

Residents oppose townhouse plan

BRADFORD - Residents in the area of Thornton Avenue and Frederick Street are concerned about a proposed 26-unit townhouse development on 1.9 acres of land at the northwest corner of Thornton Avenue.

A group of people came before town council last week to air their grievances and find out exactly what was involved. Council has received the three letters of objection required to warrant a meeting.

A representative of town planners, Bruce McLaughlin, was present to answer questions from the objectors.

One concern seemed to be the danger of fire in the development, which was one block of 16 units.

Mr. McLaughlin said '16 houses in a row is perhaps a little longer than normal,' but as far as fire danger was concerned there wasn't any because the development would adhere to all the government restrictions.

'The town needs this kind of housing', Mr. McLaughlin argued, 'because of the high cost of single unit houses.'

The townhouses proposed by Alex McKenzie and Keith Stevens would be rental units only.

The original use of the word 'cheap' to describe rental rates for the units was later retracted by Mr. McLaughlin and replaced with 'affordable'.

Mr. F. Ward, one of the protestors, said angrily, 'This is where you start to irk me, where you talk about how cheap it is'.

Mr. McLaughlin explained, 'The whole point of this project is to provide an

alternative for people who can't afford or don't want a mortgage'.

Councillor John Zima protested, 'This is the only way for our children to get a house',

The residents were also concerned about what the development would do to traffic on Thornton Avenue.

They claim the development would mean another 50 cars would be using the street, but the planner suggested that a figure of 30 to 40 would be more realistic.

In either case, Mr. McLaughlin said, much of that traffic will be diverted onto the proposed Professor Day Avenue, which will run parallel to Thornton, north on the eighth concession.

Mayor Joe Magani suggested the best course of action in the interim would be to draw up a site plan agreement, and let residents in the area see exactly what type of townhouses would be constructed, and what the development would look like when finished.

Another meeting will be set up with the residents after the site plan has been completed.

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