

From: Red McLarty

Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 1:51 PM

To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>

Cc: van Holst, Michael <mvanholst@london.ca>; Lewis, Shawn <slewis@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Closure of River Road

I have been a member of the City of London golf system since I moved here upon retirement. For 6 years, I have enjoyed golfing at River Road almost exclusively as I live in the East End of London. River Road is the only 'real' golf course in this area, and while I do like the other city courses, I don't believe they are as nice as River Road.

Ever since I came to London, I have heard many times how River Road was not making enough money and is on probation. Yet in those 6 years, I have NEVER heard of ANY suggestions from the city on how to make it more playable or profitable. In fact, it seems River Road has been left on its own with no additional resources to try and improve it. Now the reports suggest it will cost too much to keep River Road open in the future, because of the maintenance and improvements it requires! Not very surprising since so little money has come this way over the past 6 years.

This past year was a time when the city golf courses should have been made more accessible, instead we made them harder to use. Keeping River Road closed showed that the permanent closure of this course was a foregone conclusion, and as such, reports from both KPMG and city staff have made the data reflect that foregone conclusion.

It is clear that the people who make this proposal do not believe golf should be a benefit to all Londoners. Instead, London's East Enders are getting short shifted again.

If the conclusion is to close River Road permanently, then I will strongly advocate that the City of London shutter ALL of its golf courses, and get out of the business altogether. If the people running the city golf courses can't make it work for everyone, then they are not the right people for the job.

As River Road is on a flood plain, and the others are not, I believe Thames Valley will be a great place to build affordable housing for the city. The Fanshawe and Quarry courses would also be valuable as housing developments.

I know this is falling on deaf ears,

Sincerely,

Red McLarty
London, ON