

From: Laura Strowe
Sent: Friday, October 06, 2017 2:37 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Cottages at Barton Green

To the Members of the Ann Arbor Planning Commission:

You know something is wrong with a proposed project when you genuinely feel sorry for the people who live near it.

The Skydale and Hilldale residents near the proposed project called "Cottages at Barton Green" bought their modest homes---some of them decades ago---attracted by the reasonable prices, the open areas, the sense of community in the neighborhood and the idea of living literally on the edge of town. I do not live there, but got to know the neighborhood because classmates of my daughter at Northside School lived there, and I was impressed by its ambience.

Those residents are not fools; they knew change would come. As you know, there has been a tremendous surge of building off Pontiac Trail, and they knew that eventually the vacant land next to Skydale would be developed. But none of them expected what they are getting: a glorified undergrad horizontal dormitory for rich kids. Instead of say, a subdivision like theirs or the one going in further north along Pontiac Trail, or the Arrowwod co-op, all attracting families looking for permanent neighbors, they will be getting a population of partying, noisy, transient undergrads. The worst of that population: those willing to live far from the libraries and labs and classrooms, but close to a pool and a volleyball court.

I feel sorry for the residents there, and so should you, if you think about your own home being similarly affected.

Please help ameliorate the situation by at least a few requirements of the developer. For one, require them to incorporate non-student homes into the mix. For another, protect the neighborhood from the noisy activity areas, like the pool and the courts, by either walls or plantings on the side of the project that abuts the backyards of the Skydale residents. Right now, those backyards face trees, and it would be reasonable to ask the developer to keep them. A small concession, but worth a lot to the residents. Your job is to make the impact of this new development as small as possible on the already existing neighborhood.

Most of all, listen to the residents of Huron Highlands and try to meet their reasonable demands.

Thank you.

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