

**Communication : C 32
Committee of the Whole (Public Meeting)
May 30, 2022
Agenda Item # 4**

From: Daniel Hempstead [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 12:00 PM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Subject: [External] Committee of the Whole - 80 Glen Shields Ave.

To whom it may concern,

I'm emailing about the proposed construction at 80 Glen Shields Ave. to replace the current plaza with a new multi-purpose building. As someone who has lived in the Glen Shields area for over 30 years, the plaza has served my family and I well in order to provide pharmaceutical needs from the pharmacy to a place where I can quickly get something if needed from the convenience store, as well as bakery and barber shop.

The proposed new building to be built in its place, initially sounds like it would provide new benefits to new people coming to the Glen Shields area, as it would provide new housing options. It does seem to take away services for existing Glen Shields residences, as well as others who don't live in the Glen Shields area who benefit from the plaza. Personally I have an aunt who lives in the Bathurst and Steeles area and requires medication for her dogs; the only location she can get the medication for a reasonable price for her dogs is from the Glen Shields Pharmacy. If this pharmacy were to no longer be available to her, she does not know where she could go, or at least easily go, to get the medication required.

Furthermore, throughout the pandemic, I've really taken time to appreciate and almost daily taking time to walk through the Glen Shields and Marita Payne parks which are easily accessible to Glen Shields residence. One area of the park where it is really nice to walk through, where you see wildlife, and don't often feel you're in a residential area, is the path going from the current construction in the park (by the previous tennis courts) to behind the plaza, to alongside the plaza and behind Cherry Hills Rd which then leads into the tunnel under Glen Shields Ave. I appreciate the path there as I know the plaza is there, but you don't really see the plaza. Adding a 7-9 storey building will take away from the natural beauty we have there in the park.

Another concern with this proposed building, if completed, would be the additional traffic added to this area, whether it's the initial construction traffic during the build phase, followed by traffic for new residence as well as for the proposed grocery store. As Glen Shields is only accessible via Dufferin St., already access to the subdivision can be slow. As someone who drives to work, heading north on Dufferin to turn onto Glen Shields at the south entrance, can already take a while during rush hour. Adding new residence will increase this time further, to an already busy and high traffic area. Additionally, I worry this increased traffic in the area can lead to potential accidents or injuries in this area. As previously mentioned I've been enjoying walking more in the Glen Shields area,

however I have seen how aggressive or careless some drivers are currently in the area. I've even had to purchase a highly reflective vest to wear when I go for walks between dusk and dawn to try and make myself more visible. I always cross Glen Shields Ave at the stop signs or provided stop light-controlled intersections, but have had drivers either 1) not stop at all for me, 2) come to a half stop and start driving away while I was already in the intersection, or 3) purposely drive around me. This is all while I'm crossing the intersection correctly, having the right of way, and trying to make eye contact with the driver of the vehicle. I have tried to get a license plate number, but often I am too busy trying to make sure I don't get hit or the vehicle drives too quickly for me to get the information to report it. I'm fortunate at this time I do not have any children or I would most likely not be crossing the street on Glen Shields Ave or waiting until there are no cars (which could sometimes take a long time).

I appreciate the city looking for opportunities to provide housing, as I personally know it is very difficult to find housing in the Vaughan area, however I feel this will have a more negative impact to the Glen Shields area than it will provide a benefit. I am an adult, still living with my parents, while working a full time job in the Vaughan area, and I currently cannot afford to purchase or even find my own housing in the Vaughan area.

I am hoping to attend the meeting on Monday to discuss this further. Thank you in advance. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks from a Glen Shields/Bob O'Link resident

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- Daniel Hempstead