

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerks](#)
Subject: Essex Meeting re: Colchester Heights
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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Thomas Reavell. I am a permanent resident of Ambassador Beach and will be attending as a registered delegate at the September 23rd meeting. I understand that I am required to submit my questions to the committee in advance. The following are my questions.

Preamble:

I have been privileged to have been a part of the Ambassador Beach community and Harrow for only eighteen years and am grateful to have found this area and this amazing community so late in life. My wife's family have been living in the Harrow area for four generations. We would like this Harrow/Colchester community to stay as close to what it is now, but understand that "it is impossible to stand in the way of progress". However what is progress? Progress should improve what has come before. It should be sustainable. It should be for the common good. Otherwise it is only an alternative. Will the proposals before us improve our communities and our collective quality of life? Isn't the reason developers want to build more homes is because they know people will want to move here and experience what we all have now? It is impossible to believe that folks who move their families into the proposed subdivision will experience the quiet, peace and safety we currently enjoy. Will they only bring wealth to a few and lesser quality of life to most of us? Is there a middle ground of a less hasty, a more mindful way of progressing? Yes. We believe that development of the Lake Erie North Shore area should be retrospective and mindful of what has happened in previously redeveloped lakefront areas. My personal experience is with Grand Bend, Wasaga Beach and the Bruce Peninsula. I believe I bring a bit of perspective in my questions and that they merit some consideration by this committee.

Questions

How do you as representatives of this community think this will benefit the current residents of the Lake Erie North Shore? What are the probable short and long term effects?

What do you as representatives of this community think that this may not increase the level of break and entry crime, vandalism and especially trespassing onto the properties of current residents of the Lake Erie North

Further to the previous question, what measures will be taken to control access to the beach? The entire beach front access to Ambassador Beach is from private and leased property. Will we now be required to build fences and locked gates to maintain our privacy and private enjoyment of our properties as our families have done for so many decades?

How do you as representatives of this community think the impact of this development will affect the local environment? My concern is with runoff directly into the lake of lawn fertilizers from the new home owners. My personal experience is with new cottage owners overfertilizing lawns of newly developed cottage lots in Lindsay County, Bruce Peninsula which destroyed the fishery in a harbour at Pleasant Point.

How do you as representatives of this community expect that we will have to pay for all of the infrastructure that will be needed to support all of these new residents? Will we as the original taxpayers now be expected to pay increased taxes for something we don't want? We live in this area because of the joy of a quiet lifestyle and the beauty of the environment that we all work hard to maintain. Do the representatives of this community actually

believe that a large, tightly packed subdivision belongs behind Ambassador Beach?

How do you as representatives of this community plan on preventing the proposed developments becoming investment opportunities for absentee landlords?

At present, Ambassador Beach Road is a private road providing access to the cottages on leased property and to privately owned properties at the end of that road. Will that change with this new development? Will the proposed development have an entirely separate entrance and exit off of County Road 50?

Closing remarks:

My personal self interest is not monetary. It is about maintaining a quality of life that comes when a community really is concerned with providing safe open spaces for children, respect for the public spaces that we all share and respect for the private property of others. The “tragedy of the common” is the belief that the overconsumption of a thing by just one individual makes little difference to the whole but in fact when every person over uses or over consumes that thing then all will suffer the consequences.

There is no return possible when an attempt to improve a thing proves to be a mistake. If we buy a ticket on this train, it will be a while before it leaves the station, but it is not going to be able to go back in time to that place we remember and cherish.

Sent from my iPhone