

Nareka Jacques

From: Jennifer Mooney
Sent: October 5, 2025 9:39 AM
To: Municipal Hall
Subject: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Redevelopment and Loss of Rural Character in Saanichton

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the ongoing push for Option One of the municipal redevelopment plan and the troubling way this process continues to unfold. Many residents, myself included, feel that Council and Senior Staff are advancing their own agenda rather than genuinely respecting the will of the community.

The Deloitte public opinion poll is being used to justify the move of municipal facilities to the expropriated Hovey Road property and the sale of public land at 1903 Mt Newton. However, this survey simply does not support the claim of a “strong preference” for Option One. Out of a population of more than 17,000 residents, only 845 responses were received, with just 355 indicating some level of preference for this option. That is not a majority—far from it—and yet it is being held up as though it were clear evidence of public support.

To put it plainly: a mere 355 people—fewer than those who signed a petition earlier this year opposing another Hovey Road development—cannot credibly be said to represent the community’s collective voice. When Council ignored that petition of 450 signatures, residents were already left questioning whether their input truly matters. Now, with this skewed polling being framed as a mandate, it appears more evident than ever that the voices of citizens are being pushed aside.

Equally concerning is that Staff themselves acknowledged that this poll would be nonbinding, yet it is being used to push Council toward a predetermined outcome. This is not meaningful engagement; it is a flawed and misleading process that undermines public trust.

Beyond the numbers, the bigger issue at hand is what these decisions mean for the future of Saanichton. The continued push to develop expropriated farmland and dispose of publicly owned land is not just about buildings—it is about the erosion of the rural character that makes Central Saanich unique. Residents choose to live here because of its village feel, green spaces, and agricultural roots. By prioritizing redevelopment and land sales over protecting these values, Council risks permanently altering the identity of our community.

I urge you to take a step back from this rushed process. Respect the directive that the poll is nonbinding. Acknowledge that the community is divided. And above all, put the long-term rural character and integrity of Saanichton ahead of short-term agendas.

Central Saanich belongs to its residents—not to consultants, developers, or senior staff preferences. Please listen, genuinely, to the people you represent. When Saanichton’s unique and special feel and landscape is forever changed, the community will remember who pushed forth these changes.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mooney
7856 Scohon Dr.

Sent from Jen's iPhone

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