

East Haven Visitor Management Strategy



EAST HAVEN, ANGUS

East Haven welcomes visitors and encourages people to enjoy everything the beautiful Angus coastline has to offer. East Haven has no public buildings or communal facilities so residents clean and manage the public toilets to provide visitors with a clean and welcoming facility. National Cycle Network 1 connects communities along the Angus Coast and provides people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds the opportunity to access the outdoors. A section of dunes (1.14ha) is a designated site of Special Scientific Interest (site 594).

The village of East Haven is a small coastal village and with only one public car park it quickly exceeds capacity. The development of a visitor management strategy in collaboration with Angus Council and other community groups has helped to balance the needs and interests of both visitors and residents.

Actions and interventions have been considered around the three themes of Engagement and Information, Infrastructure and Services and Enforcement.

ENGAGEMENT and INFORMATION

EDUCATION

- East Haven has its own web-site www.easthavenangus.com providing comprehensive visitor information. includes a section called 'Visiting East Haven, What We Do and What We Need You to Do'. Promoting a 'Rights and Responsibilities' approach.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- The Scottish Outdoor Access Code is downloadable from www.easthavenangus.com
- Visitor information signs have been reviewed in 2023 to ensure that they remain relevant and up-to-date.
- A consistent and positive approach to social media messaging has proved largely successful and will be applied in the current year.

POSITIVE
ENGAGEMENT

- A WhatsApp group called 'Respect East Haven' has been established to share photographic incident records.
- East Haven Together (EHT) works with organisations such as Keep Scotland Beautiful, NatureScot, Zero Waste Scotland, VisitScotland SEPA and Scottish Water to promote national educational messaging.
- Residents participate in Keep Scotland Beautiful campaigns to send out a strong message about pride in place.
- A number of residents make an effort to positively engage with visitors.
- EHT supports national and local VisitScotland tourism themes and promotes local and natural heritage.

WORKING
WITH
PARTNERS

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- People are encouraged to walk or cycle to the village. Signage is in place to direct car drivers to the car park and maintain access points. Cycle racks are installed in the car park.

PARKING

- The speed limit on both approach roads to East Haven (C61) has been decreased to 20mph to improve safety for walkers and cyclists.
- Double yellow lines have been installed to maintain access under the railway underpass to the seaward side of the bridge. Official bus box road markings at the bus stop have also been installed to ensure the bus can stop to pick up and drop off passengers.
- Signage has been installed on the coastal path to reduce the risk of visitors driving up the path and/or onto the beach.

LITTER

- Litter Share Stations and Dog Share stations are kept well stocked.
- EHT is a KSB Litter hub and Turn the Plastic Tide, Take 4 for the Shore hub.
- Waste Management Services and residents do their utmost to maintain capacity within the bins in the picnic area to enable people to deposit their litter.
- The Great Angus Beach Clean is held twice a year and visitors are encouraged to get involved.
- Daily litter picking across the entire area and beach is carried out by residents
- A project to reuse and up-cycle personal belongings left by visitors is established.

TOILETS

- Following the worst of the frosts (East Haven Public Toilets have no electricity or heating) EHT open the public toilets by end of Feb-early March. Weather permitting they remain open until the end of November. Residents clean and manage the public toilets on a rota system.
- Angus Council have installed a 'No Overnight Stays' sign in the Beach Car Park. East Haven has no rural infrastructure in place to support visiting campers or motorhomes for overnight stays. Half the village remain on septic tanks and the public toilets drain into a single pump station which can't cope with motorhome chemical toilet waste.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

WATER SAFETY

- EHT have installed public rescue equipment at the beach front. This was purchased in response to the massive increase in water sports and wild swimming which began during the pandemic.

BEACH STANDARDS

- EHT participates in the Keep Scotland Beautiful Beach Award scheme which drives up standards on Scottish beaches. We work to achieve high standards across all 30 criteria

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- EHT supports the emergency services as required to access any incidents on the beach or coastal path between Carnoustie and Arbroath using the AAll Terrain Vehicle (ATV).
EHT also maintain a village defibrillator and Village Emergency Telephone scheme (VETS).

PROTECTION OF FRAGILE DUNES

- Residents have implemented a number of strategies to try and reduce coastal erosion caused by people traffic. For example, a new section of railing has been installed to nudge people to walk in a particular direction. A dune conservation programme which involves growing Marram and Lyme Grasses from seed and planting them out on eroded areas continues.
- The BBQ plates on the public picnic tables remain in good condition
- People are encourage to follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code - Key messaging
 - Light any fires or BBQs well away from the dunes and below the high tide mark.
 - Not to bury hot coals which might burn children's/pets feet as they remain seriously hot for hours when buried.
- Conservation signs to remain in place on the dunes as this supports the enforcement of no fires on the dunes under the terms of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

ENFORCEMENT

SCOTTISH
OUTDOOR ACCESS
CODE

- Residents are encouraged to engage positively with visitors and promote Scotland's Outdoor Access Code.
- Community Enforcement Officers to visit East Haven periodically over the season to enforce parking regulations. They can also issue littering FPNs if they observe littering whilst in the location.

TRAFFIC OFFENCES

ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION ACT

- EHT and the Lunan Bay Community Partnership have collaborated on an offer/initiative to support Angus Council Community Wardens and Police Scotland to reduce serious incidents and use their resources efficiently and effectively. We would also like to develop a partnership approach to assessing and tackling serious issues of fly-tipping/waste disposal, poor camping practices.