



STAFF REPORT

TO: Council **MEETING DATE:** July 13, 2021
FROM: Sue Booth **FILE NO:** 3900-20-1294
Bylaw Enforcement Officer
Katie Thomas
Planner II
SUBJECT: Wildlife Attractant Bylaw No. 1294, 2021 – Community feedback

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report titled Wildlife Attractant Bylaw No. 1294, 2021 – Community feedback be received;

AND THAT Wildlife Attractant Bylaw No. 1294, 2021 be given Second and Third Reading as amended;

AND THAT Garbage and Organics Collection and Disposal Bylaw No. 1252-04, 2021 be given Second and Third Reading;

AND FURTHER THAT Bylaw Enforcement Notice Bylaw No. 1125-12, 2021 be given Second and Third Reading as amended.

BACKGROUND / PURPOSE

On October 6, 2020, a delegation from the Sunshine Coast Bear Alliance requested that Council consider the adoption of a Wildlife Attractant Bylaw, which would “provide residents, commercial establishments and visitors with the concise measures that need to be undertaken to prevent attracting bears and other wildlife into our urban areas.”

The delegation also presented a petition to adopt a separate wildlife attractant bylaw and improve enforcement, which was signed by 518 people.

On October 22, 2020, Council adopted the following resolution:

R2020-479

THAT a report regarding the request presented by the Sunshine Coast Bear Alliance for the Town of Gibsons to adopt a separate wildlife attractant bylaw with accompanying fine schedule be provided for Council consideration.

Staff presented a draft Wildlife Attractant Bylaw on April 20th, 2021, with corresponding amendments to the Garbage and Organics Collection and Disposal Bylaw No. 1252 and the Bylaw Enforcement Notice Bylaw No. 1125.

Council adopted the following resolution:

R2021-169

THAT Wildlife Attractant Bylaw No. 1294, 2021 be forwarded to Council for First Reading;

AND THAT Garbage and Organics Collection and Disposal Amendment Bylaw No. 1252-04, 2021 be forwarded to Council for First Reading;

AND THAT Bylaw Enforcement Notice Amendment Bylaw No. 1125-12, 2021 be forwarded to Council for First Reading;

AND THAT Council provide opportunity to receive public input on these bylaws;

AND FURTHER THAT there be a report to Council regarding the public input before proceeding to second or third reading of these bylaws.

The purpose of this report is to provide the community feedback and provide the bylaws for second and third reading.

DISCUSSION

The Town requested residents to comment on the proposed wildlife attractant bylaw between April 20th and May 23rd 2021, the Town received comments up until May 26th. All responses have been enclosed as attachment A.

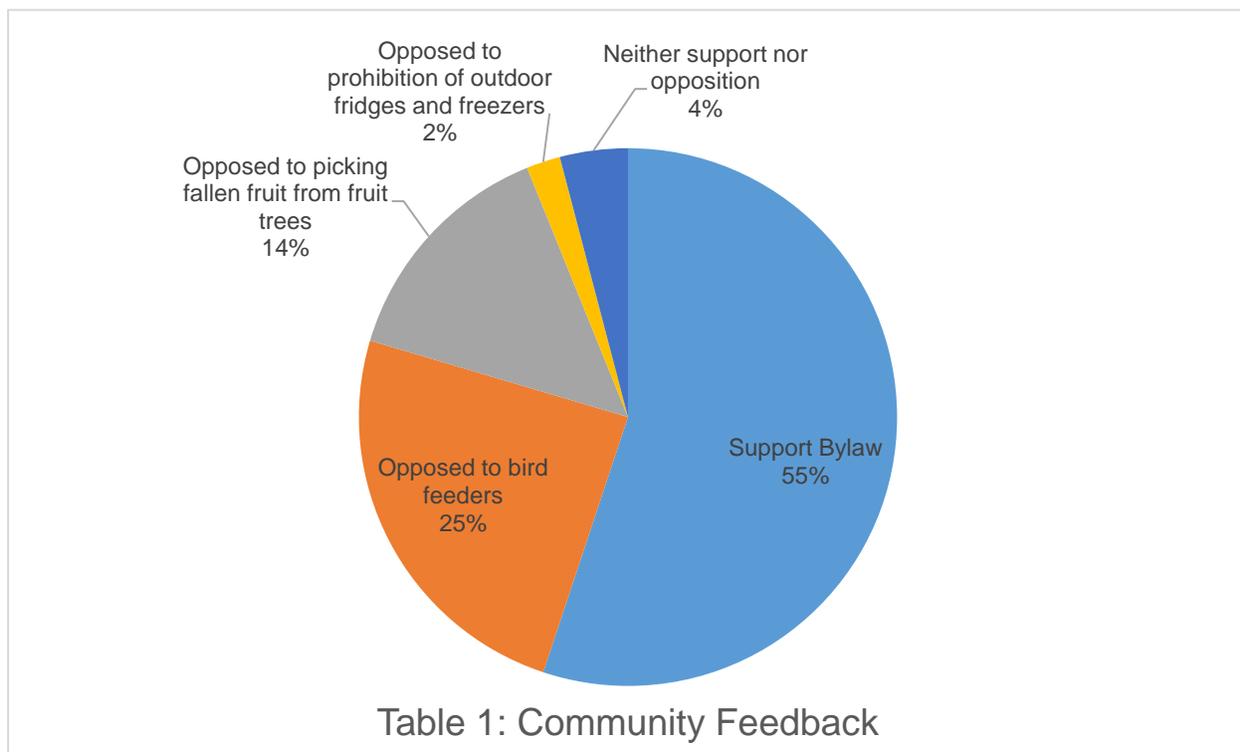
The Town received forty-nine (49) responses, twenty-six (26) were in full support of the proposed bylaw as written, one (1) supported the bylaw, with the request that odor-proof garbage cans be mandated as well. The majority of those opposed to the proposed bylaw were in opposition to the bird feeder requirements (twelve (12) responses), that would necessitate the removal of feeders during bear season.

Seven (7) individuals were opposed to maintaining and storing fruit bearing plants in such a manner so as not to attract wildlife. Those who commented on this stated that proposed regulation would discourage residents from growing their own food.

One (1) response commented that outdoor fridges and freezers should be allowed. In the past the Town allowed for secured outdoor fridges and freezers to be stored outside, however staff have in the past been called to a property where a bear had removed the freezer lid despite the appliance being padlocked. In staffs view, outdoor fridges and freezers should be kept inside to avoid potential conflict.

Two (2) responses neither provided support nor opposition with one response stating that bears should not be in the community and the other stating that bears like clover and therefore grass should not need to be cut.

Table 1 shows a breakdown of the responses for Council review.



Amendments to Wildlife Attractant Bylaw

With 25% of the respondents stating opposition to the limitations on bird feeders, staff recommend removing the requirements for bird feeders from the proposed bylaw, as the Property Maintenance Bylaw Number 780 states the following:

- 3.6.5 *Remove fallen bird feed and not scatter or place bird feed so as to attract terrestrial wildlife; and,*
- 3.6.6 *Ensure that any bird feeder containing bird feed is suspended on a cable or other device in such a manner that it is inaccessible to terrestrial wildlife.*

The amended Wildlife Attractant Bylaw for second and third Reading has been enclosed as Attachment B.

COMMUNICATION

Staff plan to develop a brochure/leaflet to educate residents and will use the Town's "News and Views" section in the newspaper to provide information.

RECOMMENDATIONS / ALTERNATIVES

Recommendations are listed on page 1 of this report, alternatively Council may request changes.

Attachments

- Attachment A – Comments submitted
- Attachment B - Draft Wildlife Attractant Bylaw No. 1294, 2021
- Attachment C – Draft Garbage and Organics Collection and Disposal Bylaw No. 1252-04, 2021
- Attachment D – Draft Bylaw Enforcement Notice Bylaw No. 1125-12, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,



Sue Booth
Bylaw Enforcement Officer



Katie Thomas
Planner II

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

I have reviewed the report and support the recommendation(s).



Mark Brown
Chief Administrative Officer