

PARKVIEW MOTEL CONVERSION - FACTS

- We support the concept of supportive housing for homeless persons. We do not support the use of the property that is currently the Parkview Motel as supportive for the homeless as it is in the centre of a high density residential area occupied mainly by seniors, close to a busy children's playground and seniors centre.
- Our community heard about the project through the media. Gail Hoekstra, Executive Director of the Welcome Drop-in Centre presented her proposal at an Aug. 24 council meeting while discussing another item on the Agenda. A discussion on Parkview was not on the Agenda. Our community views this as an attempt by Ms. Hoekstra to get this proposal as far down the line as possible before the public found out.
- Ms. Hoekstra has not been forthcoming in providing meaningful information on the project and has at times mislead our community. An example is portraying Lucy's Place in Barrie as a success story for this model, that now has buy-in from the neighbours. Face-to-face discussions with the neighbours (all businesses, Lucy's is in the centre of a commercial area) has revealed that this is not true. One business described being next door to Lucy's Place as a "nightmare". On Sept. 16, 2020, a resident of Lucy's Place was charged with arson for setting fire to his unit.
- A homeowner on Marilyn Dr. had a face-to-face meeting with the Director of Health at Bridges, Cambridge, a facility in a commercial area, the same model that Ms. Hoekstra wishes for the Parkview Motel. The Director stated that the Parkview, with its close proximity to a residential neighbourhood and especially the park made it completely unsuitable for the proposed use. He stated that the idea that such a facility might integrate well into a neighbourhood is preposterous. He said the inability to provide security controls was particularly problematic.
- The proposed facility will house 36 single males with mental health and addiction issues. There will be little supervision of the residents and they can come and go as they please, night and day. Ms. Hoekstra will not address any of our security concerns.
- Many of the residents are addicts who are still using. They get their drugs from drug dealers. These dealers are dangerous and are responsible for countless deaths. Ms. Hoekstra refuses to answer where the residents will get the money to buy their drugs. She is essentially condoning illegal activity in our community. When talking to a next door neighbour of Lucy's Place, Barrie (a car repair shop) he pointed to a street corner and said "That is where they meet their drug dealer". The Clock Garden would provide a discreet location for a drug deal.
- The Town Hall of Sept. 17, 2020 was nothing more than a sales pitch for the project. The questions picked for Ms. Hoekstra were all 'soft questions' and did not address any of the communities concerns. To this day, Ms. Hoekstra will not address any of our concerns.