

Dear Mayor McGarry and Members of Council,

I am saddened that we are still discussing the full development intensification of the Forbes Estate. This Estate was identified as a potential Cultural Heritage Landscape by not only the Region, but in a peer reviewed HIA. Why was council not given these reports to consider? The utter destruction of hundreds of trees, wildlife habitats and important architectural features (the stone wall, the coach house, and the ruin/stone building) will forever change this area of Cambridge, and in a negative way. I understand that Polycorp has had issues in the past with a development in Kitchener and this likely impacted their decision in regards to engaging the community, but The Forbes Estate is of incredible built and natural heritage value. I am appalled that a member of my elected council barred ACO Cambridge from being on the liaison committee after they had been invited. I also feel all MHAC committee members should have been on this committee to help shape a potential development with the least amount of destruction while providing housing for our growing city. I support deferring this motion with the understanding that this cultural heritage landscape deserves better and more thoughtful planning and development. I further suggest a committee be struck that includes all stakeholders including ACO, MHAC, HPAC, and the Waterloo Heritage Foundation so we make the best decisions for this property and the future of Cambridge.

Michelle Goodridge, Preston resident