



Town of Newmarket
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Helmer Avenue Parking Review Staff Report to Council

Report Number: 2020-48

Department(s): Engineering Services

Author(s): Rachel Prudhomme, Director, Engineering Services

Meeting Date: July 20, 2020

Recommendations

1. That the report entitled Helmer Avenue Parking Review dated July 20, 2020 be received; and,
2. That no additional parking restrictions be implemented on Helmer Avenue; and,
3. That a copy of this report be forwarded to the residential community prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting so that residents may attend the meeting or present a deputation if they so wish; and,
4. That the Eagle Terrace Long Term Care Facility's administration be forwarded a copy of this report and ensuing Council extract, along with a request to remind all visitors who park on Helmer Avenue to treat the community with respect and to comply with the Town's by-laws; and,
5. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to report back to Town Council the results of a study stemming from a community petition that was submitted in accordance with the Council-approved Public Consultation and Support policy for transportation matters.

Background

At its regular meeting of September 9, 2019, Town Council adopted the recommendations from the Committee of the Whole held on August 26, 2019 (Section

5.9 of the Committee of the Whole and Section 9.1.9 of the Council minutes), at which a petition was received requesting that parking be prohibited on both sides of Helmer Avenue from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays. The petition was referred to staff for action as per the Town's Public Consultation and Support Policy.

Discussion

Helmer Avenue is a local residential road that runs north to south from Eagle Street to Avenue Road, west of Lorne Avenue. There are 13 homes that either front or flank Helmer Avenue. In addition to the homes, Eagle Terrace (a Revera Long Term Care Facility) also flanks that street, but it is located on Eagle Street. However, because Eagle Terrace is institutional, it is expected that it would provide sufficient parking for its needs on its own property and therefore, it would not be affected by any changes in the parking by-law as a result of the petition.

The petition was signed by 6 households, which accounts for 46% of the total residences. The Public Consultation and Support policy requires a minimum of 25% of households supporting the petition in order to proceed with further review and notification.

The Town mailed two notifications to the community. The first notification was mailed on November 26, 2019, and it included the private residences and Eagle Terrace as well. The notification resulted in no input from the residential community, but several replies from the Eagle Terrace residents, staff and care providers. The replies received from the Eagle Terrace community were all against any changes to existing parking since family, friends and special care givers regularly visit the residents of Eagle Terrace.

It was determined that the first notification may have been subjected to delays due to being mixed in with seasonal holiday mail, and that residents may not have had sufficient time to provide their input. Therefore, a second notification, dated January 10, 2020, was sent to the residential community only, with a deadline that extended to three weeks. Again, no comments were received as a result of the second mail-out.

In the end, the response rate fell short of the Public Consultation and Support Policy limit of 50%. For that reason, no further action will be undertaken on the matter and the parking by-law will remain as it currently exists.

Conclusion

Based on the level of support outlined in the Public Consultation and Support policy, changes to parking on Helmer Avenue are not recommended at this time.

Furthermore, it is recommended that Eagle Terrace's administration be sent a copy of this report, and be asked to remind all visitors who are parking on Helmer Avenue to act respectfully towards the community and to comply with the Town's by-laws.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

Well-planned and connected...strategically planning for the future to improve information access and enhance travel to, from, and within Newmarket.

Consultation

Consultation was conducted in accordance with the Town's Public Consultation and Support Policy for Transportation matters, and as detailed in the "Discussion" section of this report.

A copy of this report will be forwarded to the community prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting so that residents may attend the meeting or present a deputation if they so wish.

Human Resource Considerations

None.

Budget Impact

The recommendations have no impacts to budgets.

Attachments

None.

Approval

Rachel Prudhomme, Director, Engineering Services

Peter Noehammer, Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

Contact

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact Mark Kryzanowski, Manager, Transportation Services, at 905-895-5193 extension 2508 or MKryzanowski@newmarket.ca.