

Submission Requestion Sidewalk Exemption for Friars Way and Doncaster streets

Dear CWC Members and Councillors of the City of London;

I have been privy to some of the submissions by my neighbors opposing the installations of sidewalks and would like to accentuate these concerns and add a few more.

1. I am unaware of anyone on Doncaster Ave who favors the proposal to install sidewalks. It goes without saying that I am also unaware of any community concern that that would have led to a request by residents that sidewalks should be installed.
2. Given this for starters, what is the installation cost for something that the neighborhood did not request and once hearing the plan opposes?
3. What is the cost of the removal of the trees that the city recently planted and would have to be removed in order to install the sidewalks. On our property (like most) there two such trees. In addition, what was the cost to install these trees in the first place? Add to that the cost in time and water to those of us who, at the city's request, took care of these trees once they were planted.
4. What is the projected cost (just financial for now) for the removal and damage to trees that have been a part of this neighborhood since its creation?
5. What will be the cost of the removal and damage to trees that neighbors, like ourselves have planted and nurtured since then? We have invested more than the cost of the trees.
6. Who will be responsible for and what will be the cost of the maintenance of the sidewalks if they were to be installed? Right now this is the City's responsibility with good will assistance from residents. Either way there will be a cost to residents, again for something they do not want. In order to estimate that cost we would need to know if taking care of the sidewalks in the winter is to be done by the city. The plausibility of this is another issue. Right now it would be impossible for residents to clear snow and nearly impossible for the city even with their sidewalk plows to clear the sidewalks given the size of snowbanks given the amount of snow, the height of the snowbanks once the city plows have done the streets and residences have had their driveways cleared. I can provide photos on request. If the city is not clearing the sidewalks and residents were expected to this would be a considerable additional cost to many of us, especially senior residents.
7. I understand that one of the arguments for sidewalks in this immediate area is safety. Our children have walked to three different schools in this area from Kindergarten through high school and we never had any concern about not having sidewalks in this area. None of the streets in question is a through street or a short cut.
8. Part of the logic of my opposition to the installation of sidewalks is that one of the key attractions for buying here in the first place was the country style of suburbia. Among the most significant features of this are the lack of sidewalks, the numerous and varied trees and the non-grid nature of the community. I was happy to pay more for that and now a big part of that formula could be removed. It is not an unreasonable extension to assume that this would also have a negative effect on property values. On top of that, as I have noted in a number of the points above, there are substantial costs for installation, restoration and upkeep for a project to which people living in the community are opposed.

Everyone agrees that this is a unique neighborhood and residents for decades have contributed to the maintenance and enhancement of those unique features. I hope that the powers that be will trust the people who have invested their resources, time, energy and genuine caring into this neighborhood to know what is best for it.

Respectfully submitted

Craig Boydell