

KED moving ahead ignores realities:

The Sudbury City Council meeting of July 14th saw once again most of the Council ignoring important realities with respect to the Kingsway Entertainment District (KED) and voting to proceed regardless of expressed concerns by three of their members. Councillor Geoff McCausland, was one of those who voted against, explained in some detail prior deliberations that took place where most citizens taking part were emphatically not in favor of the Kingsway. He described this location as discriminatory which favors those with motor transportation required to access the site over those without. This is obvious to those who care to consider this aspect as well as many others that even upon cursory review would suggest a downtown location is more favorable.

With respect to Councillor McCausland's specific location remarks, the city conducted several traffic studies, and all arrived at basically the same conclusion that there will be congestion situations on roadways and streets serving the area and that time to exit the facility would be twice that required for the downtown location and there was limited opportunity for pedestrian and cycling access to the Kingsway location and bus service was problematic.

It is puzzling to many citizens as to why those Councillors supporting the Kingsway location have ignored several Provincial Policy Statements that are in place to guide local municipalities. The basis PPS statement 1.1.3 states: "it is in the interest of all communities to use land and resources wisely, to promote efficient development patterns, protect resources, promote green spaces, ensure effective use of infrastructure and public service facilities and minimize unnecessary public expenditures."

It would certainly appear that most of City Council and staff have not addressed any of these elements particularly with respect to protecting resources, effective use of existing infrastructure and public service facilities and minimizing unnecessary public expenditures. With respect to the environment the Ramsey Lake Sub Watershed Study says Ramsey Lake is in danger of pollution, especially salt from the KED development, being located in the "recharge area" of the lake, and no mitigation measures would be effective to protect Lake Ramsey, source of drinking water for over 50,000 Sudbury residents which has elevated sodium and chloride levels of concern for human and aquatic life.

The existing Arena, which is not in the Ramey Lake Watershed and is located near the central transportation hub in the downtown, would make effective use of existing public infrastructure and minimize unnecessary public expenditure. Also, in the PwC consultants reports to Council it was recognized that centrally located downtown arenas in other communities were more successful than those more remote for a variety of important reasons whether built new or renovated.

So, why this denial of what is obvious to most of us who have taking the time to research this issue and all the factors involved and unlike those, including supporting Councillors, who are intent on "getting it (the KED) done" regardless of the realities that indicate otherwise and could have far reaching negative consequences?

For the benefit of those interested, including those supporting, for whatever reasons the Kingsway location, all relevant information with respect to this issue including studies, reports and submissions, are available on a special website www.friendlysudbury.ca. We welcome you to visit and let others know who may also wish to discover the important realities that could impact our cities future.

John Lindsay, Chair, Friendly to Seniors – Sudbury – 705-507-6037