

April 21, 2022

Mayor and Council
Town of the Blue Mountains
32 Mill Street
Thornbury ON N0H 2P0

Re: Astec (BTI) Request for Noise By-law Exemption

Dear Mayor and Council:

In response to Staff Report FAF.22.078, I would like to join others in my neighbourhood in objecting to Astec's (recently known as BTI) request for an exemption from TBM's noise by-law. My family has had our residence on Bay Street East since the mid 1950's before the site's original owner JMG built their plant on Elgin Street North. For most of those years, we were directly across the road from Astec (we severed our double lot in 2008). I know my parents had raised noise concerns a number of times over the years. In one case, it took three years for JMG/Teledyne/BTI/Astec to replace a very noisy industrial fan that ran at all hours. I can't recall a time when the plant owners reached out to its neighbours. Certainly not since I returned to Thornbury in 2009 as a full-time resident.

On top of its operational noise, Astec's activity of drainage/parking lot construction last year was extremely noisy and disruptive. My house shook and my windows rattled, and it was hard to talk on the phone during the number of weeks it took to complete. Astec made absolutely no effort to inform the neighbourhood about this construction. Good neighbours, they are not.

Rather than granting an exemption to the noise by-law, the Town should be enforcing the current noise by-laws. I am resigned to being woken by snow removal in the Astec parking lot at 4:30 am in the winter and the huge oversized tractor trailers mistakenly coming down Elgin Street North and doing multiple point turns in front of Bayview Park and my house to turn around, but to give Astec an exemption to make noise will effectively ensure they will continue to disregard and disrespect their neighbours with impunity, no matter the time of the day. The staff report mentions that Astec has replaced their forklift back-up beepers to white noise, but I can assure you, the many vehicles accessing the site at all hours have not.

I strongly urge Council to choose Option 1 in Staff Report FAF.22.078 and refuse to grant any noise exemptions to Astec. I know this operation has been in the neighbourhood for many years and predates some residents, however, the current scope of their operations has grown beyond the hourly parameters this plant has maintained for most of its existence and is now untenable for a residential neighbourhood, the majority of whom are full-time residents.

Sincerely,

Jayne Sutherland
[REDACTED] Bay Street East
Thornbury ON