

December 3, 2003

Brief on the Proposed Benny Farm Project

As a parent of a Willingdon student, member of the Governing Board and a resident of N.D.G., I wish to present my views on the Benny Farms Project.

Because the project lies within the territory served by Willingdon, as well as other public schools, and after having spoken to other parents, we are aware that a project of this size will have a major impact on our school, especially as much of the housing will be designated for young families.

I support the position of the N.D.G. Community Council as regards community involvement in both the management of the project and the selection process for the tenants/home owners. As one of the aims of social housing is to foster a sense of community, I feel that, where the management of the project is concerned, the land trust model should certainly be considered, as this would ensure continued community involvement and permanent affordability.

I also feel that there are many factors to be considered when selecting prospective candidates for residency in the Benny Farms Project. In order to create the kind of community envisioned, one that is the safe, secure, respectful and comfortable environment that is so highly valued in our school and our neighbourhood, individuals and families who demonstrate their desire to be a part of a community, who value and respect their neighbours, and who are willing to work together towards a common goal should be encouraged to take part in this project.

Also, as consumers of recreational services, the parents look forward to the construction of a new recreational facility within our school district. However, as anxious as we may be to see a facility where our children can join organized sports and perhaps spend their Pedagogical and other holidays in supervised activities at an affordable price, we do not feel that asking the municipal government for a change of zoning with no specific plans or budget would speed up this process.

Thank You,

Debra Fogel

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