

From: Jennifer Neilans
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 11:07 PM
To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO HUB at 705 Fanshawe Park Rd W

I give my consent for this to appear on the public agenda

I am opposed to the proposed hub location at 705 Fanshawe Park Road. While there are a number of reasons this particular hub does not meet the guidelines for hub locations set out in *London's Health And Homelessness Response: Proposed Hubs Implementation Plan, July 2023*, today I am writing you with concern over the forced closing of The Black Pearl Pub, a long-term, local favourite and locally-owned business and the forced re-housing of the residents of the Light House Inn.

The Black Pearl Pub faces the road at the proposed location. Behind the pub is the motel. The following information has been verified to be factual after consultation with the business owners at this location.

The facts are as follows:

- The placement of a hub at this location will force the closure of The Black Pearl Pub and The Lighthouse Inn.
- The Black Pearl Pub rents the space and, therefore, will receive zero compensation for their forced closure. They will be forced to leave behind a business they dedicated their lives to building.
- The Black Pearl Pub will not be able to reopen in a different location as it would not be financially feasible for them to do so.
- 11 employees (including 6 families and their children) will be unemployed and without an income should the pub close. This includes children of these employees.
- At least half a dozen people will lose their home. These are long-term residents of the motel that cannot find affordable housing for their particular situations. This includes residents who have lived at this location from years to a decade.

I trust that you can see that a hub at this location will cost others both financially, physically, and emotionally. These are people, too. People with a need for income, people with a need for affordable housing, parents who are working hard to put food on the table for their children. I ask that you protect the business owners, families and residents that are blameless casualties of this situation.

GO and have a meal at The Black Pearl Pub (I dare you) and see what you are throwing away.

You politicians are always wanting us citizens to "shop and support local businesses" yet here you are shutting them down.

Thank you,

Jen Neilans
(Whitehills resident and frequent patron of The Black Pearl Pub. Best fish n chips in the city)