

Nareka Jacques

From: Ivo Van der Kamp
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 3:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Municipal Hall
Subject: RE: Concerns about Redevelopment and Community Safety in Central Saanich

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Eric,

Thank you for your message.

The District has various documents that provide guidance on development proposals within its boundaries, an important one of which is the Official Community Plan (OCP): <https://www.centrialsaanich.ca/municipal-hall/resource-library/official-community-plan-2100>

The OCP includes the Fundamental Principles of the plan as well as, amongst other topics, the vision for Land Use within the community. Any proposals for a land use would be reviewed in light of the applicable objectives and policies. In addition, as per provincial mandate, the municipality has a Housing Needs Assessment and is required to complete an update before the end of 2025. Both these documents, as well as others such as the Zoning Bylaw, would be considered when reviewing (staff) and deciding on (Council) development proposals.

With respect to supportive housing projects, we acknowledge the challenges you describe in your email. Therefore, we work together with various groups from throughout the region to coordinate efforts and to ensure the (ongoing) success of a project. Whereas the District's role is primarily focused on the land use, various other groups would be involved, together with the District, in ensuring the success of the user groups. The OCP outlines ways in which the District could aid certain development proposals and what partnerships could be sought in order to ensure their success.

Hope this information helps but please do not hesitate to contact me for any further questions.

Kind regards,
Ivo

Ivo van der Kamp (he/him)
A/Manager of Development Services
District of Central Saanich
C: 236.638.3520 | [CentralSaanich.ca](https://www.CentralSaanich.ca)



We gratefully acknowledge that the ancestral lands on which we work are within the traditional territories of the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples: W̱JOŁELP (Tsartlip), BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), S̱ÁUTW̱ (Tsawout), W̱SIKEM (Tseycum) and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations.

From: Eric <no-reply@web-response.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 4:42 PM

To: Municipal Hall <Municipal.Hall@csaanich.ca>

Subject: Concerns about Redevelopment and Community Safety in Central Saanich

Submitted on Tue, 08/06/2024 - 4:42pm

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Subject

Concerns about Redevelopment and Community Safety in Central Saanich

First Name

Eric

Last Name

Verscheure

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Dear Council of Central Saanich,

Firstly, thank-you for your hard work in keeping our community healthy and safe.

After hearing of the latest news, I am writing to express my concerns as a resident of Central Saanich regarding the proposed development of the area in the municipality, particularly in relation to the fate left of the old buildings and the impact on our community.

As a long-time resident who has been living in Central Saanich since 1998, I have always appreciated the sense of safety and community that our community offers.

When we purchased our first home on Colin Place, and one aspect that stood out to me was the incredible sense of pride and support among the soon to be neighbours. I was truly touched by all of their kindness, caring, and mutual respect that everyone showed each other. It is this exceptional community spirit that drew us to live and stay here, and is 'the why' we have chosen to continue residing in this community. We are grateful for the opportunity to raise our family in such a welcoming and supportive environment.

However, recent events have caused concern. While shopping at Thrifty Foods, I observed a police officer nearby in response to reported incidents of recurring thefts in the area. This has raised questions about the security of our community and the necessity for proactive measures to address these issues. I

have also spoken with Thrifty Foods employees to verify this situation.

To be frank, as a father and husband, my concerns extend to the potential changes in our town, specifically in terms of housing, such as the replacement of old buildings with new units. I strongly desire a safe environment where my young daughters can grow up without fear and have the opportunity to become a respected citizen in our community.

Moreover, there have been rumors suggesting housing for the homeless. I question whether merely adding more housing units is the right approach for our town, considering the recent events at Thrifty Foods, I urge the council to explore alternative strategies that prioritize community well-being and safety. Safety encompasses the well-being of all residents. It is essential that we collaborate to ensure that any modifications in our municipality improve the quality of life for everyone.

In my experience, projects and initiatives driven by ethical motives can encounter challenges and potential failures stemming from factors like inadequate planning, poor implementation, resource limitations, resistance to change, external pressures, insufficient stakeholder engagement, and a lack of sustainability. The success of projects targeting social issues relies on efficient planning, coordination, resource management, stakeholder engagement, and a commitment to long-term sustainability to surmount obstacles and achieve enduring impact.

Having said that, I am curious about the plans for these developments and whether they will contribute to the well-being and cohesion of our community's mandate. It is important to me that any new constructions are aligned with the values of community-oriented design and safety, ensuring that we maintain the civility and atmosphere that make Central Saanich a great place to live. I think we can all agree this is a reasonable request.

The question of whether housing for the homeless is always beneficial in small communities can be a complex issue. Here are some of my concerns:

1. Community Support and Resources: Providing housing for the homeless might only be beneficial in small communities if there are adequate support and resources available to help individuals transition from homelessness to stable housing. Access to services such as mental health support, substance abuse treatment, job training, and case management is crucial for the success of homeless housing programs. Do we have the necessary resources ready?

2. Impact on Community Dynamics: Introducing a growth of homeless housing in a small community can have social and economic implications. Have you considered how the presence of homeless individuals may impact the community's dynamics, safety, and property values? Speaking to neighbouring business establishments, I believe it is imperative to engage with community members and stakeholders to address concerns and ensure transparency to help mitigate any future tensions.

3. Collaboration with Local Agencies and Resources: Do you have the resources and collaboration with all local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders that are key to implementing successful homeless housing initiatives in small communities? Having the support of these partnerships to provide comprehensive support services and ensure effective management of homeless housing facilities is essential.

4. Long-Term Sustainability: Sustainable funding and support for homeless housing programs are

essential for long-term success. Small communities may face challenges in securing ongoing funding and resources for homeless housing initiatives. Does Central Saanich have the capacity to develop sustainable funding models and partnerships to ensure the continuity of support services? We are only a small community.

5. Balancing Needs: Most importantly, balancing the needs of homeless individuals with the concerns of the community is crucial. Before any strategy is even considered, I believe we need open dialogue, addressing misconceptions of 'doing good' without the awareness of UNINTENDED consequences, for any new housing initiatives in small communities.

I appreciate your attention to these concerns and look forward to hearing more about the future plans for development in Central Saanich. Thank you for your dedication to our community and for considering the perspectives of concerned citizens like myself.

My apologies for the lengthy email, but it is a touchy subject.

Sincerely,
Eric Verscheure

Contact Email

municipal.hall@csaanich.ca

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