

To the mayor, city councillors and staff,

I'd like to say that frankly, I'm horrified at the short sightedness of Bill 23. More data is coming out that shows that it won't speed up availability of housing or make homes more affordable but in reality, will have grave long-term consequences. Most stakeholders would be significantly and negatively impacted by these changes to planning rules and process including city planning staff. I would hope and expect that the City of Guelph would honour the fact that Guelph residents voted in the Green Party as our MPP and will make building decisions that reflect that rather than concede to a bill that has no true benefit. I believe more people, which includes Guelph and Ontario, residents, are becoming increasingly concerned about the reality of climate change and would choose to prioritize bills and decisions that protect green spaces and balance the needs of our increasing population with the needs of the environment and wildlife. This bill is incredibly out of touch with the concerns and needs of the population. I hope that Guelph councillors can see the bill for what it is: an ineffective attempt to streamline the development process by negating all the ethical and environmental considerations that need to be evaluated in building decisions when these are the very considerations that should be prioritized. This bill will make the process more convoluted, chaotic with less accountability for the negative consequences. If you were to poll Guelph residents, I suspect that many would share my concerns so if you would like a true representation of what our city thinks, a poll is a good way to get more engagement and commentary.

Sincerely,

Marina Kashevsk-Gozdek, veterinarian and Guelph resident