



MNNA
Mount Newton
Neighborhood
Association

*Working Together for
Sustainable Solutions*
www.senanus.net

Mount Newton Crossroad Under Threat

After years of public input to create the Official Community Plan (OCP) and protect the rural character of Central Saanich, your council is ignoring your wishes by moving to expand urban services beyond the Urban Containment Boundaries (UCB's) along Mount Newton Crossroad.

Against Central Saanich Staff advice and the wishes of the majority of residents along the proposed water main route, Council is creating a "Mount Newton Senanus Local Service Area" for the purpose of installing a water main at a cost to taxpayers of at least \$1.6M. To push this project ahead, Council is using the argument that there is a "pressing public health concern", contrary to statements by the VIHA Chief Medical Officer.

Mount Newton Neighborhood Association has asked that Council engage in dialogue and a mediated process to come up with a win-win solution for all of the neighbors in the area. Innovative and cost-effective solutions for water do exist! Council has repeatedly refused to engage in mediation or consider alternative solutions to the water main option.

If this proposed water main goes ahead, property taxes for the majority of residents along Mount Newton Crossroad will go up by an estimated average of 25%, while annual taxes of Senanus Road residents demanding the service will rise by an average of 7%.

Mount Newton Crossroad, a scenic rural setting originally constructed in 1874, has long been identified in our OCP as a proposed *Heritage Roadway*. Disturbance from this project (including blasting) to the existing road bed will be significant, likely requiring reclamation efforts at additional cost to all Central Saanich taxpayers. The Garry Oak trees, local hydrology, and any future potential for a heritage designation will be threatened if this project goes ahead.

It is the Mount Newton Valley, not Senanus Road, that is most threatened by this project, and it is the residents of Mount Newton Valley, not Senanus Road, who will bear the disproportionate costs.

This is an important issue of concern for all citizens of Central Saanich and we encourage you to learn more. We also urge you to write to Council at the address below indicating your support for the preservation of Mount Newton Crossroad.

Mayor and Council, District of Central Saanich,
1903 Mount Newton XRd. Saanichton, BC V8M 2A9
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