

Hello,

The Shining Hill OPA presentation (attached to the meeting agenda) prepared by MPG Limited, provides no valid reason for Newmarket Council Members to change the Official Plan. Why would Council vote to needlessly allow sensitive, protected land to be destroyed? It is also questionable why a Developer would buy protected land in the first place, if not only to significantly benefit the few at the cost of the many.

The idea that an amendment to the Official Plan is justified based on the Town's growth mandate is utterly absurd. As Newmarket residents are aware, there are dozens of existing re-development opportunities within Newmarket that will satisfy the Town's growth, affordable housing and economic stabilization targets. In fact, tens of millions of dollars have been spent over the last decade to create intensification and rapid transit corridors on Yonge Street and Davis Drive. It is expected that the elected representatives will fulfill their growth mandate responsibly and carefully by using these prime re-development sites first before considering compromising protected land.

The Shining Hill proposal only serves to offer the Town irreversible environmental damage caused by a status quo approach to urban sprawl, nothing more. However, this is not a status quo situation. This is among the very last parcels of undisturbed land remaining in Newmarket. Council must tread lightly here and be reminded of their ethical obligation to act in the best interest of citizens first, which clearly is to leave the Official Plan and the land in question "untouched".

Stay well,

Tim Fallows