



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thornhill residents asked to help shape Community's vision and future policies

Thornhill residents will have a chance to help shape the community's vision and policies around how it will develop into the future.

Between now and the Fall of 2016, the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine will work with residents to develop a new Official Community Plan (OCP) for Thornhill. An OCP is a bylaw and the main document that outlines a local government's goals and policies that relate to planning and land use management.

The OCP process will address how the Regional District should provide services and facilities to residences and businesses, address environmental issues, and develop or maintain utility and transportation systems. It sets out clear direction for Elected Officials and Staff to implement other plans and policies throughout the community.

"To make sure the OCP really addresses the needs of the Thornhill community, it's critical that everyone gets involved," says Electoral Area E Director Ted Ramsey, "The OCP process gives community members a chance to come together to really look at the key characteristics of Thornhill – what we want to preserve or enhance and what we want to change or improve."

The OCP will look to tackle a number of specific issues, including those related to:

- Servicing and infrastructure capacity;
- Crown lands;
- Environmentally sensitive and hazardous areas;
- Groundwater protection;
- Agriculture Land Reserve;
- Community facilities;
- Governance;
- Land development; and
- Potential growth associated with developments in the region (e.g. LNG).

When complete, the new OCP will communicate to the community, developers, senior government agencies, industries, businesses and other stakeholders how Thornhill wishes to evolve into the future.

The Regional District is looking to provide a number of ways for people to participate in the process – some of which include:

- Social Media – Planning team representatives will be maintaining a strong presence online during the coming months. Just search "Thornhill OCP" on Facebook to find up to date information on the process.

- Workshops and Public Open Houses – during the week of May 30th to June 2nd, 2016 at various locations throughout the community (dates and locations to be confirmed).
- Event Booths – over the coming month planning team representatives will be setting up booths at various community events to present information to residents and solicit feedback.
- “Stop ‘n Chat” – drop in to the Regional District’s office (during regular business hours) to talk to a planning team representative about your ideas and thoughts.
- Community Surveys – will be available online at the Regional District’s web site www.rdks.bc.ca and through the Facebook page. Hard copies will also be available at Regional District’s office and other strategic locations throughout the community.

For more information contact:

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