

Monarch told of residents concerns

By Bill Rea

Plans of Monarch Plastics Ltd. (MPL) to build a plastic bottle manufacturing plant in SouthFields Village has drawn some negative reaction from local residents, and the company has been informed.

The SouthFields Village Residents' Group received some details about the proposal at the quarterly meeting last Thursday, and there were a lot of heated words in response to what they were hearing.

Kenneth Bokor, founder and team member of the residents' group, sent a lengthy letter to the company the following day, providing a copy to the Citizen.

"The overwhelming response from the over 130 residents in attendance last night was non-supportive of your proposal," Bokor wrote.

He pointed out in his letter that residents were concerned about having such a facility so close to homes and a proposed French Catholic school planned for nearby. There are also worries about truck traffic and pedestrian safety.

"Regardless of these other concerns, the basic fact of the fear of the unknown is what is driving our negative support," Bokor stated. He cited possible health issues from the plant.

"Your proposed plant will be located just steps from residential homes - homes that house a community of hundreds of families that include small children and seniors," he stated. "Obviously, your plant is better suited to be located somewhere else much farther away from residential homes."

Bokor also pointed to consternation that was raised when residents learned there might not be anything the Town can do to stop the developments. But they still want to take some action.

He said a petition has been started and will be presented to the Town "in short order." As well, he said further consultation with environmental and manufacturing experts and lobby groups is underway to obtain supporting information about the risks to communities. The residents are also getting Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones involved, and are looking at legal advice.