

# Directors Report August 2023

## Area D Official Community Plan ( OCP) Update

Now that the OCP survey has ended I know residents are wondering what is the next step.

I highly recommend to all residents that they keep in touch with the SRD Website and in particular

<https://srd.ca/area-d-official-community-plan-ocp-review>

Community Engagement dates will be announced soon and both myself and the SRD will make sure the community is well advised of those dates.

I cannot stress enough that this is the communities Official Community Plan and it does need a good cross section of the community to attend these public meetings when they are announced.

## Meeting with Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure

Thank you to all the residents that took the time to send me a detailed email to voice their concerns.

All of those concerns were raised in the meeting and they did have an impact.

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has an incredible amount of Bureaucratic Red tape so even incremental gains is a win.

On the positive side

1. There will be a Traffic Study that will involve SRD staff working with Ministry staff and there will be public engagement dates for the community. This study will be paid for by Provincial Money as it should be.
2. There are improvements coming for the Transit Service here in Area D. Four new bus shelters are coming this year and while they do have a cost of \$120,000 the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure will be providing funding of \$99,000 towards that cost.

3. Improvements coming next year to the Bus Stops at Engles and Island Highway South and the Glenmore RD Exchange. Again those improvements are being paid for with Provincial Money.

4. There was a sincere acknowledgement that snow removal was not good last year and I do expect that this year will be much better.

I am also seeing a very large improvement in responding to the daily issues that do crop up and require timely responses from Ministry Staff.

## **Development In Area D**

It is great to see three new development applications hit the Board over the last few months which is very encouraging as there is the potential for how many new housing starts in Area D to move forward next year.

Currently the SRD has issued Eight New Building Permits so far this year for Area D.

The statistics from the census profile for Area D are rather interesting and I encourage everyone who has the time to take a look at them

What stands out for me is

- 4.4% growth in population between 2016 to 2021 which is well below many other areas even in the Strathcona Regional District.
- .9% increase in new housing between 2016 and 2021

Tell me what you think about development in Area D. Are these good numbers or do you think improvements can be made? Send your thoughts to [jrice@srd.ca](mailto:jrice@srd.ca)