

Dear Cam Guthrie and City Councillors,

Ahead of probably the most important meeting in the lives of Rolling Hills residents on Monday July 11th I wanted to mention a few things.

I have attended numerous meetings with planners and they portray that this RE-development will occur in the distant future with their 2051 marketing (even their email address uses it) and they side step questions with answers like 'the city has no intention to bring services to the area' to make some feel there is no threat to their community, at least not in many of our lifetimes. However, in reality a developer who assembles properties would front end the infrastructure costs and move the project forward long before the 2051 timeline, in fact they can start applying for zoning changes immediately if the plan is approved by council. This is the true agenda of developers and exactly what will happen if city council votes to move forward with including Rolling Hills in this plan. We already have homeowners requesting amendments to the Natural Heritage System when they saw the planner's maps, we have seen a homeowner fill in all the wetland at the front of his property on Kilkenny and we have witnessed clear-cutting behind Serena Rd. This is what early movement by the developers does to our environment and community.

By voting for this plan you will instantly set in motion the destruction of our neighbourhood for the financial benefit of a few along Clair Rd. Forget about the fact that there are massive areas still yet to be built on throughout Guelph like the Innovation District and the Lafarge lands. However for some reason your planning department keeps coming after Rolling Hills like they are a necessity to be developed, even though according to the NHS mapping, much less than half is developable. I drive down Maltby Rd daily and there is SO MUCH LAND there alone, ready and willing to be developed, properly, respecting the moraine. Even ignoring everything else in Guelph there is probably 25 years+ of building in the remaining Clair-Maltby block, EXCLUDING Rolling Hills, but for absolutely no sensible reason whatsoever the city planners and developers are trying to talk you into destroying our neighbourhood right now!

What I can't get my head around is the way that city planners keep coming after almost all of Rolling Hills when Guelph has ample lands yet to develop. When something is so illogic there are reasons behind it. How closely do city planners work with developers and how tight knit is their relationship? Are there city staff that investigates conflicts of interest? Is there a whistleblower policy? For instance, how on earth is it not a red flag that after the city announced the acquisition of the Dolime Lands (230 acres!) for future development, the planning department immediately amended the city's population target higher, over and above the province's guidance? Who made that decision and why? When they didn't at the

time even complete impact studies on our ground water for instance! It seems apparent the move was made so Rolling Hills couldn't use that as excuse to leave us alone, at least for now... because it's a really good reason to not destroy a neighbourhood!

It's obvious that the developers are the main driving force behind this, seeking to cash in on some of the most valuable land in the city, not people like us who want the best for Guelph long term. Tack on the fact that this important vote is set during one of the busiest travel times when many of us are on vacation and now the timing is mid-day when most the rest of us are confined at work unable to attend. Go figure, it's almost laughable. The pro-developers however are happy and will be there because it is just another day on the job trying to talk city council into approving their agenda. Everything seems setup for the regular homeowner to fail.

To conclude, there are no illusions here, this will end our community in the city and it would be a travesty to put these wheels in motion unnecessarily... for the environment, for the water, for the shrinking tree canopy, for the wildlife and for the residents that purchased our properties in good faith, ready to pass this housing segment down to the next family in Guelph. At the very minimum, at this point in time, we know this is all for nothing. It's insane.

Ten years ago such a scenario would seem preposterous. I can't believe we have to fight for a community that every city should protect and be proud of, not feeding it to the wolves.

I want to thank the Mayor and City Councillors for their most careful consideration as I know it is your job to look out for the best interests of Guelph and its citizens both in the present and long run.