

DEPUTATION TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 25, 2016

Good Morning Mayor McKean and Members of Council.

My name is Vivienne Alper, and I am a resident of Thornbury, and I would like to thank you, once again, for allowing me to speak to you regarding this matter of great concern to the community.

It is now our understanding that the LCBO have again amended their request, and are now applying for a number of variances including the installation of four backlit fascia signs on their new building where it faces Arthur, Victoria and Louisa Streets as well as into the parking area.

The community has particular concern with the number and size of the signs, as well as the fact that they wish them to be backlit. All these aspects would require variances and are contrary to the Town's current Bylaws.

While the Staff Report states that there would be minimal light emitted from the backlit signs compared to that from Foodland; their large backlit sign it would seem was also allowed contrary to the Town's Bylaws. In comparison the frontlit sign on the west side of the Foodland building appears to emit not only less light but also a much softer light, and we would therefore request that these signs be frontlit.

The community has previously expressed its concern that two of these signs would be facing the homes on both Victoria and Louisa streets, while the Staff Report states that the LCBO building is not in close proximity to any residences. Again we would request that the signs facing these residences not be approved.

In addition we also would also wish to express our concern with the size of the signs requested, particularly the one that is 2.13m high – more than double the height allowed. The community believes that recognition of an LCBO store is not dependent on the size of its signs, and as a result ask that they reduce them to conform to the Town's current Sign Bylaws.

The community also wonders on the wisdom of considering variances like these, so soon before the new draft Sign Bylaw is to be presented to the public, and hopes there wouldn't be any resulting detriment to the process of review and input, should they be approved.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we notice that the comparisons used in the Staff Report – Foodland and Ultramar – point out the problem when variances are allowed.... they set precedents. The community hopes this is not the beginning of a slippery slope as far as signage in Thornbury is concerned.

We would, therefore, respectfully ask that Council not approve this Request.

Thank you very much.

