

July 23, 2021

To: Chair and Members of the Planning and Environment Committee

Re: Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (South) Conservation Master Plan

From: Tom and Jane Tillmann, 1663 Gloucester Road

Dear Members,

We and our three children have lived at 1663 Gloucester Road for over 25 years and have developed a strong connection with our neighbours and neighbourhood.

Firstly we would like to commend the work of City Staff for their work and dedication in the development of the Conservation Master Plan (CMP) for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA. With many moving parts, we recognize this is a complex piece of the landscape to get right. We have also appreciated the open dialogue we have had with some members of your committee and of our Councillor, Josh Morgan.

We have previously expressed our thoughts in writing to the City and are following up today with evolved thoughts on a few components of the proposed CMP.

Green Acres Access

We find it difficult to make sense of the need, cost and effort required to make this connection between the two homes at 74 and 84 Green Acres Drive, given there are nine existing access points on the east side of the valley. Three of these existing access points exist in our neighbourhood and provide ample access to the Medway Valley Heritage Forest (1. Elsie Perrin Williams Estate; 2. Windermere (at Ryersie Road); 3. Gloucester Road). We would strongly advocate that this access point be removed from the CMP or at a minimum be deferred until such time that the details and necessity for this access can be fully demonstrated.

Gloucester Road Access

We are pleased to see that this component of the CMP has been deferred and will be considered at a future meeting of the PEC. We would ask that as a part of that consideration, that any improvement or modification to the existing type I trail take into account the requirements of O.Reg. 19/11: Integrated Accessibility Standards, Clause 80.15, item 5. Essentially this clause deals with exceptions to the design of recreational trails and the protection of the natural landscape, wildlife and species at risk.

Elsie Perrin Williams Estate Access (EPWE)

We are of the opinion that with minimum effect on the existing Medway Valley Heritage ESA and modest costs, the access at EPWE provides a superior access and trail for all. We understand that the EPWE is managed by the Heritage London Foundation which includes an ample existing surface parking lot. Surely the City and Heritage London Foundation could come to a mutual agreement on a shared use of this parking lot. The 4 existing parking spaces at the Windermere Road access are simply not sufficient to support what will most likely be an increase in traffic and use of the trail following the implementation of the CMP.

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important process.

Tom and Jane Tillmann