

Trio of concepts proposed for Campbellville 'New' Park

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Town has put forth three concepts for the redevelopment of Campbellville "New" Park, with one option proposing the removal of an existing baseball diamond.

While all plans for the Reid Side Road outdoor space were up for public comment at an input session on Wednesday evening (April 19), the main concern discussed by residents was whether or not the baseball diamond, if kept, should be lit in the evening.

"I would be strongly opposed to lighting," said Jessica Wittig, who lives nearby with her husband and two young children.

Although baseball diamond lighting isn't part of the Town's current plans, the lack thereof was brought up by local resident Tim Kingsbury, a 35-year baseball coach.

He told the small crowd in attendance at the Nassagaweya Tennis Centre and Community Hall that rural Milton has lost teams due to park conditions and lack of lighting, which prohibits games from running into the later evening hours.

"There's a massive amount of rural kids who

go to Milton because they can't play ball here," he said.

But with such lighting costing \$200,000-plus, and the proposed park revamp budget sitting at just over \$600,000, Wittig and others at the meeting argued that the funds would be better spent elsewhere in the park.

"I love the idea of making it (the park) useful for the whole community," said Wittig, who prefers Concept 3, which offers a compromise of the other concepts by retaining the baseball field while also incorporating a playground, off-leash dog area, multi-use court and shelter.

"We have to walk to the other park now to use the playground, so it would be awesome to have one right there."

Concept 1 focuses on upgrading the existing baseball diamond with improved dugouts, backstop, seating, a grassed infield and netting to screen users and cars from foul balls, explained Town Parks Design and Development Co-ordinator Thomas Chamberlain. The plans would also provide a new playground area and shelter.

Meanwhile, Chamberlain described Concept 2 as a "radical departure," removing the

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