

From: James B Davies
Sent: March 28, 2018 5:41 PM
To: Morgan, Josh <joshmorgan@london.ca>
Subject: Bridges over the Medway River

Dear Mayor and Member of the Planning & Environment Committee of City Council,

My wife and I are 30+ year residents of the Sherwood Forest area. My family has made many visits to the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area over the years. We have always tried to respect this as an environmentally significant area, and taught our kids (now grown) to treat it that way. The kids even contributed to the improvement of the area by participating in the careful planting of indigenous species of bushes and trees in the meadow just south of the Windermere Rd/Gainsborough Rd line that was organized by the former Sherwood Forest Elementary School. The valley matters a lot to us, as does its designation as an environmentally significant area.

We are strongly opposed to the proposal currently being considered to put two bridges across the river. This proposal moves in the direction of making the valley a recreational area. It will encourage traffic across the river, bringing not only more pedestrians, but also bicycles and possibly unauthorized motorized traffic at certain hours. All of this is likely to degrade the environment, with paths being widened, plants trampled, birds and other animals displaced and so on. There are lots of other recreational areas and opportunities available. It isn't necessary to wear down one of the city's genuine environmental treasures to augment those opportunities.

While I recognize that the interests of residents in Sherwood Forest and Orchard Park are not the only ones you must consider, it is also important to recognize that putting in these bridges will have a significant negative impact on many residents of our area. Many of us chose to live here in no small part because of proximity to the valley. For example, it was after walking from the university to Longbow Road through the valley that we decided to put an offer on our house here, back in 1983. We really value the peace and serenity of the valley, and the natural environment it preserves. So, although there might be some residents of other areas who would feel that they would gain from the bridges being installed, there would also be a large group of losers in our area. I hope you will take that into account most seriously in your deliberations.

Sincerely,
Jim Davies
60 Longbow Road