

April 9, 2018

To the Chair and Members of the Planning and Environment Committee:

Councillor S. Turner (Chair)
Councillor A. Hopkins (Vice Chair)
Councillor J. Helmer
Councillor M. Cassidy
Councillor T. Park
CC: Councillor J. Morgan

**Subject: Public Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee of Council
Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (South) Conservation Master Plan – April 16th**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Medway Valley Trail Discussion. I am a resident of the area and will be directly impacted by the recommendation the Planning and Environment Committee makes on this issue. For this reason, I hope that you will factor my input into your decision making process.

I believe the needs of our community are best served by a fully connected, and accessible paved path system. This is based on three key points:

- 1) A connected and accessible paved path system meets the various mobility needs of our community now and in the future**
 - This is not just a request from our group but is in fact the law
 - The AODA requires The City to make new trail systems accessible in areas where this will not cause harm to the environment
 - We believe this area meets this criteria given the sewer and utility infrastructure that is installed in the location we would like the path system
- 2) Well managed trail systems can provide better protection of the environment**
 - Literature supports that areas with well managed trail systems have less impact to the environment
 - People stay on the trail instead of using and creating more informal trails
 - More utilization of the trails create more stewards for the care of the area
 - We have the data that supports this from the trail system in the North
- 3) The City has spent considerable amounts of money to develop a multi-use system surrounding the trail in question**
 - The City has recently approved a pedestrian crossing over Richmond St (Just north of Sunningdale)
 - The plans for Upper Richmond Village and future Sunningdale Golf course properties include a multi-use path system leading up to the paved system in the North
 - These three systems will funnel people from a large catchment area from a paved multi-use system on to an inadequate system if paved paths are not provided south of Fanshawe in the Medway Valley

While recognizing that this pathway system is located in the environmentally significant area it is important to note that it is installed over a sewer trunk line in an urbanized area. This provides a unique opportunity to provide access into this natural area for members of our community that may not normally be able to access such areas.

In summary, ESAs and people can and should coexist. It is through community involvement and stewardship that these areas are going to be protected and appreciated. The management objectives in the London Plan and Conservation Master Plans are to protect the ESAs, improve public safety, encourage partnership and education, and promote and enforce proper use. It is not to prevent or limit access to these areas, or provide discriminatory access to people with different accessibility needs.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and please include this letter within the Planning and Environment Meeting Agenda Package.

Sincerely,

Alin Cojocaru, 2345 Humberside Common, London, ON, N6G 0P2