

Since we are residents of [REDACTED] Burlington, our recommendation and vote is for going with option number 5, which is keeping the status quo whereby no sidewalk infills take place.

The reasons for choosing option #5 are as follows:

1. In today's world there is an environmental crisis taking place whereby climate change through global warming is occurring with the increase in global average temperatures set to go beyond the 1.5 degree limitation to which the world's nations had committed themselves at the Paris Accords whereat they agreed to take the necessary steps to prevent global average temperatures from exceeding the 1.5 degree increase in global average temperatures.

Even though it may be miniscule, we, the homeowners on Bromley Road, who would be affected by the subject City's proposal, as well as the City itself, have an opportunity to do our part in helping our country of Canada to meet its commitment by taking any necessary steps to keep the global average temperatures from exceeding the 1.5 limitation level.

In other words, we have an opportunity in the present situation of doing our part for Canada towards helping with the environment by maintaining all trees, shrubs and plants and even grass where they presently exist. It would appear that all the options labelled as options 1,2,3 and 4 involves the cutting of some trees completely and disturbing the root systems of other trees as well as the complete destruction of some shrubs and plants and grass which would interfere with the installation of sidewalk infills. Water runoff will be increased where there is no vegetation available to absorb it. Bromley Road has had issues with basement water and flooding in the recent past and by doing everything possible to counteract it, would be desirable. Maintaining nature as it presently exists on Bromley Road would be our preferred position going forward.

2. Another reason for not putting in sidewalk infills is based upon the Principle or Doctrine of Grandfathering. The houses and the installation of streets and services, including any existing sidewalks, were installed in approximately the year of 1964. One can correctly assume that when most of the people now residing on Bromley Road purchased their properties many years later than the year of 1964, they were satisfied and accepted the amenities as they existed at such time of their purchase or the lack of certain amenities

which were non-existent at such time. If they were not prepared to accept such amenities which existed at the time of their purchase or the lack thereof, we are certain that they would not have purchased such properties.

The Province of Ontario, as well as the Government of Canada, recognizes the Principle or Doctrine of Grandfathering as has been evident in the various legislation passed from time to time by such governments.

Governments recognize that there are certain aspects and rights existing at the time of the passing of the legislation which have existed for some time and the legislation does not wish to penalize those people by taking away those certain aspects and rights which have existed for some time. As a result they are allowed to continue to enjoy those same aspects and rights after such legislation has been declared into law. The courts do the same from time to time when making judgements.

In other words certain aspects and rights which existed at the time of such legislation are protected unless there are overwhelming reasons for ignoring the Principle or Doctrine of Grandfathering and make the changes which they think are necessary and required for the current situation.

By applying the Principle or Doctrine of Grandfathering in light of the proposal of sidewalk infills on Bromley Road, we should be able to retain the present situation without having sidewalk infills.

3. Another reason for not putting in sidewalk infills is based upon the Principle or Doctrine of Democracy which is the foundation of our governmental system. In other words it is the wishes of the majority of its citizens which determine what is to be done in any given situation.

In the situation at hand, if the majority of the homeowners do not want any sidewalk infills installed in areas where they do not exist today, then the status quo should continue. Thus no sidewalk infills should take place on Bromley Road.

4. Another reason for not putting in sidewalk infills is based on good business practices. The City of Burlington contains many small business operations. In their day to day operations, they do not have the advantage of operating under the same kind of budget system as that used by the City. How they survive in their business operations on a day to day basis is by keeping their expenses as low as is reasonably possible and not

spending unnecessarily. At the other end of such business operations is their income level which is dependent upon one very important factor being the health of the overall economy. In turn this will affect what income they will be generating and receiving on a yearly basis for their goods and or services.

Small businesses cannot, ahead of time, count on an income level which pays their expenses while at the same time provide for a sufficient level of profit in order to allow for a sufficient amount of take-home funds to cover their personal and basic home expenses.

This approach is different than how it would appear the City conducts its business operations and activities. The City determines its funding requirements based upon what goods and services it is required to provide, along with what goods and services it would like to provide, to the taxpayers and the costs to provide such goods and services to the taxpayers.

As a consequence thereof, the City determine the amount of property taxes it needs to collect from the taxpayers of the City in order to fund such costs associated with the goods and services it decides to provide to such taxpayers during the yearly time period.

This whole procedure is wrapped up in the City's budgeting process. Such procedure was verbalized by one of the City's personnel or representative at our first meeting to discuss the sidewalk infills when the following comment was made thereat: "We all know that property taxes go up every year".

This approach by the City when conducting its affairs on a daily basis is contradictory to what many taxpayers are facing on a daily basis with regards to their financial situation, both from a business point of view and from a personal point of view.

In summary, since the City is, in the end, responsible to the needs and requirements of its citizenry as a whole, the wishes of the majority of its citizens should, in general, be of major consideration. In other words, if the majority of taxpayers on Bromley Road, where we live do not want sidewalk infills, then the democratic result should be that no sidewalk infills take place. At the same time, the environment as it presently exists on Bromley Road would be protected.

Furthermore, by not putting in sidewalk infills, there would be substantial savings to the City. In turn, such savings could then be used instead to defray the costs of goods and services which the City would be required or obligated to provide to the City's citizenry with the possibility of defraying or postponing future tax increases.

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