

**South Pender
Local Trust Committee**

OCP Review Update

The Official Community Plan (OCP) reflects an island community's priorities for land use planning and provides direction for the work of the Local Trust Committee (LTC). Our current review of the South Pender OCP began with a technical update by Islands Trust planning staff and initial identification by the LTC of priority topics requiring attention.

Work done to date by the LTC and planning staff is strictly of a preliminary nature. As South Pender's guiding document for the work of local government, the OCP should be the product of close public scrutiny, discussion among islanders about what matters most to them and how to achieve that, and creative thinking about how to balance sometimes conflicting wants and needs in a manner that best serves the needs of current and future residents of the island.

On Saturday, June 4, the LTC will host a community information meeting in the Community Room of the South Pender Firehall to describe the OCP review process, invite public discussion of proposed changes to the OCP and encourage members of our community to make recommendations regarding any other issues that should be addressed in this review. Should the rules for Rural Residential zoning be revisited and amended? Should the OCP be changed to allow full-time rental of secondary cottages on properties? What issues are important to you and your neighbours?

After the June 4 information meeting, there will be a Local Trust Committee meeting on June 7 to consider and make changes to the draft Official Community Plan. This meeting will be followed by a public hearing in July, with a view to completing the OCP review by the fall, if possible. Islanders who are unable to attend any of our public meetings will have other opportunities to make their views known. In the meantime, you can view the proposed changes to date by visiting the South Pender section on the Islands Trust website and scrolling down to the Official Community Plan section, where drafts reflecting suggested OCP revisions are posted. If you want to compare South Pender's OCP to others, you can look at what other island communities have done by visiting them on the Islands Trust website.

We'll continue our review of the OCP at the next meeting of the South Pender LTC on Tuesday, May 17. The agenda will be available on the website the week before the meeting so please contact one of your trustees if you have comments on any items on the agenda or have other issues that you would like to raise.

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