

KINGSTON RESIDENTS FOCUS GROUP
Meeting Notes
February 15th, 2012

This group had eleven members and had a good mix of Councillors, new and long term residents.

A good deal of the meeting was spent talking about the regulation of residential development, the impact of new development on the social life of the Community, environmental impacts and the challenges of long term sustainability in terms of the environment and the social and cultural life of the Community.

Specific issues discussed included:

- Appeal of the Community, open space, tranquility.
- Fear of “progress”, urban influences.
- Number of young families deciding to return to their Community – like to be able to accommodate them.
- Lower traffic volumes on side roads – safer.
- Problems related to “strip” development (safety).
- Feeling of being “close to nature” (easily destroyed).
- Farming is at risk due to development.
- Community changing – some loss of quality.
- Need to slow down development.
- Vested rights to develop land.
- People don’t move here to live in a subdivision.
- Impact of development on our neighbours.
- Concerns about ground and surface water quality.
- Negative impacts of development/septic systems.
- Too many lots – fear of contaminated wells.

- Nutrient enrichment in streams.
- Long term sustainability.
- How do we determine carrying capacity.
- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Riparian zones/buffers – size ? (100 m ?)
- Balancing private rights.
- Peter's Road development – many concerns (density, slope, wetlands and streams, infilling).
- User pay approach to development and site assessment.
- Trails development along streams.
- Website needs improvement.
- Social interaction has declined.
- Social connections weakened – don't see neighbours.
- Loss of sense of “community”.
- Historic division between Catholics and Protestants.
- Old Emyvale school not well supported.
- Run by local organization, financial struggles, lack of volunteers, centre lovely but not well used.
- How can we capitalize on the centre to strengthen the Community?
- Former family connections have weakened.
- Churches are in decline.
- Social fabric is changing.

- Church and family connections have weakened.
- What can we do to support the Community Centre and use it to strengthen the social fabric of the Community?