

## 3 Peterborough councillors ask 3 questions about pickleball courts at Bonnerworth Park and receive 3 answers



By [Joelle Kovach](#) Reporter

The three city councillors who voted in April to pause and rethink the Bonnerworth Park redevelopment project have issued three key questions that they wanted answered by city staff.

Coun. Alex Bierk, Coun. Joy Lachica and Coun. Keith Riel asked the three questions and released them to the public (they appeared on Bierk's X account, on city letterhead, on Friday).

The questions had been sent to city staff, Bierk told The Examiner on Friday in a text message. He said in his text he'd posted the questions online "in an effort to keep the public informed."

City communications director Brendan Wedley said in an interview later that responses had been sent to Bierk by Friday morning — and then Wedley later forwarded those same responses to The Examiner.

At issue is a \$4.4-million redevelopment project that city council approved a final time in a vote, April 8, that will add 16 pickleball courts, a new bike track and an improved skateboard area to Bonnerworth Park, at McDonnell Street and Monaghan Road.

The plan is to carry out the redevelopment over two years: the pickleball courts are planned to go under construction this fall, and the rest of the construction is planned for 2025.

But many neighbours have objected to the pickleball courts, citing concerns about pickleball noise, and saying they weren't consulted and that the courts will mean a loss of some green space in the park.

Bierk, Lachica and Riel voted in April to pause the redevelopment plans, but the rest of council voted to press on.

Here are the three councillors' questions, as posted on Bierk's X account Friday, plus the city's answers (which were emailed to The Examiner by communications director Wedley):

### **Question 1:**

When will all drafts of the technical studies be completed? And when will the drafts be posted on Connect Ptbo (public engagement page on the city's website) for public review?

**Response:**

All technical studies are anticipated to be completed by end of August, with some completed in July and will be posted to Connect Ptbo as they come available.

**Second part of question 1:**

Also, will the consultant and staff not finalize the studies and the plan until public input has been received and assessed?

**Response:**

Public input has been received and provided to the project team and will be reviewed and addressed by the team through the design process as the project progresses per the Connect Ptbo page.

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My understanding of this question is that the public would like input on the technical studies and plans before they have been finalized. The public can provide input at any time during the project, which will be received and assessed as noted. Please note that the technical studies are completed by third party consultants (subject matter experts) and are used to inform the final design plan and ensure it meets all technical standards, public input on these documents is not part of the project process. The primary reason to post these documents is to provide transparency to the design process so that the public understands the information that has been used to guide the final park design.

**Question 2:**

The Invitation to Tender calls for the consultant to prepare a presentation and attend meetings of Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC) and the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). The city

cancelled the May APRAC meeting, and the project has yet to go to the AAC. When will these committee reviews take place?

**Response:**

The consultant will prepare a presentation of the design as this is typical standard protocol for APRAC and the AAC. The timeline for this is expected to be in August. This will provide the opportunity to receive feedback from both committees. It should be noted that the agenda for APRAC is prepared in consultation with the Chair so how and when this information is provided to APRAC will be determined with input from the chair and the clerk's office.

**Question 3:**

The Peterborough Connect site indicates "A Concept Plan for the park will be made available once developed." Do you plan to post the concept plan before the contract is finalized so that staff can incorporate changes that might improve it?

**Response:**

Information about the project and a concept plan will be updated on the Connect Peterborough project page as they come available. This will be in advance of any contract drawings being finalized.