

November 28, 2013

TO: Mayor Denis Lever and
Township of Puslinch Council

From: Don McKay
Councillor Ward 7
County of Wellington

Subject: **Extension of Southern Boundary of Community Safety Zone in Morriston**

1. Background

In December 2012 a Community Safety Zone Designation Request for Morriston was prepared by the planning department of the County of Wellington in cooperation with Mr. William Knetsch, resident of Morriston. (Document attached). In the Document the requested Community Safety Zone was to be from Currie Drive in the north end of Morriston to 110m South of Church Street in the south end of Morriston (red line on map in report).

On March 6, 2013, a delegation consisting of Ms. Sarah Wihelm , Planner County of Wellington, and Mr. William Knetsch presented the Community Safety Zone Designation Request to Township of Puslinch Council. At that Council meeting it was “Moved by Susan Fielding and seconded by Wayne Stokley that: the Council and for the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch does hereby support the Community Safety Zone Designation request for a portion of Highway 6 through Morriston in the Township of Puslinch”and was carried.

In the October 11th Wellington Advertiser it was announced that the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services recently announced that Highway 6 passing through Morriston has been designated a Community Safety Zone

Signs showing the start and ending of the Community Safety Zone were erected in the stretch from Currie Drive to 110m south of Church Street around mid-October.

2. Issue

Residents , who reside in Morriston but were outside the Community Safety Zone and myself, who reside just outside the Morriston boundary seeing where the signs were placed, questioned why the southern boundary did not extend further south to include all of Morriston.

In speaking with the County of Wellington planning department (Mr. Jameson Pickard) and the MTO(Mr. Kevin Plut) they indicated that the following criteria was used to determine the location of the safety zone:

- i) Consultation with local residents and staff,
- ii) Positioning of the signs was to correspond with the location of the 50 km/h speed zone that runs through Morriston,

iii) Positioning of the sign was to correspond with the more developed section of Morriston.

I will address each of these criteria;

- i) To my knowledge no residents in Morriston other than Mr. Knetsch were consulted as to the location of the safety zone . I spoke to a number of residents along Hwy# 6 in Morriston and no one said they were consulted. As County Councillor in Ward 7 representing the Township of Puslinch I was not consulted
- ii) The 50 km/hr zone starts just before you enter Morriston coming north and ends just south of Morriston when travelling south. Therefore a fair portion of the 50 km/hr zone in Morriston is not in the Safety Zone.(See yellow line on attached map).Given where the safety zone signs are at present the impression to those coming south is that they can accelerate to 80km/hr even though they are still in a 50km/hr zone.
- iii) The safety zone includes 16 residential homes along Hwy#6. There are 8 residential homes in Morriston which are not in the safety zone along Hwy#6(3 homes on the west side and 5 homes on the east side). In those 8 homes, which are not in the safety zone, there are 8 school age children that have to board and exit a school bus that must stop on Hwy#6.
The school children that are in the safety zone catch the school bus on Church Street not on Hwy #6

On October 31 I spoke with Inspector Scott Lawson of the OPP, who must agree with where the safety zone starts and ends, indicating the residents and my concerns. He verbally agreed to work with us to have the safety zone extended.

In conversation with Mr. Plut of MTO he suggested that I contact the County Planning Department to initiate documentation to have the Community Safety Zone extended.

In discussions with Mr. Cary Cousins, Director of Planning for the County, he stated that his department would take no action until he had confirmation from the Township of Puslinch to proceed.

3. Recommendation

I would like to request that the Township of Puslinch write to the County of Wellington Planning Department asking them to commence the documentation requesting that the Community Safety Zone be extended southward to include all of Morriston.

D.C McKay

