



NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND OPEN HOUSES 5-YEAR COUNTY OF RENFREW OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW (AMENDMENT #25) – March 2018 Draft

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE COUNTY OF RENFREW WILL BE HOLDING TWO OPEN HOUSES AND SPECIAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS ON THE FIVE YEAR REVIEW OF THE COUNTY OF RENFREW OFFICIAL PLAN

The County of Renfrew is in the final review of its updated Official Plan. An Official Plan (or OP as it is sometimes called) is a policy document that guides the short-term and long-term development of a community. The OP applies to all lands within the municipal boundary (with some exceptions, such as federal lands) and the policies within it provide direction for the size and location of land uses, provision of municipal services and facilities, and resources protection. These types of policies are required by the Ontario Planning Act and are necessary to promote orderly growth and compatibility among land uses. An Official Plan may address issues such as where new housing or industry can be located; where roads, water mains and sewers will be needed; what parts of the community will grow; and what parts of the community new development should avoid, such as hazard lands or areas of environmental constraint.

Generally speaking, an Official Plan consists of three parts:

- Policies that describe specific uses that are allowed in each designation (e.g., Rural, Agriculture), and criteria for evaluating specific types of applications or developments (new plans of subdivision, for example). There are also general development policies covering matters such as buffering and land use compatibility, servicing and shoreline protection
- Schedules (or maps) of all lands in the municipality, with colours or patterns used to represent each land use designation
- Appendices which provide further information, add clarification and are contained in the document for ease of reference

Why is the County updating its Official Plan?

The Planning Act, which regulates all land use planning in Ontario, requires municipalities to review their Official Plan every five years. This review will eventually result in changes to the Official Plan by way of an amendment to the document. (Official Plan Amendment No. 25 is the assigned number for this purpose.) The County of Renfrew is responsible for preparing and adopting Official Plan Amendment No. 25 and the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMA) is responsible for approval of the amendment. The County is required by legislation to have an Official Plan.

Several open houses and public meetings were held in 2016 where public input was sought and received on the April 2016 draft revised Official Plan. This latest final draft (March 2018) includes changes as a result of public input, comments from MMA, and additional planning considerations. The March 2018 draft is being presented to County Council at two special County Council meetings. The new draft and related documentation, including public and provincial comments, are available on the County of Renfrew website at:
<http://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca/departments/development-and-property/planning-and-land-division/official-plans-and-amendments/>

A copy of the March 2018 draft revised Official Plan can also be viewed at the County of Renfrew Administration Building located at 9 International Drive in Pembroke, or at any local municipal office.

Is there a difference between an Official Plan and a Zoning By-Law?

Yes! An Official Plan and a Zoning By-law are separate documents, although they do work together and complement each other. An Official Plan sets out a community's vision and goals for the future. It ensures that new development and growth considers a broad range of interests and perspectives, and that land use planning decisions reflect local values. If you are interested in long term growth forecasts, future development patterns, and strategies for protecting resources, an Official Plan is the document you should consult. Zoning By-laws, on the other hand, put the Official Plan into effect and provide for its day-to-day administration. Zoning By-laws are legally enforceable, and construction or new development that does not comply with a Zoning By-law is not allowed, and the municipality will refuse to issue a building permit. Zoning By-laws set out detailed requirements such as minimum lot areas, maximum building height and number of parking spaces that need to be provided.

Where can I find more general information about Official Plans?

Citizens Guide to Official Plans: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page1759.aspx>

To advise of the changes made in the March 2018 draft Official Plan and to provide the public an opportunity to address County Council, two open houses and special council meetings have been scheduled that will follow the format below:

OPEN HOUSES AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS – DATES AND LOCATIONS

- 1) **Thursday, March 22, 2018** – Eagle's Nest, Eganville Community Centre, 178 Jane Street, Eganville, Ontario
- 2) **Wednesday, April 4, 2018** – Germania Club Pembroke, 118 Bennett Street, Pembroke, Ontario

2:00 – 4:30 p.m. (OPEN HOUSE / DROP IN) – County staff will be available to meet with residents one-on-one.

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. (FORMAL SPECIAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING) – The meeting will begin with a presentation by County Staff on the Official Plan and the major changes proposed in the March 2018 draft version. After the staff presentation, the public will have the opportunity to formally address County Council.

In an effort to make efficient use of time available at the formal council meeting, **for those who wish to address or make a presentation to County Council:**

- You will be requested to sign in before the meeting starts. Please arrive early to sign up as presenters will be scheduled in a "first-come, first-serve" order;
- Presentations are to be no more than 5 minutes;
- Submissions from the same persons/groups/associations may only be heard at one meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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