

Rezoning proposal raises resident's ire

Georgetown resident Murray Parsons raised some strong concerns during a public meeting Monday about a proposed rezoning of a Guelph Street property within the Knolcrest Centre.

Mr. Parsons urged town councillors to delay dealing with the rezoning until the centre's owner, Harold Fobert, has either reduced existing noise pollution emanating from the centre, or proves the rezoning won't increase the noise pollution level.

Mr. Parsons told council he lives behind the Knolcrest Centre.

The rezoning, if approved, would permit a broader range of commercial and recreational uses than are currently allowed.

"To date there has been no effective action taken to stop the noise pollution," said Mr. Parsons.

At one point during the meeting, Mr. Fobert told council Mr. Parsons' complaint is the first he has ever received concerning noise pollution.

To which Mr. Parsons replied, "You have to be joking."

Aside from criticizing the owner, Mr. Parsons also took a shot at the town.

The lack of enforcement concerning the town's noise pollution bylaw, Mr. Parsons said, gives him the impression, "there is an inept town management and incompetent planning staff."

Mr. Fobert said he would extend the existing sound barrier wall behind the centre if it was needed.

Before making a decision on the rezoning, council will wait for town staff to write a report on the proposal incorporating Mr. Parsons' comments.

Loan recommended

Halton Hills General Committee recommended Monday, town Treasurer, Ray King, be permitted to borrow up to \$3 million to cover town expenses during 1992.

According to a staff report, the funds may be required if certain expenses arise before all 1992 town taxes are collected.

The recommendation will go before council for final approval this Monday. (Note general committee is comprised of town councillors.)

Position paper

Mark Cohen, Halton Hills Per-



sonnel Officer, told councillors Monday he, along with several other Halton-based human resource professionals, will appear at an upcoming provincial hearing to oppose the Ontario government's proposed changes to the Labor Relations Act.

The personnel professionals oppose the far-reaching changes, which include banning the use of replacement workers during a strike, and allowing supervisory personnel the right to unionize, said Mr. Cohen.

Acton councillor Norm Elliott questioned why the town isn't taking a position on the proposed changes?

"I'm concerned about the implications the changes may have on the town," said Coun. Elliott.

Halton Hills Regional Coun. Pam Johnston said the Region chose not to take a position since councillors may have different opinions on the proposed changes.

When questioned why the town hasn't taken a position, Mr. Cohen said he could provide the answers during an in-camera session.

An in-camera meeting excludes members of the public and press. Council is permitted to hold in-camera meetings to discuss personnel, legal and property matters.

Scrutiny ahead

When a development proposal to build 304 single family homes, 63 townhouses and 69 condominium units goes before a public meeting within the next few months, Toronto-based development company, Paramount Development Corporation, will come under much scrutiny.

Councillors requested Monday, the developer should provide designs for the houses and an explanation for how the issue of affordable housing is to be tackled, at the time of the public meeting.

Plans for 1992

Town councillors learned Monday, the planning department plans to focus attention on policy issues as opposed to development control guidelines in 1992.

According to a staff report, policy issues to be dealt with this year include the Official Plan review, rural cluster study and parkland deficiency study.

Committee appointments

Town councillors recommended Monday, the following people be appointed to sit on the Recreation and Parks Master Plan Committee.

They include; town councillors Gerald Rennie and Pam Johnston; and town citizens, Dave Kentner, Linda Donais, Bob Kitchen, Brenda Payton, Steve Bailey, Linda Denny and Lois Fraser.

The committee will advise the town on what the priorities should be for recreation and parks-related capital projects.

Policy questioned

Town Coun. Gail Rutherford requested Monday the Mayor find out who, and how often, the police community room at the Georgetown police station can be used.

Coun. Rutherford said she has received several complaints from citizens saying they can't gain access to the meeting room because they meet too regularly or are too confrontational.

Taxpayers paid for this room, yet there are times when it remains empty, said Coun. Rutherford.

Coun. Pam Johnston said the policy in place permits groups to use the room once, to permit as many groups as possible to use it.

Report requested

In light of the problems with the condominium project at 150 Armstrong Avenue, Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson requested town staff report on whether builders could be restricted from working in town if they have already built a poor building.

Town staff said they would investigate the matter.

REGION BRIEFS

Farming community put on hold

Halton's farming community will now have to wait until early March to know what their 1992 financial regional grant will be to fund educational programs.

Marie McNabb, Halton's Provincial Ministry of Agriculture and Food Representative, requested Wednesday the Region grant the 12 farming groups a total of \$26,280

this year.

The Region granted the same 12 groups \$25,417 last year.

Ms. McNabb told the Regional Planning and Public Works committee the money goes towards funding agricultural education programs.

While supportive of the grant request, committee members

referred it to the Region's budget committee.

The budget committee won't decide the grant allocations to various regional groups until early March.

Chairman Pomeroy said the budget committee should deal with the grant request to ensure all groups, farming-related or otherwise, receive an equal amount of funding.

As part of her presentation, Ms. McNabb said Halton's agricultural community would accept a smaller increase than requested, or no increase at all to last year's total grant allocation.

She warned committee members the number of agricultural education programs would be significantly reduced if no regional grant money was forthcoming this year.

Feasibility study

A feasibility study to establish a walkway along Mountainview Road through Hungry Hollow in Georgetown should be forthcoming to regional councillors soon, Halton Public Works Commissioner Art Leitch told Planning and Public Works Committee members Wednesday.

Mr. Leitch provided this information in response to a suggestion by Halton Hills Regional Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson that the stretch of road under question is unsafe for pedestrians.

Mr. Leitch told Coun. Serjeantson Regional staff will meet soon with Halton Hills Engineering staff to discuss the possibility of a walkway.

The Public Works Commissioner, however, wasn't optimistic about when the roadway would be widened.

Several environmental reports concerning the road widening project must still be conducted before the project can go ahead, he said.

Mr. Leitch predicted those reports won't go before regional council for several months.

Signs approved

Regional Planning and Public Works Committee recommended Wednesday 'no left turn' signs be erected at the intersection of Mountainview Road and Stuart McLaren Road in Georgetown. The 'no left turn' signs apply to westbound traffic on Stuart McLaren Road and southbound traffic on Mountainview Road.

The recommendation will go before regional council for final approval this Wednesday.



Hidden treasures

Grade 2 students at George Kennedy Public School in Georgetown, Andrew Koenigsberger and Haley Carzon unload bricks of gold Jan. 28 during a presentation of "Treasures of the Atocha" by Birks Jewellers. The students are pictured here with David Turgeon, Marketing Manager of Birks Jewellers. (Herald Photo)

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