

SouthFields Village group updated on progress of development

By Bill Rea

The SouthFields Village subdivision remains a work in progress.

Local residents were recently given an update of what's happening at the regular quarterly meeting of the SouthFields Village Residents' Group.

Kenneth Bokor, one of the founders of the group, confirmed that the community is still growing. Full build-out for the development will see about 2,900 homes, and the said about 925 are now occupied, He added that figure should be at about 1,000 by the end of the year.

In nearby Anthem, there will eventually be 279 single detached homes. There are currently about 230 occupied, and that should be at about 250 by year's end.

There are also plans for a central feature in the plan, also known as Village Blue. Bokor said it will be easy to access from anywhere in the development.

Bokor also said it's hoped the first community park will be ready by the end of August.

Progress is also being made to the road pattern in the area, including the opening of a round about in the north end of the development.

"It's just a way of calming traffic down and keeping it moving," he said.

Bokor added the Town is considering other traffic-calming devices, although it's not anxious to resort to speed bumps because they can interfere with emergency vehicles.

"Certainly, the Town is open to other traffic-calming measures," he remarked.

Bokor also commented there are plans to widen Kennedy Road to four lanes by the end of 2014, and that will include dedicated turn lanes at the intersection with Mayfield Road.

There have been concerns raised about the way some people drive through the area, including speeding and not stopping at "Stop" signs. Bokor said there have been speed blitzes conducted by police, as well as a stopping compliance study conducted by the Town. He said one of the findings is most of the vehicles violating the rules are passenger cars, as opposed to construction trucks.

Mary-Anne Kennedy, one of the organizers of the group, said there have been concerns about the traffic on Learmont Avenue, with a lack of stop signs and places to cross safely.

There was talk of four-way stops, but Councillor Allan Thompson pointed out they are governed under the Highway Traffic Act.

Mayor Marolyn Morrison commented that just putting up a "Stop" sign to help people get across the street to the park could be a problem. It might give kids a false sense of security.

She also stressed the need for the community to follow the rules, suggesting the possibility of volunteers going door-to-door to explain the problems to residents.

One woman at the meeting was concerned about the side of Losino Street where parking is allowed, commenting it should be reversed. Thompson said that decision would have been made by the developer, on the advice of consultants. He added once the Town has taken over the road, staff will be able to look at the situation. He added there's no time line on when the Town will take it over.

People at the meeting received an overview of the Road Watch program, which is aimed at encouraging people to report acts of bad driving they witness.

Jackie Flynn of Road Watch said it's not meant to replace police, adding it involves no charges or offences. "It's all about awareness, education and then about enforcement," she said.

She explained that people can report acts of aggressive or dangerous driving they see. She stressed the need of obtaining a licence number so the car can be connected with the registered owner, as well as noting the date, time, location, whether the driver was male or female and a brief description of the incident. These incidents can be reported online at www.roadwatch.ca

The report goes to OPP, and Flynn said once the incident is verified, a letter is sent to the owner of the vehicle. She said the first letter is basically a polite warning. If there's a second incident, a more strongly worded letter is issued. "It doesn't happen very often in Caledon," Flynn said.

She added there's only been one occasion in Caledon when a third letter has been issued, and she said that was found in the pocket of a man who had been killed in an accident.

She also said parents have expressed their thanks to Road Watch for letting them know what their kids have been up to while driving.