

Limerick Council,

January 15, 2017

On behalf of the Steenburg Lake Community Association, please allow me to express our gratitude for having arranged the public meeting on Monday January 9th which I and a number of our member did attend. This permitted us to gain more insights into the proposed road rehabilitation project, and hear firsthand the concerns of many of our members.

Following our own review of the preliminary drawings provided, and after hearing a great many concerned voices in the community, I think we can safely say that the majority of concerns raised to date, deal with two specific safety aspects:

1. There is considerable and mounting concern for the proposed use of solid steel guide rails and end-treatment extruders along significant portions of the roadway, and that many of these would not allow pedestrians, cyclists and other recreational users of the roadway adequate safe distance from the road's edge. This would only be further accentuated during winter conditions when ice and snowbanks tend to build up and occupy what little shoulder space there already is along much of the roadway.

And secondly;

2. There is heightened concern that, once completed, the redevelopment of the North Road will only further encourage trucks and automobiles to travel even faster than they already do along this cottage road.

Though we are encouraged that the Township, aided by their engineering consulting firm, will look for ways to reduce the risk in the few specific areas that have been identified to date, our concern is that these increased hazards introduced in the preliminary design, may still exist elsewhere along the road, simply because they had not yet been identified. This causes us grave concern for all our members of the community, but especially for the many walkers and cyclist who customarily travel most or the entire length of the road.

Though there is no denying that the North Road has changed considerably since its early status as a small dirt and gravel cottage access trail, it has and will always continue to be inseparably linked to the lake it circumscribes, and the community that flourishes around its shores. This community, as well as all those who travel along the North Road even if they are merely passing through on their way to points beyond, are relying on you to ensure their safety. This also includes motorists as the last thing any driver wants to do is cause harm to innocent passers-by.

I am sure that the SLCA Executive join me in encouraging Council to come up with the necessary changes needed to the road redevelopment plan to ensure the safety and continued enjoyment of the road and lake for all users. Please take into consideration every possible means of ensuring that this objective is met, and that includes practices and design features that will help enforce safe use of the road for the many years that follow its completion. We hope that you will keep us advised of all developments moving forward, and will promptly share with us any significant revisions to the rehabilitation design plans as they become known.

Sincerely,

Pat Stallaert

President – Steenburg Lake Community Association

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