

7993 Arthur Drive  
Saanichton, BC V8M 1V4  
May 18, 2024

Dear Central Saanich Council,

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose the Multi-Unit Housing Plan proposed for our Marigold / Lochside Drive neighbourhood.

Increased densification such as the council has planned will negatively impact the very fabric of our community by increasing:

- Crime
- Pollution
- Traffic congestion
- Noise
- Violence
- Vandalism
- Hazards to health and safety

Our transportation system is already inadequate to handle the increased traffic. Our health care system is overloaded. We do not have the capacity to add greater numbers of people to our community.

Research indicates that urbanization is not healthy for our people or our planet. Instead, smaller, more remote communities in other parts of the province will welcome increased density and benefit from population growth.

We urge you to reconsider the Multi-Unit Housing Plan by using evidence-based decision-making strategies to find alternatives. Instead of further densifying the Lochside Drive / Marigold area, we ask you to PLEASE:

- Question government mandates for increased density in our area – such policies can be changed or reversed
- Consider the environmental impacts of your plans, locally and globally
- Learn what NOT to do from examples in other major cities
- Listen to the concerns of existing community members (ie, taxpayers)
- Plant trees and add green space instead of concrete buildings
- Encourage growth in small towns in other parts of BC
- Densify municipalities such as Saanichton and Brentwood Bay which have existing amenities
- Find ways to rewild areas within neighbourhoods
- Stand up for safety and quality of life in our community

A few additional notes ...

The government has created a predicament for municipalities by mandating more housing. However, urban areas are already overcrowded, and affordable housing is abundant throughout rural Canada. Many small towns are dying and with them, a way of life that prioritizes social connections over amenities.

Urbanization is hazardous to the planet as well as to our individual well-being. The overdevelopment planned for our area will negatively impact future generations. Note the problems that accompany heavily-populated cities, and ask yourself if that is what you want for our community.

Please do not continue with the Multi-Unit Housing Plan. Please find alternatives that protect our community from the hazards that accompany over-development.

Thank you.

Mary-Anne and Mike Neal