

From: Kelly Kirkham [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 10:55 AM

Subject: (EXTERNAL SOURCE) Proposed Transition House new location

Dear Mayor Cleveland, Councillors, and Staff,

My name is Kelly Kirkham and I am a resident of Port Hope who works in Cobourg at Cobourg Orthopedic & Sports Injury clinic at 301 Division St, across the street from the proposed new location of Transition House.

While I am glad to see the county moving towards finding a tenable solution for our current crisis of space and resources for a growing unhoused population, I am concerned with how the proposed new location will be managed by the county. Our previous location across the street shares a fence with the current Transition House in the back. I have been at COSIC since February 2014, and between 2014-2019 I noticed no problems at all being neighbours. However, since they became a low-barrier shelter in 2019, there was a noticeable uptick in altercations in the immediate vicinity, with or without police involvement, and drug paraphernalia left on our property.

Being a physical therapy clinic, we have a large number of clients who are injured, elderly and vulnerable, who have told us that they don't feel safe in our parking lot and have requested escorts to their vehicles.

Traditionally, housing issues are the responsibility of Northumberland County. Considering the enormous strain that the shelter has placed on local police, fire fighters, paramedics, by-law officers, garbage collection, resident quality of life, tourism, tax payers, and local businesses, town council has a central role in advocating on behalf of Cobourg residents to ensure a greater community partnership, financial accountability, and successful operation of the low-barrier emergency shelter at 310 Division St. with Northumberland County.

I would very much like the town to consider the Low Barrier Emergency Shelter Agreement between Durham region and the Town of Whitby, a synopsis of which was forwarded to you by Hillary Allen and Jeff Crowley, owners of COSIC. While I understand that Northumberland County has no mandate to be a part of such an agreement, I think it would go a long way to assuaging the concerns of the Town of Cobourg, as well as connect us all together as citizens helping each other, instead of an 'us and them' mentality.

Thank you very much for your consideration,
Kelly Kirkham

Registered Massage Therapist
Cobourg Orthopedic & Sports Injury Clinic