



Carolyn Parrish Councillor Ward 5

Dear Neighbour,

It has been a long and ugly three years since Netherwood Plaza was demolished, leaving a devastating mess for the neighbourhood to live with. Proposing to build 26 attractive semi-detached homes and a neat little corner store, the application received draft plan approval.

Due diligence discovered a former tenant who ran the dry cleaning store had dumped toxic chemicals behind his unit instead of disposing of them appropriately. Early on it was realized remediation of the soil would be a lengthy process. In no way did that excuse the incredible mess the neighbours had to live with all these years.

Discovering the City's by-laws provided for safety fencing, weed control and clearing of regular debris, nothing was done by the developer to clean up the real mess for several years. On numerous occasions I took my concerns to Council and grew more frustrated by the lack of serious regulations to protect the neighbourhood.

Finally, on August 23, 2020 the Draft Plan Approval three year clock ran out. Knowing he might have approvals cancelled, the developer agreed to make a greater effort to clean up the site. By-law continuously monitored the work and Planning drafted a 'Notice of Withdrawal of Draft Plan Approval' so the developer would have to start a complicated process all over again.

Pressure looming, he agreed to put up solid hoarding as a visual block to the devastated site. To my dismay, 300 feet were covered with wood leaving two long sections of wire panels totalling another 650 feet.

I "encouraged" the developer to make a donation to the Malton BIA Beautification Fund. The BIA generously topped it up as did Peel Regional Police from their Community Support Fund. Finally the whole 950 feet of barrier was covered with opaque material brightened with colourful scenes celebrating The Village of Malton.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- the site must be cleaned to a standard suitable to a well-kept neighbourhood
- the land still has to be left vacant another 12 months after the last, recently completed environmental test
- the developer will have to renegotiate what he can build on the site after being served with the 'Withdrawal of Draft Plan Approval'
- the City is currently drafting tighter regulations governing the standards of hoarding and maintenance required on construction sites.

It is unfortunate that the neighbourhood has had to put up with this mess for three years. Sincere thanks go out to the Malton BIA and Peel Regional Police for assistance in making the site more bearable for the community.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Parrish
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