



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Hammond Area Plan Receives First Reading

**Maple Ridge, BC:** On September 20, 2016 Council unanimously voted to give the Hammond Area Plan Bylaw No. 7279-2016 first reading and begin the formal process required to adopt the Area Plan and accompanying Development Permit guidelines. This will allow new development in the Hammond neighbourhood to happen in a way that reflects the rich history, unique character and the existing infrastructure to ensure that this neighbourhood continues to be a vibrant and connected place to live.

“This has been a two year process of intense community conversations and consultation that used all the tools in the City’s communications toolbox to engage the neighbourhood. From the ‘Hammond Neighbours’ Facebook community through to videos, public meetings and workshops, the voice of this neighbourhood has been at the core of this project,” said Mayor Nicole Read. “All of Council would like to thank the citizens of Hammond for their dedication and passion. All of us around the Council table also want to acknowledge the commitment of our staff to do this work in the most collaborative and transparent way. This project has been a template for community engagement.”

Giving the bylaw first reading triggers the formal approval process that will include a Public Hearing which will provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the formal bylaw that sets out the details of future development in the neighbourhood. Three key topics included in the area plan policies are residential density, retaining heritage character and the aspirational goal of rejuvenating the historical commercial area in this neighbourhood.

“This has been one of the most rewarding projects our team has ever worked on,” said Christine Carter, Director of Planning. “The passion of the area residents has been an inspiration for our team and served as a reminder that we are working together with our neighbours to create a vision for Hammond that respects the past and builds on the strengths of this neighbourhood. In the course of doing this work we have developed strong relationships with neighbourhood champions.”

The bylaw is expected to come before Council again in November for second reading and the Public Hearing will be held later in the year.

For more information on the #MyHammond Area Plan process please contact Lisa Zosiak at [lzosiak@mapleridge.ca](mailto:lzosiak@mapleridge.ca) or by phone at 604-467-7383.