

# Partnering Aldershot

**Delegation to Committee of The Whole: October 8, 2024**

**Agenda Item 8.1, Report Number: CL-24-24.**

Good day to our Committee Chair, Members, Mme Mayor, City Staff and Fellow Residents.

I delegate today on behalf of Partnering Aldershot in opposition to the acceptance of report: CL-24-24, agenda item 8.1, and to ask once again: "Can the west-end please be included in city affairs?"

Given Partnering Aldershot's record as supporters of civic engagement and involvement you may wonder why we would speak in opposition to a timely review of ***Council Composition and Ward Boundaries***.

In fact we are not. But there is not an option on the Delegation Application that allows delegates to Engage or Help Improve, simply to Support or Oppose and we find ourselves unable to support this report in its present form.

Had there been an Engage and Improve option we would have offered the following help:

1. The preamble to the report clearly says Report Number: CL-24-24;  
Wards Affected: **All**.
2. The report then tells us there will be Phase 1 and Phase 2 Engagements.
3. In phase 1, residents will be asked for their input on council composition which will help to inform options that will go to Council for consideration in December 2024.
4. In phase 2, expected to begin in early 2025, public engagement will focus on ward boundaries.
5. Phase 1 Public Consultations are scheduled for Tansley Woods Community Centre, Central Arena, Mountainside Recreation Centre, Haber Community Centre and one on-line, virtual public meeting.

It looks to Partnering Aldershot as if west end opinion on Council Composition is not considered important enough to merit a West-End Venue for public input or engagement.

A recurring oversight in city matters if I may be so bold as to remind council and staff.

When asked by email to reconsider this and add a Phase 1 engagement in the West-End, the response from Our City Election Officer stated: "*The first phase of engagement for the review is geared to the residents of the City at large ...*" "*...If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.*"

Leaving me to ask: Are Aldershot, Tyandaga, indeed all of Ward 1, considered part of the “City at Large”?

While the Election officer did offer to include Ward 1 in Phase 2 of the exercise, my reading of the City timeline suggests that Phase 2 will be built on the Phase 1 feedback and Phase 1 will be presented to Council in December this year before starting Phase2.

With no input on Phase 1, what is there for Ward1 residents to build upon in Phase 2? Or are we only allowed to build on the Phase 1 input of every other city resident?

A second email to staff, pointing out PA disappointment asking re-consideration and providing further information has gone unanswered at the time of submitting this delegation.

This is the third time in recent months that Partnering Aldershot has felt obliged to remind Council and Staff that Burlington exists; West of Brant Street.

Ward 1 residents, businesses, civic and faith groups in Aldershot and in Tyandaga, are no less worthy of staff consideration on matters of city business than other areas of Burlington.

On a matter as central to civic engagement as Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review, it seems particularly neglectful and offensive that our views are once again overlooked.

So in conclusion, let me repeat that Partnering Aldershot is not opposed to a Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review, indeed we would gladly support such an undertaking but are being denied the opportunity to do just that by our city. Denied the equal opportunity to involve and engage our too-oft-forgotten west-end residents.

On behalf of Partnering Aldershot I suggest it is surely not too late to rectify this oversight and provide a venue and engagement opportunity on Phase 1 of this review for west end residents between now and presentation for Council consideration in December 2024.

Let’s Bring the West End In. Please!

Respectfully Submitted  
Jimm Young, Chair.  
Partnering Aldershot.