

To:  
Mayor Guthrie,  
Council, and Katie  
Nasswetter

RE:  
Proposed Zoning  
By-Law amendment  
- 721 Woolwhich St.

Date:  
February 5, 2021

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Council,

**The Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination supports the proposed development at 721 Woolwhich Street, as well as the zoning by-law amendment that would allow the Drop In Centre to convert the motel into 32 supportive housing units.**

Housing is one of the biggest factors that can impact someone's health and wellbeing. Ensuring people have access to quality housing that is safe, stable, accessible and affordable promotes positive health outcomes, encourages social inclusion, supports participation in education and employment, and reduces public costs associated with healthcare and emergency services.

Our whole community benefits when people have housing that meets their needs and yet there are at least 120 individuals experiencing homelessness in our community<sup>i</sup>. With a low vacancy rate (1.9%<sup>ii</sup>) and few supportive housing options available, challenges for finding and maintaining housing are magnified for individuals experiencing homelessness with complex needs as many require support.

To address this, our community has a plan to end homelessness by 2023. Creating permanent supportive housing is an essential part of this plan. The proposed development at 721 Woolwhich St. will help to make that possible.

Introducing permanent supportive housing to a neighbourhood where individuals are already sleeping rough and accessing emergency shelter will support a happier, healthier and stronger neighbourhood. The proposed development is following best practice in finding a location that is in close proximity to public transit, employment opportunities, neighbourhood amenities, and community-based services.

Ending homelessness in our community is possible, but we need to meet our critical need for permanent supportive housing. The proposed development at 721 Woolwhich St. will help to meet this need and contribute to ending homelessness for individuals with the greatest depth of need in our community.

Sincerely,



Dominica McPherson  
Poverty Task Force Coordinator

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<sup>i</sup> County of Wellington By-Name List (January 2021)

<sup>ii</sup> Source: [CMHC Rental Market Survey \(2019\)](#)