Triwood Trumpet

Article for October Trumpet from the Planning Committee

Neighbourly Planning

It has been a year with a lot of development activity in our neighbourhood. Modest upgrades, backyard suites, new homes built – we have seen it all in Triwood. Your Triwood Planning Committee is continuing to review development permits and provides relevant feedback to the developer and the City of Calgary planners.

We know that being a good neighbour includes having open two-way conversations about building and land use changes that impact others. With that in mind, we are offering some information that can help all of us be good neighbours whether we are making a change or may be affected by change.

Cambrian Heights, one of our neighbouring communities, has prepared a very useful document on “Lessons Learned for Harmonious Redevelopment in Cambrian Heights”. You can find the document at [www.cambrianheightscommunity.com](http://www.cambrianheightscommunity.com) ; click on Community Info, and then Planning & Development. The document notes that “community harmony and relationships matter when a new house goes up”. Advice for those undertaking redevelopment or rebuilding includes:

* Talk to neighbours before you design
* Consider the streetscape and the community character
* Share the plans
* Pay attention to two-way noise and privacy issues
* Think about the shade your house will case on your neighbours’ lots

Advice for neighbours affected by redevelopment includes:

* Understand the rules and how planning decisions work in Calgary (there is also a helpful guide on the Cambrian Heights website about the planning process)
* Talk to the owner and try to understand their interests and needs
* Don't assume that you are entitled to maintaining the status quo
* Express your concerns directly to the planner or file manager
* Talk to your neighbours and solicit their concerns and support
* Approach the issue in the spirit of seeking practical solutions
* Don't be afraid to appeal the decision if nothing else has worked

A big thank you to Cambrian Heights for preparing and sharing this valuable resource.

The Planning Committee Terms of Reference were updated by the Committee, and have now been approved by the Triwood Community Association Board. Expectations for participation and meeting procedures have been updated so that everyone is clear about roles and processes. The Committee strives to be fair and inclusive, and new members are very welcome. Look for the Terms of Reference on at [www.triwoodplanning.com](http://www.triwoodplanning.com) and choose the Triwood Planning Committee tab.