



News Release – For Immediate Release, Thursday, June 7, 2018

Municipalities Seeking Feedback from community members at Intermunicipal Development Plan Open Houses

The County of Grande Prairie, in partnership with the Towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith and Wembley, and the Village of Hythe, will be hosting four separate open houses this month to gather feedback from area landowners, residents and businesses to develop four separate Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs).

At the open houses, area landowners, residents and businesses will be able to provide input on land-use policies, land-use concepts and their long term vision for their community within the IDP area.

The open houses are taking place:

- Monday, June 11, 2018, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Hythe Legion
- Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Beaverlodge Recreation Centre
- Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Wembley Community Hall
- Wednesday, June 27, 2018, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Sexsmith Civic Centre

“We strongly encourage community members join us at the open houses. Their input is essential in helping prepare IDPs that are truly reflective of each community’s needs, interests and future vision.” – *Leanne Beaupre, County of Grande Prairie Reeve*

“It is important that the public understand and have a voice in our future. We hope Beaverlodge and area residents and businesses make it out to the open house as our IDP with the County will affect our future for decades to come.” – *Gary Rycroft, Town of Beaverlodge Mayor*

“Sexsmith and area landowners, residents and businesses play a vital role in providing input on the future of their community, as the IDP created between the Town of Sexsmith and the County will help guide the future development of the lands surrounding the community. Please come to make your views for the future use of these lands heard.” – *Claude Lagace, Town of Sexsmith Mayor*

“It is important when planning for future growth of our community that we have input from our residents as well as surrounding rural residents. I encourage all residents to come out to the open house and be a part of our IDP that is beneficial to Wembley and the County.” – *Chris Turnmire, Town of Wembley Mayor*

“Village of Hythe Council hopes to see a good turn-out at the open house in Hythe. Long-term planning is a significant part of Council’s mandate and key to the sustainable growth of our community. We would certainly appreciate the community’s input.” – *Brian Peterson, Village of Hythe Mayor*



As per the modernized Municipal Government Act (MGA), all municipalities that share a boundary with another municipality are required to prepare a joint IDP by April 2020. IDPs are beneficial tools for neighbouring municipalities to provide guidance for future growth areas, development of policies that are mutually beneficial, facilitate joint economic development initiatives, and provide mechanisms for cooperation in delivering services.

Those who are unable to attend the open houses can provide feedback online through the project website at <http://engage.countygp.ab.ca>. For further information, visit the project website or contact Planning & Development Services at 780-513-3950.

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