tall.

Planning applications for turbines continue apace. There are currently some 20 applications pending with East Lothian Council for turbine installations over 25 metres, some of them for more than one turbine. Traprain is one area of particular concern, where there has been a confusing sequence of applications in the vicinity of the meteorological mast that was erected last year without the benefit of advance planning permission. Many of the outstanding applications could well be considered inappropriate or excessive. HADAS will continue to monitor proposals closely and will oppose turbines of excessive size and/or in bad locations.

At its meeting on 23 August East Lothian Council approved a draft report setting out new guidelines for the location of wind

turbines in the lowland areas of the county. This report will now go out for public consultation for four weeks beginning on 26 September. The document may be viewed at http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=1336.

In broad terms, the draft report divides the county into thirteen 'landscape character areas' and considers the potential for small (12 to 20m), medium (under 42m), larger (42 to 65m) and very large (65 to 120m) turbines in each of the respective areas. Its main conclusion is that there is no more than limited capacity for small and medium turbines in the lowland areas, and no capacity at all for larger turbines.

Detailed maps show the kind of proposals which are considered potentially suitable in each area.

HADAS will submit a response to the public consultation ***and the Committee urges members to contribute their views in order to inform our response.***

Comments should be sent to Chris Clark via the HADAS website: <http://www.hadas-el.org.uk/committee/index.htm>.

Committee News

Two new committee members are urgently sought to replace members retiring this year. If you would like to join us please contact the Chairman direct at: 01620 822248 or awrobinson@robinson-assoc.com