

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF MUSSELBURGH HIGH ST



DECEMBER 2011

Throughout 2011 members of Musselburgh Town Centre Task Group have been consulting with people living and working across the Musselburgh area about their ideas, concerns and aspirations for the future of Musselburgh High St. The results have now all been analysed and this update gives a flavour of what we have found out.

Local people are using the High St regularly to access a wide range of shops and services

- 78% surveyed reported using the High St at least once a week

While many people nominated particular businesses that kept them coming back again and again, concerns about the range and quality of shops, services and eating/drinking establishments made up 25% of all comments received.

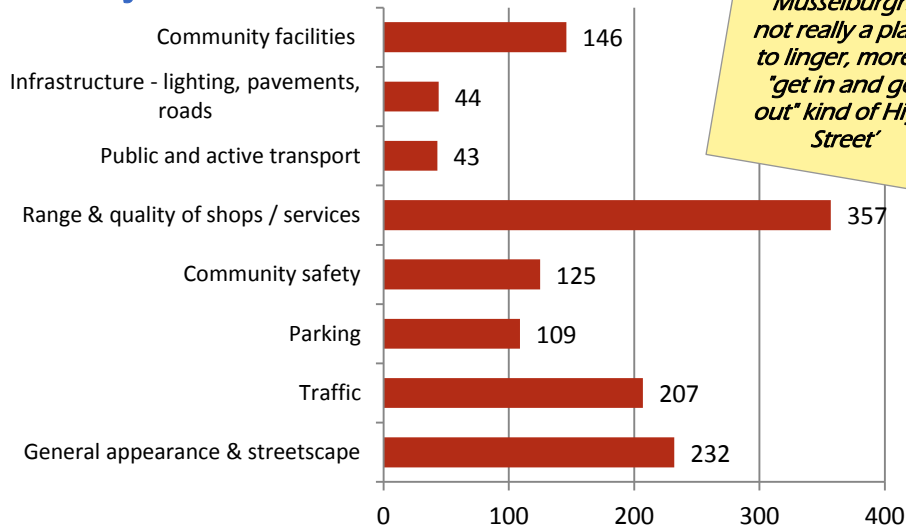
When asked what would make a difference in encouraging more people to use the High St more regularly;

- 60% said that improving the overall look of the High St would make a big difference;
- 47% agreed increased parking was needed;
- 45% felt the town centre needed more public spaces and community focal points.

Traffic congestion was another key point attracting 207 separate comments

- Almost 1/5 of these related to specific congestion problems at the junction of the High St, Bridge St and Dalrymple Loan

## Summary of themes commented on...



*'Musselburgh's not really a place to linger, more a "get in and get out" kind of High Street'*

## What has taken place?

A method called 'Planning for Real' was used for the consultation.

A 3-D model of the town centre (made by local groups) was on display across the town for-

- 2 days at Brunton Hall
- 2 days in a 'pop-up-shop' on the High St
- at FestiVale, youth music event at Lewisvale Park
- 1 week at Musselburgh Library
- a morning at the Hollies
- a Saturday morning at Tesco

At each location passers-by were invited to place comments, ideas and concerns directly onto the map.

There was also a short survey people could complete relating to how they currently use the High St. This was also available on-line.

- ◆ Over 1400 comments and suggestions were made by members of the public
- ◆ 56% of all comments are about the High Street in general
- ◆ 7% of those are specifically about North High Street
- ◆ The remaining 628 comments relate to specific locations or features in the town



## What is it all about?

The Musselburgh Town Centre Task Group has come together as part of Local Community Planning initiatives across the area. This group, made up of local residents, community groups and local businesses, is currently working with East Lothian Council to develop a Town Centre Strategy for Musselburgh. The views and ideas collected throughout this consultation will contribute to this strategy and help guide plans and investment in the area.

To find out more about Local Community Planning in Musselburgh call 0131 6534068 or 0131 6534065 or visit our webpage - [www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/musselburgh.aspx](http://www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/musselburgh.aspx)



**LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING**  
**Making a Difference**  
across the Musselburgh wards

## Where were people most interested in?

**The River** Over 100 comments were received about the river and riverside area. While many recognised the river as an asset to the town centre, and praised the landscaping along the riverbanks, there were concerns raised about dog fouling and the state of the island by the walking bridge. There were also a considerable number of requests for more seating / picnic areas, a children's play area and information boards along each side.

*'If you run the risk of driving up the High St looking for a roadside space, and there isn't one, you're out the other end with no easy way to "try again".*

**The bottom of Shorthope St** This area was identified as a space that could be made into a focal point for the town, which otherwise seems to turn its back on the river. A range of suggestions were made about converting it into an attractive public space linking both sides of the river.

**The Town Hall and Market Square** Making the most of this area was something that was highlighted throughout the consultation (attracting almost 5% of all comments). Interest was shown not only in terms of recognising and showcasing the historic heart of the town but also for its contemporary value as a location for community events and activities – from markets to concerts and carol singing. The Town Hall, the old Musselburgh Arms and Post Office buildings were also singled out as in particular need of regeneration.

**North High St** was identified through the consultation as having a distinct and different identity from the eastern High St – particularly to do with the range of small independent shops. Aspirations for the area seem to focus on enhancing this difference.

**Brunton Hall** While Brunton Hall was recognised as a real asset for the town there was considerable concern expressed about anti-social behaviour in the surrounding area, particularly in relation to groups of young people 'hanging around,' which caused other members of the community to feel unsafe.

**Kilwinning Place Parking area** The introduction of pay-and-display charges in this parking area proved controversial – with strong feelings being expressed both in favour and in opposition to the change. The charges have also had knock-on effects in the surrounding streets, leading to calls for Residents only parking in the area. It has also had an impact on people accessing Burgh School.

**Electric Bridge** Lots of people had something to say about the 'Electric Bridge' and its capacity (or not) to alleviate traffic congestion in the town centre area. This was linked to general concerns about traffic in the area and various visions and schemes to address it – from pedestrianisation to one-way and by-pass ideas.

*'Lack of choice means I find myself going further afield and then, I buy other things there which I could perhaps have got on the High St.'*

*'look after our heritage, the things that make Musselburgh different. These need to be preserved and utilised before they are beyond repair.'*

F.Y.I.

## Who took part in the consultation?

- ◆ An estimated 1200 people took part in the consultation
- ◆ 437 people completed the Town Centre survey
- ◆ 27% of surveys were completed on-line

Of those responding

