



Secretary to City Council  
City Clerk's Office  
City of London  
300 Dufferin Avenue  
London, ON N6A 4LP

June 22, 2014

Acting Mayor Swan and members of City Council,

We, the members of the Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association, understand that the new official plan for the City of London is under consideration and there are numerous aspects of the plan that are exciting and encouraging for our city and for those who take Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage issues seriously. We applaud the Planning Division staff at their dedication and diligence in bringing this draft of the new official plan forward. Given that several of our members attended many Rethink sessions, it does seem to reflect the feedback that we gave about keeping our green spaces and our heritage resources preserved and protected. Our letter pertains to the public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 23.

We would like clarification around two parts of the draft plan related to Mobility and Transportation:

**#67.8, Page 35:** Develop a continuous multi-use pathway network connecting parks and natural areas along the Thames Valley Corridor as the outdoor recreational spine of the city.

**#127, page 81:** Bicycle routes and pedestrian pathways will provide linkages between open space areas, neighbourhoods, centres, corridors, employment areas

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and the public transit services and will enhance the convenience, safety and enjoyment of walking and cycling.

We have just one concern about these sections of the draft plan: Given that many people want the natural resources of our open spaces, environmentally significant areas and areas of scientific interest **protected from** large, paved multi-use paths, it doesn't seem clear the way that this section is worded about bicycle routes leading **up to the open space areas, but not going through those areas.**

We would like some clarity and reassurance that such bicycle routes will not use our natural heritage system for such paths. A good deal of discussion and study was put forward in the **Trail Management Guidelines** for the London area and we would like those guidelines to be respected in term of Meadowlily Woods and the other sensitive environmental areas of the city.

There is one other sections of the Draft of the Official Plan that we would appreciate some clarification around:

**#273, p. 90** Wetlands identified through the application of the *Ecological Land Classification* system or provincial evaluation procedures, but not achieving a score high enough to warrant Provincially Significant Wetland status **may be delineated** on Map 6 as Locally Significant Wetlands and included in the Open Space Place Type on Map 4.

Our particular environmentally significant area, Meadowlily Woods, is under a Conservation Master Plan study and it seems areas of sensitivity and concern need to be identified and discussed before any change of classification of our wetland areas are considered. From our last conversations with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources office in Aylmer and the city ecologists, we were assured that the Meadowlily Wetland Evaluation Studies of 2004 and 2008, where our wetland areas achieved a **score of 600** or higher warranted recognition as a provincially significant wetland and that the Ecological Land Classification system registered our wetland areas as being provincially significant.

Is this evaluation process, mentioned in paragraph 273, transparent and does it involve community and public input? We have evidence to the effect that there are **more** species on the Species at Risk list for endangered species

than there were in 2004 or 2008, not less! Does the wording “Locally Significant Wetlands” from “Provincially Significant Wetland” imply a downgrading of the status of our wetlands in Meadowlily Woods?

Due to the role that Environmentally Significant Areas plays in the issue of planning London’s future, we feel a need to address these concerns with City Council as the new Official Plan moves forward.

We appreciate your attention to this request,

Gary Smith  
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“Our Mission: To Preserve and Protect the Integrity of Meadowlily Woods”