

Item 12.6 : Yonge/Bernard KDA

To: Mayor Barrow, Members of Council

On behalf of the residents in the Mayvern Area Residents Association we object to what is recommended in the Bernard KDA staff report. We concur with the letters written by Saad Askandar, Deborah Mida and Tom Tucci. This proposal is far beyond the limits of density and heights that should be allowed in this area. There is no way that any discussion should be held without full consultation. This is a new plan and needs to have additional public consultation. That discussion cannot be held properly with the conditions we are operating under with COVID-19.

You as a council need to listen to your constituents, the residents of Richmond Hill. This issue requires a public meeting and during this pandemic there are none. Even Doug Ford said in his address on Monday, May 11, that ALL OF US NEED TO COLLABORATE, PUT ASIDE POLITICS AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT. That is what needs to be done here – listen to the residents and put this aside until COVID-19 is over and we can operate openly so that a full discussion can be had with landowners AND residents.

By passing this KDA plan you are setting a precedent for the other KDA's coming up – Yonge/16th and the Langstaff plan. If the heights and densities in this plan are approved now, are the others to be higher/larger? That is not acceptable. We do not need to have over-intensification in these three areas. What is needed is a planned approach that will satisfy residents, landowners AND is appropriate for the area and transportation abilities for that area. Landowners are residents too – they have one vote. Residents are many and EACH OF THEM HAS ONE VOTE. By supporting the landowner and not listening to the residents, democracy is being thrown out the window. A landowner/developer comes in and gets approval to build something huge, pockets the profits, then leaves. Residents must have a prominent voice – they are the ones who have to live with what is built for as long as they live in the area. They need to be listened to, and they need to have their votes counted.

We need a democratic solution to this plan, one that satisfies landowners, residents in a PLANNED way so that when other plans come forward they are considered fairly also.

I would rather give this as a delegation but am uncomfortable with the electronic mechanisms being used, so am writing this letter/email instead. I am also not comfortable with the fact that I am unable to give printed information to support my document when I give a delegation electronically. This does not give me the full flexibility of presenting as I would have in front of council. I feel that this important document needs to have full discussion and presentation in front of council at a public council meeting, and the format allowed with electronic meetings does not allow for that.

Please do not pass this plan without considerably more discussion involving landowners and residents at a public council meeting.

Thank you

Pat Pollock

Chair, Mayvern Area Residents Association