

February 16, 2021

Mayor Ed Holder

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City of London

314 - 300 Dufferin Ave

London, Ontario N6B 1Z2

Councillor Steve Lehman

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Ward 8 Councillor

City of London

314 - 300 Dufferin Ave

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We the undersigned are writing to voice our concerns and opposition to the proposed sidewalk which would run on the south side of St Anthony Road between Hyde Park and Hampton Crescent.

Our neighbourhood, sometimes referred to as Old Hazelden or South Hazelden, is located between Riverside Drive and the Thames River, west of Hyde Park Road. It is an entirely residential subdivision with fewer than 180 homes, and a road network consisting of 5 small local roads. The subdivision is very quiet, with extremely low traffic volumes, and no identifiable Destination Points or Points of Interest, like schools, churches or stores. Traffic is generated strictly to and from the homes within the neighbourhood, with little, if any "pass through/cut through traffic", due to the configuration of the neighbourhood in conjunction with adjacent secondary collector roads. St Anthony Road is not used as a "short cut" to anywhere and the neighbourhood does not facilitate a municipal bus route.

Many local residents walk and cycle frequently through the entire neighbourhood day and evening, and they do so along the curb. As a quiet pedestrian neighbourhood, traffic moves at slower speeds. All residents know and expect there will be people walking along the side of the road and operate their vehicles accordingly.

We do not believe that the installation of sidewalks on St Anthony Road will increase the safety or accessibility for pedestrians within the neighbourhood, and discussion with residents and pedestrians has identified that people do not feel at risk when walking or cycling on the road. Additionally the installation of the sidewalk on only a small segment of one street within the entire neighbourhood lacks continuity and becomes almost redundant, as people are just as likely to remain walking on the road. The design limits of this proposal will essentially create a sidewalk along one block, connecting nothing to nothing.

The overall character of our neighbourhood is appealing because of its large mature trees, large lots, and the fact that it is a pedestrian neighbourhood without sidewalks. People purchased homes in this area because of this aesthetic and charm. The proposal identifies the loss of 10 out of 35 trees, and it is likely that the remaining 25 trees will suffer stress related to the cutting of roots. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that there will be no damage in the months and years following the proposed installation. Our concern does not only pertain to trees on city property, but also to trees

and vegetation within our own properties which will be affected by the proposed installation. The loss of any mature vegetation in this area is a loss that will affect the neighbourhood aesthetic for years to come.

The installation of sidewalks along St Anthony Road will also adversely impact the parking capacity of individual residential driveways, reducing many existing four car driveways to two car driveways. Many homes within the neighbourhood house larger, multi-generational and/or blended families, maintaining 3 or more vehicles, and the reduced parking capacity may not only pose significant issues and hardship, but also a perceived loss in property value.

Additionally, winter maintenance of the proposed sidewalks creates a significant concern, as the condition of municipal sidewalks within smaller residential subdivisions in the City of London during the winter is not made a priority, and is often poor at best. In nearby residential areas with sidewalks, pedestrians often choose to walk on the road due to the poor and icy conditions of the sidewalks in the winter, rendering these sidewalks useless. Further to this, there are often many issues in the spring in regard to displaced sod and grass adjacent to residential properties, due to less than diligent sidewalk winter maintenance.

In conclusion, we are strongly opposed to the installation of the proposed sidewalk and believe that it will adversely impact the aesthetic appeal and character of the neighbourhood in addition to having a detrimental impact to the individual property values of affected homes. We take great pride in our properties and our neighbourhood, and we are convinced that the proposed sidewalk would not significantly increase the safety or accessibility of our community, and would instead result in significant environmental and social impact with little to no benefit to the community as a whole.

We strongly object to the City of London imposing unnecessary and unrequested infrastructure upon our neighbourhood, and as tax-payers, we believe that funds would be better allocated towards repairing failing municipal infrastructure elsewhere, such as repaving or reconstructing Hyde Park Road south of Riverside.

Attached please find a petition in opposition to the installation of sidewalks within Old Hazelden - we authorize its use within the public agenda to be presented to the Civic Works Committee meeting of March 2, 2021, and we trust it will be granted serious regard and consideration.

Thank you.

Jacqueline Miller (Pardo)

and

Jodie Lucente

on behalf of Concerned Citizens of Old Hazelden