

Buttonville restaurant turned down

Faced with overwhelming opposition from neighboring residents, Markham's planning committee turned down a proposal to build a high-class seat restaurant near Buttonville.

Cornergrat Developments Ltd. wanted to build a 2,700-sq.-ft. restaurant and tavern on the corner of Woodbine Ave. and McIntosh Dr. along with retail stores and offices.

But residents said at a public hearing that they bought their houses knowing the site was zoned industrial and did not want a commercial activity such as a restaurant

being operated in their neighborhoods.

The site is zoned industrial according to Markham's official plan, but a commercial use is permitted in a secondary plan. A zoning bylaw amendment is necessary in order to permit a restaurant.

Spokesmen from the Buttonville Ratepayers' Association and the Classics Community Association cited odors, noise, garbage, traffic and vermin as possible problems resulting from a restaurant. They were also concerned about the town's ability to control activities in the tavern if it ever changed hands.

Anthony Pedone, agent for the developer, told the committee, a convenience store was originally intended for the site, but was told by planning staff that it was not appropriate.

Regional Councillor Ron Dancey to the residents that they might have to live with a much bigger high-rise industrial building if the restaurant proposal is turned down.

But a Cathy Joyce of the Buttonville Ratepayers' Association said the residents would prefer a "clean," high-tech industrial use to a restaurant.

"Not one person wanted a restaurant in any shape or form," said John Meyers, a Montgomery Ct. resident who surveyed his neighbors. "They didn't care about a high-rise building or factory — the last thing they wanted was a restaurant."

Peter Bell of the Classics Community Association said 76 per cent of the residents he polled were against the restaurant proposal.

"I would ask you to vote against the proposal simply because the people don't want it," he said.

Living only a 1/4-mile from the numerous

restaurants at the corner of Hwy 7 and McCowan Rd., Regional Councillor Bud Bonner said he could "appreciate" the residents' concerns.

But a convenience store might have similar drawbacks, he said. "It's the same — garbage and rodents."

The committee voted to have the proposal sent to the Unionville Sub-Committee for a compromise to be hashed out between the residents and the developer.

The matter will come up in a public meeting again in about two weeks.

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