

March 2, 2021 Delegation – Millcroft Greens’ Public Meeting

Good afternoon Madam Mayor and Councillors,

We strongly oppose the application submitted by Millcroft Greens.

We have been residents of Millcroft for 25 years, living on Hadfield Court. Our house backs onto the 7th hole and we would be directly impacted if the application is approved for Parcel B. We chose our home 25 years ago based on backing onto the green space, currently the golf course. Before purchasing we did our research: the zoning, the official plan, the risks of living on the golf course, the benefits, traffic, character of the community, etc.. This home was to be our forever home.

We are one of many residents on our court and in Millcroft, who have experienced serious flooding in August of 2014. The storm’s extreme overland flooding and our basement windows not being able to hold back the water, resulted in severe damage to our basement. We are fortunate to have a landscape architect in the family and therefore, we regraded our entire yard, front and back, to help protect from future storms. However, each time we have a serious rainfall, we nervously watch. Flooding is still an issue, even a 20 minute rainfall, as recent as this summer, caused flooding for some of our neighbours.

The current stormwater system is not sufficient for climate change and a 1 in 100 year storm is now 1 in 20 year storm, if not more often. Development, even with storm water engineering, will only exacerbate flooding. Both the City and Regional staff have seen our home, the storm water drains and witnessed how a 20 minute rainstorm causes flooding on the homes and streets adjacent to 6th and 7th holes. The City has videos and photos of the vast flooding throughout Millcroft in 2014 and 2020. The developer mentioned today they are proposing to redesign the weir on the 6th hole. I would like to highlight there was not an answer from the developer today on how the developer will negate flooding on all holes despite their application to develop more than the 6th hole. The developer only spoke to hole #6 & Appleby Creek. What about all the other holes, especially those being proposed for development?

We chose our home in Millcroft to raise our children for many reasons: quaint established neighbourhood, quiet, green space, less traffic, all of which will be destroyed if Millcroft Green’s application is approved. As we stated at MAD’s street captain meeting in August, 2020 where Marianne Meed Ward, Angelo Bentivegna and Rory Nisan were present, we feel betrayed by the City should Millcroft Green’s application be approved. We did our research prior to purchasing. We bought and paid a premium for our home based on the Official Plan and it’s zoning of “O1 – Open Space”. Never in our wildest dreams would we suspect the zoning would not be abided by. Even when Monarch sold the golf course to Ed Liptay, again we had faith the City of Burlington would uphold its zoning. The City of Burlington approved Millcroft’s development in the 1980’s with the zoning of the golf course as “O1 – Open Space”. This zoning was put in place for reasons still valid today i.e. storm water management. It is noted the revised official plans since the 1980’s have also maintained the O1 – Open Space zoning. It is unimaginable one developer is wiser than the years of urban

planning put into the City's and Region's official plans. The old saying "buyer beware" not only applies to home owners in Millcroft but also one owner - Millcroft Greens. It is a shame so much attention is being given to 1 owner (Millcroft Greens) versus the thousands of residents of Millcroft and the City, who oppose this development. Millcroft Greens bought the land knowing the zoning... the same as we did and all Millcroft residents did. Now, let's uphold the zoning, the fairest and most responsible solution to all.

We are what some folks call "tree huggers". On our property we have planted numerous trees, the youngest now being 23 years old, the oldest 34 years. As arborists and tree enthusiasts know, Millcroft's clay soil proves a challenge for trees to prosper. We have seen the small saplings on the golf course mature slowly to the trees today – the trees on the golf course being almost 40 years old. With the City of Burlington's Tree By-Law being introduced in 2020, it is an insult to the environment and hypocritical to the purpose of the tree by-law to allow Millcroft Greens to kill these 40 year old trees even if replaced with multiple saplings to be compliant. While the tree by-law allows for replacement of these trees, it is an assault on the environment to cut down these mature trees knowing their replacement saplings will take at least 30 years to mature, if they survive. How can we allow this travesty to occur? Especially when we know the positive effects the tree canopy brings to Millcroft, the City of Burlington and the environment. We cannot allow the trees to be cut down, even if replaced, knowing we are in a Climate Emergency, as declared by the City of Burlington.

The Federal Government's Climate Plan, the US Government's re-joining the Paris Accord and the City of Burlington declaring a Climate Crisis Emergency, all support the need to protect the environment. If all levels of government and residents of Canada were as wise back in the 1980's when Millcroft started development as we are today, it is expected the City would have negated today's application review by purchasing the Open Space or ensuring any future owner must abide by the zoning and the Official Plan. How can we as a City allow the decimation of Open Space? We cannot. We need to respect our Climate Crisis Emergency and support reducing our negative effects on the environment. If we do not, we will pass our problems onto future generations. Trees and open space are integral to saving the environment. We must not review a development in "parcels of legislation" but look at them in totality. For example, how do we allow the developer to cut down over 400 mature trees, in accordance with Burlington's Tree By-Law knowing it contradicts the City's declaration of a Climate Crisis Emergency? How do we review the developer's storm water plan from the vantage point of the Halton Region's Natural Heritage plan in isolation of Halton Region's Climate Change plan? We must fulfil our promise to our children and future generations and protect the environment by saying "no" to this application.

We have also been taught such a hard but valuable lesson in the last year with the world pandemic – how necessary the environment and open space is to humankind for controlling disease and mental health. The City of Burlington reinforced its position on keeping Open Space in its recent Official Plan in December. The City of Burlington has it right!

Millcroft's open space, with its mature trees, and creeks, have created an ecosystem which will be destroyed if this proposal is approved. When we purchased our home, we did not see much of the natural wildlife because of the newness of the development. However, the neighbourhood has matured allowing wildlife to make Millcroft their home.

We now see night herons, foxes, turtles, etc., which all will be disrupted for decades should Millcroft Greens' application be approved. As found in the research paper by Professor Jules Pretty of Essex University, "*exercising in the presence of nature (aka green exercise) has important public and environmental health consequences.*" Central Park in New York City was found to be a life line during the Spanish Flu. Millcroft golf course is used regularly each day during Covid for physical exercise and connecting with nature. Living cohesively with wildlife is too beneficial to the environment and human health to allow one developer to destroy it.

We encourage the City to not approve Millcroft Greens' application to develop Millcroft's golf course. Point the developer to the Official Plan where it clearly states where development is needed and appropriate in Burlington, without destroying Open Space. Do not let 1 owner destroy the place 4400 residents call home – Millcroft. The City of Burlington has it right, now let's walk the talk.... "Respect the Official Plan, Save the Environment, Keep the City of Burlington one of the Best Communities in Canada" and say "No" to Millcroft Greens' application.

Thank you for your time.

Peter & Cynthia Shanahan