

**East End Smart Growth District
40R Application
Section 6. Local Public Notice and Hearing**

Attachment 6-2:

Oral Comments received at the November 9, 2020 Public Hearing

Here is a summary of the comments that were received during this virtual Public Hearing:

- Question about whether abutters were notified
- Concerns about how the district will impact the view of nature from the backyard of condo owners at Birchwood Point.
- Also concern about the noise, traffic and congestion that would be more than our community can manage. Traffic jams at the adjacent streetlight would impede the flow of traffic.
- Concerns about noise, specifically construction noise.
- Amesbury already exceeds the 10% affordable housing requirement. We do not need more.
- The City should put the residents who have to live with these decisions first.
- The increase of noise and traffic congestion will destroy the neighborhood.
- How can property be affected when it has not been purchased and rezoned? At what point would landowners be notified? How would they receive notification? He does not receive the newspaper, so it is hard to find out about these things.
- The property owner who purchased the currently approved 40B Project prefers smarter, concentrated development that leaves more open space for wooded areas, natural habitat, and trails. His company loves SGDs. The connectivity potential here is fantastic for accessing the Riverwalk, downtown, the Merrimack River and Newburyport.
- More housing would be irresponsible. The condition of Clarks Road down toward Main Street should not be subjected to additional traffic.
- Additional housing would compound our traffic issues beyond imagination. There are significant dangers now with traffic trying to turn from Clarks Road onto Main Street because it's a main cut through.
- What about animal habitats you are destroying? There are few wooded areas in the City. Multiple species the call the Clarks Rd. area home, including owls and possibly eagles nesting. Why are we so willing to remove what little nature remains in this state?

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- The City does not care about the property values of neighboring residents. Property values will go down 100%. Will the City be able to submit proof and documentation that property values will increase? This is not sprawl.
- The public doesn't like or approve of this idea. Birchwood Point residents would like the City to go back to the drawing board. She would feel unsafe with public access to the area behind her building. How will Amesbury public schools support more children when they can't support the tech network, let alone an increase in families. Does the City care more about the excitement of a developer over the lack of excitement from existing residents?
- Clarks Rd. is narrow and parts have no sidewalk. The volume of cars added to this area will create a public safety issue. We went through this with the Eagle Point development back in 2006. The City denied that project for many reasons. Clarks Road cannot withstand additional commercial development and the scale of housing units proposed. The only reason the 40B got approved is that they appealed the City's decision and won in Housing Court. That still doesn't make it right for the neighborhood.
- Point Shore residents have been requesting various types of relief. The traffic in this neighborhood is dangerous. Our concerns have not been addressed after repeated meetings with Amesbury Traffic and our representatives.
- Heavy traffic negatively effects property values. No one is against progress but protecting investments and quality of life must be considered. The traffic on Clarks Road is already well beyond tolerable and safe.
- How could this affect the schools? Teachers were already concerned about student-teacher ratios when Amesbury Heights was added. Schools are already in need of so much and struggling. We don't have the proper technology to support current tax-paying residents.
- Point Shore Drive is far too narrow to account for public parking along the road. Would the City provide resident-only parking signs along Point Shore Drive?
- The proposal has as its expressed purpose the creation of dense residential and mixed use growth. That's an affront to all the people on Point Shore who have been working with the City for at least a year to mitigate the impact of Point Shore traffic. The proposal will make our situation more intense than it already is. It will also get in the way of what the Traffic Committee is trying to do to help us. We should not wait until we have an

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overlay district and a development project before us to address traffic. The best way to handle this is not to have an overlay district that's unfair to all Point Shore residents.

- What specific criteria would give you the thumbs' up to proceed?
- By the time abutters are part of the conversation it's a done deal. Her concern is vision. We are bookended by traffic issues from the hockey complex, Bailey's Pond, and the marina at Amesbury Point. If this rezoning happens, she is in the middle. Are questions being asked about what's to come and not just what exists regarding traffic? Would development on Route 110 divert traffic along Main Street or Point Shore at the intersection of Merrimac and Main Streets?