

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sidewalk on Doncaster Place - Council Meeting on March 23, 2021

Mr Mayor and Members of Council:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to not accept the recommendation of the Civic Works Committee to require that sidewalks be constructed throughout the Sherwood Forest area and specifically on Doncaster Place.

Others more eloquent than I am will put forward the numerous objections with respect to the wholesale destruction of trees that will be required if the construction of the new sidewalks is permitted through the area. I will simply address another matter.

Doncaster Place is a small cul-de-sac with only 11 single family houses on it that runs in a more or less easterly direction from Doncaster Avenue near where that street ends at Friar's Way. The houses were all constructed between 50 and 55 years ago.

My family have lived in the same house on Doncaster Place since the house was completed early in 1969. There are 3 trees in front of our house that will be destroyed if the the proposed sidewalk is constructed on the north side of Doncaster Place.

The short cul-de-sac receives little traffic, either from vehicles or pedestrians. There is so little traffic that there is neither a stop sign or even a yield sign at the end of Doncaster Place where it joins the much busier street of Doncaster Avenue.

If the proposed sidewalk is constructed, it will be an orphan sidewalk constructed from nowhere to nowhere and will run up a fairly steep hill.

It will not connect with any sidewalk on Doncaster Avenue and will come to a halt part way up a hill after being built in front of only three houses.

If it is built, I suggest that it will be a possible safety hazard for any pedestrian using it because it does not connect with any other sidewalk whatsoever.

While it is proposed to construct a new sidewalk on the east side of Doncaster Avenue for the fairly short distance between Friar's Way and the south corner of Doncaster Place, it is important to note that this will not connect with the proposed sidewalk on the north side of Doncaster Place and users of the proposed sidewalk will have to navigate the width of the street.

If the proposed sidewalk on the north side of Doncaster Place is not built, it will not be necessary to construct the short stretch of sidewalk on the East side of Doncaster Avenue from Friar's Way.

Because it is a short dead-end street, Doncaster Place is not at the top of the City's list for winter snow removal. Since it will not be connected to any other sidewalk and will only pass in front of three houses, snow and ice removal from the proposed sidewalk on the north side of Doncaster Place will be difficult and will not likely be a high priority for City crews, thus likely increasing the potential legal liability for the City of London for slips and falls on the sidewalk.

As I understand it, the Official Plan provision that calls for sidewalks to be constructed when a street is rebuilt, contains an express provision that this need not be done if the street in question is a cul-de-sac, such as Doncaster Place.

Official Plans are not Holy Writ. I submit that they should be applied with due caution and with specific reference to the actual situation under consideration.

As is abundantly clear from the other material that you have received, the residents of Doncaster Place do not want the proposed sidewalk and are of the opinion that it is not necessary due to low vehicle and pedestrian traffic. I submit that it is unrealistic to think

that residents of other streets will use it because of its short length on a hill in front of only 3 houses and because It does not connect with any other sidewalk.

I respectfully request you not to accept the views of the Civic Works Committee on this matter and urge you to grant an exemption from the construction of a sidewalk on the north side of Doncaster Place.

Yours very truly,

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