

September 28, 2020

To: City Clerk, City of Guelph

From: Virginia Gillham

The issue of a new main library for Guelph has been under discussion for thirty years, during which time the potential cost has increased exponentially. The current building is functionally inadequate and structurally derelict. It will soon require extensive repairs which could not be licenced without significant, expensive upgrades being included. It is not physically accessible and it includes asbestos. It is difficult to imagine a more foolish use of City money than spending it on that building.

A motion to build an 88,000 square foot library anchoring the Baker Street redevelopment project was accepted by Council TOGETHER WITH A FUNDING PLAN in September 2019.

The recent suggested change to the Baker Street plan, moving the library to the south end as a stand alone building, is a significant improvement and should be approved.

THERE SHOULD BE NO FUTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT TO BUILD THIS STRUCTURE. It needs to be built, now, as part of the Baker Street redevelopment as planned and accepted by Council, to bring this city into the 21st century.