

In reply to Sue Wade's question about development, Elser Lee Archer says:

Hello Sue,

I truly appreciate your concern that we do not become another Muskoka. We are said to be the last 'bastion' or location below Highway 60 that remains undeveloped. As current Chair of Economic Development and Property I first want to acknowledge the hard work put forward by our Manager of Planning and Manager of Operations as they meet with developers and individuals who seek to upgrade their homes and property. The planning department has worked hard to satisfy the regulatory requirements of our new Official Plan which is administered by the County of Renfrew. All developers first go to the County of Renfrew for approvals we are the lower tier.

As a municipality we must balance the reality that 60% or more of our population is aging. Mark Wilmer worked with a community team to develop an age friendly strategy. Feedback was secured through surveys, individual/group meetings, focus groups and a steering committee. I will identify the threats specified in the strategy and then provide information on how we can potentially address these 6 threats:

**1. Financial pressures on a small population base**

**2. Lack of resources and funding**

In 2017 we had .88% real growth resulting from additional tax payers in single family dwellings. Paying for aging infrastructure through taxes based on the current population will put undue pressure on aging seniors with fixed incomes, particularly residents without good pensions. Increasing real growth (wisely as noted by Councillor Bromwich) will assist us in keeping taxes down and sustaining core services and programs valued by our community.

**3. Environmental issues and the need to protect resources**

In order to address this concern we must adhere to the Official Plan, that has built in measures and approval processes to help protect our shorelines and lakes, particularly those that are moderately to highly sensitive. I have personally discussed some of these concerns with developers and all of them have followed the protocols. Environmental Impact Studies allow experts to assess the damage that development can bring while identifying measures that counteract or eliminate these deficits. In the Path Forward the Municipal Strategic Plan, the public in all 3 communities have spoken to the value of protecting our pristine environment for generations to come. Proper protocols and financial planning will enable us to safe guard our environment and develop wisely to meet the housing needs for young adults and an aging community.

**4. Resistance to change in the community**

**5. An increase in the populations aging population along with a lack of young people returning to the community and,**

**6. A lack of housing options - The community identified a need for mixed housing**

Individuals of many age groups have identified the need for mixed housing including townhouses or apartments. Young adults working off the land may not be able maintain a large property. Similarly many seniors have informed me that when they loose their partner and or their children/grandchildren visit less frequently they are unable to sustain a homestead and need a smaller family dwelling. The community has identified a need for mixed housing. We must look at the needs of all residents as we carefully plan the type of community we want to build.