

Good morning,

I am writing in connection with the proposed rezoning of the Lighthouse Inn, to help ease the problem with homelessness in London. I am very aware of this issue, and am proud that our city is taking steps to help ease the suffering experienced by many in our community. The proposed location on Fanshawe Park Road is not, however, the appropriate location for a "hub".

I am against this location being rezoned for this purpose.

The proposed location not only houses the Lighthouse Inn, but also the Black Pearl Pub ("the Pearl"). This pub has been a neighbourhood favourite for years and is a gathering spot for many in our community. The business employs many people, including my son - all of whom I have been advised would lose their jobs if this proposal were to move forward. The Pearl provides so much to so many - not only employment and a means of earning a living, but a sense of community and belonging, good food and a welcoming spot to pull up a chair after a long day.

Moreover, many local musicians perform at the Pearl - live music is a staple at the pub. London has recently been designated Canada's first UNESCO City of Music - and to take away one of its few live music venues would be detrimental to this initiative that has "identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development".

There are other spaces in the city that would be better suited for the needs of our homeless in London. To rezone the Lighthouse Inn and the Black Pearl would essentially be a case of robbing Peter to feed Paul. There must be a solution that would not require doing harm in order to do good - and I urge you to look for a more appropriate location for this transitional space.

I consent to my comments being shared with City Council.

Regards,  
Jennifer McGill