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BRUCE MOTORS LTD

15/00100/fvL.

Scottish Borders Council Planning Department Newtown St. Boswells **MELROSE** TD6 0SA

9th February 2015

Dear Sirs

## Ref Aldi Store: Hawick

I have read in the local press about the objections raised by a minority hoping to prevent the demolition of Wilton Mills and its clockless tower.

The desire of Messrs Aldi to open in Hawick has to be a positive for our town economy: bringing in more shoppers with their associated spend in other outlets; improving the look of the main A7 route through town; providing employment and an improved shopping choice.

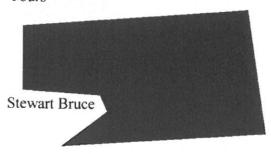
As immediate neighbours to the site in question we cannot wait for the aspect to be improved. At no time have our customers commented on the need to preserve the decaying building which only serves to highlight decline not progress.

It would be a great step backwards should the opinions of a minority hold up progress and result in Aldi changing their mind in favour of another town.

The Aldi store would benefit us (Bruce Motors Ltd.) and the people in TD8 and TD9.

I therefore urge approval of their application and without delay.

Yours



From: Robert Chrystie Sent: 01 July 2015 14:11

To: Hayward, Julie

Subject: Planning Ref No Out/AT2342/B112B Aldi Store, Commercial Road, Hawick

## Dear Madam,

I write in support of the above application both for the potential positive impact it might have on our own business, and more importantly, on Hawick in general.

We are the largest comparison goods retailer in Hawick we are are currently celebrating our 25th Anniversary in business. Chrysties employs 28 staff and our customer base extends throughout the Borders, Lothian, Northumberland and Cumbria. We constantly advertise on Border TV, STV regional, Cumbrian Newspapers along with local press and radio backed up by Direct Mail when we are running special events. This is all done to attract people to our furnishing centre and Hawick in general. Our advertising spend in our last financial year was Linked trips can only bring more people to Hawick with the inevitable spin off benefitting this and other businesses in the town. Having read your retail impact assessment I would only comment that the estimated sales figures for comparison goods are incorrect and this business was never consulted as part of that process.

As far as competition is concerned, we have in Hawick another five retailers selling carpets including one that opened a year ago virtually next door to us. Rather than complain about it we welcome the challenge and have found that customers go between the shops before placing an order.

The benefit to Hawick is obvious simply by the removal of a derelict eyesore on a major thoroughfare which I have the misfortune to pass every day and wonder what first time visitors to the town must think or do they decide to pass straight through?

It goes without saying that any creation of new jobs has to be a benefit to the town and unless I am mistaken there is not an abundance of new employers waiting in the wings.

Our high Street will not be affected by Aldi and competition between the major supermarkets will keep them honest and protect the consumer. We have all suffered through on-line retailing however we must encourage more local niche operators like Melrose, Kelso and Peebles to help in regeneration. As our shopping trends change it is interesting to follow the rise of Lidl and Aldi and the decline of the major supermarkets which makes me astonished that we are not welcoming Aldi with open arms. It's about time we had some positive news for Hawick rather than all these interminable delays with this

Yours sincerely, Robert Chrystie Director Chrysties Furnishing Centre

Victoria Road Hawick TD9 7AH

development.



## Furnishing Centre Ltd

Julie Hayward
Principal Planning Officer
Development Management
Regulatory Services
Scottish Borders Council
Council Headquarters
Newtown St Boswells
MELROSE
TD6 OSA



2 July 2015



Dear Madam,

I write in support of the above application both for the potential positive impact it might have on our own business, and more importantly, on Hawick in general.

We are the largest comparison goods retailer in Hawick and we are currently celebrating our 25th Anniversary in business. Chrysties employs 28 staff and our customer base extends throughout the Borders, Lothian, Northumberland and Cumbria. We constantly advertise on Border TV, STV regional and Cumbrian Newspapers along with local press and radio backed up by Direct Mail when we are running special events. This is all done to attract people to our furnishing centre and Hawick in general. Our advertising spend in our last financial year was £113,238. Linked trips can only bring more people to Hawick with the inevitable spin off benefitting this and other businesses in the town.

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Our High Street will not be affected by Aldi and competition between the major supermarkets will keep them honest and protect the consumer. We have all suffered through on-line retailing however we must encourage more local niche operators like Melrose, Kelso and Peebles to help in regeneration. As our shopping trends change it is interesting to follow the rise of Lidl and Aldi and the decline of the major supermarkets which makes me astonished that we are not welcoming Aldi with open arms.

It's about time we had some positive news for Hawick rather than all these interminable delays with this development.

Yours sincerely

Robert Chrystie

VAT Reg. No. 553 5319 43

Director

Chrysties Furnishing Centre Limited, Registered in Scotland, Company No: SC471256 Registered Office: Victoria Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland TD9 7AH

Telephone: 01450 372248, Facsimile: 01450 372388 E-mail: admin@chrysties.net www.chrysties.net Directors: R. Chrystie, M. Chrystie, K. R. Hedley, R. Scott



Julie Hayward
Principal Planning Officer
Development Management
Scottish Borders Council Headquarters
Newtown St Boswells
MELROSE
TD6 OSA

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application No. OUT/AT2342/B/1128 Aldi Stores, Commercial Road, Hawick

As Hawick's only independent Estate Agent with some 10 years experience and a High Street presence I felt it necessary to write in regard to the above application.

The High Street, like many other market towns in Scotland, has suffered severely in recent years and in Hawick you may be aware that Future Hawick, of which I am a Committee member, has been set up to try and address this. The main reason for the decline is without doubt internet shopping which we can do nothing about. National supermarket chains have had a presence in the town for over 20 years and any impact from that quarter will not be changed by Aldi coming to Hawick. They can only impact upon each other.

To me the benefits of Aldi are the possibility of keeping trade in the town which goes to Galashiels and bringing new business to Hawick which may potentially benefit the High Street. There are only 5 convenience retailers on the High Street, one of whom is about to close. Another supermarket will not affect these but may well be of real benefit to the comparison retailers. There is an abundance of charity shops, banks, solicitors etc to which this application will not make the slightest difference. In addition there is a mass of fast food outlets, pubs and restaurants who might only benefit from additional trade.

Should this application be refused for any reason then I hope you appreciate the negative affect that might result. A message would be sent to others that Hawick is closed for business, a derelict eyesore of a site would remain on a major trunk road and the creation of over 30 jobs would be ignored.

I have considered alternative uses and am certain no residential or commercial opportunity exists. Therefore I suggest very strongly you consider granting approval of this application without further delay or we shall all have to accept the consequences.

Yours faithfully

