

February 24, 2022.

Your Worship Mayor Sever and
Councilors of the Town of the Blue Mountains,
32 Mill Street,
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

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TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
PER: _____

Re: Thornbury West reconstruction and the SW corner of Louisa St and Elma St.

Dear Council,

Many residents of Thornbury West are deeply concerned about the reconstruction plans for infrastructure improvement. We understand the need for replacement of aged sewers etc. but equally concerned about preservation of mature trees and other vegetation that does not represent a risk to the public. In updating our infrastructure utilities we need our town council to be bold and imaginative and do things differently. **The old convention growth plans for urban sprawl is a significant contributor to our current global warming dilemma. Think about the way Thornbury will look 50 years from now and the legacy you are leaving our children.**

We think roads should be narrower, not wider; a little roughness of the asphalt is ok; We don't want faster vehicular traffic, we want less traffic. As long as main thoroughfares like Bruce, Alfred, Arthur Streets can service the existing traffic, our residential streets need not change. **We wish to protect the charm of the old village that has been here since 1833.** Thornbury exists in close harmony with nature, including plenty of wildlife preserves and forest land. This makes it a great destination for nature-lovers, or just for anyone who wants to get away from the smog of the city. Provincial standards should be considered as guidelines only and it is vital to use imagination, local communication and flexibility in doing infrastructure changes.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, we understand the need to change aging water mains and sewage facilities and agree that there are **a number of very old trees that pose a risk and should be removed. We request a site visit with all taxpayers that have mature trees currently planned for removal.**

Fewer mature trees (30 years or more old) should be removed. With the climate changing so rapidly now, municipal councils need to do their part in protecting our planet. Removal of 141 mature trees will change the look and feel of this town for decades. The federal government has recognized the need for more trees and has pledged to plant 2 billion trees in the next 8 years. We think only 25 trees should be removed but we still need to plant more. We need the shade and the carbon absorbing power of these old trees and their preservation should be a prime consideration.

We do not need wider streets. In fact, residential like Louisa, Elma, Lorne, Alice and Park Lane could be narrower with full face curbs and no boulevard parking. In fact, **boulevard parking on the south-west corner of Louisa and Elma streets is currently dangerous and should be deterred.**

A parquet on the north side of Louisa Street west of Bruce is silly. This space could be more properly used for parking to support local businesses. **Changing Louisa Street West to one lane (4m) going west with one lane for traffic and a parking lane (3m) on the north side would eliminate**

the need for a retaining wall and removal of many mature and healthy trees, realizing several thousand dollars saved.

From Alfred Street to Arthur (Hwy 26), only one sidewalk is necessary. Some residents might want the sidewalk on the east side and some on the west side, but everyone seems to agree only one is necessary. The east side from Alfred to Arthur seems preferential because it serves twice as many residents; street lights are currently on the east side and it would tie in with Lorne Street. Furthermore considerably fewer mature trees and the beautiful cedar hedge on the SW side, would have to be removed. **One Elma street sidewalk on the east side would realize significant savings.**

Abort current plans to reduce the hill slope of Elma Street at Louisa Street intersection, and make the street narrower with full face curbs so as to prevent parking on the hill. This would be a significant saving and create a safer intersection.

Mature trees enhance property value. Some municipalities even have a formula to determine the value of mature trees. **If trees are removed or die subsequent to the reconstruction of streets, is the town offering financial compensation to the owner?**

Many homes in Thornbury West are century or older homes with rubble foundations. Heavy equipment used in the reconstruction process will subject these foundations to unusual vibrations. **Is the town prepared to compensate owners for damage to house foundations caused by this reconstruction?**

We believe soft mountable curbs are currently in the plans. **Full face curbs offer many advantages:**

- more efficient clean up of winter sand
- discourages boulevard parking
- provide efficient rainwater collection
- better curb definition for snow plows
- better definition of access driveways.

We request Council to take these suggestions seriously and instruct town staff accordingly and the courtesy of a reply to the undersigned individuals is expected.

Respectfully yours,

Residents of Thornbury West listed on attached page.

Cc: Mr. Michael Campbell Construction Co-ordinator
Mr. Shawn Carey, Director of Operations

Residents of Thornbury who have read and agree with the foregoing letter.

Print Name

Signature

Residence Address.

[Redacted area containing 10 signatures and names]

**PETITION RECEIVED - 10
SIGNATURES**