

Norval residents urged to attend Monday meeting on village zoning

By LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

Some Norval residents were at the Halton Hills council meeting Monday night concerned that the Town's proposed Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw (CZB) will have a negative impact on the hamlet.

Before the residents spoke Mayor Rick Bonnette said the Town has set up a meeting to discuss the zoning bylaw with area residents Monday July 5, 6:30 p.m., at St. Paul's Anglican Church parish hall, 16 Adamson St. in Norval.

"The CZB is a tool to implement the policy intent of the Norval Secondary Plan," said Bonnette Tuesday. "If there are some glitches in it we'll discuss it with the Norval residents so everybody has an understanding. We'll work on consensus and compromise."

Mary Pettingill Churchill said she was opposed to the proposed rezoning of properties along Guelph St., Mary, Arthur, King, Green, Adamson and Noble streets to Hamlet Commercial in the proposed bylaw.

"The bulk of Norval is actually residential," said Pettingill Churchill.

She said some residents fear it's the "thin edge of the wedge" that would lead to the widening of Hwy. 7 and destruction of the Norval community as they know it.

Joyce Hutton, who was raised on Draper St., said Norval, is home "to much cottage industry." She said if the zoning is changed to commercial, "this type of home industry is in peril."

"The heart of the village will be lost," said Hutton.

Norval resident Kathy Gastle, former Mayor of Halton Hills, said Ward 2 councillors were unaware of the impacts "as these zoning changes were buried in the comprehensive zoning report."

"I'm not speaking about a flyer that was stuffed into a hydro bill," said Gastle. "To date I have only found one Norval resident who actually understood

there were major changes happening to the Norval Secondary Plan."

Julian Reed, also of Norval, raised concerns about how the CZB will impact farming.

"If you want a vital agriculture, leave farming alone. Leave farmers alone and let us make our own decisions," said Reed, former MP for Halton. "I don't know who is making up the bylaws, but I tell you, they're not farmers."

"I don't see it as a great conflict between them (Norval Secondary Plan and the proposed zoning bylaw)," said Ward 2 councillor Joan Robson. "I have no desire to see the character of the village changed or destroyed."

She said Town councillors and staff will meet with the residents, listen to them and "craft whatever we need to craft to address their needs."

The Town's Director of Planning Bruce MacLean said the CZB is to replace dated bylaws, and to implement the approved Town Official Plan policies and Norval Secondary Plan.

"I believe the intent of the plan (Norval Secondary) is being fulfilled by this bylaw," said MacLean, adding that the residents may have a different preference.

In the proposed zoning bylaw the category for the core area of Norval is Hamlet Commercial. Under the current bylaw the same area is a mixture of Residential General and C 1 Commercial. The commercial properties are scattered through the area, some were in place when the current bylaw was implemented, and others have been rezoned.

MacLean said the proposed zoning would allow a mixture of residential and commercial uses. He said at the meeting with residents Town staff will explain what's allowed under that zone.

"What controls do residents need in place to give them assurance the character of their community is being maintained," will be discussed at the meeting, said MacLean.

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