

From: [Bondy, Sherry](#)
To: [Auger, Robert](#); [Nepszy, Chris](#); [Brown, Shelley](#)
Subject: Fw: Colchester Schoolhouse Property - Did Council Flunk Out?
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:38:54 AM

Robert pls include this email on the Jan 18th agenda

From: Sally Thurston <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 11:05 PM
To: CouncilMembers <CouncilMembers@essex.ca>
Subject: Colchester Schoolhouse Property - Did Council Flunk Out?

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First of all, if Colchester residents felt they had no choice but to go to the trouble of printing up and delivering information notices door to door in order to alert their neighbours about matters that are going to deeply affect them...then yes, Council 'Flunked Out'.

What could Council have done after the developer approached it? It could have consulted the people who live in the Schoolhouse area and given them the opportunity to tell Council how changing the zoning and erecting short term rentals would affect them. Instead of declaring the Schoolhouse "surplus land", it could also have first asked the people who live around the Schoolhouse for their ideas, their visions, their innovative takes. Council apparently didn't want to hear about anything from anybody.

At the very least, an honest and ethical process should have kicked in after the developer approached Council. It didn't. Instead, rumours flew; people felt the process was unfair to everybody else, that it was sneaky and suspicious. When asked what she felt about the situation, a woman I know who lives one block from the Schoolhouse replied, "Well I didn't get a chance to buy it."

So if the 'subject' is the competent and responsive representation of those who would be drastically affected by its actions, then yes, Council 'Flunked Out'.

Sally A. Thurston
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Schoolhouse alumni - Grade 1 to Grade 3

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