

GUIDE FOR LOCAL AREA PLANNING

Formerly: Guidebook for Great Communities

May 2021 Update

By way of background, briefly, the Guide for Local Area Planning (formerly the Guidebook for Great Communities) is the foundation of the Next Generation of Planning System. Other components include the multi-community Local Area Plans and future updated Land Use districts.

Previously, at the Council Public Hearing that commenced on March 22nd, Council directed Administration take away the feedback from the extended 3-day public hearing and presentations in order to create a 'What We Heard' Report and to come back to SPC for Planning & Urban Development (PUD) on May 5th with recommendations for amendments.

At the May 5th SPC for PUD, a number of members of Industry and the public made presentations in support and in opposition to the newly renamed Guide for Local Area Planning. Among the more significant proposed amendments:

- Name change to Guide for Local Area Planning;
- Addition of a special policy overlay with respect to single-detached residential housing;
- Removal of the Zone A & Zone B policy; and
- Status would be non-statutory as opposed to statutory.

In total Administration proposed 62 amendments, with the greater majority being minor in nature.

In a most unanticipated move, Council decided in a vote of 7-5 (missing were Cllrs. Davison and Demong) that the Guide would no longer need to be a 'council approved' document. Council voted to simply accept the Guide and return it to Administration to use as 'best practices' in support of the future local area planning work.

With that, the next steps are as follows:

- May 31st Council will be asked to vote to abandon the bylaw for the Guide/Guidebook;
- Update the North Hill Local Area Planning with a view to the various amendments included in the new Guide for Local Area Planning;
- Prepare to re-engage with the working groups and public with respect to the Heritage and Westbrook multi-community local area planning outreach; and
- Administration will prepare a work plan to schedule the various multi-community local area planning engagement and outreach for Council approval in the next budget cycle.

In the course of the future local area planning work, Administration will be presenting a report on 'lessons learned' with each multi-community exercise to continue to refine the best practice policy in the Guide for Local Area Planning.