

**From:** Catherine

**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 12:08 PM

**To:** CWC <cwc@london.ca>; Lehman, Steve <slehman@london.ca>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mud Creek Stormwater Management Project

Civic Works Committee

City of London

The residents and property owners on Braemar Crescent have been engaged and attentive to the Mud Creek Stormwater Management Project since it was first discussed – at least five years ago. Many have attended multiple meetings and consultations during the environmental assessment, have emailed with city staff, and have walked with city staff through the area to get a full understanding of the changes proposed.

However, what is taking place is not at all what was described to us:

1. We were told *some* trees would need to be removed and that it would be very selective. It is much more extensive than described.
2. The more recent issue is we were told an access road would need to be made immediately south of the CN rail track to get equipment in, and we were provided with a map on the August 26<sup>th</sup> information letter to show us where the access road would go. Now it is clear that this is not at all an accurate depiction of what is happening behind our houses. The area is huge and extends at least five properties past where it is indicated on the map. (see the map provided to us at <https://getinvolved.london.ca/mudcreek> )

When I wrote to city staff to ask about this, I was told the map is a “very general schematic diagram of the work” and the extra space will be used as a staging area.

When I asked why this huge staging area was never disclosed to us or marked on any of the maps supplied to us, I was told “Specific construction operations and details are not shared with the public for comment.” Obviously this is problematic.

This surely must be contrary to the Council's approach to civic engagement that it would allow staff and consultants to downplay the actual size and impacts of infrastructure projects when asked directly by the public what the impact of a project might be. Citizens should never be surprised by what is taking place.

Since the time of the final public consultation related to the environmental assessment, there has obviously been a detailed design of the project completed, and this detail would have been clear to city staff long before the August 26<sup>th</sup> information letter was sent to us. Why wasn't an accurate depiction of the work shown on that map that was distributed to the homeowners adjacent to the project? Or why wasn't a pre-construction meeting held? This is standard procedure for road resurfacing, so surely larger projects such as stormwater management demand the same.

Now we are concerned that the statements at the meetings about restoration and mitigation will not be completed as we were told as well.

I am requesting that this letter appear on the next agenda. I would like an explanation through Council from staff as to why this happened, and moving forward, how communication with the public can be more transparent and accurate. I would appreciate it if Council could direct staff to implement a new communication strategy for such projects. I would also ask that the restoration plans for the site shown on the attached map be shared with residents.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Blake

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