# SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OCTOBER 15, 2001

OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATION ZONING AMENDMENT APPLICATION ROBERT FREDERICK GOOD ET AL REPORT#P.2001.36 FILES: OP.01.008 & Z.01.020 OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATION ZONING AMENDMENT APPLICATION PINEGROVE ON HUMBER REPORT# P.2001.17 FILES: OP.00.025 & Z.00.111 OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATION ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT APPLICATION LANADA INVESTMENTS REPORT# P. 2000.103 FILES: OP.00.020 & Z.00.094

## **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Planning recommends:

THAT the Committee of the Whole direct Staff to conduct a comprehensive land use study for the Islington Avenue corridor between Langstaff Road and Woodbridge Avenue in accordance with the Terms of Reference outlined on Attachment #5;

THAT the 2002 Capital Budget include the necessary funds to retain consultants to carry out this comprehensive land use study;

THAT Official Plan Amendment Applications OP. 01. 008, OP. 00.025 and OP.00.020 and Zoning Amendment Applications Z.01.020, Z.00.111 and Z.00.094 (Robert Frederick Good et al, Pinegrove on Humber and Lanada Investments Ltd., respectively) BE HELD IN ABEYANCE until the completion of the land use study for the Islington Avenue corridor.

# Purpose

To consider undertaking a land use study to evaluate land use alternatives along a portion of Islington Avenue by reviewing Official Plan policies and determining appropriate development guidelines which will become the basis for evaluating and guiding future development within the study area.

# **Background - Analysis and Options**

In late 2000 and early 2001, these similar applications to amend the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw within the Islington Avenue Corridor ("the corridor") between Langstaff Road and Woodbridge Avenue, were submitted to the City. Each application proposed to redesignate a site to "High Density Residential" to permit condominium apartment buildings, as follows:

- Robert Frederick Good et al (March 14, 2001): 5-storey, 150-unit condominium building with underground parking, at the northeast corner of Islington Avenue and Willis Road (8229, 8243 and 8253 Islington Avenue);
- (ii) Pinegrove On Humber (December 13, 2000) 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-storey, 60-unit condominium building

with 78 parking spaces (56 spaces underground), on the south side of Pine Grove Road, east of Islington Avenue (255 Pine Grove Road); and

(iii) Lanada Investments Ltd. (October 18, 2000) 4-storey, 64-unit seniors condominium building with two storeys of underground parking, on the west side of Islington Avenue, south of Gamble Street (8334 Islington Avenue).

Each application has been received by Council at the statutory Public Hearing required under the <u>Planning Act</u>. At the respective Public Hearings, a number of residents expressed concerns related to excess traffic, density, height of the projects and the desire to preserve the character of the community. Since the Public Hearings, the Pinegrove Community has continued involvement with the planning process for these applications through liaison with City Councilors, staff.

#### Ontario Municipal Board

On September 27, 2001 the applicants, Lanada Investments Ltd. (OP. 00.020 and Z.00.094) appealed their application to the Ontario Municipal Board on the basis that Council failed to make a decision within the required time period as provided by the *Planning Act*.

The Islington Avenue Corridor is characterized by low-density residential development. Several institutional uses are also located within the immediate area such as churches and private schools. In the Pine Grove community between Langstaff Road and north of Woodbridge Avenue the main built form tend to comprise of older type homes, some of historical significance on larger lots oriented toward Islington Avenue, many of which are in a state of deterioration, while others have been developed and improved with newer homes. The Humber River floodplain meanders north and south along the corridor and provides a significant physical characteristic for the area. The Metro Toronto Board of Trade Golf Course is located on the western border of the area and provides another physical characteristic to area.

#### Official Plan (Woodbridge Community Plan)

The three sites are designated "Low Density Residential" by OPA #240, (Woodbridge Community Plan) and are subject to the residential policies of the plan. In addition, the site at the northeast corner of Islington Avenue and Willis Road falls within the "Special Policy Area" defined by OPA #440 and are also subject to the Special Policy Area (SPA) policies. The sites are mostly zoned R2 and R3 Residential Zones, with lands at the northeast corner of Willis Road and Islington Avenue zoned OS1 Open Space Conservation Zone.

A overall objective of OPA #240 is to create a distinct residential community of scale and character, which relate well to the existing village quality of Woodbridge, and possess a strong sense of community identity. A land use goal is to arrange the social, physical and economic facilities and services necessary for the proper functioning of the community in such a way as to provide optimum convenience, efficiency, safety, and attractiveness to the present and future population.

With respect to parks and open spaces, OPA #240 provides for the development of an integrated system of open space comprising of parks, pedestrian and bicycle paths, flood and valley lands and major woodland area to serve as recreational needs of the community. Furthermore, it is the intent of the official plan to implement the Ontario Regulation restricting building and the placement of fill in flood plains without the approval or administration of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

OPA #240 recommends that future development be assessed in a comprehensive manner, reviewed on a five year basis and that piecemeal expansion of the Woodbridge Community not be considered.

## Special Policy Area (SPA)

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) sets out, overall policy directions on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The PPS typically restricts development of lands adjacent to river and stream systems, which are impacted by flooding and/or erosion hazard, with the exception of those situations identified as an approved Special Policy Area (SPA).

An SPA is defined as an area within a community that has historically existed in the flood plain and where site specific policies, approved by the Ministries of Natural Resources (MNR) and Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMA), can address the significant social and economic hardships to the community that would result from strict adherence to provincial policies concerning development.

Section 6, <u>Special Policy Area</u> of OPA #440 recognizes the lands at the northeast corner of Willis Road and Islington Avenue, as being within an SPA. This SPA designation provides opportunity for redevelopment within the flood plain, provided certain criteria are satisfied, that a permit in accordance with Ontario Regulation 158 is obtained prior to any construction, and that the TRCA determine the regulatory floodline. The deletion or review of the entire Special Policy Area designation would require involvement from a number of agencies, including the TRCA, MNR, MMA, the municipality, landowners and area residents.

## York Regional Official Plan (YROP)

The York Regional Official Plan (YROP) includes policies providing for a framework for coordinated planning with adjacent municipalities, as well as with other jurisdictions in the GTA, and prescribes an overall growth and development in the Region of York.

The YROP identifies Vaughan and specifically the subject lands as an urban area served by major transportation regional and urban corridors and future transit systems. Specifically Islington Avenue is an urban corridor, along which new development and employment growth at densities that would make transit service possible, is encouraged. The appropriate level of density and housing will depend on site specific circumstances and the nature of development along the adjacent corridors.

The main objective of the YROP is "to identify corridors as mixed-use transit spines that link urban and regional centres". The policies encourage a mix of housing and employment uses along these corridors, and for municipalities to examine mixed or higher density development along these regional and urban corridors in a comprehensive manner.

#### Islington Avenue Corridor Study (1990)

In 1990 the City completed out a land use review for the Islington Avenue Corridor, for lands along Islington Avenue, extending from Highway #407 corridor to Rutherford Road. The study provided goals and objectives for the Islington Avenue Corridor as follows:

- maintenance and enhancement of the overall low density residential character;
- protection of mature landscape features and the natural environment, especially as it relates to the Humber River and its valley;
- ensure that future development is compatible with the surrounding residential community and a scale and intensity that is consistent with the predominant low density neighbourhood; and
- provide for redevelopment of appropriate sites, which contributes to the overall character of the area and serves a function to the surrounding residential area.

The study supported primarily low density residential land use along Islington Avenue, but recognized the intersections at Willis Road/Davidson Drive and at Gamble Street/Pine Grove Road, as potential redevelopment and intensification sites, provided that the future developments reflect the existing character of the area.

The 1990 Islington Avenue Study provided guidelines for development within the corridor and also established an inventory of commercial uses and buildings of historic and architectural importance. The Islington Avenue Study was received by Council but was not implemented though an amendment to the Official Plan.

## Comprehensive - Land Use Review

The recent applications submitted to the City requesting to amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-law to permit higher density residential development combined with increase in public enquiries for similar type development along Islington Avenue suggest that this area may be in transition. In consideration of this, a comprehensive review of the area would be the appropriate medium to establish land uses for the area.

In considering both the Regional Official Plan and the City's OPA #240 it makes sense that processing the subject applications and any future applications on a comprehensive manner would be the appropriate method in determining the best land use for the area. A comprehensive review would properly address the cumulative impact of the subject applications and future applications for the area, by reviewing among other things, issues such as traffic, density, future road improvements, present character of the area, built form, and the natural and physical area characteristic. The review would include both city staff and community involvement in order to establish goals and objectives for the defined area of study so that future development maintains a quality that compliments the existing community. The attached Terms of Reference provides a brief scope of work outlining the major components of the Islington Avenue Land Use Study.

# **Conclusion**

Both OPA #240, and the York Region Official Plan encourage new development and future growth to proceed in a manner that is comprehensive in nature. Islington Avenue is identified as an Urban Corridor which has potential for new residential and employment growth at densities that would make frequent transit service possible. The recent applications and continual enquiries for similar type of development within the immediate area tend to suggest that this area may be in transition. Therefore, it would be appropriate to proceed in a comprehensive manner to determine the appropriate land use, density and built form for the corridor area. An area wide study would allow the issues identified by the community at the respective public hearings to be addressed and evaluated in a cumulative manner. The process would involve input from the municipality, interested agencies and the landowners in the community so that goals and objectives could be established as the basis for review of future development proposals in the area.

Staff support a comprehensive review of the Islington Avenue Corridor as described in the Terms of Reference and should Council concur, the recommendation of this report can be adopted.

#### **Attachments**

- 1. Location Map
- 2. Pinegrove on Humber Proposal
- 3. Robert Frederick Good et al Proposal
- 4. Lanada Investment Ltd. Proposal

5. Terms of Reference - Islington Avenue Land Use Study

# Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL DeANGELIS Commissioner of Planning & Urban Design JOANNE R. ARBOUR Director of Community Planning

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ATTACHMENT NO. 5

# DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

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#### 1. Origin of Study

The City of Vanghan has received a number of development applies non-whiten the Islangton Avenue area. Mag recently, on May 7, 2001, the Committee of the Whole (Public Hearing) Report No. 39, them 2, concerning the Robert Exclored Good E. A. Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-Yew Amendment applications (Files OPACLOS) and ZOU 900), considered a development for a 5 storey, 150 anti-residential condominium building at the northers: corner of Willis Road and Mingdon Avenue. In response to this and other recent development epplications for high considered ad orther the planning policies of Reference has been prepared to provide the opportunity to comprehensively review the planning policies, goals and objectives for the area.

#### 1. Perpine of Study

The purpose of the Islangton Avecne Land Lise Study is to example existing and appropriate future land uses for lards with Bontage on the west and exet sides of Islangton Averne, to the Islands of the Humber Ravet and Open Space corridor to the cast, located between Woodburdge Averne on the south and Langetaff Rotal on the north (see Altochart 1.5.).

#### Egens and Scope of the Study

The axis focus of the Lond Use Stativis to comprehensively define appropriate land uses within the Stativity Area if the Lond Use Stativity formsider the appropriateness of fature development within the Stativity considering the existing law density character of the area and the evolving nature of the considering temporaris. Some of the key globuring components that will be considered area and the evolving nature of the considering temporaris the evolving temporaris that will be considered area and the evolving nature of the considering temporaris environmental impacts, containing respects; and other design processes. In order to complete this Lend Use Study, a minime of land use alternatives will be developed for the Study Area and evaluated by carefully considering all of the above key planning components.

In A pull 1990, a dwfil document for coscession being, the Islington Avenue Consider Study was completed for the area from south of Highway No. 7 to Rull enfort Road by for City of Vaugnan. The results of the 1999 Study will be reviewed and considered in the current Study.

## 4. Mujor Components of the Islington Avenue Land Use Study

a)	Background Sociew;	the review of previous and extrem development applications and previous planning work (i.e. 1990 Studyk existing Regional and City of Vaughan Official Plan Policies and ziming previously.
F:	Issue (continication: Review and Analysis	fluc assessment offexisting conditions and followed planning consulerations, including land weather d ownership, concountly structure, heritage, cosinformental, traffic and services.
e)	Propagation of Lond Use Alternatives.	deset quarter of a number of land use options for the Study Area including status out.
di	Fecanical Iopia (row Departments nucl Agencies)	technical review of the land use elternatives Paraugh closedration and circulation jo- compleming parties
el	Develop Evaluation Criteria:	based on Officeal Film policizes and the analysis of all the issues indepartied in the study process, platming objectives and consulerations will be defined to provide the bays for evaluating each land use opposi.
0	-valuate the Land Use Alternativest	the ranking of the land use alternatives based in the evaluation criteria
<u>,9</u>	Propress Development and Design Principles for the Reconciseded Litera Use Alternative(s).	a set of sevelopment and design en nuples to guide future development will be prepared to facilitate suplementation of one or more recommended phematives considering land use compatibility commented and transportation impacts.
ы	In native Study for durther consideration of Council	the preparation of a suff report on the completed Leng Use Study for the consideration of Control and, if notcessary, the scheduling of a Public flearing to consider an Official Plan Algendiactic recial or part of the Study Area.

#### 5. Public Consultation

Public participation is important to the success of fitts process. In maniput of two Public Query Houses will be scheduled to provide the apportunity for the public to be informed at to only stage, about the work in progress, and to provide input on the formuse starting will be presented for discussion, provide the concluse starting will be presented for discussion, provide the concluse starting will be informed at the provide input on the formuse starting will be presented for discussion, provide the problem to their function. The public will also have the opportunity for finither input to be presented for discussion, provide the program of the provide approximation of the

#### 6. <u>Resources</u>

The studied will be corned out uncer the vager vision or a project manager reporting to the Manager of Growth Management & Special Studies, the Doublet of Community Planning and the Commissioner of Planning. It is recommended that consultants be retained in the following breas: Land Use Planning and Urban Design transportation with the normalization of Community for both internet (e.g. Vaughar Engineering, Vaughar Urban Design & How connectioned extended extended and upped to the Management of York. The Toronte and Region Conservation. Autocrity: will be sought at appropriate nones throughout the audy period. This represents a new project, not included in Vaughar's 2001 Control Barces.

## 7. <u>Timine</u>

The study is anticipated to take suproximately 4 to 5 months from the retaining of the consultant team by the City of Vanglan. Once the Study is compared it is expected to proceed directly to a Varghan Consultant et the Whole meeting 5  $\sigma$  further direction.

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