

Report to Council

Report Title:	Fischer Dairy Road Smoking Concerns		
Prepared By:	Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and Fiona Hamilton, Clerk		
Department:	Clerk's		
Date:	August 27, 2019		
Report Number:	CLK2019-24	File Number:	C11CL
Attachments:	Map of Walkerton District Community School Property WDCS Letter re Smoking Concerns WDCS Response		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby accepts Report Number CLK2019-24 - Fischer Dairy Road Smoking Concerns, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, and Fiona Hamilton, Clerk, for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

At the Council Meeting on June 18, 2019, it was noted that many residents were complaining about local students smoking at the intersection of Hinks Street and Fischer Dairy Road in Walkerton. Residents were complaining that the intersection was littered with cigarette butts and garbage, and that students were often seen sitting on the road. Staff were directed to contact the South Bruce O.P.P. to arrange that the School Resource Officer speak with Walkerton District Community School's ("WDCS") Principal about respect in this residential area.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, sent a formal letter to Sarah Slater, the Principal of WDCS and copied Krista Miller, the South Bruce O.P.P detachment commander, about the complaints that were received from residents in the area of Fischer Dairy Road and requesting additional support and assistance from these organizations. Responses were received regarding the difficulty in this area and limitations on alternative solutions.

At the Council Meeting on July 9, 2019, Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, provided a verbal update to Council about these response. Council directed Ms. Watson to arrange a meeting with the South Bruce O.P.P and representatives from the WDCS to brainstorm solutions. Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and Fiona Hamilton, Clerk attended the meeting on Monday, August 19, 2019 at WDCS. The local Tobacco

Enforcement Officer from the Grey Bruce Health Unit, local police officer from the South Bruce O.P.P and the Principal and Vice-Principal of WDCS were also in attendance at this meeting.

Analysis:

Unfortunately, the meeting highlighted a number of challenges for all of the parties involved. The main issue is arising from a change in the legislation that occurred in the past year. Previously, individuals were prohibited from smoking on school property. The amended legislation prohibits individuals from smoking within 20 metres of school property. The map that has been attached shows the property boundaries in light green and the 20 metre radius where smoking is prohibited in red. The legislation also prohibits putting an outdoor ashtray in any location where a person is prohibited from smoking. These legislative changes have resulted in the same or similar challenges for many school across Grey Bruce – particularly those schools with grades k-12 where enforcement may be more of a priority.

As shown in the map, there are no good alternate locations where students can be directed to smoke instead of the intersection at Fischer Dairy Road. Municipal staff suggested that a potential compromise may be asking the student to smoke at the edge of the parking lots by the track (behind the TD Bank). This location would be less visible and not promote smoking in accordance with the intent of the legislation. It is also located away from a residential area, away from the storefronts and not along a road where students risked being hit by traffic, but it would not strictly meet the 20metre requirement.

The compromise suggested by Municipal staff was not supported by either WDCS or the Tobacco Enforcement Officer. Staff from WDCS were skeptical that students would walk across the track in the winter and were concerned that the distance would make students late for classes. The Tobacco Enforcement Officer was not willing to refrain from enforcing the legislation in this location. Unfortunately, there were no alternative proposed solutions offered by these agencies. Municipal staff encouraged these agencies to increase their efforts to educate students about smoking cessation and respectful behaviour and to refrain from gathering in large groups and affecting residential property and encouraged the school to suggest this area is more suitable than the residential corner.

There is also a small greenspace at the corner of Yonge St. South and Cemetery Road. Although most of this location is still in the prohibited area, there might be the possibility that a small area of the road allowance where an outdoor ashtray could be located and students could smoke. This small greenspace may push students into the prohibited zone in the winter months when there are high snowbank. It also makes smoking more visible for elementary students (at both WDCS and Mother Theresa), but as a compromise this area may warrant further investigation.

The representatives from the South Bruce O.P.P. have committed to assisting the Municipality of Brockton with increased education for all the parties. The School Resource Officer will make it a priority to speak with students about respectful behaviour, and putting garbage in the correct location. The South Bruce O.P.P will also assist Municipal staff in informing residents that the situation is resulting from provincial legislation that is creating problems for school across the region.

At a minimum, staff can arrange for an additional garbage receptacle to be placed on the road allowance behind WDCS at Hinks Street to make it convenient for students to dispose of garbage to try to address

resident's concerns about garbage and littering. Ultimately, the only meaningful solutions to this challenge may be political rather than operational in nature.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Fiona Hamilton, Clerk

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer