

Province Green Lights New Development in East Ridge Business Park

Walkerton, ON, November 8, 2022 – The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has approved new zoning for the East Ridge Business Park in Walkerton, permitting up to 500 new housing units and an expansion of Walkerton’s boundaries to accommodate future business and industrial growth.

The Municipality applied for a special Minister’s Zoning Order (MZO) earlier this year, presenting a comprehensive plan to convert five vacant parcels of employment lands to residential uses, including townhouses, apartments, a residential care facility, and a proposed hospice, while also creating new employment lands north of the current park boundary. Those lands, purchased from a local farm family, will provide opportunities for business and industry.

“I am very happy to see the MZO approved, and appreciate the provincial government’s attention to this matter, which will help increase our housing stock, and ultimately, the number of more affordable homes here,” said Brockton Mayor Chris Peabody. “This is good news for the entire community, and something our developers, employers, young families and seniors have been wanting for a long time. We are committed to responsible growth.”

The Municipality started preparing its MZO application almost a year ago, following extensive consultation with the community, and support from local employers, developers, and agencies. Without this process, rezoning multiple parcels of land and expanding Walkerton’s urban boundary could have taken years, and been much more expensive, complex and taxing for all involved.

“We look forward to working with developers on the next stage of these projects and staff will ensure the review process is thorough but timely to continue to increase housing availability locally and prepare for future growth need” said Chief Administrative Officer Sonya Watson.

The Municipality of Brockton is excited for the opportunities the MZO will bring to the East Ridge Business Park, one of the fastest growing business parks in Bruce County. It’s home to a hotel and conference centre, a provincial training and research facility (the Walkerton Clean Water Centre), a restaurant, industrial suppliers, small manufacturers, service providers, professional offices and a regional soccer park.

New industrial lots are being serviced to the north and east of the soccer park, while residential development is now permitted in the south-west area, adjacent to existing homes.

Brockton is investing more than \$6-million in servicing the area with roads, water and sewer, hydro, gas, and high-speed Internet. All available parcels have been sold or conditionally sold, with more expected to come onstream in early 2023.

For particulars about the zoning order, please visit Brockton.ca/MZO.

For more information please contact:

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