

From: Anka Cassar
Sent: Sunday, January 9, 2022 12:28 PM
To: Kelsey, Lisa <Lisa.Kelsey@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Regarding agenda item 9.1- Applications for Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment for Lands Located at 281 Hamilton Drive and 356 Wilson Street West, Ancaster (PED22004) (Ward 12) - File No ZAC-20-014

Hello Lisa,

I was informed that you might be the right person to contact regarding submitting a letter on the agenda for the planning meeting on Jan 11, 2022 for item 9.1. If this is incorrect can you please direct this to the correct person?

I am a resident of Ancaster and I support the proposed building of the townhouse complex on this site. I believe that it is crucial for any new development to be within our urban boundary if we are to circumvent climate change and we need to save all of our natural areas, farmlands and wetlands.

I understand that residents will present some concerns with this development regarding the inconveniences it will bring them but these are short sighted and short term. People need affordable homes and single detached homes have become too expensive for the average family to afford. Residents need to look at the long term gains of intensifying our community. We can build beautiful, thriving, walkable communities with a variety of housing options rivalling the beautiful cities and towns people love to visit in Europe. This idea of growing our cities with sprawl consisting of only single detached homes has been ingrained in our brains but only creates unaffordable homes, higher taxes, more cars, higher traffic, and it eats away at crucial farmland and natural features. This is not sustainable, the supply of land is not infinite. People are afraid of change but we cannot repeat history by continuing to create urban sprawl. Eating away and paving over our environmentally significant resources will create negative long term affects for our fight against Climate change and ultimately our own health and well being.

One of the biggest concerns I hear from residents is the fear that there will be increased traffic especially in the core of the town. When I went to McMaster University I lived on Main St W just before the border with Ancaster. I lived in one of the many apartment buildings that lined the street. Some were very tall like mine but they came in various heights and the street was dotted with some retail buildings and food establishments all on the edge of a suburb. There was never any traffic even at the busiest times of the day. Plus I was able to walk to get groceries and a bite to eat and due to the densification of the area the bus came often and regularly. Densification does not mean more traffic.

Densifying Ancaster is the solution to our housing shortage and solving our Climate Crisis and building these townhouses is a step in the right direction.

Thank you,

Anka Cassar