



Tamara Haws <[redacted]>

Petition of opposition for Point Clark Lions Park Pickle Ball Courts

1 message

Tamara Haws [redacted]
To: jwhite@huronkinloss.com, Tamara Haws [redacted]

Thu, Nov 21, 2024 at 5:08 PM

PETITION IN OPPOSITION TO LIONS PARK PICKLEBALL COURTS

We, the undersigned concerned residents of Point Clark, urge Council members of Huron Kinloss Township to reconsider the proposed installation of pickleball courts at the Lions Park located on Alfred Street.

The proposal, which includes 6 pickleball courts and associated parking, threatens to disrupt this established local amenity. While we understand the desire to enhance recreational opportunities for our community, we believe the pickleball court proposal will have many detrimental effects on local residents, park-goers, and established wildlife who all cherish this natural refuge.

The Lions Park is more than just a playground and green space; it is a valuable part of our community. The pickleball court redevelopment plan disregards the park's multi-faceted benefits, instead favouring the singular interest of one identified group.

1. Current Use of Lions Park

Lions Park has been a haven for children, families, and seniors alike for decades. The grass field is used for soccer, baseball, football, frisbee, kite flying, and general game playing by park-goers. Access to green spaces like Lions Park can significantly improve physical and mental well being, as well as overall quality of life.

The pickleball court proposal completely removes this multi-use green space, favouring paving grass over for the installation of a single-purpose court. These courts will greatly interfere with the enjoyment of green space, a limited commodity in our growing communities.

2. Noise Pollution

Pickleball is known for its fast-paced sport. It can generate significant noise levels during play. The average pickleball sound, whether indoor or outdoor pickleball, is about 70 dBA. By comparison, tennis play will average 40 dBA. As a point of reference, any noise or sound greater than 80 dBA should try to be avoided and a dBA of greater than 90 can be harmful.

This excessive noise will not only disrupt the enjoyment of the park area but will be extremely disruptive to local residents and wildlife established in the area. It should be noted the courts are proposed to be constructed within 50M of residential homes.

3. Impact of Proposal to Local Wildlife

Lions Park is home to a diverse range of wildlife species that rely on its habitat for survival. The construction of pickleball courts would disrupt their natural habitats and potentially displace or harm these birds and animals. The implementation of the courts will negatively impact a local ecosystem both through construction and noise disruption during play.

4. Increased Traffic and Safety Hazards

The proposal to install pickleball courts at the Lions Park includes construction of parking spots alongside Alfred Street. This will undoubtedly attract visitors to this primarily residential area, leading to increased traffic in a quiet neighbourhood. Alfred Street and surrounding streets have previously been identified as areas of concern with speed of traffic, particularly in the summer season when cottage rentals are most active. Alfred Street, and all neighbouring streets in the area, do not have a sidewalk to provide safe travel for pedestrians. The result of increased traffic to the area presents safety hazards for pedestrians, children and cyclists.

Additionally, the addition of parking spaces to this location creates an unnecessary opportunity for increased day use of beach access via Lakeside Trail. This activity would be detrimental to a quiet beach neighbourhood area.

5. Environmental Footprint

Constructing new facilities within Lions Park would require clearing vegetation and potentially altering existing drainage systems – actions that can be disruptive to the local ecology. These negative consequences contradict efforts made towards preserving our environment. Notably, the proposal is within the Pine River Watershed, an environmentally sensitive location.

6. Alternative Locations Available

The Point Clark Community Center has been providing a suitable location for outdoor pickleball courts. This is a logical site as it provides established parking, safety lighting for the courts, and is a respectful proximity from residents who would be impacted by noise created from play. Importantly, the community centre location does not require "reinventing the wheel," leading to a more fiscally responsible project for the implementation of additional recreational options for residents.

By signing this petition, we express our commitment to preserving the Point Clark Lions Park as a sanctuary for people, wildlife, and nature. We urge Huron Kinloss Council to reconsider the pickleball

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court installation plan and seek alternative solutions that do not compromise the well being of local residents, park goers, and established wildlife.

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