

From: Cassandra Schultz

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:55 AM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>; Stevenson, Susan <sstevenson@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Byron Gravel Pit Secondary Plan - Bank Swallow Concerns

Good evening,

My name is Cassandra Schultz. I'm an employee at Western University, and a resident of Ward 4. I am emailing in regards to the Byron gravel pit secondary plan within the Planning and Environment Committee Report. I consent to my email being included in the public agenda.

Overall, I support the secondary plan. I'm glad to see the city is focused on building more housing and developing vibrant, mixed-use urban neighborhoods befitting a city of our size and importance. I agree broadly with the vision and goals of the plan.

However, according to researchers who have surveyed the Byron gravel pits, the area is home to around 2,000 bank swallows. As the report itself explains, bank swallows are threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

I was disappointed to find the City only mentioned the swallow habitat within the gravel pits briefly, despite the fact that it is such a significant and environmentally important feature of the area. The City does not seem to have a clear idea of its legal and/or ethical obligations in regards to the swallow nests as of yet. Nature and human development can work side by side, but only when development is intentional and thoughtful.

Moving forward with the Byron gravel pit secondary plan, this Council needs to clarify how it plans to both provide the bank swallows with an appropriate habitat and ensure the safety of the human community.

Best,

Cassandra Schultz