

COMMUNITY OF KINGSTON

NEWSLETTER

TAKING CONTROL OF OUR FUTURE

At the present time, all development and subdivision of land in the Community of Kingston is controlled by the Provincial Government pursuant to the provisions of the Planning Act Regulations. The eastern portion of our community closer to Cornwall also falls under the Cornwall Special Planning Area Regulations. These regulations are part of the buffer zone which was put in place around the capital city in 1993 to restrict unserviced residential subdivisions and to generally force “urban” type development to remain in Charlottetown, Stratford and Cornwall.

While your Council is routinely consulted on proposed developments, our community essentially has no control and very little say over our development future. Many Island communities have been faced with developments which were strongly opposed by the local residents, but the Planning Act Regulations provided no protection.

The only option available to us if we want to establish our own local development standards is to prepare and adopt our own Official Plan and Development Bylaw (as many of our neighbours have done).

Council has now received financial support from the Federal and Provincial governments and has retained the services of an experienced planning consultant to help us prepare a Plan and Bylaws that are tailored to our local needs and reflective of the shared goals and objectives of our residents. The research phase of this project is well underway and the public consultation process will begin shortly.

It normally takes about six (6) months to prepare and adopt an Official Plan and Development Bylaw. During this period it is important to ensure that no major or contentious developments occur prior to our long term development policies being adopted. The Planning Act enables Council to put in place an Interim Planning Policy and Implementing Bylaw to curtail development while the Plan is being prepared.

These Interim Planning Policies can often amount to a temporary development freeze. Council would much prefer, however, to permit normal development to proceed unimpeded (single family homes, accessory buildings, farm buildings, smaller residential subdivisions, etc.) and only restrict what might be termed “major” developments or developments which could negatively impact the overall community or the neighbouring properties.

Accordingly, Council has now prepared a draft Interim Planning Policy and Implementing Bylaw which is targeted at achieving the above objectives but we need to hear the comments of our residents before any final documents are considered. We have posted the documents on our website at www.kingstonpei.ca for your review and comments.

We will also be holding a public meeting on Monday, October 17th, 2011 at 7 PM at the Emyvale Recreation Centre. At this meeting the Interim Planning Policy and the Official Plan process will be explained further and Council will attempt to respond to all your questions.

This is a very important step in ensuring a positive future for our community and your input is urgently required.

Community of Kingston Council