



December 9, 2009

NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION – CLASS 1 PITS

Woodlands County has worked to create a plan of action to address public concerns pertaining to gravel extraction operations within Woodlands County.

The following will provide an outline of the steps that will be taken, however, these are suggested time frames only and Council reminds residents that the process may change if required.

- Towards the end of January, an public information session will be held in Fort Assiniboine – where many of the gravel extraction projects are being proposed. Representatives from Alberta Environment, Alberta Transportation and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development will be available at the public information session to answer any questions the public may have.
- In February, Council will continue to develop a working document with respect to gravel extraction processes. The regulations outlined within the document will include amendments which have been made recently in response to concerns received from residents that have attended previous open houses and public hearings with respect to specific applications.
- Once Council has reviewed the working document in its entirety it will be made available to the public for review and comment.
- Residents will have a minimum of 30 days in which to review the working document and then a public information session will be held for the public to provide comments or suggestions.
- The working document will be drafted into a draft bylaw and will be reviewed and considered for first reading by Council. If first reading is given to the draft bylaw a public hearing will be scheduled. This will provide residents another opportunity to review the proposed document and to provide feedback.
- The bylaw will then be returned to Council for second and third readings. Three readings are required in order for a bylaw to be passed and its regulations put into effect.

The dates and times of public meetings and hearings will be advertised in the local newspapers, on the local radio stations and on the Woodlands County website (www.woodlands.ab.ca). Advertising will occur a minimum of two weeks in advance of when the public meetings and hearings will take place.

If you have further questions regarding this press release please contact any of the County Councillors or;

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