

October 27, 2005

Good evening, Mayor Pellegrini and Members of Council.

My name is Christine Giambattista, and I live in King City, Ward 1.

I'm here tonight not only on my own behalf, but also on behalf of many residents who are strongly opposed to bringing intensification into the interior of our neighbourhood.

Specifically, we are opposed to two proposals:

- The construction of 13 townhomes at the Kingslynn and Patton site, and
- The proposal to build a four-storey residential building at the King City
- United Church site on Elizabeth Grove.

I hope you remember the petition I submitted around this time last year - it contained over 80 signatures from residents opposed to these very proposals. After reviewing the position papers and speaking with staff at the meeting held at the Zancor Community Centre recently, I did *not* get the impression that our voices had been heard. In fact, the updated map now shows an *increase* in the number of townhomes at Kingslynn and Patton, from previously eight, to now, thirteen.

We want you to hear us clearly and understand how deeply we care about our community.

Our neighbourhood is well-established, with mature trees, large lots, and one cherished park, Memorial Park, the only major green space we have. Memorial Park is where our children play, where seniors walk, and where neighbours come together. Memorial Park is essential to our community - offering a large, versatile space for recreation and events that no other park in the area can match.

It's wonderful to see everything that happens there, from soccer and baseball games for children and adults, to community events like past beer festivals, the Victoria Day celebration earlier this year, and most recently, the movie night organized by our MPP Stephen Lecce. Given all this, it's hard to understand how anyone could think that building a cluster of townhomes right beside this park is a good idea. Once this open space is built over, it's gone, forever.

Now, we understand that a portion of the green space at Kingslynn and Patton has long been designated for three residential lots, consistent in size and character with the surrounding homes. Of course, we respect that development should occur where it has been properly planned and zoned.

However, for the remaining green space, the former Eva L. Dennis School site, directly beside Memorial Park - we ask that Council consider an alternative vision. This land or part of it could be used to enhance the park, not diminish it.

It could provide space for a basketball net, more benches, or a proper parking area to support

families and visitors, especially since parking has always been an issue on that street. Preserving part of this open space would not only protect the park's natural setting but also strengthen its value as a true community gathering place.

Now, regarding the proposal for a four-storey residence on Elizabeth Grove, where the church currently stands - this building would be completely out of scale with the surrounding one- and two-storey homes. It would cause privacy and shadowing issues, block sunlight, and alter the look and feel of our quiet interior streets.

Such a building does not fit the character or spirit of our neighbourhood. It would bring traffic congestion, safety concerns, and costly infrastructure demands that our interior streets were never designed to handle. The impacts would not only affect residents on Elizabeth Grove, but inevitably spread to the rest of our neighbourhood.

Given the size of that property, surely a more thoughtful, low-impact housing option could be considered - one that blends in rather than disrupts.

These two proposals - the townhomes and the four-storey building, are simply not suitable for the heart of our well-established neighbourhood. They would fundamentally change its character, from calm and safe to congested and unsafe.

We all understand the need for more housing, but growth must happen where it belongs: along main roads, not inside quiet residential streets.

So tonight, on behalf of local residents, I respectfully ask Council to protect the integrity of our neighbourhood.

Please keep intensification out of our community's interior, safeguard our park, preserve the green space we have left, and uphold the planning principles that maintain the safety, stability, and quality of life in King City's established neighbourhoods.

Thank you.

Christine Giambattista