



2016 April 14

Mayor Matt Brown and City Council
City of London

RE: Zoning Application Z-8596 - 1800 Cedarhollow Boulevard

Dear Mayor Matt Brown and City Council,

The Thames Valley District School Board would like to take this opportunity to clarify and provide additional information to support the Zoning Application Z-8596. The application, if approved, would allow for the construction of a new elementary school, an on-site child care facility and a City of London Family Centre in the Northeast area of the City of London.

Clarification is required to address questions asked and statements made at the Planning and Environmental Committee public meeting (April 11, 2016) and reports in the media.

Please be advised of the following:

1. In 2010, the TVDSB opened Stoney Creek Public School in Northeast London. It was constructed on the only serviced school designated parcel available in the Northeast. Stoney Creek Public School quickly exceeded its capacity illustrating the need for another school in the area.
2. The TVDSB first submitted a business case for growth funding, to the Ministry of Education, for an additional school in the Stoney Creek area on May 31, 2012. Further business cases were again submitted on October 31, 2013 and July 15, 2015 illustrating that the TVDSB has been planning for an additional school in the area for several years.
3. TVDSB has been actively searching for an elementary school site in the Northeast area of the City of London for approximately four years. Board Administration met with City staff in 2013 to discuss site selection options including future City plans for the extension of municipal services.
4. TVDSB retained a planning consultant to assist with a site search using a standardized set of criteria in which the Board bases the decision as to the appropriateness and functionality for a school site of this size.
5. The Cedarhollow site has met all the Boards' criteria for a new school site. The site will also allow approximately 250 students to walk to the school, which is an important consideration for locating a school in an urban area.
6. The Board approved the proposed attendance area and opening for the new Northeast London Elementary school in April 2014. The attendance area encompasses the area north of the Thames River west of Highbury Avenue, north to the city limits and East to Clarke Road. The new attendance area is projected to have approximately 500 students by 2017.

7. The placement of major arterial roads (Fanshawe Park, Sunningdale and Highbury) would affect any school location within this attendance area and the necessity of transportation for the safety of students.
8. The City's urban growth boundary, which crosses the attendance area, was a concern raised at the Planning and Environmental Committee public meeting. As stated at that meeting, any potential school located in that area would have an attendance area dissecting the urban growth boundary. Attendance areas created by the TVDSB may not always follow municipal or neighborhood boundaries since they are based on wider geographies.
9. The TVDSB received approval from the Ministry of Education to purchase the site on December 14, 2015 and approval to construct an elementary school and child care facility on November 9, 2015. The City of London requested the Board to include a Family Centre in the facility on November 24, 2015. Without this funding approval the Board was unable to commit to the purchase of the site and the construction of the school.
10. Currently there are approximately 500 students awaiting the construction of a new school in the area that are currently located in portables or being held temporarily at Holding Schools.
11. The TVDSB is moving as quickly as possible to accommodate these students within the requirements as determined by the Ministry of Education concerning the construction and opening of a new school.

The Thames Valley District School Board requests City Council's consideration for the approval of zoning for this site. This will enable construction of the new school to commence in the summer of 2016, with a proposed opening in September 2017. The new school will accommodate students in the Northeast area of the City of London, provide licensed child care services, and offer Family Centre activities. These amenities will allow the facility to act as a community hub.

Sincerely,



Bill McKinnon
Chairperson

bm/dlg