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On the record

Every month, the Kitchener Citizen publishes "Notes from City Hall" which Kitchener City Councillors can use to communicate with residents.

In addition to highlighting upcoming community events, I often use this as an opportunity to present my position or invite discussion about issues that pertain to citizens.

Here is one that I think bears repeating.

What does it mean to refer to a 'liveable' city? It is a concept often used to describe the attractive positive features of an ideal city.

I particularly like the idea of a 15 minute neighbourhood or community, where there is a diverse mix of land-uses and housing types, shops, services, schools, day cares, jobs and parkland. It is a community that is supported by active transportation options including public transportation, trails, and bike lanes.

For me a liveable city requires an all encompassing plan. A plan that gives residents reassurance and predictability. A plan that has been carefully crafted through planning policies and public consultation. A plan that gets updated every few years through the same rigorous process. A plan that ensures a liveable city where all residents are adequately housed.

Planning is a central part of what municipalities do. It is very important to get it right from the beginning.

The Downtown Working Group is tasked with crafting a 10-year vision for creating a 'downtown for all'. A final report from the committee will be submitted to council in 2023.

I'd love to hear what your vision is for the downtown area.