

Terri Kimball and Mark Beaton
■ McAuley Street North
Thornbury, ON
N0H 2P0

Email: townclerk@thebluemountains.ca

February 16, 2021

Mayor and Members of Council
Town of The Blue Mountains
32 Mill Street
PO Box 310
Thornbury, ON
N0H 2P0

Re: Proposed Housing Project on the Former Foodland Site

I, together with my husband Mark Beaton are the owners and full time residents of the property known as ■ McAuley Street north, Thornbury.

I am writing to vehemently oppose the proposed Official Plan amendment that could see the former foodland site be developed to 4 or 5 storeys in height.

As a former committee member on the Attainable Housing Corporation I fully support the need for, and inclusion of, attainable housing in the Town of The Blue Mountains. We need to provide housing for all income groups in our community if the community is survive and flourish.

My concern lies in the process being undertaken to deliver the project. As I understand it, the site was purchased without any knowledge as to the development costs to deliver the attainable housing.

In order to make the development economically viable, it is now widely recognized that greater density (ie: more units, more storeys) is the way to accomplish this goal. In order for an increase in density and more storeys, an Official Plan amendment is required. This is not the way development should precede.

The Town has an Official Plan for a reason – it sets out rules to govern how the Town grows and develops. *If everyone who wanted to do something that doesn't fit within the OP simply applied for a "site specific exemption", then what would be the purpose of the Official Plan?* Allowing a site specific amendment to the Foodland site has the potential to open up a flood gate of applications along King Street, right up to the four corners of Town!

As we all can agree, this is clearly a key site – a gateway into our Town. We all must work together to come up with a plan that will provide the needed housing, but also respects the character and charm of the Town.

Respectfully

Terri Kimball
Copy: Clerk's Department