

Dear Chair and members of the CPSC,

Residents surrounding the Holy Cross School on Elm Street in the Hamilton Road area have gathered many signatures on a petition requesting that no development proceed here. The concern is that additional affordable housing will harm the area since it already consists entirely of affordable housing. Further, the initiative would harm our attempts for urban regeneration as expressed through the Hamilton Road CIP.

Signatories believe that park facilities (a spray pad for instance) or the construction of a local community centre would best mitigate the challenges faced by the neighbourhood, while more affordable housing would only exacerbate those difficulties.

Residents did acknowledge the need for more housing in London, and some were open to the idea that specialized forms of housing such as a retirement complex for those who wish to age in place or an artists' co-op could be an acceptable alternative. Condominiums might resolve the dilemma of those senior homeowners in the area who wish to downsize but still retain ownership of a residence, noting that the sales would immediately provide the city with sufficient capital to construct additional housing.

London sometimes helps people in a way that makes the city seem worse instead of helping them in a way that makes the city seem better. The local residents are hoping for the latter, and for that reason, I offer the following suggestions to your committee:

- a) That plans for the construction of park facilities or a community hub be brought forward as an alternative to residential development, or
- b) That options for innovative housing developments be brought forward for the purpose of creating positive synergies in the area.

Sincerely,

Michael van Holst