

A public information meeting was held on Oct. 6th, 2021 in Gibsons Public Market Atrium and was well received for the most part. There were around thirty attendees from the community and most of them were excited about the project and the development of that area of lower Gibsons. “It’s about time,” was a phrase that was heard from some of the attendees, which was along the same lines of what we had heard from other residences of Gibsons during the times some of us had spent in Gibsons talking with other members of the community: realtors, a coffee shop owner, a waitress, a property manager, construction trades managers and professionals, fishermen, and retirees amongst others. They were excited about the preservation of Stonehurst with the change in use to an inn and bistro and the addition of housing to lower Gibsons. At the meeting everyone only had positive comments about the enlargement of the park.

However, there were also three to four attendees present voicing concerns, which seemed to be anti-development in Gibsons in general. Concerns that were heard at the meeting revolved around larger developments. Concerns were also heard regarding the aquifer. We made sure to hear what they had to say and responded respectfully to try and address their concerns with reasons that were valid to us: the development needs to support the concept while maintaining and adding to the character and charm of lower Gibsons. The development is in line with what we had heard from the majority of the respondents to the public survey that was conducted by the Town of Gibsons in July 2020, and a good majority of the attendees at the meeting. Also, preserving Stonehurst with the function in mind for the engagement and benefit of the community and maintaining public parking underground are endeavours that need to be facilitated by the overall development concept. This development project was envisioned and driven by a passion to bring life to extraordinary designs and concepts that aim to ensure community welfare and sound developments and surely not for great financial profits, as this is not the most lucrative business ventures given all the added costs. An aquifer study along with corresponding test boreholes were conducted by Geopacific and further evaluated by Waterline in order to ensure that the aquifer is intact throughout the construction phase and beyond. The communication with all the attendees was constructive, respectful, and overall positive. Everyone left feeling welcomed with their opinions heard, and we were happy to leave the meeting feeling welcomed by the community as well.

The objectives of the development concept have been clear from day one when we approached the Town of Gibsons and this is what we have set out to achieve:

- preserve Stonehurst
- maintain public parking
- add housing
- enlarge Inglis park

...all while maintaining and adding to the character and charm of lower Gibsons, which we all cherish and enjoy. The majority of the attendees really liked the design, and the look of the whole development. “Fantastic,” “very tasteful,” and “lovely,” were some of

the positive remarks left by attendees on notepads that were provided to receive feedback.