

We, the residents of Silverleaf, are requesting reconsideration of our request to forego the second sidewalk on the east side of Silverleaf Chase and inside of Silver Creek Crescent based on the following:

- In the presentation by the residents at the PEC meeting, the residents made it abundantly clear that the issue WAS NOT about driveways, lawns, etc. and any possible damage to same. It was clearly stated that should the residents fail in their appeal; the matter would be between the residents and the developer from that point on, i.e., nothing to do with the City. It has always been about safety, road mobility, unfettered access to roads by residents and clear access for service, transportation and emergency vehicles. During the full Council deliberations, the PEC members on Council made it seem that it was only about the one issue we specifically said it was not, e.g.,
Turner: “the question really at the root of this was whether people were going to lose a bit of their lawn that they deem theirs, the road allowance is within the City’s property.”
Hopkins: “...and the concern from the residents was that they were not aware that a second sidewalk was going to be put in...”
Deputy Mayor: “People have built driveways before the sidewalks went in. It’s not the City’s fault... I think there is going to be a resolution of that conflict... between the builder and the owners...and I think we should stay out of that...dispute between the people that own these properties and...”
Cassidy: “...this is a conflict possibly between the builder and the home purchasers, and they need to resolve that conflict.”
- Since the resident’s original presentation to PEC, the London Fire Department came through the subdivision and experienced great difficulty in getting through, and at one point came to a complete stop and had to lay on the horn until someone came out to move their vehicle. During the wait for the car to move, we spoke to the driver of the firetruck who said “...this road is a problem...”. This same problem will undoubtedly also be experienced at some point by ambulance and other emergency services. This same problem has already been experienced by garbage collection, recycling, paratransit and school buses.

Clearly, the issue that ALL residents of the community are concerned about is the impact the narrow Silverleaf Chase and Silver Creek streets are and will continue to have on the unfettered access of emergency, service and transportation vehicles. As the recent difficulty experienced by the fire truck illuminates, ‘*this is a problem*’. How much more evidence do we need to share for the real issue to be heard?

We are looking to the City to assist the residents of this subdivision in coming up with a solution(s) to help minimize this issue. We note that this problem is will only intensify after the summer-vacation period is over and after the less than half-completed subdivision is fully built out.

We, the community, feel that our initial request was misunderstood and identified that out of personal preference, we didn't want a sidewalk. If this was the issue, we would be dealing with our builders and developers to settle any conflicts as this would not be the City's responsibility.

We completely endorse the ideology and vision of the City with respect to Vision Zero, but not everything is a cookie cutter situation. Situations such as Silverleaf will arise that require exceptions. The road being approx. 5 feet narrower than other roads has clearly created a road mobility issue and the people living here and using these roads daily are sharing with you what the real problems are. We are asking the City for help in preventing a current problem from becoming much worse. We believe that adding a secondary sidewalk will only force additional vehicles to park on an already difficult to maneuver road. The fact of the matter is, regardless of who parks on the road, be it residents or visitors or service vehicles, there are road mobility issues; this is why residents on the opposite side of the streets that currently have sidewalks installed are also petitioning for this. One of the biggest concerns is the safety of our children. A road with very little room to maneuver can be unsafe for the children who decide to run from one sidewalk to the other. The solution to these issues may also have to include one-sided parking. We are willing to work with the City to come up with the best solution(s).

We look forward to working together with the City to resolve this difficult situation.

For these reasons, we believe that the residents of Silverleaf Chase and Silver Creek Crescent are deserving of an opportunity to properly present their case to full Council.

Thank you

The Silverleaf Community.