



Haddington East Tenants and Residents Association

Who are we?

We would like to introduce ourselves as we suspect many of you do not realise we exist.

We are a group who represent the Haddington East area (see map).

Our current membership is small and consists of tenants and residents from across the Haddington East area.

We meet monthly on the first Monday of each month in the Nungate and Haddington Community Centre from 7pm and we are looking for new members.



What do we do?

We act as go-between for residents and tenants in the area and the various agencies that are tasked with supporting us, including the various departments in East Lothian Council and beyond. We have access to specific contacts to tackle particular issues such as litter, housing issues, traffic problems, anti-social behaviour and have access to various funding bodies to which we can apply for money towards projects to improve our area.

We aim to help raise issues, tackle problems and make our area a safe, inclusive, stimulating and pleasant place for all of our community to live and provide resources and activities to keep us all active, engaged and healthy.

What have we achieved?

HETRA was responsible in putting forward the plan for the skate park at Whittinghame Drive and worked with the council and other bodies to bring this to fruition.

HETRA was responsible for recommending the creation of the Seggersdean Park

HETRA has compiled a list of faults and issues throughout the Haddington East Area and have raised this with the council in the hopes that work to tackle and repair these issues can take place swiftly and effectively.

HETRA got the crumbling tarmac replaced and railings erected on the steps at the top of Abbots View / Dunbar Road to make them safe for all users

What would we like to do?

We want to increase our member numbers so we have better representation of tenants and residents across the Haddington East and can be more effective in tackling issues that affect our members in the coming year and our members feel included in decisions which affect us.

Possible topics for discussion:-

1. The Riverside Bridge

This issue is an important one for the area. It is a main thoroughfare for non-drivers - pedestrians, cyclists and those with buggies and wheelchair users providing access to the cemetery, playing fields and skate park, local amenities and places of worship as well as the river and the Waterside Bistro. The current bridge is unsafe, not inclusive and a hazard to use. It is not fit for purpose and does not encourage travel to and from the few local amenities we have.

The Council have plans to replace the bridge and this is currently out for consideration. You may have seen the recent articles in the Courier stating that there has been public engagement, but HETRA feels that locals have not been included in these plans. We believe that those who are likely to use the bridge should have a say in how this moves forward.

2. Amenities for Haddington East

The area is extremely short on services, with only one small mini-mart providing an alternative to Tesco or the Oak Tree centre. There is nowhere for our young people to congregate other than the playing fields and skate park and not all young folk are sporty. What can we provide to support elderly or challenged individuals living in our area. What other services / provision would we like to see in Haddington East and in the wider community.

3. Addressing the Neglect

The Haddington East area has been ill served in recent years, with the weeds and common areas being left to grow wild and uncared for, rubbish and large items left in local areas to rot and local buildings have crumbled and fallen into disrepair in our midst. Damaged walls and lampposts have gone unrepaired and are now unsafe and hazardous to locals. A list of over 200 faults were provided to the council in October, but only 5 issues have been resolved.

What can we do to address this? Can we encourage the council to improve what they do? What can we, as a community, do to help; a community litter-pick, river / greenspace clean-up? general upkeep has been left and Community Clean-Up – river clean up / greenspace clean up and planting / litter pick etc.

4. Activities for the community

What are the interests of the young adults, smaller children and the older tenants and residents in the catchment area and what can HETRA do to assist in improving or expanding this provision?

5. Traffic issues and parking in Haddington East.

a. On- Pavement Parking The new law making on-pavement parking illegal came into force last year and although it is not being enforced fully in Haddington yet, this will happen in the coming year. Pavement parking makes getting past difficult or impossible for those with buggies, wheelchairs or mobility aids to pass, often resulting in those folk having to go onto the roadways and into traffic, but the lack of parking space, narrow roads, insufficient garages that are too small for modern large cars and that the council have consistently said are to be removed, all compound the problem. What

suggestions can we offer the council to help tackle this problem?

b. Traffic Unsafe crossings, disintegrating road markings, dangerous and inconsiderate road use and speeding are all issues, not just in Haddington East, but throughout East Lothian and beyond. How can we tackle the problem to make our area safer for all users?

What do we want from you?

If you care about where you live, whether you own your home or rent it, you can make a difference.

Come along to the meetings and make your voice heard, raise the issues that matter to you and help us make the council take action and support us the way they should.

Help us to help you make the Haddington East area one to be proud of and where people want to live.

Please share this with all who stay in Haddington East (see map).

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on Monday 5th February at 7pm in the Nungate and Haddington Community Centre.



If you require this information in an alternative format, please contact [**haddeasttra@gmail.com**](mailto:haddeasttra@gmail.com)

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