

## Pamela Martin

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**From:** Lorlei Baker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** August 23, 2024 5:53 PM  
**To:** Planning  
**Cc:** Municipal Hall  
**Subject:** In regards to Starlight Development Proposal

**Categories:** Planning correspondence

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August 23,2024 Dear Planning Department and Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed development project on Lochside Drive, which includes the construction of 12 new townhouses and a six-story L-shaped building behind the existing apartment complex. I am deeply concerned about the negative impact this project will have on our community and the surrounding environment.

Firstly, parking is already a significant issue in the area, and this development will only exacerbate it. Despite many of the existing condos in the area not being fully occupied, residents and visitors are already forced to park on Ferguson Road and Lochside Drive due to insufficient parking availability. This overflow of vehicles not only creates congestion but also poses safety risks for both pedestrians and drivers. With no nearby stores, parks, or amenities, residents rely on traveling to Sidney or Saanichton for their daily needs, further increasing the demand for cars and contributing to traffic congestion.

Moreover, I am deeply troubled by the potential loss of our beautiful green spaces, particularly the liquid amber trees, which are slated for removal to make way for the townhouses. These trees are not only an integral part of our community's natural beauty but also play a crucial role in maintaining air quality and reducing noise pollution. The destruction of this green space is a loss that cannot be easily replaced and will significantly diminish the character and livability of our neighborhood.

Additionally, the proposed development fails to address the already problematic traffic situation on Mount Newton Road, especially between Lochside and Highway 17. The increased traffic from the new townhouses and the six-story building will only worsen the congestion, making it more difficult and dangerous for residents to enter and exit the area. The lack of thoughtful planning regarding site access and the number of entrances and exits along Mount Newton Road is a serious oversight that will have long-term negative consequences for traffic flow and safety in our community.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the Planning Department and Council to reconsider this development proposal. The addition of these new townhouses and the six-story L shape building, particularly with inadequate parking, will lead to increased parking and traffic issues, loss of green space, and degradation of our community's quality of life. I believe that more thoughtful and sustainable planning is needed to ensure that any new development enhances, rather than detracts from, the livability and environmental integrity of our area.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and hope that the voices of the community will be taken into account in this decision.

Sincerely,

Glenn and Lorlei Baker

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