

February 13, 2023

Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw

County of Vermilion River, Kitscoty, AB

Thank you to all who have taken a recent interest in the County of Vermilion River's Bylaw reviews.

As some of you are aware, the County of Vermilion River is an expansive rural municipality located in East-Central Alberta. With traditional roots, significant resource wealth and growing urban neighbors, the County of Vermilion River's future is marked by both promise and challenges.

Most recently, the County's Planning Department has initiated a review of the current Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw. These Bylaws are considered to be living documents that require continued attention to ensure that our municipal framework and strategies are aligned to provide a balance between sustainable agricultural practices, resource development, urban growth and ecosystem health.

The first step of the review process with the public was a Listen and Learn session presented as a one-on-one with a small group of citizens, stakeholders, Council and staff to gather insight into experiences, future outlooks and specific land uses.

The next stage of public engagement will continue with a Listen and Learn session on a much larger scale to provide the opportunity of all citizens to offer their input which will assist in the drafting of these two documents to meet Legislative requirements under the *Municipal Government Act*.

The Land Use Bylaw provides the regulations on how land can be developed (that is, how land can be used, and buildings that are either constructed or moved in) within the County of Vermilion River. Regulations vary, depending on the location and types of development. Other Bylaws or regulations of the County, Province or Federal Government must also be followed. It is up to each individual to ensure the conformity of the laws of each level of Government regulating the use of the land and development.

The review of any Bylaw of the County of Vermilion River goes through an established legislative process that may involve, in some cases, multiple stages of public engagement in addition to the steps that are necessary for a Bylaw to be established.

Sound planning and development initiatives are necessary in order to achieve a balance between supporting large- and small-scale agricultural pursuits within the County while also planning for a resource-based industry, industrial sector growth, commercial development and, in appropriate locations, residential growth.

The County encourages all citizens of the County of Vermilion River to keep apprised of current County business through the County's website, media releases in the local newspapers as well as social media. The County strives to keep up-to-date with the ever-changing legislation and updating of information in a timely manner.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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