

I understand that this is on the agenda for City Council on November 13.

Please relay this communication to the Mayor and all Members of Council.

I have perused the relevant research and plan documents underpinning this plan recommendation, and draft recommended plan itself.

In this communication I am not referring to any specifics of the proposed plan. I simply wish to encourage City Council to apply the highest standards of built form, landscape and ecological heritage conservation to this unique part of our community.

Notwithstanding the policy and legislative infrastructure that is in place to respect, preserve and conserve our cultural and ecological inheritances, there is always the threat of settling for "second best", for insisting on that, and only that which is required of us. Aspiration is shortchanged and we acquiesce with the lowest common denominator.

Here we have an exciting, and challenging opportunity for a complex mixed use development, that in its vision and design will inspire Guelph residents, and our future generations. That will be a provincially and indeed a nationally recognized example of creative, sensitive and inspiring urban community development. Why should it not be an integral component of a National Urban Park, which I support?

I would encourage City Council to be assertive here. Be watchful of recommended initiatives that are uncertain and contextually permissive. Encouraging a direction, seeking another, and other soft recommendations in the plan, leave far too much uncertainty as to the City's commitment and intentions. Mature native trees should not be up for grabs. Recognized heritage build structures are to be securely conserved and managed. Unique landscapes are to be conserved as whole, and their integrity is not to be compromised by permissive options.

The plan should incorporate credible and creative initiatives in climate alleviation and adaptation, social reconciliation, and the provision of substantial and varied public green spaces.

Thank you for your attention.

David J.A. Douglas.