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To: [Clerks](#)
Cc: [Jane Twinney](#)
Subject: Feedback on the Proposed Pickleball Courts at George Richardson Park
Date: December 10, 2023 3:13:49 PM

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Hello Clerks,

Please include this correspondence on the public record with respect to Agenda Item 9.1.8.

I am writing this letter in response to the "Update on Provision of Pickleball Staff Report to Council".

I became aware of the proposal through a letter dropped on my doorstep from my Councillor on Saturday, December 9th. Thank you Councillor Twinney. I find it unacceptable that a proposed pickleball venue can seemingly be approved without any consultation from the residents nearby. Are the residents in the neighbourhood not a stakeholder worthy of consideration? Is 2 days notice something that you would appreciate? Unfortunately the short notice makes it impossible to participate in the meeting and provides little time to spread the word.

I ask that consideration of the staff report be deferred to a future meeting date to allow for proper consultation with area residents, **as I know for a fact that this may be the best kept secret in our neighborhood.**

Here are my following concerns:

1. **Noise** not only from the sport, but from the influx of vehicles coming in and out of the parking lot all day and evening. My back fence is only a few feet away from the parking lot and the increased mobility through the lot has me concerned. While I understand that noise mitigating measures are being considered, please note that there has been no study to even determine what noise will be generated. It seems that decisions are being made without proper studies.
2. I am also concerned with **availability of parking**. In peak soccer season, that parking lot is filled to the maximum capacity, with cars parking in the roundabout as a last resort. How that parking lot will accommodate additional vehicles is unknown to me, but with the current design of the parking lot, it abuts our backyard with no noise buffer. It only takes 4 steps out our back gate to reach the parking lot, and with the volume of vehicles that may be expected to flow through that lot due to the sports popularity, it's worrisome to me, especially with having young children who use that back gate to play on the fields. Where would the overflow parking go -- on our side streets?
3. I question if this field is the best **location**, given the number of soccer fields located on Bayview Parkway. While I understand that money is a considerable factor in selecting a location, there are fields on Bayview Parkway, specifically at 225 Bayview Parkway that have a far greater buffer to the residential neighbourhood provided by a green canopy. Such buffer

does not exist at the proposed location. While the berm provides privacy to the residents who are closest to the proposed pickleball courts, beyond the berm, the houses backing onto the parking lot will not benefit from such a buffer. What can be done to appease us residents who have to live with the noise of vehicles coming in and out, and the impact to our **privacy**?

4. **Traffic** is also a concern. Has a traffic study been done, or any thought to the volume of cars that will be flowing through the neighbourhood? Given that the proposed facility is located in the deepest area of the Leslie Valley neighbourhood, you will have additional vehicles flowing along Leslie Valley Road, as well as on Bayview Parkway, which is only a 30 km road that has significant pedestrian traffic due to bike paths, a dog park, and soccer fields. At possibly 20 fields, with 2 players each, we're potentially looking at 40 cars every hour coming in.

5. I am disappointed with the **lack of consultation** as mentioned above. While I understand the growing popularity of Pickleball, I urge the Town to do their due diligence before approving this proposed facility. You have consulted with the soccer community, but you have **neglected to let area residents know**. It's not just the houses backing onto the park that are affected, you are bringing traffic infiltration deep within our neighbourhood. It's not like the facility is located near a main arterial road -- it's deep deep within our community. As such it's a very quiet space that is enjoyed by families who come for picnics, to walk their dog, to kick a ball, or to fly kite. Neglecting area residents, and favouring the feedback of the pickleball community, definitely shows bias. There is only one sentence in the staff report that mentions residents. Apparently you will consult with us only on draft design, but not before.

Fit and cost should not be the only factors in selecting the site. Impact on the neighbourhood should have equal weight.

Please find an alternate location - one that will be less disruptive to our quiet community.

When you see the lack of community feedback at this Council meeting, please don't think that silence is approval. You have successfully maneuvered around area residents and taken us out of the equation.

Regards,
Steph Dumont

