

**From:** Lara Chaloner

**Sent:** Sunday, September 22, 2024 2:12 PM

**To:** Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>; McAlister, Hadleigh <hmcAlister@london.ca>; Lewis, Shawn <slewis@london.ca>; Cuddy, Peter <pcuddy@london.ca>; Stevenson, Susan <sstevenson@london.ca>; Pribil, Jerry <jpribil@london.ca>; Rahman, Corrine <crahman@london.ca>; Lehman, Steve <slehman@london.ca>; Hopkins, Anna <ahopkins@london.ca>; Van Meerbergen, Paul <pvanmeerbergen@london.ca>; Franke, Skylar <sfranke@london.ca>; Ferreira, David <dferreira@london.ca>; Hillier, Steve <shillier@london.ca>; City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; Trosow, Sam <strosow@london.ca>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ward 6 Request: Desire for Public Consultation on Proposed 4-Story Townhouses in Old North (Concerns and questions outlined within)

*We would like this letter added to the September 24th meeting agenda regarding Item 3 Scheduled Item 3.6 c on page 412 of the agenda from September 10th 2024: Permit stacked townhouses up to four storeys in height along all streets classified as Neighbourhood Connectors. You have my consent for this to be made a part of public record.*

We are very upset by the recent dubious and unpublicized inclusion of proposed 4 story builds on connector streets, like Colborne St where we live. Our understanding of the city's current policy is to pursue infill opportunities. We are still clearly early in that journey with many many opportunities yet to be implemented. We are concerned that a huge change in the city's attempt to create densification, is being introduced as a misplaced solution.

The concept of densification has validity with the introduction of further mixed use builds. However, public consultation has been averted for reasons that are unclear to the public. A full city plan for densification needs to be presented and consulted on with the entire city population.

The destruction of current homes to allow for 4 story units to be built amongst single family dwellings (one and two story homes) is in need of consultation at the very least. This will affect people's quality of family life to say nothing of the integrity of the neighbourhoods.

We also wonder how this affects the current capacity of services/infrastructure on our streets: the water and sewer, the parking, storm water runoff, and utilities, not to mention trees and green space. There are qualifiers that our family feels need to be added but without public consultation to discuss their practicality, cannot be considered by staff nor inform the constituents.

While we appreciate the role that the City Planners have in setting the standards for the city, acting in a vacuum without consulting the constituents that live here is negligent. We stand by the need to increase the available living space within the city limits, rather than unethically take over more farmland. However, there are many opportunities in this city to create new mixed density housing without destroying homes, and likely entry level ones at that.

This is not a matter of "not here". This is a matter of preserving communities within London to ensure that we maintain the integrity of our neighbourhoods rather than leave people who don't live in those areas to make decisions about how we should be living and, to be blunt, what those neighbourhoods stand for. Old North is NOT downtown. It is a historical neighbourhood that should be able to retain the right to maintain its family-centric culture as one of the first subdivisions of the city.

We are asking that you take a pause and a step back and ensure that the people that live here, live in the neighbourhoods you are attempting to transform, are able to ask questions to understand and perhaps have a conversation so that, maybe, you can understand how this affects them and we can better understand what the options and intent are from you.

To this end, we ask that the consideration for approval of this recommendation be placed on hold until appropriate public consultation is done, inclusive in person information sessions.

Sincerely,

Lara Chaloner and Barron Mertens

London, ON

Lara Chaloner

*Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude...Martin Luther King Jr*