

Dear Members of the Planning Board and Ipswich residents,

As a young resident of Ipswich, my fiancé and I have put great thought into where we see ourselves planting roots for our future family. Ipswich maintains a great balance of history and growth that is unique to the North Shore. In addition to my fiancé having grown up here, the charm, character and open landscape are just a few of the reasons we feel so connected to this wonderful community.

After attending the walk on Waldingfield Road this past Saturday with the Friends of Waldingfield, and hearing many discussions between neighbors, residents, and Stuart Abelson of Ora, I am concerned for the neighbors and for the future of the town's development. While I fully respect that Ora wishes to join this community, and that town residents share a great interest in the potential tax benefits for Ipswich, the people most affected by this project are residents of Waldingfield Road, among other neighbors and abutters. The tax benefit to the town, which is only speculative, could not possibly outweigh the negative impact this project will have on the neighbors of Waldingfield. Their lives will be affected every single day. Some who, as I understand, have lived there for decades.

Further, the more we chisel away at the history, character and open landscape of the town, the closer we are to losing the unique qualities of Ipswich as a whole. This should not be a community that relies on a corporate belt and densely built residential development.

I have concern for the unknown future of this project. Based on some of Mr. Abelson's comments, it became clear that these plans are not concrete, but conceptual, which is confusing. If the current plans are approved and Ora acquires ownership of this property, what is the risk that, as owner, he could increase the scale and scope of this project?

Mr. Abelson spoke a lot about his love for the property and the value of sustainability and preservation, but made clear that should his plan not receive approval, he will sell the land to a developer. That should tell us all that he couldn't possibly care about the property, the neighbors, or the history of Waldingfield Road. So how can we trust that what he is telling us now is the truth, and not just for his own benefit? We can't.

Sincerely,

James Hall

8 Northgate rd
Ipswich