

Sandy Kline

From: Carol Abernethy
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2007 1:29 PM
To: 'Mar Gutierrez'
Cc: JB Culpepper; Bill Strom; Bill Thorpe; Cam Hill; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Laurin Easthom; Mark Kleinschmidt; Sally Greene (w); Adam Schaefer; Catherine Lazorko; Roger Stancil; Sabrina Oliver; Sandy Kline; Bruce Heflin; Flo Miller; Ralph Karpinos; Toni Pendergraph
Subject: EmailRE: STOP, THINK, ENVISION

Thank you for your email. A copy has been forwarded to each Council Member and to senior staff members.

Carol Abernethy
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office
Town of Chapel Hill
-----Original Message-----

From: Mar Gutierrez [mailto:marpandora@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2007 9:31 AM
To: Town Council
Cc: djdsnow@msn.com
Subject: STOP, THINK, ENVISION

Dear Mayor and Council Members of the Chapel Hill Town,

I am writing you this message to ask you to please stop the development surge in the NW of Chapel Hill and envision the future of this part of this town. You need to see this part of town as a whole and that is why we need a comprehensive plan.

When I moved to Chapel Hill eight years ago, I felt in loved with the NW area since our neighborhood was surrounded by woods and we had a walking access to Tymberline Plaza and we were close to I-40 (my husband works in Cary). The growth in this area has been unbelievable in the last 6 years (Parkside Neighborhood, Northwoods, Larkspur, Vineyard...) and we do not see the end of this (you already know how many developing plans are in your hands). Have you thought of how all this growth will affect not only us residents of the NW Chapel Hill, but the whole town? At this pace, you will have to rename even our town. It will be Chapel Hill CITY.

Ram's Developer has purchased the land behind our backyard (The Atmueller Property). All those trees will be gone and with them the few wildlife that still lives there and we enjoy: common NC birds, squirrels, deer, and sometime we have seen a hawk, a wildcat, and a fox! Ram's wants to build a business plaza and some condominiums. Among many things, they say they want to bring some business that could bring neighborhoods closer. According to them, we need two drive-through banks (we have already three close by and there is one more that will be built where the paint store used to be on MLK Blvd). Thanks, but no thank you. We do not need anything. We are served by Tymberline and Harris Teeter plazas. We have banks, pharmacies, post office, cafes, supermarkets, even a theater. WE NEED TREES. Those woods protect us from the busy MLK Blvd. Those woods protect us from the smoke and noise from the training firehouse facility. Those woods are the home of many creatures who live not only in the woods, but in the small creek. Do you envision MLK Blvd. being a highway sided by business plazas (maybe all the way to downtown)? Has the town ever thought of green spaces? What about the wildlife?

On the other hand, Ram's have also bought the land across the street. The corner of MLK Blvd and Weaver Dairy Road. That land is already flat, empty, treeless and ready to be developed. Ram's can build the moon there if they want. That corner will be the North Gate of Chapel Hill. That is our chance to show off our Chapel Hillian ARTISTRY and also support LOCAL business (like a local grocery store, ice-cream shop). But Ram's wants to build Walgreens... We already have two pharmacies: Eckerd at Tymberline and the pharmacy at Harris Teeter..

Please, Mayor and Council Members, I urge you to envision this area for the good of all of us. I have just seen "The Unconvenient Truth" movie. We are killing our planet Earth. Can we do our part on keeping this planet alive?
I did mine asking you to please: Stop, Think, Envision. Now is your turn.

Sincerely, Mar Gutierrez (117 Tremont Circle)

Mar Gutierrez
marpandora@hotmail.com

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