



## Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

**Date & Time:** Tuesday 6th February 2024 7pm

**Location:** Knox Academy

**Present:**

Therese Laing (Chair)  
Jack Worden (Vice Chair)  
John Hamilton (Treasurer)  
Morgwn Davies (Correspondence Secretary, Planning Liaison Officer)  
Susan Forgie (Minutes Secretary)  
Malcolm Vickers  
Betsy Fowler  
Jim Graham  
Erica Muirhead  
Falko Burkett  
Robert Moran  
Christine Read  
Robert Flood (Knox Academy)  
Isla Irvine (Knox Academy)  
Hannah Bateman (Knox Academy)  
Cameron Richie (Journalist - East Lothian Courier)  
George McGuire (Councillor)  
Shamin Akhtar (Councillor)  
John McMillan (Councillor)  
Tino Pacitti (Public Representation)

**Apologies:**

Christoph Crepaz  
Mandy Harrington (VCEL)  
Christine Reid  
Tom Trotter (Councillor)

| Item | Topic   | Action |
|------|---|--------|
| 1    | <p><b>Welcome And Apologies</b></p> <p>TL opened the meeting and told those present that TP had requested to speak about the issues surrounding the proposal to change The Grain on the High Street to a Dominos Pizza.</p> <p>TP outlined the plans for a hot food takeaway run by Domino's in direct competition with other businesses. There is a petition against this which has 400 signatures. He asked what the CC thought.</p> <p>TL - any application must be fought on planning issues alone. TP pointed out that there are concerns about traffic issues. A discussion</p> |        |



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|          | <p>followed on the potential traffic and parking problems that another hot food take away would cause at a perceived bottle neck. FB said traffic and location are the issues here and it shows that the traffic system is not adequate, and the street layout should be looked at. There is a bottle neck and regardless of who runs the take aways, this a problem and not a matter of competition.</p> <p>TL we will consider it once the planning application has been submitted.</p> <p>JW asked if the shop was bought or leased. TP said it is leased. RM said it will be a disaster. TP said the main issues are increased traffic and parking. MV asked if there were any figures available on the volume of traffic the takeaway would create. TP The shop in Tranent has 10 or 11 cars and mopeds.</p> <p>FB pointed out that the CC cannot say what kind of shops there should be on the High Street. EM pointed out that it is a free for all already. JW told TP that data on traffic etc. would support any planning objections. TL asked if TP could find out how many mopeds there are in Tranent.</p> <p>JM said he did not want to comment on a planning application he pointed out that any application and objections would be dealt with by the planning committee and not the petitions committee (which sits on 13th March). 3 objectors will get a chance to speak together with HDCC.</p> |        |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Adoption of Minutes</b><br><br>Amendments<br>p7 - JH explained it was circa £13k<br><br>Minutes of the meeting on 10/12/2023 approved  |        |



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| 3    | <p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Resiliency Plan</b></p> <p>TL reported that she had been in contact with people and had almost finished updating the Resiliency Plan. While the plan needed to be discussed with John Fleetwood and Stuart Baxter, there was no need for a working group.</p> <p>Contact numbers for Lammermuir Larder and Our Community Kitchen were to be added to the Important Numbers Sheet.</p> <p>JM asked if the group needed a Zoom licence. MD explained that it can be set up as needed and the first 45 minutes were free.</p> <p>TL reminded the group that MD had sent out meeting dates for the Met Office's online community workshops. The group was asked to let TL or MD know who wants to go to what workshop. It would be good if all workshops were covered.</p> <p><b>Veterans' Society</b></p> <p>RF has contact already.</p> <p><b>Potholes</b></p> <p>TL explained how ELC's on line portal works. Pinpoint the street on the map where the issue has arisen and send small message. Potholes can also be reported on 018875 8824305</p> | Everyone |



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| 4    | <p><b>Community and Group Reports</b></p> <p><b>a. Knox Academy</b> - II reported that the school was in rehearsal for Grease which will take place in mid-June. HB reported that the Burns Night went very well.</p> <p>RF explained that S1 - S3 would be taking part in Activities Week from 13th to 17th May. On 17th May S3 will be helping in the community and he asked the group if they had any suggestions.</p> <p>RM suggested Blooming Haddington and gave RF the contact details</p> <p>BF suggested Friends of the River Tyne</p> <p>TL suggested HETRA and said she would send contact details.</p> <p>RF said that the school was trying to reinstate work experience placements for pupils post covid. He asked if the group knew of any local businesses who might want to take part.</p> <p>EM suggested using the ShopWatch group, but it would need to be refreshed. She pointed out that some sort of group was needed. TP said we should try to get everyone's numbers together and start a new WhatsApp group.</p> <p>JW will contact RF about the possibility of training senior students to take younger students on tours round Haddington.</p> <p>RF The school are also looking for volunteer interviewers to give students the experience of employability interviews once or twice a year. RF to get back to JW. JM GM TL have all taken part in the volunteer interviews.</p> <p>TL asked if Goats Toes could play at the Haddington Heroes event on the 26th of May. II and HB to ask.</p> <p><b>b. Details for Next Meeting</b></p> <p>TL proposed that the next meeting take a different format to allow 2 presentations: - one from Made about the new</p> | <p>TL</p> <p>JW</p> <p>RF, MV, GM, BF, TL, JH, JW</p> <p>II<br/>HB</p> |



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|      | <p>Marketgate proposals and another about the website.</p> <p>To facilitate this the meeting should start at 7 pm and from then until 7.30 pm to consider reports. All reports should be written and submitted in advance.</p> <p>Other groups will be invited to see the website and TL will organise refreshments with Knox Academy. TP offered to supply pizza.</p> <p>TL thanked those who had been involved in taking down the Christmas lights and will liaise with RM re the covers for the pole holes.</p> <p><b>c. Events</b></p> <p>BF introduced the next big event the group was working on, Haddington Festival Week. She outlined the following dates:-</p> <p>26/6 - Haddington Heroes</p> <p>Wed - Boat Race</p> <p>Thursday - Bingo</p> <p>Friday - Silent Disco</p> <p>Sat - Fun Day</p> <p>There are lots of opportunities for Knox to get involved. Children from primary schools are choosing the theme for the festival.</p> <p>RF Knox used to do teas in the park. TL Guides are doing it this year.</p> <p>RF suggested the Grease cast could get involved in the parade and he would take the idea back to the student council. BF suggested someone from Knox attend the next events group meeting.</p> <p>JW suggested he could organise tours of Haddington. TL said this was already in the programme, if he was in agreement. BF needs a summary of what this activity will involve.</p> | <p>TL</p> <p>TL</p> <p>RF/BF</p> |



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|      | <p><b>d. Town Centre</b> - BF asked CR about sending a press statement about the funding available to refurbish shops.</p> <p>The group is looking for members who have experience in planning, marketing, project management, legal or urban development to join the group.</p> <p>More information on this will be given by Christoph Crepaz at next meeting.</p> <p><b>e. HLAP</b></p> <p>SB said the next meeting Thursday 8th February. 6 funding applications have been submitted.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Group meets on 8th February.</p> <p>Children and Youth Network meets on 21st March.</p> <p><b>f. CAPP</b></p> <p>MD - not met yet, next meeting 20th Feb. MD will circulate the note of the meeting when it comes in. Final minutes to go to ELC</p> <p><b>g. Blooming Haddington</b></p> <p>Group is getting some new planters. New planters at the John Knox Monument had been discussed.</p> <p>SB reported that Andrew Hogarth is retiring.</p> <p>MD received a letter about raised beds built in 2017 and regarding Brian East this has been passed to Blooming Haddington. TL will pass his email address to MD.</p> <p><b>h. Haddington Heritage Project</b></p> <p>Matched funding applications have been submitted.</p> | <p>CR?/BF</p> <p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>TL/MD</p> |



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| 5    | <p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>MD - Everything has been circulated already.</p> <p><b>a.</b> Didn't recirculate reminder of the polling station review. It contained no proposals to change anything in Haddington, Lammermuir or Athelstaneford.</p> <p><b>b.</b> BF asked if the group is to complete the environmental survey individually. TL - Yes.</p>   |        |
| 6    | <p><b>Licensing &amp; Planning Planning</b></p> <p>MD - email received about Dominos raising the following issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● who will be operating the franchise.</li> <li>● change of use</li> <li>● proximity to similar businesses</li> <li>● transport and parking</li> <li>● worsen ASB</li> </ul> <p>MD - does the group want to send anything in or not. If it does, what does it want to say?</p> <p>JH - should say something because of location</p> <p>MV - noise to local residents is an issue</p> <p>MD - known trouble with parking, increased traffic, and ASB. Should HDCC write and say it will make problems worse?</p> <p>FB - The problem is the width of the pavements. This should be raised with town planners.</p> <p>TL - Town Centre Group could consider this.</p> <p>MV expressed frustration with the number of takeaways. These needs balance.</p> <p>JW - this is a broader issue but putting in HDCC's concerns flags it up.</p> <p>JG - said that's not a valid reason to object.</p> <p>MD - explained that the Planning department cannot take issues about the nature of the business into consideration. They would lose a subsequent appeal because a planning application cannot be refused on these grounds.</p> <p>TL- said the group could only object on the grounds already discussed.</p> <p>MV - asked if everything is proscribed by planning law, why are there even votes?</p> |        |



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|      | <p>TL - said these concerns can be raised but planning cannot take them into account.<br/>           FB - said we are not here to say what businesses can or cannot operate on the High Street<br/>           MV - The local councillors should think about the balance of businesses on the High Street.<br/>           MD - stated that these are commercial decisions, not planning decisions. These are issues for the Town Centre Group, not the Planning Group.<br/>           MV - would like more clarity on HDCC's role in planning.<br/>           SB - said that HDCC is a statutory consultee.<br/>           MV - argued that it is HDCC's role to present what we believe is the view of the community and not as planning experts.<br/>           MD - said that there was no point in writing detailed responses on issues that planning cannot consider.<br/>           JW - pointed out that HDCC can have an influence/effect on planning outcomes.<br/>           MD - said the group should be responding to this in the context of a planning application. He suggested that the group could write to councillors separately to cover these issues.<br/>           A vote was taken.</p> <p>Objections - 10<br/>           Support - 1<br/>           Abstentions - 0</p> <p>MD to send response.</p> <p><b>Councillors' Corner</b></p> <p>JM reported that things were quite quiet. CAPP was reporting the same local issues. Busy at the council.</p> <p>He reported that 2 bus stops needed attention. One would be repaired or replaced in the new financial year. The other will have its glass replaced.</p> <p><b>Transport links and the Nungate</b></p> <p>TL - reported that links to supermarkets from the Nungate are poor. Since the bus has stopped going into the Nungate residents have to go to the High Street. TL to write to councillors about this.</p> | <p>MD</p> |





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| 7    | <p><b>Graffiti</b></p> <p>EM - reported graffiti on the bus shelter beside the football pitch on Pencaitland Road.</p> <p><b>Business Units at Gateside</b></p> <p>BF - asked if the new business units at Gateside are available.</p> <p>GM - Yes there are over 50 notes of interest in them and there are a range of unit sizes. None of the units are available for use on a Sunday.</p> <p><b>Rubbish</b></p> <p>RM - reported rubbish outside of Tesco/The Factory Shop and asked who was responsible. Several members suggested it was the shops' responsibility.</p> <p><b>Wind Farms</b></p> <p>JM - A member of the public had asked who she could register her complaints with.</p> <p>SA - said the outcome will be determined by the Scottish Government.</p> <p>JW - reminded the group that HDCC had decided to make individual objections.</p> <p>GM - reported that this was brought up at Garvald CC where people were encouraged to object through formal portals. Full details of how-to object were given at this meeting.</p> <p>MD - asked why it was acceptable for large developers to offer community benefits that seem like bribes.</p> <p>GM - suggested he ask the Scottish Government.</p> <p>SA - underlined that the applications still go through all the checks and balances.</p> <p><b>Bin Collections</b></p> <p>FB - said he had been approached by neighbours concerned about bins only being collected every 3 weeks. He asked if bins could be secured from fly tipping.</p> <p>SA - said the 3 weekly bin uplifts were possible due to the weekly recycling collection.</p> <p>TL - asked about brown bins and what residents could do if</p> |        |



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|      | <p>someone stole their stickered brown bin.</p> <p>SA - if there are issues with bins get in touch with local councillors. Falko to contact SA about the bins in the town centre.</p> <p>JW - said it was unfortunate that Haddington had had its dump removed so now there are no alternatives to collections.</p> <p>BF - asked again if the council could look at providing locked bins in the future.</p> <p><b>Community Warden</b><br/>JG - asked if there is still a community warden. SA to catch up with JG online.</p> <p><b>Neighbour Dispute</b></p> <p>FB - reported the position of a woman in the Nungate who feels abandoned with a problematic neighbour. A letter to the Scottish Government is with Craig Hoy MSP.</p> | <p>FB/SA</p> |



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|      |   | SA/JG  |
| 8    | <b>Treasurer's report</b><br><br>JH reported that the HDCC donated money to the John Grey Centre and the Athelstaneford park.<br><br>£99 was reimbursed to council.<br><br>£25 donation was received from Lost Haddington<br><br>BF - reported £370 was ring fenced for businesses in the town centre.<br><br>The Events group has 3 new signatories - TL, JH & BF<br><br>The general account has 2 signatories, TL & JH, but requires one more |        |
| 9    | <b>Any Other Business</b>   |        |
|      |   |        |

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 12th March 2024 Knox Academy @ 7pm