

**From:** Liz Adams  
**Sent:** 25 February 2015 16:37  
**To:** Frater, Brian  
**Cc:** Andrew Farquhar; Ian Lindley  
**Subject:** ALDI PLANNING APPLICATION 15/00100/FUL - PLANNING GAIN

**FAO Brian Frater,** Service Director for Regulatory Services.

In 2000 the Hawick Partnership was formed as a five-year regeneration initiative between Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Borders Council, and the wider Hawick community. It only achieved limited success, but it did instil a willingness in the community to carry on regeneration, albeit on a voluntary basis and without funding. As a result Future Hawick came into being in 2006 with the support and encouragement of Scottish Borders Council. The reinvigorated group is currently seeking to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporate Organisation (SCIO) by the end of March 2015.

The refocusing of this group has come about as a result of the very poor state of Hawick High street with empty retail units, with the fear being that we have now reached the "tipping point". The key purpose at the moment is to try to improve the physical state of the street, find uses for empty units, create a marketing strategy, funding a fit for purpose website for the town, and try to bring in footfall.

Section 7 of Aldi's Retail assessment document claims that as a result of their most recent study carried out in December 2014 the vacancy rate stands at 12% which is lower than the national average of 13.2%. At a presentation to the then Local Government Minister Derek Mackay in November 2014, and more recently to Michael Moore MP, the vacancy rate on Hawick High Street, when taken within the core central area is now standing at around 25% which is set to rise through further planned retirements. Since Aldi's survey was carried 3 large shops have closed and a further large outlet has a closing down sale. The recorded footfall for Hawick High Street fell by 36% between 2007 and 2013 but with even more closed outlets the morning and afternoon pedestrian peak flows have since largely evaporated. We therefore do not recognise Aldi's Summary statement at 7.2 which claims "That overall the town centre health check found that the centre is performing well."

We understand that Sainsbury's in Hawick and Kelso made contributions under Planning Gain and we would expect that Aldi, if their application, was to be successful would similarly reach an agreement to contribute with funding which could be directed towards the aims of Future Hawick to help us increase the footfall on the High Street.

If Future Hawick can provide further information please let me know.

Liz Adams

Secretary

Future Hawick