

South Memorial Road *Project Update*

During the week of July 8th the road surveyors completed the staking of the **road right of way** for South Memorial Drive project and provided Council the road maps for construction. On July 15, 2019 Council held a public meeting to provide more detailed information about the project as well as address questions or concerns that residents might have.

The following is a list of questions and answers that have come out of the project to date.

Q *Why are we building the South Mawson Road to the south end of the Village?*

A There are many safety concerns with the existing undeveloped road due to its narrow width, no clear road definition and blind spots making it very dangerous for our growing community. The road is not open in the winter, which limits proper access to the maintenance building, the recycle bin, the waste water dump, the mail boxes and the emergency vehicle access. Alternate access to these sites is through Mawson Drive during the winter, which puts additional stress onto the residential road. By building the road these safety concerns can be addressed.

Engineering of the road would also address the drainage issues in the maintenance building area as well as end the freezing caused in our waste water line due to insufficient coverage over the current lines. The new road provides that additional coverage in addition to defining the road.

The completion of a roadway to the South end of the Village completes Phase I of the long time vision to have a proper access road that is the quickest route to pavement. At some point in the future, the vision is to complete Phase II by developing the 'turkey trail' or specifically the 1.2 kms from the south edge of the Village to the RM intersection immediately before the pavement on Highway 211. This vision was discussed at a public road meeting in 2018.

Q *Why we were not told about the road and the removal of trees before the project started?*

A The following is the timeline of information shared about the project.

- 2018 - Public meeting to discuss the need for a proper access road to Highway 211
- May 2019 Annual Meeting - South Memorial Drive Project discussed in detail and proposed site plan provided
- July Issue of Shields News – Project Update
- July 10, 2019 Project Update emailed and posted on website
- July 15, 2019 Public Information Meeting held at the Hall
- July 16, 2019 Email regarding Tree Removal

It is recognized that specifics about tree removal were not provided in the early presentations on the project. However, it was only once the land survey was complete, that council had a clear picture of the extent of encroachment on the road right of way that would have to be addressed. As residents made their concerns known about the tree removal, Council stalled the construction process in order to have a public forum meeting so that they could provide the details requested by residents.

Q *Why are so many trees being removed? Why is the evergreen buffer being removed? What trees are staying?*

A Only the trees that over time have encroached the road right of way, which was established when the Village was originally plotted, will be removed. Council's goal was to retain as many evergreens as possible. After the engineer's original survey staking which identified the large evergreen buffer along the Mawson alleyway encroaching on the roadway, they were able to negotiate some refinements to the plan in order to save these trees. These evergreen trees will continue to provide a buffer from wind and snow for part of the back lane of Mawson. Most trees in the south area of the green space are staying; but the trees near the existing undeveloped road will be removed.

Q *What plans are in place to 'reforest' the area adjacent to the roadway in the municipal reserve?*

A Operations and Council discussed trying to save 5 of the evergreens that need to be removed and some of the other established trees. They felt due to the size of the trees, cost to remove and replant, success rate of transplanting at this time of year and the need for constant water, it was more cost efficient to reforest with new product that would have a warranty. There is also the ability to reforest from within the Village municipal sites, however that would have to be done at the appropriate time of year to support the transplant process. The Green space Committee will be talking to the residents along the Mawson alleyway to get their thoughts and support on a forestation plan once the roadway is complete.

Q. *Why when some residents requested copies of maps of the road construction they were not emailed to them as requested?*

A Council received the construction-engineered road maps mid week of July 8th and the intention was to share them at a public meeting where they could be properly delivered and explained to all attendees, as they are complicated drawings.

Q *The stakes are showing a very large road, why do we need it that big?*

A The road stakes include a proper ditch on each side. The new road design is currently an 8-meter surface (shoulder to shoulder). For comparative purposes, the road to Jessie's corner ranges from 10 to 11 meters. The North of Memorial Drive is approx. a 9.5 meter surface and narrows at the bridge, which will remain at 7.0 meters to help restrict large trucks from using the road.

Q *How is dust control going to be addressed?*

A Once the road is fully developed it will receive dust control just as the rest of Memorial Drive does each year.

Q. *How is the Village going to address the speed and safety issues of the new road?*

A The issue of speeding on the new road is the same challenge we have today with the existing road. Speeding on all roads in the Village is a concern for everyone including the RCMP. We have to look at action plans or resources to stop the repetitive speeders and those disobeying road signs – this will be a priority.

The speed limit will be 30 km/hour the same as the rest of the Village. The appropriate stops signs will be in place to discourage speeding. Now with a proper road, we may be able to investigate the use of speed bumps. There will be larger Village signs showing the entry to the Village from the south that will help for people to recognize they are entering a residential area.

Speeding is a legal matter and an offence. The RCMP has reassured us that if a picture is taken of a car speeding and it is reported to the RCMP with the license details, they will issue a ticket. If it does go to court, the person reporting has to be willing to appear.

Q. *Why are we losing the green space and children's play area along the alley of Mawson Drive? Would Council consider putting up a fence along the alleyway due to the children playing on the back lane?*

A The green space between the alley of Mawson Drive and the undeveloped road has evolved over time with the planting of trees and structures that have, unbeknownst to many, encroached on the road right of way. The municipal land was never intended for a park as it for the roadway. This area is not a recommended safe play space for small children. Outlaw's Ravine has large green space area for play and Aden's Park is an excellent children's play area. At this time there are no plans for placing a fence along the municipal land.

Q *Why did volunteers that took down some trees in the area take all the wood and leave the brush for the town maintenance to pick up?*

A For a number of years the Village's practice for falling municipal trees is to allow volunteers that have experience in falling trees or help with the process take the wood for their use. If the job is too large or we do not have experienced volunteers to fall the tree(s), then a contractor is hired. When a contractor is hired, the tree(s) are fallen at the site and a notice is sent by Administration advising that there is fallen wood available, first come first serve.

The road contractor advised the Village to leave the brush and branches where fallen as this material will be moved into the pit with the road equipment. Maintenance staff will not be picking up branches and debris.

Q *Does Shields Council have a commitment from the RM of Dundurn to allow us to build a road from the south end of the Village to Highway 211 as was discussed at the road meeting in 2018. Have they committed financial support for the building of the road?*

A We have received a Council Resolution from the R.M. of Dundurn that will allow Shields to build the road. At this time there is no commitment for financial support. As we further investigate the completion of a road to Highway 211 we will continue to negotiate with the RM on matters concerning the roadway that are acceptable to both municipalities.