

I am submitting these comments in hope they will be seriously considered. There is a very significant need for increased consideration and consultation with the citizens of Guelph with regard to the location of any future projects involving subsidized and supported housing and services to address homelessness and addictions. These services are critical in addressing the needs of the vulnerable members of this community. It is also crucial however to carefully plan these services in a way that mitigates the negative impacts on the surrounding community and amplifies the benefits such as safety and community integration. Right now, there is a significant concentration of these services in the approximate 2.4 km corridor from downtown to just north of Speedvale along the Speedvale river trail. Directly adjacent to this area are the following: 90 Carden, 141 Woolwich, 560 Woolwich, 576 Woolwich, and supported housing planned for Grace Gardens and Delhi St. (made adjacent by the planned construction of the Emma Earl St bridge). Additionally there is a mental health and addictions treatment centre planned for the same area. This level of concentration potentially ghettoizes residents and users of these services and overburdens the surrounding community. With this, there are significant negative impacts along the secluded public use trail and the surrounding neighbourhood. Personally I have witnessed drug trafficking, needles, threatening behaviour and violence as examples. I am certainly not implying that all residents and participants of these services engage in these behaviours or are otherwise a detriment to the community. The safety of people accessing services is as much of concern as anyone's. My request is this: social services to address the needs of vulnerable populations should be distributed equally among all wards of the city with care taken to not overburden one area. This mitigates the negative outcomes, amplifies the benefits and creates a safer integrated community for all concerned.

I also request a focus on addressing the impact of poverty, homelessness and addictions in the downtown in a way that promotes, supports and attracts healthy, thriving small businesses while providing services to those in need. This requires planning and design that dilutes and deters negative impacts and encourages a sense of safety for those living, shopping, dining and visiting the downtown core.

The Guelph community as a whole and particularly Ward 2 is seriously impacted by the outcomes of mental health and addictions. Solutions must consider and respect the health and safety of all residents and be shared by the city as a whole. Creating services that concentrate the impact in Ward 2 does not accomplish this. Let's say yes in EVERYONE'S back yard.

Respectfully

Christine Jackiw

Dufferin St.