

Mayor Guthrie and Members of City Council,
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden Street,
Guelph ,ON N1H 3A1

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councillors,

I am Louise Callaghan and I reside at [REDACTED] Marilyn Drive. I support the concept of supportive Housing for the homeless and the provision of assistance to homeless individuals. I do not support the use of the Parkview site as a permanent supportive housing project for the homeless for the following reasons:

1. The location and layout of the Parkview site cannot ensure the safety and security of the largely vulnerable senior population who reside in the area. For years the community around the Parkview Motel has been subjected to many safety issues. Examples are assaults, profanity, used drug paraphernalia, staggering addicts walking into oncoming traffic, and multiple police calls (153 police calls in the last year as verified by a Freedom of Information report from Guelph Police Services and this report is based on only a handful of homeless people being housed at the Motel). I hope that you can appreciate why we have concerns about this project going forward.
2. The proposed use is not appropriate for the Parkview site given the nature of the surrounding high-density residential community which includes a senior community centre and a large number of high-rise residential buildings occupied by seniors. Marilyn Drive is another high traffic area for the public entering into Riverside Park and therefore not a good location for the project with many families travelling by. The report from staff has clearly recommended against a Ministerial Zoning Order. The type of use as suggested by the Drop in Centre is not an appropriate use within the new development plan that the city has recently published.
3. In the report from City staff, they refer to a letter of commitment and suggest that if council wants to proceed, that council proceed with a commitment in writing only, with funding only released when conditions are met. I strongly urge council not to give a letter of commitment at this time and not until there is more transparency by the drop-in centre's immediate start-up funding and plans for any future funding or grants needed for property taxes, maintenance etcetera.
4. There is another proposed new permanent supportive housing project that I have seen in the paper, on Shelldale Crescent that is to house 30 people with Kindles Communities and SkyDev involved. I also am aware of Ignatius Jesuit Centre being the site for 48 units for a temporary supportive housing pilot project. It feels that the Parkview site is being fast-tracked with a lot of unknowns still associated with it.

I am hoping that you hear our concerns regarding the proposal for the Parkview site. I am opposed to it for all the reasons I have listed above but most importantly because of the major safety concerns that we may be exposed to if this project is approved.

I hope our voices are heard.

Thank you,

Louise Callaghan