

I am writing to express my opposition to the recent changes made by Porte Developments to its proposal, which increases density and provides no discernable benefit to the community. Porte is not listening to community feedback and instead has proposed the addition of a school to a small portion of the lands that our kids will not be able to access, and which will have no discernable impact on the overcrowded schools in the community. The tradeoff for this "improvement" (a trojan horse, really) is increased traffic from the school, even more traffic from a newly-proposed increased in density, further environmental degradation of a sensitive forest to accommodate the newly added apartment condominiums, and increased density against the wishes of the community, on a property that is poorly suited to this type of development.

This property was never meant to be zoned or developed in this way under the NCP.

Porte has not taken into account the feedback from the community, and instead has proposed this trojan horse by adding a school that is all but private to a small sub-portion of the land, and simultaneously increasing the density of the proposal. I urge Council and planning to require that they revise their proposal in accordance with the current zoning of the property as institutional, which will permit the retention of the existing forest by using existing building footprints, bequeath the ecologically sensitive land for future generations, and result in traffic impacts at before/after school periods only (rather than constantly), and/or bring a net benefit to the community (such as a library, a publically accessible [i.e. not an exclusively francophone] school, a park, firehall, or similar).

It is not our neighbourhood's fault that Porte exercised its option to acquire the property prior to consulting with the neighbourhood and applying for re-zoning. It is not our community's responsibility, nor that of Council, to rectify this poorly considered and hasty decision on Porte's part by permitting the destruction of a unique forested riparian property in Surrey, and forcing increased density on a neighbourhood with an established (and widely-lauded and successful) NCP.

We look forward to taking our opposition to the unsustainable pace of development in South Surrey to the voter's box this fall.