

Earthwise Statement

Two weeks ago, Earthwise Society appealed to Delta to help us protect our Farm. We have asked Delta to meet with us to help us resolve our concerns about the development's impact and relocation costs on the Earthwise Farm. This has not yet occurred at any time throughout the development planning process. **Delta, as the new owner of the Southlands property, has the power to hold the development accountable to what was laid out in the planning process. We remain hopeful that they will collaborate with us to reach this goal.**

On Sept 21, the Corporation of Delta issued a press release in response to community concerns regarding the future of the Earthwise Farm. We would like to offer our response to the following statements from this document.

"From the beginning of the application process a public Market Square has been part of the plans for the Southlands. The relocation of the Earthwise Farm is consistent with those plans."

Our response: By-law 7271, attachment E p. 26, includes the existing area of the Earthwise farm within the boundaries labelled "Earthwise Garden" which "will be retained in its existing configuration." The detail drawing of the Earthwise Garden Precinct Plan also incorporates the farm.

"Delta has been assured that Century Group has communicated their long term plans to Earthwise Society."

Our response: Prior to the development's approval at 3rd reading, Century communicated its long term plans to Earthwise and to the community as follows: "Earthwise Farm and Garden will be the feature of the Market Square." This was posted on the *Imagine Southlands* website from 2013 until after 4th reading in July 2016.

"The final plans for the area in question would include a rain garden, apiary, picnic gathering space, allotment gardens, and a demonstration area for the Earthwise Farm".

Our response: All of these elements have been part of the Earthwise Garden and Farm. In 2013 Century requested that Earthwise Society prepare a plan for the future Earthwise Demonstration Farm as a "feature of the Market Square". In 2014, Century confirmed, in writing, their support for this plan. It was revised at Century's request earlier this year to conform to the planned configuration of this area. The Earthwise Demonstration Farm plans include areas for the Society's community food programs, allotment gardens, a new kitchen garden and picnic area, and a Victorian style greenhouse. Delta can ensure that Century upholds its commitment to this plan.

"Earthwise Society will be provided with a new area within the agricultural portion of the Southlands site...This will allow the ES to continue to carry on their activities as a key component of the overall Southlands concept."

Our response: This area will not be ready for farming until 2019 at the earliest. Our programs require ongoing access to the existing Earthwise Farm.