
From: Syreeta Wootton
Sent: September 12, 2024 8:55 AM
To: Public Hearings; Victoria Mayor and Council; Marianne Alto (Mayor)
Subject: Regarding proposed building on Fairfield Road /Abkhazi bait and switch

To Mayor Alto and City Council,

This letter is to express my opposition to the proposed and continued destruction of our neighbourhoods, particularly Fairfield. I have lived in the Fairfield area for the last 44 years and find the disregard of both the Fairfield Association and the Gonzales Association concerns and the blatant ignoring of the people actually living in the area frustrating and frankly reprehensible. Under the guise of creating more homes for families and lower income /younger home owners, the Missing Middle Initiative, you have allowed perfectly good housing and green space to be torn down and appropriated and while lining the pockets of your developer friends who have then built \$750,000 + 1bed condo's. I don't know what you think you know about families and lower income people but they do not qualify for a mortgage of that amount. You are building a city for the rich, not for everyone.

I also want to ask about amenities and infrastructure. How will our already taxed and over worked teachers accommodate all the people who will be living in this new complex? Margaret Jenkins is at capacity and it seems many students at Oak Bay High have to take classes on line because the classes they require for graduating are full. Our sewer and rain water systems are also in danger, we haven't upgraded them since the 60's and as we have seen several times recently in Fairfield and Oak Bay have been overloaded due to breaking down or high rain water. Not to mention the state of our hospital and doctor situation, it's mind boggling that you think we can sustain a larger population, and as already established the housing being built is not for the Everyman /Everywoman.

I don't understand this new project and how you can be fooled once again by Aryze, who are not our friends, they want to destroy the character of the neighborhoods and infill all the gardens, which is why people want to live in Victoria in the first place. This bait and switch with Abkhazi Gardens is truly pathetic and so transparent. They aren't trying to save or help anyone except themselves.

I am not against densification, but i am against doing it the way the city has allowed. Protected trees being cut down, heritage houses being torn down, so much into the landfill, so much green space destroyed, perhaps we should encourage a backyard urban permaculture and bartering system, perhaps we should encourage more communal living situations or small lane way housing. By laying more concrete down we only create more of a flooding and environmental problem, with less places for the rain to be absorbed we should expect more flooding on an already taxed sewer system. Perhaps you should focus on developing the area between Shelbourne all the way to Mayfair /Uptown, it is land that is underused and in fact closer to town...

For once, do what you were hired to do, listen to the people who actually live in the neighbourhood.

Yours, a super frustrated and voter.

Syreeta Wootton