

My name is Cim Nunn, and I live on [REDACTED] in Thornbury. I wish to respond to the staff report being considered today with regard to complaints about noise from the Astec industrial manufacturing facility.

From reading the report, it is not clear to me what if any next steps there may be. The company believes it can operate without restrictions because its property is zoned industrial. The legal opinion sought by staff seems to agree, asserting the company does not require an exemption to the bylaw because its activities are subject to provincial rather than local parameters.

I don't know where this leaves us. The current bylaw is unworkable, as it is poorly written and makes enforcement all but impossible. It comes into effect at 7pm, the time bylaw enforcement staff go home. Until now, all parties, including Astec, accepted that "non-residential" noise included Astec, and that the company was subject to the bylaw.

The staff report says there has only been one complaint recorded since May 8. Please consider this context: Over the past three years, more than 20 complaints have been sent to bylaw enforcement about noise from Astec. The last report prepared by staff on this issue said there had been 17 the preceding 2 years. Nothing was done about any of them. Is it any wonder no one is wasting more time and energy filing complaints, when staff aren't seen to be acting on them?

I live next to a mining equipment manufacturer. It's noisy. But no one is saying Astec can't make operating noise between 7am and 7pm - and we're not asking council to prohibit operations outside those hours. The staff report is inaccurate in that regard. We simply want to enjoy our homes in peace and quiet during evenings and weekends.

What we're asking for is the right that every other resident of the Town of the Blue Mountains enjoys - the peaceful enjoyment of our home in the evening and on weekends. If I lived anywhere else in town, you would defend those rights. That's your job.

The staff report does not offer a solution to the problem, and I hope this committee does not view this staff report as the end of this problem. I hope this committee will direct staff to take the necessary steps, including drafting a better, more appropriate bylaw, to protect the rights of residents who live near industrial areas, and ensure we enjoy the same rights as every other Town of the Blue Mountains resident.