



Speaking for Scotland's Buildings

8 March 2021

Planning and Environment East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Brewery Park
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 3HA
by email: environment@eastlothian.gov.uk
f.a.o. Neil Millar

Dear Mr Millar

Planning application 21/00166/P | Dunbar Harbour, Victoria Place, Dunbar: Siting of Snack Bar

The proposals are for a snack bar situated on Dunbar's harbour side. The Society **objects** to this proposal on the grounds that, although sensitively designed, this use will undoubtedly give birth to the need for picnic tables, litter bins and seating for customers, even increased motor traffic/parking needs from potential customers.

Dunbar Harbour is of a grand, open and sea swept character, with very much a 'working' aspect. We consider that the working nature and character of the harbourside must be retained and be a primary factor in determining uses of the area.

The CA Management Plan notes that Dunbar's *'three harbours contain extensive areas of working quayside open to the public and the ruins of Dunbar castle and of the Lamer island battery. These are either functional or contain historic ruins.'* It is unfortunate that such large open spaces, in our contemporary times seem to be little appreciated. The Society is concerned that the need to provide additional facilities associated with consumption of the food sales will change the harbourside character and would point to the scenario that has 'evolved' in North Berwick. Although the harbour and its quaysides are significant open areas *'within the public realm'* of the CA, its working character should predominate, within which the public can visit rather than vice versa.

The proposal is contrary to the ELC Policy **TC4: Hot Food Outlets**. This policy states *"Siting of mobile snack bars may also be permitted on suitable car park or lay-by sites adjacent to main transport routes, subject to other Plan policies including consideration of visual and landscape impact."* Although a static structure, it is a seasonal unit so we suggest that the visual and landscape impact applies, together with its significant impact on 'other existing or consented take-aways' in the town centre. Indeed, Dunbar is well furnished with cafes, take-aways and a fish/seafood shop.

Yours faithfully,

The AHSS East Lothian Cases Panel

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