
Subject: Email - Communication - Robert Kavanagh - Speed Limits in Northeast NE Swale - CK 6320-1
Attachments: council_may_19.pdf

From: Robert Kavanagh [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 2:57 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Robert Kavanagh - Speed Limits in Northeast NE Swale - CK 6320-1

Submitted on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 - 14:57

Submitted by user: RobertKavanagh

Submitted values are:

Date Tuesday, May 19, 2020
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Robert
Last Name Kavanagh
Phone Number (306) [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] MAHABIR CRT
City SASKATOON
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)
Subject Speed limits in N.E. Swale
Meeting (if known)
Comments Comments about discussion of speed limits in N.E. Swale
Attachments
[council_may_19.pdf](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

██████ Mahabir Court
Saskatoon, SK

██████
May 19, 2020

His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
Saskatoon, SK

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am concerned about the question of speed limits along the accesses to the Chief Mistawasis Bridge.

This morning Councillor Jeffries was interviewed on CBC radio about his initiation of a petition to change speed limits on the roadways on the East side of that bridge. I accept the sincerity and desire of Councillor Jeffries to work for a decision that makes sense.

However, this initiative suggests a possible hidden weakening of interest on the part of Council, in protecting and sustaining the N.E. Swale. As a former senior executive at the UofS, responsible for institutional IT services, I know more than a little bit about trying to balance competing interests. Further, one of the banes of IT projects was (and is) what can be called 'the process of creeping commitment' - now that we are this far into this action, we could fix this other issue, or provide this additional benefit if we just spent a bit more money and effort (and then repeat this phrase).

What seems to be happening with the Swale is the reverse: a process of DE-commitment. First we encroach upon the area with too many roadways, then we increase the speed limits. Next someone will be saying "you know, that little patch over there could be opened up for development" and then "you know, this small pond could be emptied and filled in without affecting the overall drainage" ... and on we go until 50 years from now we have lost one of Saskatoon's most special environmental gems.

I do not know if equalizing the speed limits on some of the roadways will cause any 'incremental harm' to the Swale and its resident plant and animal species - maybe we have already done the greatest harm by putting the roadways there in the first place. What I do know is that it is easy to fall into the trap of making decisions whose consequences are delayed and are difficult or impossible to correct later.

Your job is a difficult one; I respect that. I urge you try to protect the natural environment of this City. If we have learned anything from COVID-19 it is that so many systems and environments are inter-connected that we make 'isolated' decisions at our peril.

I would feel more reassured about this discussion if it was contained within a firm, loud and continuing message that Council is committed to the protection of the environment, and that it recognizes that this commitment requires continuing to assign resources for careful and comprehensive planning.

Yours sincerely,

Robert N. Kavanagh