Merritt
FLOURISH UNDER THE SUN

Report

File Number: 3010

To: **Sean Smith, Chief Administrative Officer**

From: **Don McArthur, Planning Manager**

Date: August 13, 2020

Subject: North Bench Neighbourhood Development Plan Engagement Strategy

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RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive this report as information.

Background:

At the June 16th Council Meeting, staff presented a report on the selection of a consulting firm for the North Bench Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Since then, a start-up meeting was held on June 17th, a site visit was conducted on June 25th, and a draft Communications and Engagement Strategy has been developed (see Attachment A).

Engagement

The engagement strategy includes multiple opportunities and methods for community members to participate in development of the plan. An online survey will be launched in late August to ask residents to provide input. Following the survey, a workshop will be held in conjunction with the Official Community Plan (OCP) launch events in late September/ early October. There will also be an OCP workshop for the Bench neighbourhood in late October/ early November, which will provide another opportunity to receive input from residents on the North Bench Plan.

Engagement with local First Nations and the School District will also be conducted during the Fall.

Next Steps

- Dedicated North Bench webpage launch in late August
- Online Survey launch August 28th, which will remain open until September 14th
- Staff workshop in September
- Project update report to Council September 15th
- Workshop in late September/ early October, in conjunction with OCP launch

Options / discussion

1. That Council receive this report as information.

Financial / Risk Implications:

None.

Others Consulted:

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A: North Bench NDP Engagement Strategy

Respectfully submitted,

Don McArthur
Planning and Development Services Manager