

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Theatre/budget
Date: Sunday, November 3, 2024 9:16:39 PM

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Hello. Alison Port, president of LP Stage Productions just putting forth our opinion regarding the amount of money being spent on an outside Theatre that can only be utilized in summer months, unless it is completely closed in, including seating, also with fully functioning lights and sounds. Personally we would love for the current theatre to be updated. The lights are non functioning, nor is the sound board anymore and nothing is ever replaced. The grant that was given by Trillium was to make it into a theatre versus a town hall. If this is truly a heritage building I believe grants are available for updates. We do love performing at Grace Tipling. We also don't do any summer shows, so again we could never utilize it. If it rained and seating was outside we would have to cancel which would cost us a lot of money and we are non profit and don't make any anyway. I don't see the real need for any of the other things planned really. People of Shelburne enjoyed the open space I believe.

Thank you. Alison Port. Dale Lundy.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Re: Fiddle Park
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 6:19:37 AM

Good Morning,

Please accept my apologies for the delay in response and the neglecting to provide my name and address. I was in a rush to get the letter sent off as I had just seen the town's facebook post about the meeting. The algorithms on Facebook are notorious for making it that I don't see things until after the event or the day of.

I did watch the meeting via YouTube and at the end of it all I left the meeting feeling that the members of the public that came out to speak were merely just listened to, not heard. That this was just a motion that was made to be able to say a chance was given to share your voice but we've already made up our minds and what you say won't change that.

So that being said I will add my name to my letter and general address. The general address is purely because in my letter I mention that there are people that use the dark spots in the park for drugs deals or just to do drugs. I worry that if my full name and address become part of public record there could be retribution by those who are participating in these activities. I hope you understand.

Have a good day,
Stacey B
Shelburne

On Mon, Nov 4, 2024 at 9:57 AM Clerk <clerk@shelburne.ca> wrote:

Good Morning

Confirming receipt of your letter. If you could please provide your name and address that would be appreciated.

Thank You

Jennifer Willoughby, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Phone: 519-925-2600 ext 223 | Fax: 519-925-6134 | jwilloughby@shelburne.ca

[Town of Shelburne | 203 Main Street East, Shelburne ON L9V 3K7](#)

www.shelburne.ca

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 9:52 AM
To: Clerk <clerk@shelburne.ca>
Subject: Fiddle Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Please see attached letter.

To the Elected Officials of the Town of Shelburne,

I have been following with great interest the plans for the Fiddle Park. I was one of the 481 people who responded to your survey, the one that you are basing your changes on. The survey wasn't a survey by definition, but a way to guide people to a desired outcome, no where was there a place to give input. There were elements of all three options that I thought would be great for the park and there were elements that I thought would be wrong for the park, but no way to communicate that. While I agree that some things need to happen with the park there are quite a few things that you currently have planned that will not benefit the park at this time. And as this council has already shown by removing the skating paths from the original plan and making changes to the parking lot, it is still quite reasonable and every bit possible to make more changes.

I am a regular at the Fiddle Park, I enjoy the natural space that can provide so many options for families as it sits now. However improvements could be made.

Currently during daylight hours I and others have enjoyed the open space to enjoy a family picnic, to fly a kite with our children, for children to run and be kids. I can take my children to a park in town where there's slides, swings, play structures, soccer nets and all those other things that are commonly found at the parks around town, however, at the Fiddle Park the lack of play structures provides so much more. An open space is great for anyone's imagination, play goes back to basics. People walk on the roadways in the park, take their dogs to the dog park, use the community garden and use the trailer dump station. If you're at the park early in the morning you may even be gifted with the beauty of deer moving across the Park in majestic beauty. Everyone I have encountered will give a wave hi and a smile, some may even make small chat, something that is disappearing from the town as it grows. The Fiddle Park helps to keep that small town feel. I have attended events at the park during the day and evening Shelburrr Fest in the winter, Canada Day and Pickin' in the Park in the summer and Haunt in the Park in the fall. These events seem very well attended and I always meet people from out of town who are amazed that we have such an open beautiful flexible space that all these events can take place and say that we are lucky to have such a space.

In the evening a trip to the park requires more thought and planning. Making sure you have a flashlight, or just the simple choice of leaving the park before it gets dark. The lighting is poor and there are several spots in the park that are pitch black. People around town have spoken of hearing of drug deals happening in the dark spots, people going out to the park to do drugs and just the fear of something terribly bad happening to them or someone else. Increasing the lighting throughout the park would be a huge benefit to the park and would increase safety. With the increase in the lighting, maybe more groups would be more inclined to host events in the evenings, such as a drive-in movie night. Side note I recall the town doing an event like that and it seemed to be very well received, I know my kids loved it as the drive to Stardust Drive-in in Newmarket is approximately 1 hr away and Sunset Drive-in in Barrie is also an hour away. With

the main building having a kitchen, the group putting on the drive-in event would be able to serve popcorn, candy, cold drinks and hot drinks.

Concerns regarding specific parts of the Fiddle Park plan;

- Cement seating for the amphitheater- cement does not weather well, it cracks it crumbles, gets really slippery when icy or snowy. It's also cold and uncomfortable to sit on.
- Why was the gravel parking lot removed from the plan for next year?
- Mini Putt - yes it's fun for all ages, but the park is out of town so it's only accessible to those who have transportation and is also a target for vandalism during its closed times.
- Outdoor classroom - the majority of the schools in the area are not within walking distance to the park, so schools would have to provide bussing which is expensive to begin with. School budgets are tight as is and paying for a bus to go to an outdoor classroom when most schools already have one is not money wisely spent and will not be approved

My suggested changes;

- water refill stations so families can refill water bottles or fill their dog's dish with water after a run in the dog park.
- Increase the lighting around the park
- A dedicated, marked parking lot would be beneficial as well.
- Boost cell service, currently cell service is hit and miss which is problematic should an emergency arise
- Take out the amphitheater, I know I for one will not want to sit out on cold, hard concrete seats to watch a concert. If I go to a concert in a park I always bring my own camp chair. I have attended several concerts at Molson Amphitheatre in Toronto, the seats there are stadium seats and the lawn seating which is behind the seats is spectacular as well and you still have a great view. That being said Shelburne does not have the ability to draw the big names that fill the Molson Amphitheatre, so who would be the targeted performers for the Fiddle Park Amphitheatre?
- There is a part of the park, close to 2nd line, that floods in heavy rains or spring find a cost effective way to fix that
- Keep the dump station, if the town is concerned about revenue then make it pay per use \$5/trailer would bring \$1000 if say Pickin' in the Park has 200 trailers that attend their event, that's just their event alone. I've seen lots of trailers during the summer and in the month of October there are always trailers using the station no matter the day I'm at the park.
- If it's money you have to spend in a certain way then add a play park, but source out a company that specializes in natural play structures

Don't get me wrong, changes and improvements for the Fiddle park are a good idea, they just need to be realistic in terms of location and the accessibility for all, not just some. I do ask if any of the members have been out to the Fiddle Park on a windy day? The way the wind whips across is intense at times, gusts can knock over items that are not secured to the ground but in

some cases items that are secured depending on how the wind blows. The ponding, pooling, or flooding, whichever term you choose to use, is bad in some spots. This could be something worth looking into. Have any of the members been out to see the crowds that the events currently use the park and see how busy they are and how some of these proposed changes could negatively impact these events. Did the town talk to any of these groups that use the Fiddle year after year for their events to get their input on the proposed changes?

I have looked through the budget, and have some questions. You have several parks and rec items labeled as "DC Eligible" or "DC Eligible Reserves", please clarify what this means. I can only assume that one means the town has the money already in the bank and the other means that the money has yet to be received by the town. If the latter is the case, then why is the park closing to events in 2025, this seems a little premature. Surely for a project of this size and the planning that goes into a project such as this the money would be in the bank already and contracts awarded so the work can be completed as quickly as possible.

I implore you to take into consideration my thoughts and the thoughts that our townspeople bring to you whether it be in social media, written letter/email, phone call or conversations. I do have more thoughts on the subject but will leave it at this for the time being. Shelburne over the years has lost so many of its festivals/events that have brought this town together. Making changes that could possibly eliminate the large events we have now will turn us into a big city where everyone looks the other way and people will leave town to go to a town where they feel a part of and listened to. Losing some of these festivals could also mean losing tourism to our town, which means our small businesses could suffer. Shelburne was known as Fiddleville several years ago, the Fiddle contest was widely known and brought in huge numbers of people to the town to take in the contest, enjoy the parade and enjoy what Shelburne had to offer. Fiddle Fest is now gone, the only thing that remains is the Fiddle Park. We should not be removing what makes Shelburne what it is. Yes Shelburne is growing and with that there is always growing pains and changes but there should not be the removal of what got us to where we are. We shouldn't be making it difficult for festivals or events to happen in our town. We need to have a community, not just a group of people who live in the same town.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts and concerns.

To the honourable members of Shelburne Town Council –

I'm writing to you today, not necessarily as a representative of the Haunt In The Park, but as a person involved in so many conversations in the last month that I feel that I need to clarify some of the concerns I have in regards to the Haunt and the Fiddlepark Phase 1 construction.

First to address the misconception that we weren't concerned prior to the email we received at the beginning of September regarding the cessation of events in the Fiddlepark in 2025. We, and many others related to the Haunt, filled out the online survey in 2021 and also the one in 2022 in regard to the concept plans. We put in our input when asked for in those broad public surveys, but had every assumption that there would still be follow up meetings with event organizers as mentioned in the Parks and Rec plan. However, the only event organizers that were met with were Rotary and Kinsmen. We were never invited to the table, never asked for input, nor consideration for how the plans would affect one of the biggest events in town. We were caught completely off guard in September when we received the letter about Fiddlepark in 2025, and as we were not asked for input at an earlier date, we still assumed we could come to a compromise at the Parks and Rec meeting we had at the end of September. We were wrong.

The meeting we were asked to attend was not one where open discussion could be had, and opinions truly heard. Instead, we were informed that this was the way it would be and we would simply have to "Pivot and Promote" and that was that. Though suggested that the town would look into a tent rental, it was also suggested that we would have better luck with that than the town as we are a non-profit and would perhaps get a better rate. That statement alone tells me that the town is likely unwilling or unable to cover the cost of a tent rental for the 6 week period needed for the event build and tear down. We addressed the fact that we could not, for liability reasons alone, subject people to walking on grass in typical October weather conditions as it would cause mud to form and falls would be inevitable. Denyse suggested perhaps bringing in a gravel base, as gravel could be something they could use again elsewhere. This would indeed help the footing situation, and we would be happy to work with that. There are still issues to be addressed such as bringing electrical to the site, and parking, and so on. It seemed like it was too big of an ask so we submitted the counter proposal for the next council meeting, as it seemed like such an easier thing to just expose the north end of the pavilion and then there would be no need for tent rentals, gravel bases, moving electrical etc. We are most interested in finding a solution that costs the town the least amount of money and brings about the best result for everyone involved. We were disappointed to hear at the council meeting that this counter proposal would not be considered as the north side of the pavilion is for the parking of the construction workers and that was that.

As we could not be heard about our concerns about the Phase 1 development, I would like address our concerns here so you are aware of the issues we are concerned about and to be clear, in case rumours abound about us wanting to stop the construction altogether. We do not. We welcome you to invest in the Fiddlepark. All we want is to make sure you have seen the issues we see, prior to shovels in the ground.

Parking

We asked how big the planned parking lot will be. I had to ask three times before I got an answer, and the one given was “about 200 cars”. The official plan states 113. Either way, it is more than ample for any regular use. However we asked about what the plan is for events and the requirements for more parking. If the Fiddlepark is to become an event centre for concerts etc with a 600 seat amphitheatre, then I have to wonder where everyone is supposed to park as there is no open space left to use as overflow parking.

Denyse stated that people would be asked to park in the KTH parking lot, or over at Centennial Hylands, and be bussed over. Or perhaps a crossing guard could be posted for events, for people to safely cross 2nd Line.

I ask you – in fact I beg you – to please reconsider this as a plan. Not only is this a safety issue, but it doesn’t make any sense. If you take a section of the planned tree plantings and leave them out, leave them open space, you could use that as overflow parking for events and otherwise open green space. This would allow concert or event participants to stay on the property, not needing bussing or crossing guards, and would likely avoid larger insurance and safety issues. I very strongly feel that this needs to be addressed before any plan is solidified.

Use of the park

At the Parks and Rec meeting, Denyse spoke of the uses planned for the park. I’d like to address some of these:

LP Productions: Denyse spoke that LP Productions would put on outside theater productions in the pavilion for people to go and watch. I don’t think she realized that my son is a regular with LP Productions so when I dropped him off at rehearsal that night, I spoke to Alison about the plans to have them appear at the park. She said she would have no interest in that. She was adamant that she was never approached about this, and had in fact turned down the suggestion to appear at the Fridays in the Park as she has no interest in doing any productions in an outside setting.

Outdoor Classroom: Denyse spoke about the amphitheatre being used as an outdoor classroom. So I spoke to a number of local teachers I know. They told me the UGDSB wants every school to have an outdoor classroom on their property, and that currently they think Glenbrook is the only one that doesn’t have one yet. They also told me that to use the Fiddlepark as an outdoor classroom, they would need to bus the children there. This is currently cost prohibitive and goes against the agenda of environmental consciousness that they are required to abide by.

On a side note, the planned amphitheatre is being planned to be built facing northwest. The ideal season for outside concerts is June, July, August, September. During these months, the seating would be facing directly into the setting sun, which sets later in the evening during those months. It is also on the wind shadow of the building, as most winds drive in there from the west, which will dump precipitation directly on the seating of the amphitheatre. Something to consider for maintenance over time.

Events: Denyse spoke about the years after the construction. How, *if* we are able to use the pavilion again the future, she would build events around the Haunt In The Park to further enhance it. How she would love to see lighted pumpkin pathways gracing the walking paths that will be built. How they could perhaps screen scary movies in the amphitheatre, and people with their hot chocolates and coffees from Tim Hortons and McDonalds could walk over to the Fiddlepark and sit there cuddled up in their blankets and watch scary movies in the week leading up to our event. so lets set aside the fact that it is unlikely that very many people would come and sit on concrete, at night, in 3 degree October weather for 2 hours to watch a scary movie. Instead, I asked Denyse frankly why it is that Shelburne doesn't want to put those events on now? That we have parks that could have pumpkin pathways currently. That we have Grace Tipling Hall that could screen scary movies, inside in a climate controlled environment, with ample seating. Why is it that there is never any of these things happening now, but they will be once the Fiddlepark is built? That makes no sense. I was informed that "We aren't talking about that right now." And that was the end of the discussion.

I will say here that I invited the newly hired Events Coordinator from the town to a meeting I held between Rotary, Apex, the BIA, the CDRC and Kinettes, so that we could all brainstorm ideas on how to drive tourism to Shelburne during the month of October. The events coordinator had amazing ideas, and an hour after she left she had to email me and tell me that she was unable to offer any assistance as hers is a new position and she has no budget with which to work with. I do not hold her responsible for that, and I understand – however I must ask why we have an Events Coordinator that isn't allowed to do her job? And if the town is indeed moving away from hosting events, as was suggested to me, then I must ask why this newly created position exists? This, to me, makes me leery that the town is actually more interested in pushing all independent event groups out of town so that it can put on the events itself. From the outside looking in, you must see our concerns!?

Advertising: Every year we thank our sponsors for their support by putting up posts on our social media accounts, and on a board at the entrance, so that all visitors can know who had a hand in bringing the Haunt In The Park to them. In some of the paperwork I need to sign for use of the Fiddlepark, there is a line in it that says "The Town logo is copyrighted, it is not permitted to be used on any material, unless created by the Town." So I emailed back and asked "Quick question - we usually list and thank the Town of Shelburne as a sponsor of the event and would usually use the logo in the acknowledgement - would you prefer then that we not do that? (As per the paragraph about the logo copyright)" and got the following response "Hi, Please do not use the Town logo." Please know that we would certainly have thanked the Town for the grant, were we allowed to. I find it somewhat disconcerting that the Town wants to distance itself from this event that much. Really not sure what to make of that.

The contractual obligation to spend development charges in Parks and Rec is a great opportunity to build and enhance what Shelburne has to offer its citizens. Enhanced signage so that out of towners could find the Fiddlepark is definitely needed. Better lighting along the roads and better cell service with a signal booster would be great way to address safety concerns. Leaving open

space so that the park can remain somewhat flexible for a variety of uses, including overflow parking, picnics, kite flying, tossing a baseball around and so forth, would be a wonderful consideration. Perhaps a focus on the playground and walking trails and not the amphitheatre, would allow construction to be more pavilion friendly and allow for its use next year.

I had reached out to a few people about putting forth a petition to ask for a public consultation meeting in regards to the Phase 1 construction, and was told it would not be supported as it would be a waste of tax payer money, having already offered those. I understand that position. I do hope you take the time to understand ours. We want what you want. To make Fiddlepark a destination. To continue to do what we do, and bring people to town and support the foodbank and offer the citizens a great event every year. We want to keep doing that in the Fiddlepark and are only asking that you take our concerns into consideration and find a way to compromise. You are the voice of the people in this town. Not just the 45 individuals that voted for Concept #1. But for the 10,000 others that are maybe looking to be heard. And sometimes it means saying that something needs to be changed. That something isn't right. That more needs to be done. That finding a way to make things right means speaking up, pushing back and remembering that your voice is that of the people. *You* have the power to make change. *You* have the authority to say no. *You* have the passion to build the town we all deserve. I leave it to you. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Carola Little

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: fiddlepark
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:29:33 AM

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I strongly object to the grandiose plans you have for Fiddlepark!

There is so much that could be done out to improve it there with less money ie: keeping it available for camping - adding more lighting and hydro plug-ins. Green space is so important! 500 space theatre is not!

Please reconsider and listen to the residents that would support alternative ways to spend tax dollars - ie: updating the sewage system - which badly needs to be done!!

Sincerely
Nina Townsend
Victoria Street

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Fiddlepark
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 1:08:59 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Dana Hogenhout

[REDACTED]
Shelburne ontario L9V3E3
[REDACTED]

Nov 4, 2024

Town Council
Shelburne

Dear Town Council Members,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the recent decisions and ongoing developments in our town, particularly related to the Fiddlepark project. As a long-time resident of Dufferin, it is disheartening to witness a series of choices that appear to overlook community input and the needs of our residents.

Firstly, I would like to address the low response rates from the surveys conducted in 2021 and 2022. With only 481 respondents to the initial survey and a mere 113 for the subsequent selection process, it is clear that these results do not reflect the views of the wider community. The decision to move forward with Concept #1, despite the need for significant revisions, raises concerns about the legitimacy of this process.

Additionally, the recent decision to permanently remove "Picking in the Park" due to the lack of trailer parking, despite the financial support this event has provided to the town, is particularly disappointing. The cancellation of special events during the 2025 construction period further alienates community organizations and diminishes opportunities for local engagement.

Moreover, the planning of a parking lot with only 113 spaces, alongside limited overflow options, does not account for the larger attendance expected at events. Relying on alternative parking locations such as KTH or Centennial Hylands, while suggesting attendees walk or take a bus, demonstrates a lack of foresight and consideration for our community's needs. A more balanced approach that preserves open space for parking while still allowing for tree planting could easily be implemented.

As residents who have lived in Dufferin our entire lives, my husband and I are increasingly disheartened by the town's current trajectory. We are now considering relocating to Alberta in the spring, a decision influenced by our disappointment with how the town has addressed community traditions and needs.

I hope that the upcoming public consultation regarding the Fiddlepark budget will allow us to voice these concerns and encourage the council to adopt a more inclusive approach to

planning. Our community deserves to have its voice heard and to see its needs prioritized in development projects.

Thank you for your attention to these pressing issues. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Greg Horsman & Dana Hogenhout