

September 20, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to ask you to vote to proceed with the new Main Library project on Baker Street at a size of 88,000 square feet and a cost of \$62 million.

I think we all agree that the current Main Library needs to be replaced – it has key structural issues, it does not meet accessibility standards, and it is undersized for Guelph's current and projected population.

The current City Council has already approved the business case, the location, and the funding model for the new Main Library.

The 88,000 square foot size was approved in the business case, and reflects a minimum size for Guelph's current and future population. Now is not the time to waver or scale back on the size of the Main Library. It would be short-sighted indeed to build a new Library that will need to be replaced again in the mid-term future as Guelph's population grows.

So, why are we again debating this issue? After 20 years of discussion all the pieces are in place and the project is approved and ready to go. While the COVID-19 pandemic has hurt the economy, the new Library is exactly the type of project that will help us to recover by providing jobs, revitalization of our downtown, and a sense of community pride.

Please vote to proceed with the new Main Library project on Baker Street at a size of 88,000 square feet and a cost of \$62 million.

Sincerely,

Geof Kearns  
Ward 6 Guelph ON