

ALC consideration just first step toward an approval

BRINKWORTHY FIELDS

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PARC manager Dan Ovington said he believes the current, revised design addresses neighbours' concerns about traffic, parking and stormwater management, and that PARC supports the one-hectare farmland proposal. Other agricultural amenities in the plan include the decommissioning of the Fulford ball fields, amending the Salt Spring Official Community Plan to take out language about developing a total

of seven hectares of fields in the south end and next to Portlock Park, a 10-metre buffer around the Brinkworthy property and measures to keep soil intact.

Laying out his rationale for the motion, Grams said he had considered the perspectives of the three stakeholder groups and concluded the island's youth are not being served. In addition, he noted the property in question is mostly forested and its farming production has been limited to hay grown on 4.5 acres, enough to feed just four horses or cattle for a year.

"It does factor into my decision-making when I see 15 prime acres are only 30 per cent in production," Grams said.

Trustee Peter Grove said PARC's proposal could be a better outcome for residents of the Brinkworthy Place seniors community than if a private owner developed the site according to its agricultural zoning.

"I actually believe this is an opportunity for their community, an opportunity to have some control over what happens in those fields," Grove said, suggesting possible agriculture uses

could be anything from a hog farm to a swath of greenhouses lit up all night.

"All those trees could be chopped down immediately without anybody to stop them."

The LTC also voted to defer deliberations on a concurrent application for rezoning and OCP amendment until a decision is received from the ALC. Grams observed that any further time spent addressing neighbour concerns would be wasted if the agricultural body denies the non-farming use request.

Grams, Grove and LTC chair

Peter Luckham each stated that forwarding the application did not mean that playing fields are assured. Many lingering concerns would have to be addressed in the rezoning application.

"I would reiterate, we can be extremely determined about what we would allow and what we would not allow in a rezoning," Groves said.

"Indeed, this is very simply a referral to the ALC; this is not a fait accompli," Luckham said. "We may be surprised by the ALC."

Capital Regional District



Notice to Electors within the Capital Regional District Alternative Approval Process for CRD Bylaw 4112

Authorizing the disposal of Regional Parkland (Irwin Road)

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Capital Regional District ("CRD") proposes to adopt Bylaw No. 4112, "Capital Regional District Disposition of Regional Parkland (Irwin Road) No. 1, 2016." The purpose of Bylaw No. 4112 is to authorize the sale or exchange of a .34 ha parcel of regional parkland, more specifically described as part of Lot 1, Section 4, Goldstream, Plan VIP 85581 (PID: 027-620-913) to the City of Langford.

Take further notice that the CRD may proceed with Bylaw No. 4112 unless at least 28,078 electors within the CRD indicate by signing the elector response forms, that the Board must obtain the assent of the electors by way of an assent vote (referendum) before proceeding to adopt Bylaw No. 4112.

The elector response form must be in the form as established by the CRD and forms are available from the CRD on request or from the CRD website. The only persons entitled to sign elector response forms are electors of the area to which the alternative approval process opportunity applies. The alternative approval process opportunity applies within the regional parks service area, which is comprised of all the municipalities and electoral areas in the Capital Regional District, as follows: Central Saanich, Colwood, Esquimalt, Highlands, Langford, Oak Bay, Metchosin, North Saanich, Saanich, Sidney, Sooke, Victoria, View Royal; and Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas.

The deadline for delivering the original signed elector response forms, in relation to Bylaw No. 4112, to the CRD is 4:00 pm on Friday, September 2, 2016. Forms must be received by the deadline to be counted.

The CRD has estimated that the total number of electors within the service area is 280,787 and that 10% of that number or 28,078 electors must submit elector response forms to prevent the CRD from enacting Bylaw No. 4112 without the assent of the electors by referendum.

Question regarding the property may be directed to Stephen Henderson, Manager, Real Estate, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, 250.360.3136, shenderson@crd.bc.ca, during regular office hours Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) from the date of this notice until September 2, 2016.

Qualifications for Resident and Non-Resident Property Electors

Resident Elector: You are entitled to submit an elector response form as a Resident Elector if you are 18 years or older on the date of submission of the elector response form, are a Canadian citizen, have resided in British Columbia for 6 months and in the Capital Regional District for at least 30 days prior to signing the elector response form.

Non-Resident Property Elector: You may submit an elector response form as a Non-Resident Property Elector if you are 18 years or older on the date of submission of the elector response form, are a Canadian citizen, have resided in British Columbia for 6 months, have owned and held registered title to property in the Capital Regional District for 30 days and do NOT qualify as a Resident Elector. If there is more than one registered owner of the property (either as joint tenants or tenants in common) only one individual may, with the written consent of the majority, submit an elector response form.

To obtain an elector response form, or for questions about the elector approval process, please contact CRD Legislative and Information Services, PO Box 1000, 625 Fisgard Street, 5th Floor, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6 or by telephone at 250.360.3127 from 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

A copy of the elector response form may be downloaded from:
www.crd.bc.ca/about/how-we-are-governed/elections-other-voting

Elector response forms may also be obtained at the CRD offices listed below.

A copy of Bylaw No. 4112 and a copy of this Notice may be inspected during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) from the date of this notice until September 2, 2016 at the following locations:

- public notice board in the lobby of CRD headquarters, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria
- Panorama Recreation Centre, 1885 Forest Park Drive, North Saanich
- Juan de Fuca Local Area Services office, #3-7450 Butler Road, Sooke
- Integrated Water Services, 479 Island Highway, Victoria
- SSI Administration (PARC) Office, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island
- on the CRD website:
 - for Bylaw No. 4112: www.crd.bc.ca/about/document-library/Documents/bylaws/bylawsubjecttoreferendumoralternativeapprovalprocess
 - for this Notice: www.crd.bc.ca/about/how-we-are-governed/elections-other-voting

Given under my hand at Victoria, BC this 13th day of July, 2016
Brent Reems, Corporate Officer

HEALTH

Radon project assesses coastal emission risks

Local CRD office offers residential testing kit

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Research on sources of a carcinogenic gas in three Vancouver Island communities is being called an important step to determine the prevalence of a silent killer responsible for the deaths of about 3,200 Canadians annually.

Earlier this month, the Canadian Cancer Society announced a plan to gather data about radon levels in private homes from residents in Colwood, Gordon Head and Nanaimo.

"We're looking to enhance the knowledge base and determine if there is a need for greater screening," said Christina McLean, a project coordinator with the Canadian Cancer Society. "We're trying to get a sense of what's happening on the island."

Radon is a colourless, odourless gas emitted from subterranean uranium deposits. Without proper mitigation, the gas can creep into homes and be inhaled by unsuspecting residents.

McLean said Vancouver Island mapping indicates a potential for elevated radon levels across the region, but limited testing has been undertaken. Because radon levels can vary widely within neighbourhoods, individuals are strongly advised to test their homes for the gas.

Testing in the three Vancouver Island communities will be undertaken between November and February, when indoor radon levels tend to be higher. The Canadian Cancer Society will release study results in June 2017.

The society says radon is the leading cause of cancer among non-smokers and is responsible for 16 per cent of lung cancer deaths every year.

At least two homes with radon levels above Health Canada guidelines have been detected through testing undertaken by homeowners on Salt Spring, according to Robert Gutierrez,

the Capital Regional District's manager of building inspection.

Though Salt Springers aren't included in the upcoming research project, Gutierrez said, the CRD building inspection office in Ganges (250-537-2711) can provide testing kits to homeowners who want to determine if their homes are affected.

"We're looking to enhance the knowledge base, and determine if there is a need for greater screening."

CHRISTINA MCLEAN
Project coordinator, Canadian Cancer Society

"We bought a kit to check for radon gas on Salt Spring because if it's around it's around," he said.

Radon-detection kits are also available for a fee through the BC Lung Association, which has been a strong advocate of testing across the province. The kits can be ordered online through www.radonaware.ca.

"Testing is the only way to understand the extent of the radon issue in any B.C. community, so we encourage everyone to test their homes," said Scott McDonald, president and CEO of the BC Lung Association. "We hope the Canadian Cancer Society project results in many more Vancouver Islanders having a better understanding of radon and the health risks it presents and especially the radon levels in their own homes so they can take action if necessary."

The BC Lung Association will host a drop-in question-and-answer session about radon risks and mitigation measures at the Salt Spring Public Library on Tuesday, Oct. 4 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Details will be published in the Gulf Islands Driftwood closer to the event.