

2.11.52 Councilor Kusmierczyk:

The conclusion of the planning consultant report is clear the City of Windsor does not currently have sufficient land designated to meet its projected needs over the next 20 years as required by the province. That's the fundamental conclusion of this report. The extensive reports that we have in front of us provide a plan to meet that need, and most importantly a blueprint for the development of a complete community. One that has not only new residential but a diverse mix of residential options, not just for families, but for students. And just as important, the growing number of seniors in our community who may be looking to downsize. In addition to residential, there is a mix of business and commercial lands so that folks can work close to where they live and have access to all the amenities that are important for quality of life.

What gets me excited about this new community is the extensive greenway park system that combines storm management with natural heritage features, parkland and multi use trails. It is my hope to see the greenway park system connected to trails in forest glade and in east riverside. Underpinning this entire plan is extensive community consultations that were carried out over the last 2 years and that community consultation is always the basis of good planning and good management. Residents in Ward 7 understand the opportunities and the challenges of major new developments like this one in sandwich south. Our area in east riverside is one of the newest neighborhoods to be developed in Windsor and resulted from the east riverside secondary plan that was completed in the year 2000 and was similar in size to 470 million hectares.

But as we understand the opportunities, we also understand the challenges. For example, 18 years after the plan was approved, the area is still under construction. With the delayed phasing creating a lot of headaches for residents. And the residents of ward 7 do have a relative concern. Our concern is that the focus on building new infrastructure in the new sandwich south development will divert resources away from completing construction in East Riverside and to be more specific, delay the installation or upgrade critical infrastructure. For example the Banwell Corridor, including the intersection with the EC Row. But I do believe the plan put forward addresses those concerns and that Council and Mayor will continue to balance infrastructure investments in all corners of this city, new and existing, to deliver to residents the quality of life that they expect and deserve. The centerpiece of this development is of course the new hospital whose 11 storeys will tower over the area. It will have 500 beds and 3000 workers. Residents of Forest Glade and East Riverside in Ward 7 will have better, closer and faster access to a state of the art acute care hospital that will have the most modern equipment and technology, attract the best trained doctors and staff, and provide the highest quality of service that will be the envy of Ontario. The proximity to this new hospital, the most modern hospital in Ontario, will not only improve access to healthcare for residents of Ward 7 and our city, but it will improve healthcare and our region period. Quality healthcare is foundational to quality of life. Residents of Ward 7 understand that and support this plan and I will be voting in support.