

While I understand the need for housing in Guelph Ontario, the proposal to permit the redevelopment of the Subject Lands to include four mixed-use and residential buildings with five high-rise towers, varying in height from 10-14 stories is unfortunate to say the least.

The direct and indirect social and psychological effects of this spatial overcrowding are far reaching. More people and building structures equal less privacy and increase in depression. Moreover, more traffic, less green space and the loss of amenities at Pergola Commons contributes to psychological frustrations which, in turn, have a bearing on behavioural responses including existing and new residents' inability to cope with the conditions.

Residents' perception of options and prospects around where and how they live is detrimentally affected by this prospect of increased housing. Many existing residents decided to move to this area because of the proximity of various amenities and the gorgeous views/landscape, preferring the peacefulness of the suburbs to the bustle of the metropolis. Now we face living amongst a very large and densely populated industrial, commercial, and residential city, which is off putting, making the collective question their once positive decision around where to live.

Moreover, as we continue to live in a world facing economic woes, inflation, recession, rise in mental health problems, the plan to redevelop the Subject Lands, will only add to the existing congested roads, lack of public spaces, and social meeting places.

The social and psychological effects of said developments are immediate, long-term, cumulative, multiple, direct as well as indirect, and critical. The construction over the next X number of years is daunting – with elevated noise levels, pollution, congestion, and overall disarray.

My dwelling, my haven, is now flagged with the possibility of unrest, noise, congestion, lack of privacy, decrease in amenities, pollution, and overall frustration. Perhaps time to reconsider my living arrangements.

Regards,

Steven Salter