

To Ms. Alannah Slattery and whomever this email finds,

I implore that the town of Newmarket recognizes the significance of the Police Fields and the OS-2 open space at 600 Stonehaven Avenue, not only to the ecological systems and the environment as a whole, but also to the mental and physical health of the Stonehaven community.

NASA predicts that we have approximately seven years until the ozone layer is depleted and climate change becomes irreversible. Do we feel that it is a valid decision to build houses for families that will have a tainted quality of life due to these circumstances, emitting more carbon dioxide than these houses are worth? Do we feel that giving into urban sprawl will better the Stonehaven community, or Newmarket as a whole? I think not. The greenspace and ecological systems that you propose to taint cannot be preserved via the town's Tree Preservation plan, only by leaving the open space as-is.

As well, Stonehaven Avenue is already backlogged with cars, slowing traffic and increasing frustration during morning commutes to school and to work, and adding 142 townhouses and 60 detached houses will only increase this issue further.

Furthermore, to bulldoze the Police Fields is to take away Stonehaven Elementary School's track and field area meet, as well as their graduation celebration space, both long standing traditions in the school's history.

Lastly, regular observation of greenery and foliage decreases depression and aids in "stress recovery and improved affective state" (Erja Rappe, PhD.). Due to COVID-19, we are in times of increased stress levels and deteriorating mental health and to turn OS-2 into residential space is to strip the Stonehaven community of their stress relief and of their sanity. We will see increased conflicts between neighbours, road rage, and traffic violations as the effects of this development take their toll on the Stonehaven community at large.

I recognize that the town favours building more houses for the sake of population and economic growth, but this isn't the time or place to do it. I beg that you see how the cons of this development will out-weigh the pros, and how it will tarnish the Stonehaven community with a concrete stain more than it will benefit any of us.

Sincerely,  
Emma Hood