

## News Release

### **Ottawa, June 21, 2021: People living around Tunney's Pasture don't know anything about redevelopment plans—but they want to**

The four surrounding community associations agree that it is high time for more information and engagement on the Tunney's Pasture redevelopment! Spearheaded by the Wellington Village Community Association, a coalition with the local Community Associations representing Hintonburg, Mechanicsville and Champlain Park has been formed. *Neighbours for Tunney's* is a group representing the residents of these established neighbourhoods, with a primary objective to spur transparency and community involvement in the planning for this federal lands project in the heart of the community.

WVCA President Dave Allston explains, "this spring we [surveyed](#) ~500 people living near Tunney's Pasture. A clear majority of respondents were only vaguely aware of the redevelopment project, while 15% had never even heard of it. Yet, nearly all respondents (97.5%) indicated that *the public should be involved*" in a project of this significance.

It is apparent that the wheels are already in motion on Tunney's Pasture lands. Buildings have come down, construction fences have gone up, a new intersection is in the works at Smirle Avenue; and yet our efforts to reach out to Public Services and Procurement Canada, the NCC, the city planning office, our mayor, MP, MPP, relevant Ministers and our city councillor have thus far been futile in gaining clarity on the project or arranging for community input.

To date, we have for reference only the outdated (2014) Tunney's Pasture Master Plan. As Allston explains, our group is concerned with the disconnect we see between that plan and Ottawa's new (Draft) Official Plan (OP)—they simply don't match up. "We should not see plans for a one hectare park and a smattering of green patches at Tunney's when Ottawa's Official Plan calls for at least 16 hectares, given population projections for the area."

Linda Brown, President of the Hintonburg Community Association, sees an opportunity to engage on the future of this unique parcel of land, "Let's seize this opportunity to reimagine a dynamic community with diverse housing options, featured green spaces, and a broad spectrum of amenities with connectivity to the Ottawa River."

*Neighbours for Tunney's* notes that Kitchissippi ward is densifying more rapidly than any other ward in the city, and is now dealing with mounting challenges of intensification, loss of affordable housing and lack of green space and recreation facilities. Local residents echo these concerns. When ranking their development interests, survey respondents overwhelmingly indicated their top priorities as [parks & green space](#), [connectivity to the Ottawa River](#), and [development on a "human scale"](#). Many respondents view Tunney's redevelopment as an opportunity to build much needed recreational facilities and public amenities to keep pace with local need and intensification.

Roland Dorsay, from Champlain Park, suggests that the Pasture should be treated as a Design Priority Area under the Official Plan. Indeed, the *Neighbours for Tunney's* group will push the City to designate Tunney's Pasture as a **Special District** under the new Official Plan. This would entail taking a unique planning approach to protect its distinctive qualities while also fostering cultural and economic growth. Tunney's Pasture is an important employment, community, and transit hub; but Tunney's is also a celebrated site of heritage landmarks, an Indigenous place of healing, and an important area for wildlife and natural lands along the Ottawa River.

Given its unique history, location, and geography, Tunney's Pasture presents an extraordinary opportunity to develop an environmentally sustainable, economically vibrant and inclusive 15-minute neighbourhood, linked seamlessly to the Ottawa River, the LRT and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Tunney's Pasture is the last large-scale land development opportunity in the urban core. We are calling on the federal and municipal government officials to work together and engage with the neighbouring communities in charting its future.

For more information and interviews, please contact: **Dave Allston**, President of Wellington Village Community Association

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Backgrounder: [Tunney's Pasture Redevelopment – Neighbourhood Update \(June 2021\)](#)