

Hello,

As a resident of the Fox Hollow community which is located directly behind the tentative homeless hub at 705 Fanshawe road west, I am strongly opposed to this proposal. My opposition is the result of many considerations including but not limited to the following:

a) increased crime - this is a simple fact as there is an increase of criminal behaviour within the homeless population. This information comes directly from police officers we are familiar with in London and other large cities.

b) lack of security - our community is already experiencing an increase of petty crime (ie break and enters into cars) without follow up investigations from police due to their appropriate and necessary response to the opioid crisis particularly in the downtown core. Again, this is yet another fact that can be supported by police and their statistics.

c) lack of resources for the transitioning homeless community - this northern corner of London does not have any practical resources for those who are seeking treatment for addictions (for example) or needing to use services provided by the provincial or federal governments. The closest Service Ontario is Dundas st downtown or Lucan rather inconvenient locations. Neither are a walkable distance and would ultimately require paid transit. Furthermore, the current medical services are limited. The few doctors offices are seldom open to accepting new patients. Since statistically homeless community members often suffer from mental illnesses, there is a need to have ample doctors available. On the other side, police are too far away to provide protection for the existing neighbourhood

d) lack of transparency by the City of London - this plan comes across as vague, rushed, and incomplete. How long are the residents allowed to stay? What happens if someone does not leave as expected? What are the expectations of the residents? Are social workers involved? If they are, how do you ensure that they are safe and seeing the residents? Are there restrictions to drug and alcohol use? How is that enforced? What reassurances do the current neighbourhoods have of enforcement of regulations? How do you measure success or failure? If this does not work out as planned, who is responsible for the downfall? What is the Plan B? This is just the tip of the iceberg of my concerns.

The genuine concern ultimately is the safety of the families (including mine) who have established their law abiding lifestyles here in Fox Hollow.

I believe the intention of the City are good and meant to be heartfelt. However, this location is just a bad idea. Vancouver and Sudbury, for example, also had good and heartfelt intentions. Sadly, Vancouver is a shell of what it used to be due to its drug crisis and Sudbury is similar. Both are clearly failed social experiments that cost many people their lives and livelihoods.

Since this proposal is literally in my backyard, I will be following with concern.

With regards,
Nicole Birch