

From: Brian and Donna Knowles

Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 9:12 PM

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] River Road Golf Course

To begin as a tax payer in the City of London, I am in favour of the City of London opening and operating River Road Golf Course in the Spring of 2021. There is the possibility that continuing Covid restrictions which impacted all golf courses in a positive way in 2020 could result in more rounds being experienced throughout the system in 2021. Having read the KPMG report <https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=70901> to the City based on 2018-2019 operations, purely on an economic basis one could agree that the obvious path for the City would be to close the River Road operation or sell the property for continued operation or lease it to a current golf course operator, allowing it to meet the needs of existing or future players in the area.

Having said this, I am in favour of maintaining the status quo, the City is probably going to cover any short-term losses through the land appreciation and with new residential development taking place in the southeast quadrant hopefully these younger residents will be golfers.

When the City talks about saving money, the small amount associated with River Road golf course represents rounding off compared to the following areas of expense:

- LTC expenses presently and going forward in an ever-changing world out of control.
- Core Area expenditures to improve the area giving huge grants (give away) and tax incentives to developers, and look at how successful this has been. Also bike path expenditures to please small portion of population.
- Social housing (not that we don't need it) but high cost and huge maintenance costs going forward and unfunded
- Subsidization of industrial land and development costs.
- Not sure if it costs City (taxpayer) but the investment in soccer fields has been significant in recent years, underground watering, mowing at least twice a week.
- Investment in the Arts impacts only a small percentage of the population
- etc. etc,

In closing it is lucky that the Thames and River Road courses do not pay taxes if so, they would both be in trouble. In the KPMG report they identified an item of expense which was "*Wages and Benefits*" which accounted for 52.8% while the industry norm was 37.8%. Perhaps through the analysis of all operating income and expenses the Net Operating Income could be increased. Obviously, London like most other municipalities has developed golf courses to meet the needs of those that can't afford private memberships and allow our youth the experience golf at a reasonable rate.

Please vote to approve the continued operation of the River Road Golf Course beginning in 2021. Thank you.

Brian Knowles

Do not look back. That is not the direction we are going.