



Public Comment

Name

Full name or organization

Choose Topic

Barkley Heights

Topics available for online public comment are listed above. If no topics are listed, there may be opportunities for public comment on various topics through email, letters, and public comment periods during meetings.

More information on this topic can be found at <https://cob.org/project/barkley-heights>

Comment

With 63 proposed residences, that could add anywhere from 120-180 cars consistently needing access to Sussex Drive, plus increased guest and visitor traffic. What are the parking plans to accommodate this many additional vehicles? Does each residence have at least 2 dedicated parking spots (garage or alley way, etc)? Even if so, but especially without, I'm concerned about the number of cars parking in the street. We already have a problem on Sussex with parked cars blocking fire hydrants (despite signage), or when parked on both sides of the street creating a hazard for road traffic. (especially on the side streets and near alley entrances, these cars create visibility issues and can be very difficult to pass through when cars are parked on both sides of the street).

In addition, with that volume of car traffic, I'd like to see a plan to mitigate traffic accidents and ensure that those of turning left onto Sussex from a side street will be able to do so. Perhaps a 4-way stop at Sussex/Whipple or some other solution that doesn't result in being stuck needing to make a left onto sussex.

A few other concerns with this volume of infill:

1. how will trash and flying debris be mitigated? All through Bellingham on recycling or trash days we end up with a lot of trash on the streets. Will trash/recycling pickup be behind these house on an alley, or directly on Sussex? (I live on Sussex close to Barkley, and I end up with a lot of trash in my yard...I would not like to see this get any worse.)
2. will there be a homeowners association or similar to enforce rules that ensure the aesthetic and value of the area?
3. I believe these are now intended to be owner-occupied, not primarily rental units. That gives me great relief. I would feel very differently if these were primarily rentals as that would increase the volume of traffic even further.
4. will there be sidewalks and designated trails through the entirety of the neighborhood?

Despite my concerns I think this could be a good addition for Bellingham, if it's done right to respect both the existing neighborhood (safety, home value and quality of life) as well as the environment.

Thank you,
Kari

Email

kari208@yahoo.com

Enter your email address to confirm your identity and receive a copy of your comment.

Aven, Heather M.

From: Nabbefeld, Kurt D.
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 5:27 PM
To: Bell, Kathy M.
Subject: FW: Barkley Heights

For the record.

**Kurt Nabbefeld, Development Services Manager,
SEPA Responsible Official**

City of Bellingham
Planning and Community Development
Tel: (360) 778.8351
Fax: (360) 778.8302
Email: knabbefeld@cob.org

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My incoming and outgoing email messages are subject to public disclosure requirements per RCW 42.56

From: Doran Smolkin <doransmolkin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Grp.PL.Planning Mail (planning@cob.org) <planning@cob.org>
Subject: Barkley Heights

I am responding to an invitation to comment on the Barkley Heights proposal. We live on Whipple Ct, just off of Sussex. We walk and bike regularly around our neighborhood and into town. I am extremely concerned about this new development's effect on traffic on Sussex Drive and on Barkley Blvd.

Sussex Drive is a small residential street that currently dead-ends. Adding 50-63 residential units and a road that extends to Bristol Way will greatly increase the number of vehicles on Sussex. There are no crosswalks or speed bumps or roundabouts on Sussex. This means that more vehicles will be speeding on this very small street. This is a problem already, and will become significantly worse with increased population. For reasons of safety, **something should be done to slow the speed on which vehicles will travel on Sussex.** Indeed, I am not sure if it is possible to add so many residences to the neighborhood, given how narrow Sussex is. But if the development goes forward, **what measures will be taken to slow down cars on Sussex?**

Of equal, if not greater concern, is the effect the Barkley Heights development will have on Barkley Blvd. Cars routinely speed up and down Barkley. The only way for residents on our street and Whipple Court to access the trails leading to town is by crossing Barkley. There is no crosswalk on the intersection of Barkley and Whipple. At present, it is dangerous to try to cross Barkley at this intersection. With the added traffic from this development, and with the road being pushed through to Bristol Way, the intersection of Barkley and Sussex will be busier still. **A crosswalk with safety lights needs to be added across Barkley, connecting Sussex to Brandywine.** The traffic study submitted with the development proposal admits that cars routinely go over 40 miles per hour up and down Barkley. The study claims that this is not a problem because there is room for cars to stop in case of pedestrians. But this overlooks several facts. People are often on their phones while driving, and so they do not see pedestrians in time; the road goes east/west and so at sunrise and sunset visibility is extremely poor, making it very hard for drivers to see pedestrians; the weather is often bad making it

difficult to see and respond to pedestrians; cars often tailgate up and down the hill make it dangerous for cars to stop for pedestrians if there are no lights. **Crossing Barkley is simply unsafe at present** and will be made significantly worse by adding extra homes. I am not against the development, *per se*, but the developers need to be responsible. **This means they need to ensure that there is a crosswalk with safety lights installed on Barkley, so people and their pets can safely cross from Sussex to Brandywine.** People and their pets' lives are at stake.

Sincerely,

Dr. Doran Smolkin
3313 Whipple Ct.
Bellingham, WA
98226

360-393-7694



Public Comment

Name

Roxann Kay

Full name or organization

Choose Topic

Barkley Heights

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Barkley is getting so congested. Also, this is not the kind of housing we need in Bellingham. We need housing that is entry level. How about something under 400,000? I know so many people who were born and raised here and work fulltime and they deserve housing! How about some smaller homes people can afford?

Email

roxannkay007@gmail.com

Enter your email address to confirm your identity and receive a copy of your comment.



Public Comment

Name

Rick Becker

Full name or organization

Choose Topic

Barkley Heights

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As a concerned neighbor, following are my comments regarding the proposed development of the acreage currently called "Barkley Heights" based on information available so far:

- 1) Considering that the total number of residential units requested (including the proposed increase over code) is based on the entire 11 acre property, please make a condition of any approval that the property owner record an irrevocable affidavit stating that any owner, present or future, agrees that the portion of the property (the "open space tract") will remain open space, especially no additional residential units, in perpetuity.
 - 2) As a mitigating condition of approval of ANY variance of the City of Bellingham codes and regulations, please require the developer to provide adequate off-street guest parking spaces to assure standard road width and public safety emergency access.
 - 3) Please require street trees along the new portion of Sussex Drive
- I may have additional comments upon review of the staff report.
Thank you for your time and consideration,
Rick Becker

Email

engrbecker@gmail.com

Enter your email address to confirm your identity and receive a copy of your comment.