



101, Windermere Road West, London, ON N6G 2J4

Acting Mayor Joni Baechler,
City of London
300 Dufferin Ave.
London ON

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Re: The application concerning 161 Windermere Road W.

Dear Ms. Baechler and Members of Council

I am writing as Chair of Heritage London Foundation, a charitable organization which has its headquarters at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate at 101 Windermere Road. HLF is responsible for the day to day maintenance and upkeep of the City-owned historic Estate house and grounds, and as custodians of the Estate house we are well aware that the area around the Estate is one of outstanding natural beauty and ecological significance. Our Board's position has for a long time been that we should always support moves to protect the natural features and peaceful beauty of the Medway Valley.

We are therefore deeply concerned about the application before you to redevelop the land behind the house at 161 Windermere.

Infill and intensification are relatively new by-words of urban planning and most of us agree that in many cases, underutilized land can be sensitively intensified. We do submit however that not every proposal for intensification has merit. There are occasions when there needs to be protection of historic architecture and streetscapes and there certainly needs to be protection of natural areas which are vital to the health of a river or creek. Encroaching too close to rivers and creeks comes at a cost. Even run-off from domestic use of lawn fertilizers and the results of simple activities like car-washing can have major impact on waterways, to say nothing of the destruction of natural habitat of animals as well as trees and other plant life.

Just because these natural features are on private property does not give a person a right to ignore their value to the wider ecology of the area.

We urge you to deny this request in the interest of protecting an area of important natural features, but at the very least delay the decision until a fuller environmental impact study can be completed .

Yours truly,
Susan Bentley
Susan Bentley (Mrs.)
Chair: Heritage London Foundation