

From: Joan Young

Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 10:34 PM

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Cc: Martin, Jackie <JMartin@London.ca>

Subject: PLEASE - NO SIDEWALKS!

Dear Councillors,

As many of you are by now aware, the City's plan to install unwanted sidewalks in our area of Oakridge is a HUGE issue.

A whopping majority of residents in our area of Oakridge (bound by East, West & North Mile Roads) have signed and submitted a petition stating that we do not want sidewalks included in the proposed infrastructure work slated for 2017 & 2018. We just need our streets properly paved.

Our group has: sent emails to councillors, written "letters to the editor" of the LFP, gathered info re. tree removal and probable tree damage, requested and received road measurements from the Engineer's Dept., and repeatedly asked Paul Hubert, our councillor, to represent the wishes of the people who live here.

The "London Plan" has been cited as the major reason guiding this agenda. However, we feel that the values stated in that document, ie transparency, collaboration with communities, maintaining a green environment, etc. have not been upheld.

A consultative approach should have been initiated by the City. We were never included in the plan to install concrete walkways and curbs & gutters. Swales are actually a much more environmentally friendly alternative to gutters. (Glen Cairn will be getting swales!) Apparently the MOE is bringing in new legislation this year that swales are to be installed henceforth. And why doesn't the City use LID to preserve the watershed and clean the water before it reaches the Thames River?

Many of the mature trees, which enrich and enhance our 60 + year old neighbourhood will be at risk. Construction will disrupt them (by at least 25%) and the gutters will reduce the amount of water that our trees currently receive. Is this not "The Forest City"? One million trees are to be planted yet many of ours will be removed and/or threatened.

The "London Plan" stresses walkability; our roads are already walkable. They're wide and the traffic volume is very low, so low in fact, that it doesn't even register on a scale! Valetta, our busiest street is only a 2.

These roads are not through streets, as has been suggested. They are used primarily by the residents. The streets that lead to the schools, churches and community centre, to whom people living outside the area visit, already have sidewalks.

We have contacted some local activists in London. They are advising us to let you, our councillors, know exactly how we feel, so you'll have more information before our delegate addresses the Civic Works Committee on Feb. 21.

I hope you will consider our position, as this current plan makes no financial or environmental sense to any of us.

Sincerely,
Joan Young