

January 16, 2021

Re: Shining Hill Development
Re-designation of protected lands

Dear Town of Newmarket Council:

I am writing this letter together with my family (husband and two children) and on behalf of Shoniker Drive and Oaktree Crescent homeowners.

With one of the last 'protected' areas of green space in York Region, this sets Newmarket apart from other neighbouring towns. This is not just an incredible space where families enjoy beautiful hiking trails, natural rivers, forests, and toboggan hills, many different kinds of animals call this home. As a local resident living directly by the Shining Hill (farm) land already under development, and across from this green protected space, we know it's home to many birds, hawks, and animals (rabbits, coyotes, and deer to name a few). Just the other day we were so lucky to have spotted a huge owl in a tree close to the walking path. Whether the plan is to completely destroy or partially destroy ("protect"), this green space can never remain the same if it is developed in any way. Wildlife will be destroyed. The natural space will be greatly altered, and many local families will be adversely affected. Now more than ever, as we continue to adapt to the new way we live during the challenges of Covid, we are reminded about how precious and important our public green spaces are. More than ever residents of Newmarket are seeking out spaces to enjoy outside where they can get away (locally), and enjoy all that nature has to offer. There is no question or debate that if the Town does not continue to keep this treasured green space protected, years from now we will see the next generations moving away and Newmarket will become just another over-crowded city with nothing special to offer. If we continue with this mindset of over-development of neighbourhoods, especially within our limited green spaces, with no regard for our natural resources, we really won't have to worry about

infrastructure as Newmarket will become quite an undesirable place to live.

Newmarket is growing rapidly and will continue to grow. There will always be development. However, not all change is good. We all hope that the rumour 'money talks' is just that, a rumour. That the promise of big money from this next huge developer Shining Hill does not outweigh all the immeasurable benefits and enjoyment Newmarket residents will treasure with the Oak Ridges moraine greenspace for years to come. We sincerely hope Newmarket Council knows what the right decision is, and the only choice. Please make the right decision for our community and continue to keep this protected land "protected" for us all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Lisa Woltman and Family