

From: david mckeown
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 2:41 PM
To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Cc: Trosow, Sam <strosow@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Major planning changes pro stacked townhouse proposal

Council Members,

Note of appreciation to Sam Trosow for notifying residents and encouraging response to the City Council's proposal and acting for our interests by keeping us informed of major planning changes in the Ward 6 neighbourhood.

I am opposed to this plan based on :

This is another poorly researched and ill informed token gesture to elevate the short term rental market in London North and vicinity of Western University, without alleviating the real complaint of renters : cost too much!

Acknowledging the need for a larger volume of rental housing in London I fully understand the efforts of City Council to achieve this. However to imply that this project will provide more rental accommodation, is completely contradictory to the current rental market . We are now in the top ten least affordable markets in Canada getting close to Toronto. There are lots of multi story high-rise development in the city centre that were built, highly successfully by developers, that know what they are doing . Since we already allowed the removal of most of our history in the down town lets concentrate on increasing height and volume there, were it successfully blends and in areas that can withstand that impact to the neighbourhood, also in wards that have deteriorated , lets not attract the carpet baggers and sketchy landlords

This is simply a misguided halo project to randomly take a stab at a volume increase without putting any significant impact in that market . All this is going to do is put another blight on the historic landscape of old London .

A former mayor used the slogan "Embrace the future, cherish the past " in her campaign; what we have here is another devastation off the past with weak and feeble minded future planing.

I sight the the example of the "Bike Lanes " in London, passed by a previous council ,as the reason Old North residents don't trust the council to make the right decision; even though they were advised that there was no necessity now or in the future to build these lanes as the volume of cycle traffic would not justify such a costly and disfiguring project to old North and core. Just look at the devastation to Colbourne Street and Cheapside to see little or no use of these lanes, but the danger to motor vehicle traffic has increased exponentially. I am a cyclist and in favour of lanes but not these monstrosities of "protected" lanes and the scarring to the landscape they have created . What were once beautiful streets are ugly eyesores.

Coming from Glasgow we learned the error of miscalculated urban planning , take wisdom from the City of Edinburgh and preserve the antiquity of the past and allow the planning of the future. We the house owners have all heavily invested into restoring our Core and an Old North properties. Lets not allow another Frankenstein project to what is left of the celebrated beauty of our past

Stop the selfish self seeking proposal of City Council and end this project.

Permission to publish
David McKeown