

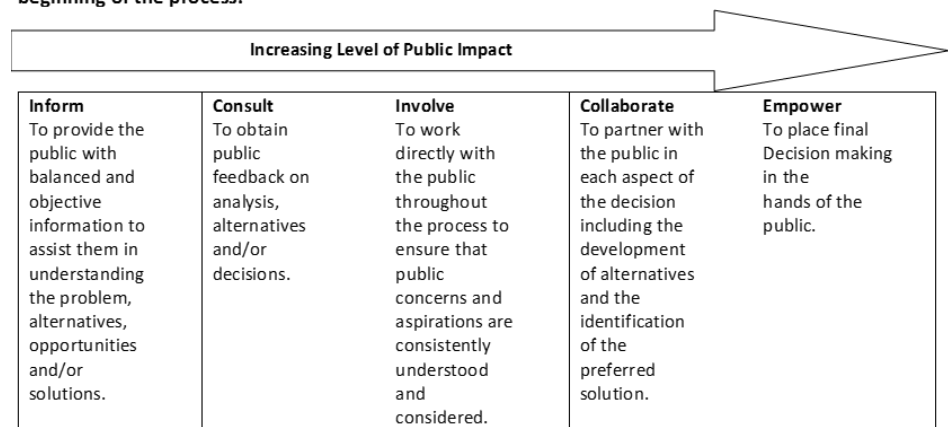
Request for Decision

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| Title | Notice of Motion – Councillor Bokenfohr: What is or how do we determine the percentage of subdivision residents that are needed to speak on behalf of the whole subdivision? |
| Proposed Motion | That Council accept the report for information. |
| Administrative Recommendation | Administration recommends that the information be reviewed and accepted by Council. |
| Previous Council Direction | April 25, 2017 - Motion 190/17 That Council refer Item H.1 to Administration for further information to be provided. |
| Report | <p><u>Issue</u></p> <p>There are several scenarios where the public interact with Sturgeon County Council and staff. Sometimes there can be a lack of clarity and consistency in understanding the degree of public impact on Council and Administration’s decisions, depending on the scenario.</p> <p>Are there certain instances (clearly defined) where Sturgeon County would support the use of thresholds versus objectives to achieve a desired outcome? Should a concern from two (2) residents be as important as twenty (20)?</p> <p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are numerous debates in municipal government about creating a balance between individual rights and needs versus the greater public good. Specific examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How many people does it take to object to a playground development? ○ How many people in a subdivision can object to and prevent a variance for gravel extraction? • Section 3 of the <i>Municipal Government Act</i>, RSA 2000, c.M-26 (“MGA”) states the purposes of a municipality are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to provide good government, (b) to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality, and |

(c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

- The MGA also empowers municipalities with the authority and flexibility to provide services in the best interests of the community.
- Defence of individual rights or needs are often addressed through an appeal process, or in some cases, mediation. Public good (which can be defined as a commodity or service that is provided to all members of a society) reflects shared interests that are agreed upon through cooperation, respect and participation, and in some cases, consensus.
- An individual’s right to appeal a decision or object to the work of the municipality is granted in various pieces of legislation:
 - In addition to an applicant, any person affected by an order, decision or development permit made or issued by a Development Approving Authority may appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board.
 - In a public hearing, Council must hear any person, group of persons or person representing them, who claims to be affected by the proposed bylaw.
 - Requests for Public Presentations during regular Council Meetings can be made by individuals or delegations.
- Guidance on how issues get addressed for the greater public good is gained through effective public consultation and shared decision-making. The value of conversation and potential use of mitigating factors has taken precedence over defining arbitrary thresholds for public support/objection.
- Effective public engagement means Council and Administration are:
 - Understanding all sides of the issue to provide reasonable, balanced perspective.
 - Exploring alternatives prior to identification of a preferred solution.
 - Involving residents in the deliberation, dialogue and action on public issues.

The Engagement Policy includes a spectrum of five strategies and associated commitments that follow the Spectrum of Engagement of the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). **When Sturgeon County embarks on an engagement process for planning, policy, and project purposes, the scope of engagement and the commitment to stakeholders will be clarified at the beginning of the process.**



- In direct response to the Motion, two (2) specific examples that can be used as examples include:
 - Sturgeon County currently does not have a policy or any reference in standard operating procedures to identify the number of people who can object to a playground development. However, Administration does ask community groups to identify the level of community support for their projects. Public parks are specifically provided for recreational uses and playgrounds are common amenities to support this public use. Administration tends to work with residents who are most affected (adjacent) and who may object to the project by involving them in the consideration of mitigating strategies.
 - In multi-lot subdivisions, no one can object to and prevent a variance for gravel extraction. The operating area of a primary and secondary processing use **shall not be** located less than 800m from the district boundary of a multi-lot subdivision, hamlet or area subject to an approved planning document that includes residential development.

External Communication

- There has been no external communication other than the recorded meeting of Council.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c. M-26:

Public participation sections:

- Section 223 - Number of petitioners - 10% population
 - Section 236 - Vote of the Electors
 - Section 392 - Local Improvement Tax - Petitioning rules: 2/3 of the owners liable to pay the local improvement tax representing at least 1/2 of the value of assessments.
- Public Engagement Policy covers public engagement processes inclusive of all external and internal public engagement opportunities such as statutory, non-statutory and other proposed applications, plans, projects and studies that may have an impact on the residents of the County. The Public Engagement Policy is written in a way that on a case-by-case (project by project) basis, the level of public participation is weighed and determined. Council could decide at any time to increase the level of participation and impact.
 - The Public - Anyone (including groups and individuals) who may have an interest in a specific topic or issue under discussion. The public may, or may not, be directly impacted by a decision on the issue.
 - A Stakeholder - An individual or group who has a specific interest or is impacted by a topic or issue.

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| Implication of Administrative Recommendation | <p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u> Choosing an arbitrary number or threshold for an objection is not consistent with our Public Engagement Policy.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u> As per Council's direction the Public Engagement Framework and following an IAP2 standard will help administration to continuously identify and implement improvements.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u> There is no direct financial impact to this decision.</p> |
| Alternatives Considered | None. |
| Implications of Alternatives | None. |
| Follow up Action | 1. To be determined by Council. |
| Attachment(s) | 1. Public Engagement Policy |
| Report Reviewed by: |  Susan Berry, Manager Community Services  Ian McKay, P. Eng, General Manager, Municipal Services  Stephane Labonne, A/County Commissioner - CAO |

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.

Mission: Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.

| Focus Areas | Not consistent | N/A | Consistent |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership | | | |
| <i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consistent with neighborhood role (see MDP), master plans, policies</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Considers fiscal stability and sustainability</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Has a positive impact on regional and sub-regional cooperation</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Respect the Natural Environment | | | |
| <i>We acknowledge the importance of a healthy environment and will minimize and monitor our impact on ecosystems (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Compliance with Provincial and Federal regulations and/or legislation</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure effective environmental risk management</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community Identity & Spirit | | | |
| <i>We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan, (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enhances service provision through community partnerships</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supports Sturgeon County's cultural history</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Planned Growth and Prosperity | | | |
| <i>We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Does the proposal align with the Integrated Regional Growth Strategy (map/policies) pg. 26 MDP</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Considers cumulative costs and long-term funding implications</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Targets growth around current or planned infrastructure</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities | | | |
| <i>We are committed to a safe, secure community, where our residents are respected and provided with access to opportunities. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Positive impact on residents' quality of life</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supports and promotes volunteer efforts</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides programs and services that are accessible to all residents</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Operational Excellence | | | |
| <i>We have the organizational capability to deliver consistent and defined levels of service to all stakeholders in a professional, efficient, and cost effective manner</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Staff have the knowledge, skills and capability to perform their jobs</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Streamlines operational processes and policies</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promotes engagement and professional interaction with stakeholders</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Considers a cost-structure which allows Sturgeon County to remain competitive within a regional, national and global context</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |