

Carleton Heights & Area Residents Association (CHARA) Annual General Meeting Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee activity

- Letter to the City of Ottawa and Councillor Brockington (April).
- Planning meeting questions posed and clarifications requested (May-July).
- Neighbourhood walkabout hosted, validating requests in letter (July).
- City of Ottawa response to the neighbourhood tour received (August).
- Questions to City of Ottawa staff remain outstanding (July-September).
- Subcommittee response/submissions are pending (September-October).
- **Outcome/s to date:** Secondary plan/s upheld with revisions to density.

The focus of our concerns with the draft New Official Plan: Our neighbourhoods currently lack the infrastructure and services needed for safe and sustainable growth.

1. **Access and safety concerns.** Ensure ready access to and safety in our neighbourhoods, particularly with anticipated population growth.
 - Illegal parking backs up cars into corridors and creates congestion in our neighbourhoods. Near accidents have occurred.
 - Hazards have increased with reduced access for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles - including emergency and service vehicles.
 - Parking on boulevards causes damage and reduces their utility.
2. **Infrastructure/water management concerns.** Ensure adequate infrastructure and services needed for homeowners today and any anticipated development in our neighbourhoods.
 - Past reports indicate local sewers are inadequate; the sewers cannot handle additional populations.
 - Upgrades are needed for intensification to occur.
 - Low maintenance of water routing leaves standing water and damage.
 - Risks increase with significant rainfall events, which are increasing in frequency (Patterson Lab, 2021).
 - New expectations for homeowners to manage runoff introduce liability/affordability questions.
 - A combined sewer connects the sewage and water runoff together (requested camera view to confirm). If flow exceeds the capacity of a combined sewer, back-ups occur to streets or input sources in homes.
3. **Evidence missing for planning decisions.** Require data and evidence to support NOP planning decisions. The City needs to gather data and reports for evidence-informed planning and safe, sustainable growth.
 - Supporting data is missing, not comparable, or incomplete to make the NOP decisions.
 - City lists combined sewers in our neighbourhoods online; City denies combined sewers are present.
 - Reports are missing that were the basis of past decisions.
 - Carleton Heights and neighbourhood data confused.
 - Parking and transit capacities mismatch.
 - Request evidence and mitigation strategies before intensification.
4. **Communications and collaboration are needed.** The Subcommittee will continue to amplify resident voices in the hopes of collaborating with the City and supporting safe and sustainable planning decisions.
 - The City of Ottawa needs to reinstate CHARA Secondary Plans without density changes to fit our local context's safety and infrastructure needs (no density revisions to Secondary Plans with the NOP).

Next steps

- New Official Plan Open House September 29th, 2021.
- Joint Committee submission due before October 12th, 2021 (any/all appeals require submission).