## **Application Comments for 15/00100/FUL**

#### **Application Summary**

Application Number: 15/00100/FUL

Address: Land And Buildings At Wilton Mills 31 - 32 Commercial Road Hawick Scottish Borders Proposal: Erection of Class 1 retail foodstore with ancillary works including car parking, access

and landscaping

Case Officer: Julie Hayward

#### **Customer Details**

Name: Mr Duncan Taylor

Address: 5 Mill Port, Hawick, Scottish Borders TD9 9DG

#### **Comment Details**

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Detrimental to environment
- Listed Building
- Trees/landscape affected

Comment: I am writing in 3 capacities - as a Hawick resident, as a teacher of History at the local High School and as Vice President of Hawick Archaeological Society.

In the first case, I feel my pleasure at seeing this grand building will be diminished if it is demolished.

In the second, I remember one of my first pupils asking me why the clock on the Wilton Mills tower was never right - this brought home to me what a landmark it was for all those pupils walking to the school.

In the third, our Society is committed to preserving the built heritage of Hawick and District, and given that this is a Listed building I am surprised that it is even possible to demolish one of the few surviving buildings which highlight the glory days of this textile town. If the building has been allowed to be neglected to the stage it now needs repair to make it safe, then the owner should be required to do this rather than use it as an excuse for demolition.

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and landscaping

Case Officer: Julie Hayward

#### **Customer Details**

Name: Ms A BELL

Address: Hope Cottage Langlands Road, Hawick, Scottish Borders TD9 7HL

#### **Comment Details**

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

**Comment Reasons:** 

- Alterations/Demolition of wall
- Contrary to Local Plan
- Land affected
- Listed Building

Comment: Firstly, I strongly object to the demolision of the Listed Building - the Clock Tower. How can so many listed buildings just be demolished - what responsibility does the Council take in such travesties?

The existing owner has neglected it to such an extent and should be instructed to make it safe at his / her expense, then to find a suitable use for it, instead of waiting for it to be so unsafe it can be demolished and sold off at a huge profit to a developer!

Secondly, I do not see the need for another cheap retailer in Hawick. I do not object to Aldi as a company, but if they are to come to Hawick, why allow them to build next to Lidl and within spitting distance of the High Street and Iceland?

Why not consider Galalaw or Weensland areas to provide a 'shopping experience' for outlying Hawick residents?

Thirdly, the planned drawings of another rectangular 'shed' do not enhance the area and certainly do not replace the wonderful Victorian Gothic of the clock tower.

I can only see a tiny drawing on my screen, but this site seems to incorporate the land which was designated housing on the last Local Plan - what happened to the protected flats for the elderly

and affordable housing on the old YMA(?) site? Was there also not a hotel?

### Hargest Planning Ltd

Ref: H15/14kwh02let

24/02/2015

PO Box 28822 Edinburgh EH14 9AX

Tel: 0131 443 8813

Planning and Regulatory Services Scottish Borders Council Headquarters Newtown St. Boswells Melrose TD6 0SA

Dear Sir/Madam,

OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION 15/00100/FUL - LAND AT WILTON MILLS LTD, HAWICK - ERECTION OF CLASS 1 RETAIL STORE ETC

On behalf of Lidl UK GmbH I am objecting to the above planning application submitted by Wilton Mills Ltd in relation to land at 31-32 Commercial Road, Hawick.

The grounds of the objection relate to the following:

- Adverse impact on heritage value of the site and the surrounding area.
- Potential retail impact and failure to address an identifiable retail deficiency.
- Conflict with policies contained in the development plan, emerging development plan, Scottish Planning Policy and other material policies.

Impact on Matters of Heritage Importance

The application site is a very sensitive site of historic, architectural and townscape importance. The proposals are for the development of a standard design Aldi supermarket and this development not only has no regard to the sensitivity or importance of the site but will result in the demolition of important listed buildings including the demolition of one building which is a landmark in the townscape of Hawick.

The development would adversely affect each of the following:

• Grade B listed 31 & 32 Commercial Road (former Wilton Mills). A wide range of features are identified in the listing but of particular note is the Clock Tower. Unlike earlier proposals (planning application 14/00742/FUL which was withdrawn in November 2014) this application proposes the demolition of the clock tower. Although the proposed demolition is subject to a separate listed building application it is also a key consideration for the current planning application. The significance of the building is both architectural and historical and the latter can be seen from the listing which states: "An extensive complex of 19-century mill buildings with prominent clock tower and some fine detailing, which dominates the streetscape of Commercial Road and demonstrates the development of the textiles industry that is central to the history of Hawick..." (source – Historic Scotland).

The significance of this building is also apparent from the inclusion of these buildings on the Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland which identifies the category of risk as "critical" (web reference: <a href="http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/details/897305">http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/details/897305</a>).

- Direct loss of other historic, archaeological or architectural buildings/sites identified in the RCAHMS Canmore record: 32 Commercial Road, Wilton Emporium and Hawick YM RFC Social Club; and Wilton Mills (two separate records).
- Direct loss of premises identified in the Historic Environment Record (Scottish Borders Council): Wilton Works.

Demolition of listed and other buildings located within the Hawick Conservation Area.

The proposed development will therefore have a serious adverse impact on a prominent and important historic site adjacent to the River Teviot opposite the town centre.

The significance of the site is recognised in the Commercial Road SPG. The application site forms the northern part of the Commercial Road site and "potential concept" for this area is as follows:

5.1 The northern development site includes a number of listed buildings, and is most likely to be developed for residential use. The redevelopment of the site requires high attention to detail and design to redevelop the existing listed buildings to the satisfaction of the Council and Historic Scotland and to enhance the town centre and the Conservation Area. Existing features can be reused as design features in a development. Redevelopment of this site will also need to consider the proximity to the town centre and river, the urban character of the area and the previous use.

The proposed development is clearly in conflict with the requirements of the above SPG.

#### Retail Planning Matters

The SPG also identifies that, in relation to retail development, there is unlikely to be sufficient convenience expenditure capacity to support major new convenience floorspace. This is confirmed in the response of the Forward Planning Section of SBC to the planning application which notes that the lack of quantitative retail capacity for the proposed development is identified in studies undertaken for SBC by both Roderick MacLean Associates and Robert Drysdale Consultancy. Any capacity identified in the earlier of these reports (by RMA) was more than taken up by the Sainsbury supermarket on Commercial Road.

Paragraph 3.11 of the SPG also states that, regardless of the location of the proposal within the Commercial Road site, "the potential for future food and non-food shopping on the site would require to be justified to the Council by appropriate up-to-date analysis, including a retail impact assessment".

Accompanying the planning application is a Retail Assessment prepared by GVA James Barr. The quantitative analysis contained in this Retail Assessment is not reliable and should be discounted. This can be seen by a brief examination of the retail tables set out in Appendix 2 and described in Section 6 of the Retail Assessment:

- Table 2. The source information for the available expenditure is not provided. The expenditure figures per capita appear to be unreasonably high for the Hawick area. For example the per capita convenience expenditure figures are identified to be £2320 per capita in 2011. By way of comparison the UK average identified in the Pitney Bowes Retail Guide 2014-15 (Aug 2014) was £1789 per capita. Table 2 therefore suggests that expenditure in Hawick would be 30% above the UK average. Economic conditions in Hawick would suggest that a figure below UK average figures would be more likely to be correct.
- Table 2. No allowance is made for the reduction in available expenditure per capita by special forms of trading including the internet. Table 2 therefore further overestimates available expenditure for convenience goods in the catchment area.
- Table 3. Sales densities for independent shops for convenience goods are unrealistically low. Sales densities of at least £4000 psm should be adopted if not significantly higher. Convenience goods shops achieving such low sales densities would be quickly forced out of business. Even adopting the relatively low figure of £4000psm would result in average turnover within the catchment for convenience goods of £59.68m pa.
- A quick comparison between Tables 2 and 3 (regardless of the inaccuracies of the figures shown above) shows that the average turnover of existing floorspace in the catchment area is well above the available expenditure generated (by £13m). If the figures are adjusted to take into account the above corrections then the excess of turnover to available expenditure would be closer to £30m i.e. average turnover would be close to double the expenditure generated within the catchment. This confirms that there is no quantitative deficiency (or "capacity") within the catchment for the proposed development.

- Even if one ignores the above criticisms Table 4 shows turnover from catchment to be £42.96m compared to 2015 expenditure of £43.0m i.e. there is no quantitative retail deficiency (or "capacity") anyway.
- Table 6. Turnover. The turnover figure adopted for Aldi is too low. The implied convenience sales density is £5244 psm (i.e. £5.26m/1003 sq m net sales). This compares to the Aldi company average from 2014 Retail Rankings of £8261 psm or £7.97m per store. This suggests that, in order to justify the store, the assessment adopts a sales density in the region of 34-37% below the UK average. If such very low sales densities are correct then this simply reinforces the conclusion that there is no market capacity within the catchment to support the proposed store and, if Aldi have to accept trading levels 35% below average, then it is very likely that other existing shops, including those in the town centre and edge of centre, will also be trading well below average and are, therefore, very vulnerable to adverse impact. The alternative to this is that the sales density for Aldi is much too low which means that the Retail Assessment tables (Tables 7 onwards) are substantially underestimating the trade diversion and adverse retail impact.

In conclusion the Retail Assessment is wholly unreliable. The adoption of very low turnover figures confirms that either existing shops are highly vulnerable to impact or that percentage impact figures will be much higher than identified. In reality the true position will be a bit of both - existing stores will be trading below average but Aldi will turnover at a higher level but not, perhaps, at UK average levels. This means that impacts will be in the region of 10-15% but these impacts will be on stores that are already trading below average. They will therefore suffer significant adverse impact and the proposed development will significantly undermine the vitality and viability of Hawick town centre.

Relationship to Development Plan Policies

From the above it is clear that the proposal conflicts with policies contained in the development plan, the emerging LDP, Scottish Planning Policy and Scottish Historic Environment Policy as follows:

- Scottish Borders Consolidated Local Plan (including Structure Plan policies):
  - o Policy G1 Development Quality (in particular items 1, 3, 4, 5 and 13)
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  - o Policy BE1 Listed Buildings (all aspects of this policy)
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  - Policy H3 (conflict with SPG)
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  - o Town Centres Paras 71 to 73
  - o Historic Environment Para 137, 141-142, 143-144
- SHEP various provisions relating to Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and other sites of heritage value.

In conclusion the proposed development is contrary to the development plan and other material considerations including Scottish Planning Policy, Scottish Historic Environment Policy, the Proposed LDP and the SPG for Commercial Road. The proposal will adversely affect important features that are of importance to Hawick, the proposal will have a significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of the town centre, the proposal does not address any retail deficiency (qualitative or quantitative) and there is no demonstrable benefit from the development proposal. For these reasons Lidl UK GmbH object to the planning application and respectfully request that the planning application should be refused planning permission.

Yours sincerely

**Keith Hargest** Director

Ref: H15/14kwh02let

24/02/2015

- 4

Hargest Planning Ltd
PO Box 28822
Edinburgh
EH14 9AX

July Reywood

Tel: 0131 228 6983

Planning and Regulatory Services Scottish Borders Council Headquarters Newtown St. Boswells Metrose TD6 0SA

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Yours sincerely



application No, Ref. 15/00/00/FUL. Strongbont 21. Princes Street Howick TD9 7EJ, 23/2/15.

For the attention of Mr Brean Frater. Mr Sumon Wilkinson.

Corp Mgt Team
2 6 FEB 2015

Dear Sus.

Regards about reference number 15/00/00/FUL. I wish to comment on the fact that the site owners/manager has cut down trees which have a "Tree Preservation Order 32" on other, the trees are on conservation land and are disted. On 21/2/15, workmen had out down trees, when I discovered them felling the trees, I immediately asked them to stop and informed them of the Tree Preservation of the Tree

me. I object most atrongly to the removal of these trees, I wish you to fully investigate this matter and to make sure no mere trees are removed from this area of conservation and wild-life. This area is of great value to the environment and natural beauty of flawids. If you require any more details regards this matter please contact me.

I thembe you for your kend attentions regards this matter.

yours sincerely

G & K McCusker Ltd T/A Spar

6 Dickson Street

Hawick

TD9 7EL

03.03.215

#### Dear Ms Hayward,

I have enclosed a petition against the development of an Aldi in Hawick, signed by some of the people who rely on small shops like mine. Also enclosed is another objection to the Aldi development, which is signed by small shop owners, who, like myself are very worried about there future. As you know, many of us are struggling to survive in this economic climate. I have spent a lot of time talking with many of the small business owners in Hawick and it is clear that many are worried that another supermarket could lead to the demise of some of these businesses. Thus another nail in the coffin of Hawick High Street.

2 yre karbay

Yours :		

# SAY NO TO ANOTHER SUPERMARKET IN HAWICK – ALDI!

- Has no planning permission!
- Will do more damage to the High Street and other small businesses!

## PLEASE SIGN AS THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO STOP THIS!

NAME	ADDRESS	POSTCODE	SIGNATURE
VATURYN MICUSUR	CLO SPAR 46 FYONES AVENUE 41 Printend 38 cheviot RO SU Princes St BUNYIGH WIRTINGS 424 Princes St	TO9 TEL  TD9 8 DI+  109 8 DI+  10	
MAYICHAN HM LAMME DWAYLACE B. HUME	11 DELOCAINE CONS 27 PRINCES ST CLO SPAR 34 HUGH MULEP 66 MASSENDEN CONS 50 Wollfield Rd. 3, Mayfield D.	TD9769 TD9766 TD976C TD970) TD9707 TD976N TD976N	

NAME	ADDRESS	POSTCODE	SIGNATURE
NAMORE	Pares Human	709	
	10 F Drum king Place		
Mis J Scall	100 wallow court	+D9 7/25	
	9/2 Princes Street	-TO4 74X	
P-THOMPSON	100 WALLACE COLLY	TD4 365	
	67 Hollan Dr.	TD9 8052	
GBLACKLOCK	20/2 Pewies ST	TOG FAY	
	I HOW LANDS TERRACE	TOPE 85C	
	6/1 Station Billdings		
	43 Hugh mcleod/have	709 705	
	//	" "	
	180 May Field Drive	Tog Zw	
	Roberton Place	TD9 ODB	
	9 Dieshall Cresc	-000 PAP-	
	5 Atkinson Road	T09 76P	
LONGE	CID Havelock Street	FOF 1007	
J. M'DEUTI	32 HUGH MELROD	T09 708	
The state of the s	7 Langlands Rd	T097EF	
	ISL WIEENSLAND KO	TP9 9KN	
M GOPNS	4A BAUCE CT	T0976R	
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	16 Bothwell Court	TIDA ZIEP	
	7. Wallace Court	T09 7=5	
	26A Handen place	TU9 7BY	
	22 magfied Dl	TO 9. 7EW	
- II	29 Hasserdean Cit	Jpg ZaH	
	BC HARDEN PL	TO9 7134	
	HAVELOCK PL.	109 7BE	
	13 Lothian St	TD9 9HD	
	6/1 DOVEMBLE PC	TDY 8AZ	
b 39	16 DICKSON ST	789 78	

NO TO ANOTHER

SUPERMARKET!!!

NAME	ADDRESS	POSTCODE	SIGNATURE
AMOOD	19-HANSFIEW RD	TD98AB	
	20 DICKSON ST		
M KHIRN	9 Rosebule Pct	709907	
	Survice Ro	TW	
propagation of the state of the	NEWTON FARM	To9 8 88	
	22 Hossendon Cont	7.097011	
0 3000	18 ALENOCK CT	T09 708	
C PASTON	3 LAIN G TERRACE	709 7AB	
G WINSON	5 FISLOP GARDEN	TIA YPQ	
FJAMS"~	6 Rose Son Collins		
5 CRANSFOL	BRAMLEA	TD9 8P4	
SGRAHAM	15 contry Cont		
	3 HISLOF GARPENS		
A HOWDEN	16 ANCRUM COURT	759785	
	Scher hus Rate Rd		
R JOHNSTON	SO PRINCES ST	709766	
	TRELAWNEY STILBOU		
WIHOMSON	5, BOTHWELL, GOD	TOGYEP	
	8 Marpell boine	TIA TEW	
D. CICC-	18 KASSENEIDE CI	709 7EP	
JO SHORT	3 BLANKHOLAST ROA	0 709 78U	
		TERSPOR	
KAREN LAMMIE	PRINCES STREET	109 7EF	
Aman theis	ROSALIZ BUAG	70971-114	
JOHNALLAN	COINBURGH	CH4 40P	
	Withan Word Hose	T09 0D5	
× 34 magazina	Lylland .	179797	
	17 Stonepa R	TD7 GEZ	
V Cardod	Geensidehall RD	TD9 7HE	
V CAHADA	14 PAINCER S.	TD9 7EG	

	<b>@</b>		
NAME	ADDRESS	POSTCODE	SIGNATURE
	of province of the control of the co		
	2) Crumhaugh Road	TOGODA	
LEE MUAK	9 GREEN JERNE	109 OJ6	
VIC LAW	31B ANCRUM COURT	Th9 TAB	
	15 Histop Gardens	TD9 8PQ	
	I HOWLANDS TOPPACE	TD9 35L	
	28 Privers Street	TD97A7	
	Stonend w Dem	MHPPET	
	Drumbaring Mews	TIDA CAF	
	IC ALLARSBANG	TOGGEX	
SWACKICE	14 chay blyta	TOS	
J Huns	14 chang blytch	TOS	
D.BURGER	3- FIDIMENTINE KARN PLYGNE	T1970G	
	6.BLANOW	10979	
	10 HELOUAILE CRESC	11)99RS	
C compa	16 DRUMEANKIY MENS	TD9 OAF	
K. Lindones	26 SILVERBUTTIBLIE	TO9 1 BW	
E. Wash	13 SILVERDUI HAM RD	TD 9 70J	
J. MILLER	7/3 UNION STREET HANKE	TO9 9LF	
VJohnstone	10 Wallace Cit	TD9 755	
E Armstong	10 Overhall Crescent	[1)17]0	
Roused -	4 Loches Das-	704787	
	hanglands Rd	TD9 714C	
o Gullen	14 Howdenbank HK	TD975x	
	38 A Mugh Michaed	TN9-701	
	Hurden Gler Cottage Pobeller	TO9 TLP	
S BROWN	IDS MILACIAN DEIVE	TD9 885	
	2/1 Myrestan green	TO9 OAT	
	Dodbur Culture	TO9 OPG	
PHACIACE	45 crumhaugh, c'	705 030	
	19 HANSPIGED R	TO 9 8 AB	

NO TO ANOTHER SUPERNAL

## NO TO ANOTHER SLIPCEMARKET!

NAME	ADDRESS	POSTCODE	SIGNATURE
	Bhassadean Court	TICA TOH	The state of the s
	7 Largheredy & d	TD9 7EF	
1	May freed Park		
Ī	Metherwood Sunnyhill Rosal Howick	TOG 7HT	
	WILLINGTON GURT	TO97DN	
	Silverbuchou R.C.	TD9 78N	
oc.	7 BRANKHOLME ROAD	TOI 70U	
NEIL COOLEY	18 SILIBLELITHAL RO	TO9 78W	
	DLD POST DEFILE	TD9 744	
	OLD Vat OPPICE	TD9 740)	
	SWERWIHALL RD.	1D9 7BW.	
	81 Henra Lock PLa	UL TUG 70E	
	29 Silverbuthall Road	789 7BH	
JOHN YIELRANDER	12 MAZON COURT	109700	
	3 D CRAHING CATE	. AART	
JOHNBOLD	ILA DIRKSON ST	109762	
N WALLACE	14 BORTHAUGH KD	709082	
	14 DORTHAULI RO		
L CHAHAM	US CRUMITALICHED		
	19 CHARLES ST	T09 886	
	HARDEN ESTATE		
JOHN PORTIFICA	7A ROYSHRUM DRIFT	TP4747	
		tog 7RU	
7	12B Howeyste	709 0AB	
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NO TO ANOTHER SCIPERMARKET!

# SAY NO TO ANOTHER SUPERMARKET IN HAWICK – ALDI!

2

- Has no planning permission!
- Will do more damage to the High Street and other small businesses!

## PLEASE SIGN AS THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO STOP THIS!

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NO TO ANOTHER SUPERMARKET!!!

REGENERATE HAWICK HIGH STREET!

Ms Julie Hayward
Principle Planning Officer
Development Management
Regulatory Services
Scottish Borders Council
Ihayward2@scotborders.gov.uk

#### Dear Ms Haywayrd

Planning Application 15/00100/FUL - Wilton Mills 31/32 Commercial Road Hawick.

We are writing to you to express our strong concerns at the potential impact of the above planning application on the town centre and on existing businesses. When the original planning application for this site was considered by planning official in September 2014, very strong concerns were raised and the applicants withdrew their application. In our view these concerns are still valid and should be taken into consideration when reviewing the new applications. The key concerns were:

- This development would lead to an unacceptable impact on the vitality and viability of the town centre.
- 2. Studies undertaken by the Council have shown that there is no spare grocery retail capacity in Hawick (e.g. the Council's Winter Retail Survey 2013).
- 3. The proposed site lies out with the town centre and the proposal runs contrary to the town centre first principle.
- 4. A discount supermarket store would not provide a complementary shopping facility but would in fact provide a similar retailing experience to existing competing stores. The proposed food retail unit would therefore have an unacceptable adverse impact on existing retailers; contrary to development plan policies ED3 and ED5.
- The overall issue of retail impact in Hawick should be considered as part of the report into the next iteration of the Local Development Plan and therefore the Wilton Mills planning application should not be determined until planning officials have the Reporter's conclusions – possibly in July of 2015.

If this application were to be granted it would simply add to the already alarming decline in the sustainability and viability of businesses in the town centre. This development would simply displace customers and jobs from existing businesses without any long-term sustainable economic benefit to Hawick.

This representation should be considered as an objection to the application.

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ROBERT PRINGLE BUTCHERS

THE HITTLE SHOP

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### **Application Comments for 15/00100/FUL**

#### **Application Summary**

Application Number: 15/00100/FUL

Address: Land And Buildings At Wilton Mills 31 - 32 Commerciał Road Hawick Scottish Borders Proposal: Erection of Class 1 retail foodstore with ancillary works including car parking, access

and landscaping

Case Officer: Julie Hayward

#### **Customer Details**

Name: Ms Fiona Mackie

Address: Haig House 23 Princes Street, Hawick, Scottish Borders TD9 7EJ

#### **Comment Details**

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

**Comment Reasons:** 

Designated Conservation Area

Detrimental to environment

- Land affected
- Legal issues
- Privacy of neighbouring properties affec
- Trees/landscape affected

Comment:I wish to bring to the Council's attention that land belonging to my elderly mother at 21 Princes Street has today (21/02/15) been trespassed on and several of her trees cut down in pursuance of the clearance of the adjacent site for building purposes by Aldi. Fortunately, the workmen were responsive to her request to cease cutting down said trees, which all have preservation orders issued by Scottish Borders Council. Neither my mother nor myself had objected thus far to the proposed building, but we do now and in the strongest of terms. We request that someone explain to us immediately why this devastation has taken place, and at whose instruction? The treed area on my mother's property shows clearly in the final planning document, showing the proposed supermarket layout, as separate from the ground where the parking area is to be laid out, so I cannot see why the developers have instructed men to come onto her property at all. I expect someone to contact me as a priority concerning this matter.

From: John Lee [mailto:j.lee@scotgrocersfed.co.uk]

Sent: 06 March 2015 08:47

To: Hayward, Julie

Subject: Scottish Grocers Federation Comments on Planning Application 15/00100/FUL

Importance: High

Dear Julie,

Please find attached a letter of comment in respect of the above planning application. Our letter should be regarded as an objection.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards

John

JOHN LEE POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER TEL: 0131 343 3300 or 077 94 237 326



## 222 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh, EH4 2BN Tel: 0131 343 3300, Fax: 0131 343 6147

Ms Julie Hayward Principle Planning Officer Development Management Regulatory Services Scottish Borders Council

Dear Ms Hayward 5/3/2015

Planning Application 15/00100/FUL - Wilton Mills 31/32 Commercial Road Hawick.

The Scottish Grocers' Federation is the national trade association for the independent convenience store industry in Scotland. We are writing to you to express our strong concerns at the potential impact of the above planning application on the town centre and on existing businesses.

This representation should be considered as an objection to the above application

When the original planning application for this site was considered by planning official in September 2014, very strong concerns were raised and the applicants withdrew their application. In our view these concerns are still valid and should be taken into consideration when reviewing the new applications. The key concerns were:

- 1. This development would lead to an unacceptable impact on the vitality and viability of the town centre
- 2. Studies undertaken by the Council have shown that there is no spare grocery retail capacity in Hawick (e.g. the Council's Winter Retail Survey 2013).
- 3. The proposed site lies out with the town centre and the proposal runs contrary to the town centre first principle.
- 4. A discount supermarket store would not provide a complementary shopping facility but would in fact provide a similar retailing experience to existing competing stores. The proposed food retail unit would therefore have an unacceptable adverse impact on existing retailers; contrary to development plan policies ED3 and ED5.
- 5. The overall issue of retail impact in Hawick should be considered as part of the report into the next iteration of the Local Development Plan and therefore the Wilton Mills planning application should not be determined until planning officials have the Reporter's conclusions possibly in July of 2015.

In our view these are significant obstacles and the new application from the developers does not overcome them or provide a robust justification for the application to be granted. Additionally as this is an edge of centre site it is not in line with the town centre first principle or the sequential test.

If this application were to be granted it would simply add to the already alarming decline in the sustainability and viability of businesses in the town centre. This development would simply displace customers and jobs from existing businesses without any long-term sustainable economic benefit to Hawick. A new store on the Wilton Mills site would surely be in the catchment area for existing stores such as Sainsbury's, Morrisons, the Co-op store in Burnfoot and the SPAR store – the retail impact assessment for this application does not sufficiently take this into account.

John Lee **Public Affairs Manager**  From: John Lee

**Sent:** 27 July 2015 11:44

To: Hayward, Julie

Subject: Grocery Retail Provision in Hawick

Importance: High

Dear Julie, I hope this finds you well.

I hope you don't mind me contacting you, we have spoken briefly previously. As you may recall, Scottish Grocers' Federation is the national trade association for the independent convenience store sector in Scotland, I am writing to you on behalf one of our members, Mr George McCusker, of SPAR Hawick. As you know Mr McCusker is extremely concerned about the potential development of an Aldi store in the town and the potentially negative impact on existing local businesses.

I know you will be busy but it would be very helpful if you can advise me what stage the current Aldi application is at and whether it is likely that the application will be considered by the planning committee. If it is likely that the application will be considered by the Committee is it possible to say what the planning report accompanying the application would recommend?

Our strong view is that the Council should uphold the position that there is no spare grocery retail provision in Hawick and that the application should be refused on that basis. bases on your experience would it be beneficial for us to contact either the Head of Planning or the Convenor of the Planning Committee to highlight our concerns?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very best wishes

John

JOHN LEE
HEAD OF POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



COMMUNICATION.LOBBYING.ADVICE.NETWORKING