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Subject: Last nights hub meeting

Good morning: I thought I would pass my thoughts on in writing on last nights meeting on the "hub" proposal.

1 - do you really think proposing this idea now is fair to those who are being hit with the water/sewage costs. As Dan Best said last night on another issue 'there is only so much money to go around', well the same goes for those on limited incomes. How much more nickel and diming are we going to have to put up with. I did take exception when the man at the back who said he has to pay 8k in taxes and Dan replies that he pays more than that. Really - that is the answer? Well for those who are retired and on a limited income that was uncalled for. If you keep raising taxes to support Exeters grandious ideas you are going to loose your seniors tax base as they will not be able to afford it and no longer want to live here.

2 - I agree with most people in the room last night that this hub being built in Exeter will be of no use to those living anywhere else especially in the Cove area. We are paying out our money to help those in Exeter and Exeter alone. Speaking from experience, those in the Cove (600 people remember) have access to many of the ideas proposed for your hub here in the Cove. I would point out that the majority of people here choose not to use those things offered so why do you think they will opt to drive to Exeter to use them especially in winter.

3 - Dan mentioned that we needed growth. I get that whole concept but remember that people like us chose to move here from larger areas to enjoy the "quiet life". If I wanted to live in an area that was booming like the cities then I would have stayed where I was. So if you start to make the area grow too much with all these amenities being built in Exeter you will lose those people who came here to retire in a quiet safe community. To quote Dan's words when someone mentioned having to pay for our own roads, services (or lack of) here in the Cove - "you chose to live there" (again really? that is how we speak to taxpayers?), yes I chose to live in a quiet safe affordable community as opposed to pay for a near by towns grandiose ideas. To keep adding to our taxes will no longer make this an affordable community.

4 - The indoor pool while maybe good for Exeter, will not be utilized by those outside your town. Do you really think that people in the Cove will drive all the way down to Exeter to use YOUR pool in the winter time. If they wanted an indoor pool they could drive across the highway and use the one at Oakwood for minimal cost(or up the road). I can tell you that during the summer our saltwater pool in the Cove is used minimally so I

cant see people going all the way to Exeter to use one, can you? So what you are again saying is lets get the seniors of the Cove to help pay for something they wont use. We will instead choose to support a local business and use that pool instead.

5- I think Council and Dan Best need to meet with CAPREIT and perhaps the Homeowners Association to understand what The cove is about. Council may know but Dan clearly does not. For Dan to say we do not pay property tax is absurd. Our homes each have their own property assessment and CAPREIT pays our taxes for us through our monthly fees. Our monthly fees are divided into two parts, fees and taxes. Each year we are individually given a tax receipt so how much taxes were paid by us for our homes and a receipt for the land lease and fees associated with it. Has Dan ever toured the Cove and asked how it works. I would be glad to arrange this if you wish. Maybe then he and others will realized we are not a trailer park as mentioned at a previous meeting.

6 - We chose to move to the Cove because of the affordability, sense of community and access to the Beach and the main strip. We did not care about all these amenities that were mentioned last night. Perhaps you should consider market this as a reason to move to your area. Building a hub will not do it for you. Remember, for each dollar we have to fork out for things like this it is one dollar less that is going to promote private businesses as there is only so much money to go around.

7 - As a point of interest I would like to point out something I noticed last night. For those that opposed the ideas, the voices were quickly cut off and Dan moved to the next person before they finished speaking. Yet, I notice that those who agreed with various things they were allowed to go on. Just pointing this out as an observation.

To paraphrase my thoughts, when we decided to move from the city to the Grand Bend area(we looked at 3 communities in Ontario) we should have been told about all these extras we were going to have dumped on us. Had we known, we would have chosen to move elsewhere. This community is becoming more costly and we are now going to examine if it is worth it or should we move elsewhere.

I would remind you all that seniors are on a limited income and while many are not as fortunate as us, this is creating a hardship for those with limited funds. A further reminder is that the Canadian Government sees this and gave those on Old Age Pension a raise next year of 25 cents a month.

Thanks for listening, I needed to get it off my chest as I preferred to just listen to others last night.

Mark Crawford-Smith
Grand Cove.