

# Erin Chamber of Commerce demands task force for wastewater treatment plan

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News

## Staff propose developing a liaison committee to update residents

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Erin's chamber wants to ensure they're kept in the loop as mass construction for the Erin wastewater treatment plant infrastructure continues.

Ann Shanahan, board chair of the Erin Chamber of Commerce, spent time discussing concerns the business community has about traffic flow during construction and the effect it has on businesses.

"Our specific ask is for the formation of a task force with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, council, county council, economic development committee, appropriate town staff,

contractors, local business owners and citizens," said Shanahan.

[Businesses in Erin continue to recover](#) from the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and have endured over three months of traffic disruptions, congestion, and parking issues. Shanahan said it has culminated in a colossal financial loss.

"Many of the Enbridge construction problems could have been avoided with better planning and communication," said Shanahan.

Nick Colucci, director of infrastructure services, affirmed his commitment to keeping the local businesses in the loop.

"We're looking at doing is having, not a task force, but a liaison committee," said Colucci. "That would include members of the businesses, chamber and maybe other organizations like the agricultural society and lions club."

The town presented a Main Street traffic management plan outlining pipe installation with a proposal for one-way traffic. Shanahan said it was informative but lacked concrete plans and facts, particularly about parking considerations.

"No marketing plan was even discussed," said Shanahan. "Granted that consultants and experts in the field of the main artery of construction have undoubtedly created this proposal, we believe they are unaware of the day-to-day life of operating a business in our small town."

She wants businesses to not only be heard but listened to and included in decisions that affect them. Businesses are retail, service or manufacturers. Some rely on tourism or residents.

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Councillor John Brennan is in favour of a task force or liaison committee to involve the community in ongoing plans.

"I endorse the idea of a working group, an ongoing working group because this project is going to unfold over time," said Brennan. "We will have different needs at different times of the year. When the fair weekend comes around, that presents an additional wrinkle. I think it's important the task force be one that goes on."

Shanahan asked Mayor Michael Dehn to hold a meeting to address the situation and create a forum and framework for the task force.

The current construction phase is expected to run until 2024 at which point the town will start servicing current homes to the plant on existing streets.