

To Mayor and Council Central Saanich

From Hugh and Grace Owen
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We are writing regarding the Mt. Newton waterline petition.

The whole notion that there is a process in place in which other people have the right to affect our future so profoundly without our consent or knowledge is disturbing to say the least. Accepting that this is reality, we ask that our Mayor and Council at least insist that the process be followed strictly to the letter of law. In this case, we feel due process has not been followed and we strongly urge you to question the following issues.

The most troubling issue in our opinion is that the application for the grant was made using the 2000 petition. This makes the whole process invalid as many of the names and addresses for this catchment area have changed since 2000. It is also worth noting that the project descriptions and values for each of these petitions are different, meaning that the petition sent in as supporting documentation for the infrastructure grant does not describe the current project or project costs. It is also very concerning that the district would use, as documentation for a current infrastructure grant, a petition which is more than seven years old, for which records have already been destroyed, according to the District Clerk.

We were one of the properties that was petitioned, with no prior information, public or otherwise, and heard nothing more of the issue until a meeting held in May in which it was suggested that the proponents repetition. Mr. Nason said that he would recommend that the area be repetitioned yet this did not happen. Instead the next we hear there is a public information meeting for June 18th which we attended. At that meeting a copy of the petition was passed out which was rather different from the one we were asked to sign. This one had appendix 'A' and 'B' attached as they should have been. A seven page document in all. We were asked to sign a single page printed on green paper. We wondered if the people that did sign the petition realized that six pages were missing and were concerned that they hadn't seen or read the entire petition.

Then there are those that were not even petitioned, our neighbours being one example, that had no notice that this was even happening and therefore no opportunity to have their opinions voiced. Surely Mayor and Council have a responsibility to all those in the catchment area to insist that this petition process is above reproach and completely open and transparent. At the moment it is not!

It is also our understanding from the June 18th meeting that Mr. Nason will recommend to Council that the OCP be changed in order to accommodate the waterline for Senanus Drive. We would like it to be known that we strongly oppose any changes to the OCP for this waterline issue. We urge Mayor and Council to show support for ALL in this District and catchment area, and not change the OCP based on this issue.

Hugh and Grace Owen