

Foxwood Community Notes

Letter to Council

With regards to the upcoming vote on October 5th. Specifically, the Fanshawe Park Road location. Let's all be very clear, no one in this community is happy with what is taking place with unhoused individuals in our city. We would all like to see people obtain the shelter and help they need. This is not a "NIMBY" issue and frankly presenting concerned neighbours and businesses with this brush stroke is unfair and a way to easily disregard our concerns. If you can label us, we no longer have thoughts that should be valued and heard. All of us have the right to dignity and safety in our communities. Frankly, it is unjust that our community was not consulted or asked for feedback on this location. Is this the type of city we are, where decisions are made without democracy, without a fair and balanced look at both points of view? We would like the following considerations to be taken under advisement:

- This location does not meet terms that this hub would inhabit a location that would not require rezoning.
 - There are no emergency medical services across the street – this is a walk-in clinic.
- Feedback that we would be able to discuss this as a community during the rezoning process is inaccurate – residents will not have a voice other than on whether this should be zoned for an emergency location. We will not be able to give open feedback or have concerns addressed at this time.
- The cost per bed does not meet the terms of the previous stipulations.
- The number of beds is contrary to what was stipulated in the previous reports.
- The hub is two doors down from a treatment facility for vulnerable autistic children (TVCC).
- Mastermind Toys, which is directly beside the Lighthouse Inn, hosts workshops for children and families.
- Long and McQuaid conduct children's music lessons next door as well.
- There are residential backyards that back onto this location.
- There are current residents at the Lighthouse Inn that it is questioned will be displaced from their housing.
- Black Pearl as a business is going to be severely affected, lose business and possibly will close because customers will not feel safe frequenting this restaurant.
- There is no assurance on safety for the community other than a security guard and advice we learn how to call 911 when we see concerns.
 - When models in other cities are investigated safety is an ongoing issue.
 - Disruption and safety concerns shut down a makeshift center in the Oakridge area in a matter of two months.
- There is confusion on the criteria of clients being served at this location, i.e., how many severely acute individuals vs. transitional clients.

- It has been stated that clients served at the hub will be transitioned to affordable/assisted housing creating a “flow” of clients that will go on to be successful in the community.
 - Where are these supports as it seems the city is currently out of resources with extreme waitlists for housing.
 - A “flow” of clients is unable to take place if acute cases disrupt or take over the spaces for less acute individuals.
 - A “flow” of clients is impossible if there are no resources in the community thereby rendering this a facility that can only take care of 21 individuals.
 - Affordable housing on Hyde Park was voted down, how is this consistent with the plan.

If the goal is to help the most people, this isn't the solution.

If the goal is to do something, as opposed to doing nothing, this is plain desperation without good sense.

If the goal is just to get 20 people off the street this winter, this is unjustified, as this winter will come and go before this hub is opened. Furthermore the 10 CMHA cold weather beds that are attached to this plan – there need to be 10 extra beds allocated to the cold weather plan if this is the issue stopping community members from having their voices heard.

We need a strong location that everyone can get behind. Let's return to the drawing board and find a more suitable option. It must exist.

It is highly concerning that none of us, businesses and residents, knew about this location until Wednesday yet we are not being allowed the platform to discuss our concerns and questions. We are 70K+ strong in this community. If our voices are not important to be heard how is this setting an example for the rest of the city?

At the end of the day, our ward 7 councillor Corrine Rahman has voiced that the results included in the latest report are not what was supported or what the public was originally consulted on. For these reasons above and from our Ward Councillors, which 6/9 have also voiced concerns, we kindly ask that you reconsider this specific location. There are many other locations, which are still located in the North End, that could be considered. For instance, has something attached to University Hospital been considered? As the other two hubs are associated with hospital/care, would this not be something to investigate further? Greater security would perhaps also be available with regards to women who are trying to gain distance from people in their past with allocation in a safe locked facility such as a hospital site.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely, Fox Hollow Residents

Christeen Forster