

Airdrie City Council approves zoning change

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Massive opposition from Airdrie residents didn't stop city council from approving a zoning plan to allow for a possible affordable housing project on Monday night.

Dozens of people pleaded their case with council to reject a zoning change that would allow for development on a piece of vacant land.

Habitat for Humanity Calgary has made a proposal to council to build a multi-family development on the site.

Residents say the lot between Monklands Soccer Park and Ralph McCall School is not suitable for a housing project and brought forth a petition with over 600 signatures.

"It's very easy to support something that does not impact you directly and the community that is directly surrounding that site came out in force on the 21st, they came out in force now and they were grossly ignored by council," said area resident, Dan Charlesworth.

Many are concerned over a lack of parking in the area and say more housing will create additional traffic problems.

The zoning change was approved by council, but the mayor did request the project be scaled down from its original 56 unit plan.

Habitat for Humanity Calgary officials say they plan to address some of the residents' concerns in their site plan by providing additional parking and lower density housing.

"I'm obviously very pleased with the decision and clearly Habitat for Humanity and myself and our team has a lot of work to do in continuing to engage the community as part of the development process and that'll be our first order of business," said Andrew MacLachlan from Habitat for Humanity Calgary.

A site plan is expected to be unveiled at an open house within the next two months.