

Good evening Council and Mayor Cleveland.

I am here tonight asking you to vote NO to the northumberland sleeping cabin collective.

I, alongside many of my neighbours, have been very vocal about our concerns. We have sent many emails to councilors and formalized a petition, which you have seen earlier.

After having an open mind and attending the recent NSCC community engagement activities, we are still not in support of the initiative in the Furnace Street location.

Our health and safety concerns, our concerns over impact to our neighborhood and the current financial instability of this initiative are some of the reasons why we can not support this project. They have not demonstrated that they can provide a structure of care and support and their Q&A clearly states auto-governance of the community. From past council meetings, we understand that enhanced police presence would be required, and this has not been addressed or secured.

It has been clarified that illegal drugs will be allowed on site, staffing, if any, will be part time. There has been no work or collaboration done with the County Social Services department since the last Council meeting. The reasoning is the same as what was shared with us as residents earlier, "we would talk once we have a site".

That timing is too late.

The County are the experts in providing these services. How can you vote yes without proper subject matter expertise and feedback? How do we know that the site won't become another illegal consumption site, like we have seen as of late in our community. The Green Wood coalition and NSCC has aligned with the illegal activity of unsanctioned consumption tents by partnering at events and by having a board member who actively supports these unsanctioned sites.

This recent activity has confirmed this solution is not right for our neighbourhood.

You have heard from seniors who will be afraid to walk their dogs, we have children who said they will be afraid to walk home from school and play outside.

Our neighbours with young children don't feel safe with this initiative, not on Furnace St.

We don't support the sleeping cabins as our neighbour.

We've spent much time, effort & money to renovate our homes & increase our property values. Many young families have invested their hard earned money into their homes. Housing depreciation is a very real concern. Professional realtors have already told us the value will drop drastically, up to 25%. If this initiative moves forward, people who want to sell must disclose it to their realtor or they could be at risk of being sued. Other neighbours have listed & sold already due to these concerns. Current listings are not being shown to buyers because local realtors are aware of the proposal & are steering buyers away from the Furnace St area.

Yes we are aware that affordable housing is an issue and a priority, and that the lot could be designated as future affordable housing. We were looking forward to welcoming families to that piece of land alongside the new Firefighter museum which would invigorate our community and increase tourism and revenue to the community. If this was a proposal for habitat for humanity, you would see support and we would grab a hammer and help.

Those in support.... may I suggest you consider putting a cabin or two in your own backyard & sponsor the potential residents & assist in a wellness program.

Town council members in support of this, I encourage you to consider the same. In fact, at the library open house on March 21st, Alastair McKeating, an NSCC representative, actually told me & my partner

that he wouldn't want the cabins in his own neighborhood. Other Furnace Street neighbours that attended the library had similar feedback during conversations with him. What does that say?

Green Wood Coalition has all information skewed to support their initiative versus providing actual responses from direct community engagement. Their statistics show 'followers' as supporters, however, people in opposition have been 'following' not in support, just to try to gain information. The Greenwood Coalition has had ample time to prepare and engage the community, but we, as impacted residents opposing this initiative, feel like we've been scrambling to find information and express our concerns due to the lack of transparency that we have felt from the NSCC and Green Wood.

None of the Furnace St area residents' questions or concerns were answered. The online survey is not at all representative of the actual residents living in the direct area. It was available for only 24 hours & who knew about it? Their community of supporters did. The 36 pamphlets they said they distributed were not received by most residents on Furnace St & surrounding area. People commented on facebook that they weren't aware of an open house. The whole engagement process seems to be biased to gather support from their own supporters. In fact we are right where we started. Many of us found out about the proposal by a facebook post where a NSCC member commented "I would suggest that we don't share this message more publicly which could invite unhelpful attention"

We do not dispute that there is a real housing crisis, this is real. However, the proposed solution put forth by Greenwood coalition and the NSCC is not the answer. There are too many gaps in their proposal to provide our community with comfort for safe living.

So please vote NO to the Sleeping Cabins on Furnace St

We implore council to continue to engage Infrastructure Ontario, County of Social Services, MPP David Piccini and others to seek collaborative solutions to this housing crisis.