

***A question to Sechelt Council  
on December 20, 2006 at 7:30pm***

by Rupert Clark

My question relates to the Silverback proposal and the Sechelt Community Visioning process, which is currently halfway toward completion.

The Sechelt Community Visioning process (being conducted by John Talbot and Associates) began in June 2006 and they are due to report their findings in May/June 2007. The team is working with the community to plan the future of Sechelt over the next 20 – 25 years. The very first question on their website is **“How can we best manage future growth and development?”**

Guiding principles (from discussions in October 2006):

- 1) Restrict high density population areas to the downtown core.
- 2) Maintain the small town/village atmosphere of Sechelt.

Findings so far:

- 1) In 2005 Sechelt experienced the fastest rate of growth for any regional district in B.C. (nearly 3 times the average rate for the province).
- 2) Infill development in accordance with the current OCP provides more than enough capacity for long term development plans.

I attended most of the meetings that were organized by the Visioning Committee during the week beginning October 18<sup>th</sup> 2006. The meetings were well attended and participation from members of the community was very positive. It is clear to me that people in Sechelt are not against development, but they want to see some change in the direction that development is taking.

A lot of those same people were also in attendance at the last meeting that solicited public input on the Silverback proposal. The meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Legion Hall was packed and nearly everyone present was adamantly opposed to the proposed development for a variety of reasons. There was thunderous applause when the question was asked as to why the Silverback proposal was being rushed through before the Visioning process had finished.

In view of all this, I would like to know why the OCP is being changed to accommodate the Silverback proposal. And I would like to know why the largest development in the history of the Sunshine Coast is being allowed to proceed before the Visioning Team can make their recommendations.

Therefore my question is as follows:-

***Is the Visioning process dead, and if not then why has the Mayor ignored the community preference for delaying the approval of this massive development until the Visioning Process has been completed?***

***P.T.O.***

**Follow-up questions:-**

- **Was the Silverback development excluded from the purview of the Visioning Team from the outset? And if so, why?**
- **Is the Clayton/Sanghera development also excluded from their consideration?** Yes
- **Is the Visioning Process merely a public relations attempt to mollify local residents who are concerned about the future of Sechelt?**
- **How much has the Visioning Process cost taxpayers to date, and how much is anticipated as the final cost? What is the point of it all?**

Stagg w-11 Response - Mayo - Reid