Clerks

From: Malcolm & Pat McIntosh ███████████████
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 7:31 PM
To: Clerks
Subject: Official Plan Amendment No. 80

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Correspondence

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Do not click links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to express my views in regard to the above amendment to the City of Guelph Official Plan.

I wish to disclose that I am a member of the Guelph Planning Advisory Committee. The Committee through it's very capable chair, has provided a separate recommendation to Council. The following comments are therefore of my own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Committee.

I am very pleased with the dedicated work of the professional planning staff who have assisted the Committee in their efforts on your behalf. The Committee is to be commended on their commitment to providing valuable feedback to Council. My comments in no way take away from their valuable contributions.

My concern with OPA 80, is in regard to the requirement to be in compliance with the provincial planning mandates. I firmly believe that local planning decisions should be entirely the domain of the local residents, as expressed through the local elected council. The planning staff have kindly pointed out that the provincial interests are enforced through the Planning Act legislation. As a result local municipalities have little to no ability to disregard these restrictions. It may well be that some of these restrictions are desirable. However it should still be a local decision maker who decides the merit of these policy decisions, without the threat of imposition by the upper tier government. We should all be concerned by the loss of local autonomy when decisions are predetermined, and imposed from above.

Again thank you for permitting me to present you with my concerns.

Respectfully submitted.

Malcolm McIntosh