

From: Rebecca Sancton Ashworth
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2024 10:11 PM
To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Cc: Trosow, Sam <strosow@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bylaw concerns re: stacked townhouses

Dear Council Members,

I am reaching out to voice my concerns regarding the proposed bylaw that permits four-storey stacked townhouses on neighbourhood connector streets. Please include my email as a matter of public record

Although urban development is essential, this decision appears to be made hastily and lacks sufficient community involvement, potentially jeopardizing the integrity of our heritage neighbourhoods.

Key points include:

- Heritage homes in Old North are vital for the area's charm and may face demolition due to limited empty lots.
- Demolishing homes could disrupt streetscapes and increase environmental waste.
- Larger structures would require more paving, worsening flooding issues.

Moreover, developments near campuses may lead to more rental units for students, reducing family housing and community cohesion. I urge the council to consider alternatives:

1. Utilize existing parking lots and vacant spaces for new housing.
2. Scale developments to fit the neighborhood's aesthetics.
3. Design projects to attract families, not just students.
4. Focus on strategically chosen areas for higher-density housing to minimize impact on heritage homes.

These alternatives promote growth while protecting the unique qualities of our neighborhoods. Once historic homes are lost, they cannot be replaced—should this be the legacy the council wants?

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ashworth