

From: Elizabeth Benson-Cox <lizbensoncox@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2018 1:58 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Cottages at Barton Green - housing development

Dear Planning Commission members:

Thank you so much for taking the time to listen to our concerns regarding the proposed Cottages at Barton Green (Trinitas) student housing development along Pontiac Trail, just north of Skydale. I live at 263 Larkspur Street in the Huron Highlands neighborhood, and I wanted to share some of my concerns with you.

I work downtown, and I ride the AATA bus to and from work. This was one of the reasons my husband and I bought this house in 2002 – we loved the location and especially the proximity to the bus line. Public transportation is very important to me. In the mornings, I can easily walk along sidewalks to reach the bus stop safely, on the west side of Pontiac Trail, across the street from Arrowood Coop. In the afternoons/evenings, coming home from work, I would normally get off the bus at Arrowood Coop or just north of Rudolph Steiner school, on the east side of Pontiac, and walk across Pontiac Trail at the crosswalk, and continue into the Huron Highlands subdivision. However, due to the current traffic coming in both directions on Pontiac Trail at high speeds (definitely over 25-30 mph), as well as low visibility for several months during the year, I do not feel safe crossing Pontiac Trail, even at the crosswalk near Arrowood. Instead, I get off the bus just north of the Barton/Pontiac intersection, walk to the traffic light, and cross at the light at the Barton/Pontiac intersection, and continue along the west side of Pontiac for another half mile or so, until I reach the Huron Highlands subdivision.

If this new student housing development goes in, traffic will be much worse than it is already, and I am concerned about the danger to anyone who would need to cross Pontiac Trail to get to a bus stop (resident of Arrowood, students going to Rudolph Steiner school, etc.). I also don't think any students would want to live there. I know I would not have wanted to live so far from campus when I was a student (and for parents who are paying for their children's education/housing, I suspect they will veto this location, too, on the understanding that the further away from campus, the less focus on study). I do understand that something will eventually be built on the site, but please consider approving the land for something with a much lower population/traffic density. Maybe another neighborhood with single-family homes, apartments or condos (similar to Chapel Hill on Green Road?), or a daycare, or a church - something that contributes to the area without further increasing the already significant traffic burden along Pontiac Trail.

Please vote no on the Cottages at Barton Green (Trinitas) development.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Kind regards,
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