

Cambridge Highlands is a seven street, quiet, residential neighborhood with a unique geographical location. The Highlands, in the northwest corner of Cambridge, is bordered by two very busy streets: Blanchard Road and Concord Avenue, by the Blair Pond/Alewife Reservation and finally by the developing Alewife Industrial area that includes a transfer station.

The Highlands is made up of approximately 250+ multi-ethnic working class families who make up the body of Cambridge Highlands Neighborhood Association.

The majority of the neighbors are second and third generation.....

Our Association's goal has always been to maintain the old neighborhood ambience, neighbor knowing neighbor; helping neighbor, and protecting neighbor.

It has been our resolve to work hand and hand with the City, Community Development, other abutting neighborhood associations/towns and developers striving to protect our neighborhood from being engulfed by 4 land highways and high rise buildings while still allowing development. And you can ask anyoneOur reputation has been to work "with development" not against it.....

With that said, things are changing greatly....

.....A large condo unit was built at the rotary a few years ago

.....we have a 61 unit development at the site of the old gas station in front of that existing condo unit

.....we have a 400+ unit development on Fawcett Street,

.....and a 200-300 units on Route 2 whose traffic will also drop into the rotary..... at some point we will be cut off from Cambridge proper.....

Most of the homes in our area are one and two family homes and were built over 80 years ago.... Because some of these homes are small and cannot accommodate "today's" families, the plan for a lot of people are to do tear downs and/or expand existing homes into a larger one and/or a two family homes.

That is wonderful and an advantage to our neighborhood. It stays with the old neighborhood charm and allows for growing families with young children to put down roots.

However, there are also those developers who do not care about our neighborhood, families or children...they care about the almighty dollar.....they are going back to suburbia..... example...

.....A developer purchased the old Adley site and built commercial condos on the old dump and opened the dead end of Loomis Street, built 7 homes that he is not selling because the market is bring more rental money.....

Promises –

.....build a berm to buffer the industrial condos from the new homes

Still No berm

and never open the street to the industrial area.....

.....daily arguments about moving the jersey barriers so trucks can come up and down our small street....

In summary he has done EVERYTHING to make out the lives of the people in the neighborhood miserable

.....We had a beautiful single family home that a developer saw \$\$ signs tore down and now houses 4 condos....

at one time one condo had 2 parents and 3 kids that drove totally 5 cars with one parking garage that was never used....total cars 11 in that small space...

....turnover in the condo units – every 1-3 years.....

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They want to come in, tear down and build multi-family townhouses that leave minimal room for open space and those town-house owners usually become transients not really building in our community but use us as stepping stone to the one family in suburbia.

The developers do not care about our community, they build and leave. And they leave us with buildings that do not fit our community, more traffic and cars speeding down a very small streets with young children.

Cambridge Highlands “does care” and we are working very hard to protect ourselves and we look to the City for help.....

you the City

In closing, to repeat, the neighborhood is not adverse to development, only what type.....

And for those of you not familiar with the Highlands, we invite you to visit at anytime...

Thanks