

To: Mayor Guthrie, City Councillors & clerks@guelph.ca

From: Mary Hughes, Guelph resident and homeowner in Rolling Hills Neighbourhood

RE: **Guelph Growth Management Strategy and Land Needs Assessment**

Date: January 13/2022

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I wish to comment on concerns arising from land use changes that would permit infill and replacement housing in established neighbourhoods, specifically Rolling Hills with significant natural greenspace, extensive tree canopy, and importance to groundwater recharge. The Rolling Hills neighbourhood by virtue of its' greenspace character plays a vital role in building municipal resilience to climatic and other environmental change.

Uniquely located on significant natural greenspace, with septic disposal systems, well water, and absence of street lights, there is value in ensuring the protection of residential estate lots and the character of the Rolling Hills area, not only to encourage a sense of place but also to support Guelph as an inclusive 'place to grow' across all social and economic strata.

To change a neighbourhood because it is feasible doesn't support the vision of 'A place to grow', where 'the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) will continue to be a great place to live, work and play'. The Greater Golden Horseshoe, has one of the world's most vibrant and diverse economies. Part of that competitive advantage has been a highly-educated workforce whose social and economic diversity are critical factors for success in a knowledge-based economy. As Guelph continues to grow and develop into a more knowledge-based economy, there is value in maintaining unique neighbourhoods supporting a sense of place and residential diversity among a current and future workforce.

There are currently no guidelines or residential estate policies for protection of unique established neighbourhoods in Guelph. Development in an established neighbourhood with balanced ability to protect significant landscape character and building form should be conducted according to guidelines and not through an honour system. It is premature to move forward in making significant changes to the land use and landscape character of Rolling Hills without consideration of residential estate policies to ensure oversight and control in the protection of municipal value for Guelph.

I ask that you consider the above concerns and pause in consideration of subdividing a neighbourhood.

Sincerely,

Mary Hughes