

Members: Civic Works Committee.

April 30 2016

Councillor J. Helmer (Chair)
Councillor M. Cassidy
Councillor A. Hopkins
Councillor J. Morgan
Councillor M. van Holst

Sent via e mail

Aldersbrook Gate, London, ON

I am writing to seek some reasonable resolution to the traffic situation regarding Aldersbrook Gate here in London.

Aldersbrook Gate is approximately 900 feet long and runs north and south from Aldersbrook Road to Fanshawe Park Road.

In the initial design over 30 years ago, I am sure it was contemplated some traffic was necessary. However, as residential and commercial growth has increased significantly surrounding this location, this short street cannot handle the amount of traffic it now experiences.

There have been many accidents at Aldersbrook Gate and Fanshawe Park Rd; some serious and many not reported.

Residents have sent concerns to councillors representing this ward with no success or relief forthcoming. These concerns go back many years, and while some city engineers have attended the location, nothing has been done to relieve this dangerous and intolerable situation.

We have been promised traffic studies which were not done, to our knowledge. In addition, the residents have made several suggestions which could alleviate the situation. These suggestions have been given little if any consideration.

Suggestions such as:

Restricting turns from 7:00 am until 9:00 am and from 4:00 pm until 6.30 pm, both from Aldersbrook Road and Fanshawe Park Rd onto Aldersbrook Gate. Speed bumps was another suggestion, and making Aldersbrook Gate a one-way street would definitely resolve the issue.

It has been suggested by our councillors that once Dalmagary opens up this will resolve the issues. Quite frankly, this is not going to occur. There are new residential rental units being built just west of Aldersbrook Gate and this can only have the effect on increasing the traffic flow to this short street.

More residential and commercial units are being built in the surrounding areas which again will increase traffic on Aldersbrook Gate.

The traffic is so bad, residents have difficulty getting in and out of their driveways. This traffic congestion also has the effect of not allowing residents to enjoy their property, not to mention the safety concerns residents had previously raised to their representatives.

Residents should be able to live on and enjoy their property in peace without the disturbance of excessive traffic issues

During the day drivers use residents driveways to turn around; this is an ongoing and increasing frustrating issue not to mention safety concerns.

I would suggest city officials attend Aldersbrook Gate between the hours of 6:30 am until around 9:00 am to see the issue first hand. I am sure they will soon realize this short street was never designed nor meant to handle the traffic it now experiences.

It had been suggested reducing the speed limit from 50 to 40 kilometers per hour might solve the issue. It is not the speed that is the main concern, it simply is the amount of traffic Aldersbrook Gate experiences. When it was designed over 30 years ago the current traffic volume could not have been imagined.

Growth in the city is a good thing and it is also good for the city's tax base. However, when planning growth, the city planners must take into account the potential impact to the surrounding areas and roadways. It appears obvious this was not done in the case of Aldersbrook Gate.

Then there is the truck issue. Trucks continually use Aldersbrook Gate as a cut through. It is interesting to note that there is a sign restricting truck traffic onto Aldersbrook Gate. However, "***what the sign giveth, the by law taketh away***" Below is the by law in question. As can be seen in section 3 it makes enforcement impossible.

Again, this increases traffic issues and presents a safety concern. .

Heavy Truck Restrictions (Schedule 14) 27.

(1) In this section "prohibited street" means any street or part thereof within the City of London not set forth in Schedule 14 of this by-law and upon which there are erected signs prohibiting heavy trucks.

(2) No person shall operate or park a heavy truck on a prohibited street.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply where a heavy truck is being necessarily operated in the usual conduct of business and proceeds by way of the shortest route to or from any street or part thereof set forth in Schedule 14 of this by-law.

(4) The City Clerk shall keep and maintain accurate maps illustrating those streets or parts thereof in Schedule 14, which maps shall be available to the public.

(5) The General Manager is hereby authorized to cause the streets not listed in Schedule 14 to be marked with signs to prohibit their use by heavy trucks.

(6) This section does not apply to heavy trucks being used for deliveries to or removals from properties being used for agricultural purposes.

(7) Notwithstanding any other sections of this by-law to the contrary, subsection (2) shall not apply to school buses between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday inclusive and from September 1st to June 30th inclusive.

In conclusion, tax payers expect the elected officials to take issues raised seriously, and to work hard to find a reasonable solution. This to date has not occurred.

The suggestions made in this letter would be cost effective and will not place any unreasonable burden on the city.

We therefore ask the Civic Works Committee to take some positive steps to examine the issues raised in this writing, and further, to make recommendations which will alleviate this serious concern raised by the residents of Aldersbrook Gate for many years.

It would be advantageous for all concerned to have this resolved amicable without the need to go public to draw attention to these serious concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

On behalf of the residents of Aldersbrook Gate

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