

- What is a public hearing?** A public hearing is an official meeting where citizens can present verbal or written comments to Council regarding a proposed Official Community Plan or Zoning Bylaw change. The public hearing is Council's opportunity to hear from the public before making a final decision.
- Who can speak at a public hearing?** Anyone who believes they are affected by the proposed bylaw will be given an opportunity to be heard. While no one will be discouraged or prevented from speaking, it is important to restrict remarks to the content of the proposed bylaw.
- What happens at a public hearing?** Before the public hearing begins, anyone wishing to speak should sign up on the speaker's list. The Mayor will announce the beginning of the public hearing and then call names from the speaker's list. When your name is called, go up to the microphone, state your name, address and then begin your presentation. If you did not sign up to speak there will be an opportunity before the hearing ends.
- Can I ask Council questions during my presentation?** The function of Council at the public hearing is to listen rather than to debate. Members of Council may, if they wish, ask questions of you following your presentation.
- How can I participate if I cannot attend the public hearing?** If you cannot attend the public hearing, but still want to express your opinions, you can submit a written copy of your comments to the Town Office. Your letter will be included on the public agenda for consideration by Council.
- How are public hearings advertised?**
1. **Letters** are mailed to property owners/tenants that are within 60-m of the subject property to notify them of the bylaw and public hearing.
 2. **Newspaper ads** are placed in the Interior News for 2 consecutive weeks prior to the public hearing date.
 3. **Town website** lists upcoming public hearings.
 4. **Signs** are placed on the subject property for joint Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw changes 10 days before the hearing date.
- What happens after the public hearing?** Once there are no further submissions or speakers the public hearing closes. Council considers the bylaw for third reading and adoption at the next available Council meeting.
- How can I obtain further information on the public hearing item?**
1. **Phone** the Development Services Department at (250) 847-1600.
 2. **Visit the Town of Smithers website** (www.smithers.ca) to view background information and the proposed bylaw. From the homepage, click "News and Notices".
 3. **Visit the Town Office** during regular office hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) to view copies of the proposed bylaw and background information.