

Please be advised the following correspondence was received following the January 31, 2024, Regular Meeting.

This correspondence has been sent to Council and Staff and included in the final Council Agenda to form part of the public record.

**From:** Cindy McAdam [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:22 AM

**Subject:** Please add to Jan 31 Council meeting

I am writing to you as a concerned member of the Cobourg community, deeply troubled by the proposed development of 310 Division Street into a massive 12,000 sq. ft. low-barrier shelter. I ask that this letter be added to the Jan 31st council meeting as we urgently seek your support to look at options for the Low Barrier shelter; options that provide accountability and direction.

Building on the crucial reasons outlined in the petition that has been submitted to the town from David Battersby, including the lack of transparency, vacancies in the current shelter, and the limited scope of Transition House, I would like to emphasize additional concerns. While we empathize with the challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness, placing a facility of this magnitude in the heart of a small town already grappling with economic losses will have detrimental and lasting impacts.

The current approach of grouping individuals facing various challenges, from addiction to mental health issues, into a one-size-fits-all low-barrier model has proven to be ineffective. Cities like London, ON, have successfully implemented segmented and classified systems to address the diverse needs of those experiencing homelessness. There are individuals within Northumberland living in their cars, seniors struggling to afford housing, and families in need of support. These individuals could benefit from a shelter system that isn't overwhelmed by those facing addiction and mental health challenges.

Our community has witnessed firsthand the destructive impacts associated with the clients of low-barrier shelters, and it has taken a toll on the economic vitality of our town. The fear induced by ongoing criminal activity, defecation on private properties, mental health outbursts, and a general sense of insecurity has made the town less inviting. Placing the proposed 45-room facility in the heart of Cobourg is a recipe for further division within our community.

We implore you to consider the voice of the residents of Cobourg and Northumberland County. Our mental health, safety, and well-being need to be prioritized in these discussions. The impact of this development goes beyond municipal and county lines; it affects the fabric of our community and requires collective attention and collaborative solutions.

As we express our concerns, we also recognize the complexity of this issue. However, it is crucial to ensure that the development aligns with the best interests of the community. We request your support in amplifying our concerns, urging a comprehensive review of this proposal, and seeking alternative solutions that benefit everyone involved.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your support in safeguarding the charm and security of our town.

Regards,

Cindy McAdam Battersby