

**Statutory Public Meeting Report 721 Woolwich Street Proposed Zoning By-law
Amendment File: OZS20-015 Ward 2 – 2021-24**

General Correspondence

Good afternoon, Guelph City Clerk,

We are unable to attend the Meeting since I have a Condo Board meeting at that time. However, we wanted you to know that we do support the plan to convert the motel in supportive housing. We also support this expenditure: *The city has been requested to contribute \$540,000 to the project, with funds to be put toward the down payment.*

Homelessness is a serious problem in Guelph, and this plan would help to provide housing, on a long-term basis, and not just during the pandemic.

Regards, Peter Burian and Beverley Burian

Hi,

My wife and I live at ■ Marilyn Drive and recently received a notice of meeting regarding the "Supportive Housing Units" slated for Marilyn Drive.

We would like to add our support of this venture. The track record of the present motel has been far from stellar and we appreciate the City of Guelph in their attempt to house the less fortunate.

Yours truly,

Michael & Ruth Buxton-Carr

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the zoning by-law amendment to permit 32 units of supportive housing at the site of the Parkview Motel. I think that this amendment is desperately needed. As a community, we must care for those most vulnerable because they too are people, and just need some additional help. Nearly every single resident of Guelph is much closer to needing supportive housing than living in a mansion, and thus we must make sure these resources are available for those who need it.

This is a great location for supportive housing due to the proximity of greenspace (which is beneficial for mental and physical health), useful public transportation (the 99 route along Woolwich), and resources such as grocery stores. These things are all within walking distance which is critical. I used to live at 53 Speedvale Ave W (my mother and sister still live there) and I would walk by the site every day and supportive housing would fit into this community well.

Additionally, rent is so expensive in Guelph that we cannot expect people to just "do it on their own" - it is simply unaffordable for so many. We cannot expect people to sort through personal health issues such as addiction when they do not have a safe space to sleep at night, and thus this amendment should be passed by council.

Thank you,

Alexandria Wilson

Dear City of Guelph Clerk:

St. Vincent De Paul at the Basilica has worked closely with the poor for many, many years. Consequently, our group supports the development of 721 Woolwich, better known as the Parkview Motel. It would benefit the impoverished who have many prolonged and difficult challenges. It is incumbent upon the more fortunate to help those with severe challenges especially with our fellow citizens in our midst.

Further, we support the Mayor who has demonstrated on multiple occasions his willingness to assist folks who have not been noticed for much too long. Despite his many responsibilities, he recognizes the need to advocate for the voiceless who are trying to survive their dire predicaments.

Please put our group's name forward as one that supports the above, worthwhile, endeavour.

Sincerely,
Michael Finoro
President of St. Vincent de Paul
Basilica

Here I am writing to you again about the Parkview Motel. Gail Hoekstra has stated very clearly that she plans to house drug addicts in this facility. I want to make it clear that I do care deeply about homelessness. However, the Marilyn neighbourhood is made up predominantly of senior citizens who have gravitated here because of the proximity of Riverside Park, the Senior's Centre and shopping. The idea that this vulnerable population can coexist with drug addicts is ludicrous. People will be afraid to step outside their doors. Jim Gordon has shared with me the names of other supportive housing projects which he seems to believe are comparable to the Parkview proposal. I have researched all of them and they are only comparable to the extent that they are all various types of purpose built supportive housing. None of them are unleashing drug addicts on a vulnerable neighbourhood. If it was possible for the proposed facility to adopt zero drug tolerance it could be acceptable but this would be impossible to enforce given the layout of the Parkview with everyone having separate outdoor access. The most comparable facility remains Bridges in Cambridge which by most accounts is a disaster. At least Bridges is in an isolated area away from residential neighbourhoods as is Lucy's Place in Barrie.

The other important consideration is that the Parkview proposal is in direct conflict with your own well thought out Official Plan which also meets the needs of Guelph and the

Province's guidelines. How many developers of high density housing are going to want to locate next door to this facility?

Jane Hafemann

This email is In response to your notice for amending the zoning by-law at 721 Woolwich Street.

We know there is a great need for homeless housing in Guelph. Many of the homeless have addiction or mental health issues and with the current situation the problem has escalated

We do not want this zone change to accommodate a homeless housing facility. Our reasons are as follows:

- There is a beer store across the street
- There is a pot shop a few doors up the street
- There is the most used play area in the City at Riverside Park for children half a block down Marilyn Dr.
- There are 10 apartments and condos in the immediate area (Woolwich St., Marilyn Drive, and Woodlawn Rd). Most are filled with seniors who are most vulnerable.
- There have already been problems at that location which houses homeless in some units
- We have had many break-ins and vandalism in our condo and others in the area.
- Riverside Park is notorious for drug dealing at anytime of the day or night. We see it taking place.

Respectfully submitted

Ron and Barb Nicol

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Council members,

I am writing this email today with respect to the Parkview Hotel proposal for supportive housing.

I am very much in favour of this proposal, I very much understand the need for supportive housing, we have neglected our homeless long enough.

With that being said, I have some concerns with what will be the plan for this site. I have a question about the possibility of a Safe Injection Site be put on the property. If the plan is to offer counselling for the people there I feel a SIS is not appropriate here. Parkview should offer rehab and counselling to help get the folks back on the feet.

Secondly I am concerned about the request for ongoing funding from the County and the City for this project and is the County and City willing and able to fund the requests by Parkview Hotel for its future.

This is a great project if it is properly administered. It is long past due. We need to get people housed and have proper care.

Thank you for your time, look forward to hearing if these concerns will be addressed,

Regards,

Denese Renaud

Good morning. I'm writing this email in response to the literature received by the City regarding the captioned zoning change. I live across the road from this motel and have been against the idea of a zoning change to make the motel a supportive housing project. I was very happy that the mayor wasn't able to push it through with his MZO. I was not happy with his lack of any kind of discussion with our community regarding our concerns. He and Ms. Hoekstra are on a mission to turn this into supportive housing, no matter the cost to the neighbourhood. All well and good if you don't live across the street.

If this was going to be turned into a 32 unit senior's residence, I would have no issue. Having it turned into supportive housing for people with possible drug and mental issues is not ideal. Especially, when Ms. Hoekstra has not been forthcoming at all with our community with what her exact intentions are regarding this property. She has not had ANY dialogue with us whatsoever. She has personal reasons for buying this property at the exorbitant price of \$3.8 million dollars. Sister Christine (former director of the Drop in Centre) always had a vision for this property to be used to house the homeless. She is very old now and I believe that Ms. Hoekstra wants to fulfill Sister Christine's dream. The owners of the motel must think they've won the lottery...

This type of housing does not fit with this neighbourhood at all.

- it is located very close to our most prominent park, Riverside Park. The children's playground is mere meters away. The carousel is mere meters away.

- there isn't enough buffer space between all the people that would be living there and our property. There is no backyard. No frontage to speak of either. It looks like she has an area for "outdoor amenity" at the one end. This is mere feet away from our townhouses.

- this is a senior's neighbourhood. Condos, apartments and the Evergreen Seniors Centre.

- Woodlawn Cemetery is directly across the road. Great place for "hanging out".

- ONCE SHE'S IN, SHE'S IN. There will be nothing to be done. The City, potentially, will be spending considerable dollars to house people in a mere 32 units. She wants over 1/2 million in Guelph taxpayer money as a down payment. We don't know what the outcome will be but I feel it will become a cash cow.

I really do feel that City Council wants to help the homeless. I feel they also want to rid the downtown of some of the escalating problems that are occurring downtown. I do not feel this property is appropriate for this use and definitely not in our predominately senior neighbourhood.

Thank you for your time....

Darlene Bovaird

My name is Emily White and I am a tax paying resident of Guelph. I live in Woodlawn towers, 1 block from this PROPOSED development. I OBJECT TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING on Woolwich. This development is a detriment to the seniors which comprise a MAJORITY of tax paying properties in this neighborhood. The solitude of the cemetery and riverside park allows me to feel safe in my neighborhood. Contrary to what people want me to believe I will NOT feel safe and am experiencing anxiety just thinking city hall MAY approve it. I see NO supports offered in the area and cannot fathom why the city is even considering putting this unwanted proposal up for consideration. As stated previously I OBJECT TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND HOPEFULLY I WILL BE HEARD. THANK YOU Emily White