Official Community Plan Review

DRAFT Housing Policies

Policy (DRAFT)	Key Words
Affordable Housing	
Encourage the provision of affordable housing by the private market and the non-profit housing sector. Partnerships between private, public or non-market housing providers may be supported. These might include innovative approaches such as limited equity, rent-to-own, co-op, mixed market and non-market projects.	Private Non-profit Rentals Home ownership
Encourage the placement of new rental, affordable, special needs, and seniors housing in all appropriately designated residential land use areas as they are integral components of inclusive neighbourhoods.	Inclusive neighbouhoods Special needs Seniors
Avoid the spatial concentration of affordable and special needs housing in neighbourhoods.	Inclusive neighbourhoods
Consider the impacts of converting existing rental apartment buildings to stratified condominiums.	Rentals
Consider bonus density, parking relaxations or other development variances where a development proposal includes affordable, special needs or seniors housing. This may apply to both market and non-market housing, and mixed-use proposals. A "housing agreement" may be entered into between the Township and the owner.	Seniors Special needs Bonus density Housing agreement
Work in co-operation with the provincial and federal governments, the real estate community, social service agencies, faith-based organizations, service clubs and other community resources to provide affordable housing and support services for seniors, the frail elderly and other special needs groups.	Seniors Special needs Governments Non-profits Partnerships
Age-friendly	
Support and facilitate development of multi-generational housing, including in multi-unit residential developments.	Multi-generational developments MURBs
Encourage child friendly developments that provide appropriate amenities such as outdoor play areas for young children that are well-separated from traffic circulation and parking areas.	Child friendly developments
Medium Density Developments	
Proposed redevelopment or infill within established detached and two-unit residential land use designated areas should be built to high quality design and landscaping standards and respond sensitively to existing neighbourhood amenities.	Infill Design standards
Consider the inclusion of secondary suites in infill developments where it is demonstrated that neighbourhood impacts can be mitigated.	Infill Secondary suites

Policy (DRAFT)	Key Words
Discourage new applications for infill housing, including rezoning and subdivision, for panhandle lots in the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Old Esquimalt Road and the 600 block of Fernhill Road.	Infill EXCEPTIONS
Consider new townhouse residential proposals up to three storeys in height with a Floor Area Ratio of up to 0.70 in areas designated Townhouse Residential on the "Land Use Designation Map", provided the design responds effectively to both its site and surrounding land uses	Floor Area Ratio Height Townhouse
Encourage the provision of "missing middle" medium density housing types such as duplexes, townhouses and small lot infill as one avenue to address housing affordability.	Missing middle Duplex Townhouse Infill (small lot)
Multi-Unit Residential Development (MURBs)	
Encourage new multi-unit low-rise and multi-unit high-rise residential development with high quality design standards for building and landscaping and which enhance existing neighbourhoods.	Design standards
Prioritize multi-unit low-rise and multi-unit high-rise residential development in land use designated areas that: i) reduce single occupancy vehicle use; ii) support transit service; or iii) is located within close proximity to employment centres.	Location Transit
Advocate that a mix of housing types be provided in multi-unit low-rise and high- rise residential land use designated areas in order to meet the varying housing needs of Esquimalt residents.	Housing types
Advocate for a mix of dwelling unit sizes within multi-unit low-rise and multi-unit high-rise residential developments.	Unit Sizes
Encourage developers of new multi-unit low-rise and multi-unit high-rise residential development proposals that "land-lock" an adjacent parcel to consolidate the adjacent parcel, or to leave a sufficient area available to allow for the eventual redevelopment of the adjacent land.	Land locking (adjacent property)
Consider, where appropriate, development proposals with densities greater than those set out in the Official Community Plan through density bonus of floorspace provided that the additional density results in the provision of community amenities deemed appropriate by Council for the benefit of the community.	Amenities Density bonus
Recognize, for the purposes of density bonuses, "amenities" may include but not be limited to: • Privately-owned, publicly-accessible open space; • Public art;	Amenities Density bonus
 Contributions towards the enhancement of public recreation facilities; Contributions towards street and boulevard enhancements, including street furniture and decorative lighting; Group daycare and respite facilities for children and adults; Preservation of heritage structures, features or assets; 	
Affordable housing units; andSpecial needs housing units	

Policy (DRAFT)	Key Words
Consider new multi-unit low-rise residential development proposals up to six storeys in height and with a Floor Area Ratio not exceeding 1.5 in areas designated on the "Land Use Designation Map". The requirements and guidelines of Development Permit Area No. 1 apply.	Floor Area Ratio Height
Consider new multi-unit high-rise residential development proposals up to twelve storeys in height and with a Floor Area Ratio of up to 3.0 in areas designated on the "Land Use Designation Map". The requirements and guidelines of Development Permit Area No. 1 apply.	Floor Area Ratio Height
Buildings with shallow setbacks must step down to no more than three storeys at street level in order to provide an appropriate human scale along the sidewalk.	Height Setbacks Street level
Secondary & Detached Accessory (Garden) Suites	
Support the inclusion of secondary rental suites, subject to the proposal satisfying the requirements of the BC Building Code, within existing and proposed detached residential and two-unit residential land use designated areas.	Single Family Duplex Rental
Consider the inclusion of secondary suites in infill developments where it is demonstrated that neighbourhood impacts can be mitigated.	Infill Rental
Support the inclusion of detached accessory dwelling units as rental housing on appropriate detached residential zoned parcels.	Garden Suite Rental
Seniors & Special Needs	
Encourage adaptable design for all dwellings created through rezoning.	Accessibility
Encourage more housing for people with mobility devices on the ground floor of multi-unit residential developments.	Accessibility MURBs
Support aging-at-home through means such as low or no fee permits for modifications.	Aging-at-home
Encourage development of more assisted living units.	Assisted Living
Promote the development of a complex care facility within Esquimalt.	Complex Care Facility
Promote modifying homes to enable shared housing for seniors.	Shared Housing
Encourage the development of seniors housing that is within close proximity and accessible to services and amenities.	Location
Miscellaneous Housing Policies	
Support the development of a variety of housing types and designs to meet the anticipated housing needs of residents. This may include non-market and market housing options that are designed to accommodate young and multigenerational families, local workforce, as well as middle and high income households.	Housing Types Design Non-market Market Multi-generational Families Workforce Incomes
Recognize that Floathomes provide an alternative housing choice, and support the continued existence of Esquimalt's only Floathome community located in West Bay, as designated on the "Land Use Designation Map".	Floathomes West Bay

Policy (DRAFT)	Key Words
Support the inclusion of live/ work units on residential parcels located outside of areas designated commercial on the "Land Use Designation Map" and on Major Roads as designated on the "Road Network Map".	Commercial Live/Work
Recognize short-term accommodation use as appropriate within designated residential land use areas only where appropriate zoning has been sought and secured.	Accommodations Short-term
Encourage development proponents to demonstrate how the design of a new development addresses crime prevention principles.	Crime prevention
Encourage universal design standards in all new residential developments.	Universal design