

From: W or D Wake
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 9:23 AM
To: ahopkins@london.ca
Subject: draft Old East Village Dundas Street Corridor Secondary Plan,

Anna Hopkins
Chair, Planning and Environment Committee
City of London

Dear Anna Hopkins,

I have just made a careful reading of the draft "Old East Village Dundas Street Corridor Secondary Plan" and the associated report to PEC from John Fleming dated February 19, 2019.

While the draft plan contains many commendable features, I am surprised and disappointed that I was unable to find any mention of a commitment to conserving significant natural heritage resources that occur in the area.

I am specifically referring to a bird known as the Chimney Swift, which nests in a number of chimneys within the plan boundary. The Chimney Swift is designated as a Threatened Species both federally and provincially and is protected under both federal and provincial species-at-risk legislation. In chimneys used by swifts, alterations to chimneys and/or the heating systems associated with them can have very negative consequences for this species, which has declined in Canada by 90% since 1970.

From time to time in past years I have provided the City Planning Department with locations for some chimneys within the Secondary Plan area known to be used by swifts. The area contains quite a few additional chimneys that either are used by swifts or have high potential to be so used. All such chimneys should be carefully investigated for swift use before alterations are made to these chimneys or buildings.

Chimney Swifts nest and roost in a number of chimneys in the McCormick area, and their conservation issues were addressed in the McCormick Area Plan. This makes it all the more surprising that Chimney Swifts and their habitat needs have not been incorporated into the current Old East Village Secondary Plan.

I urge the city

- 1) To include in the Old East Village Dundas Street Corridor Secondary Plan a commitment to identify and conserve significant natural heritage resources, such as Chimney Swifts and their nesting habitat, and
- 2) To contact Kathleen Buck, Management Biologist | Aylmer District (Natural Resources and Forestry) | 519-773-4785 | for additional information.

Sincerely,

Winifred Wake,
Chimney Swift Liaison for Nature London