

From: Laura Kaufman

Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 8:02 AM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Cc: Trosow, Sam <strosow@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding - Permitting stacked townhouses up to four storeys in height along all streets classified as Neighbourhood Connectors”.

I give my consent for this letter to be on the public agenda.

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed bylaw permitting four-storey stacked townhouses on neighbourhood connector streets. I am a resident of Old North and the Bishop Hellmuth Heritage District and the reason I chose to be a resident of this neighbourhood was the stability of an established neighborhood composed predominantly of single family century homes. Although student rentals and newer homes exist alongside these homes, the streetscape is that of an established, single family dwelling neighbourhood.

To allow stacked townhouses to be built on the so-called connector streets in this neighbourhood will adversely affect the density and streetscape that attracted the current residents. Most homes in this area are not protected by heritage designation and as such would become prey to demolition and rebuilding by developers that will take advantage of the increased height allowance. Due to the proximity of the university, they will most likely become student rentals, and not fill the need for affordable housing that council is trying to satisfy.

I recognize the need for further development and infill to meet the needs of London's growing population, however, there are many areas in the city that are better suited to such development. Surface parking lots, already earmarked as a poor use of city space, are still in use in the downtown and Old East areas. Vacant lots in the downtown core sit empty and the former London Psychiatric Hospital grounds are still being developed. All are better suited to higher density development and preferable over changing the character of an already established neighbourhood.

I request that you consider excluding connector streets that run through the Old North neighbourhood from this amendment.

Respectfully,

Laura Kaufman