

“How to address a Saanich Public Hearing”

(there may be changes if Saanich switches to MS Teams)

1) Access the agenda and read the planning report for your item

<https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/local-government/mayor-council/schedule-agendas-minutes.html>

The Planning Dep't report contains recommendations and may contain concerns that support your position. As I understand it, the Planning Report can not give support to projects that exceed the OCP limits for height and density - but only advice. Read carefully the “options to council” listed in the report.

At the Public Hearing council will decide if a project requesting a bonus density is “sufficient”. Council cannot consider changes to height or density but they can deny the application. Council often does discuss small changes with the developer and if the developer agrees to the change, it will be included in the final motion.

You may write to council or speak by phone at the meeting or both.

2) written comments - to: council@saanich.ca

If you submit written comments, you should send them at least one day before the meeting. Comments should be kept polite, short and on topic. Point out specific facts about this project or the neighbourhood, that Council may not have considered. Council members know your neighbourhood will be impacted by traffic, noise and parking, - all projects do. Why is this project flawed?, are there safety concerns, privacy issues, loss of trees, anything unusual? What makes your neighbourhood special?

3) phone in to the Public Hearing

Register to speak by email: council@saanich.ca or phone 250-475-5501. On the day of the meeting, you will be sent instructions on how to phone in.

The applicant will be allowed up to 20 minutes to give a presentation. Next the public input will be announced. Listen on your phone and speak when your name is called – they can hear you . You may speak for up to 5 minutes. You may have an additional five minutes after everyone else has spoken but only if you have some additional information to add.

Brief is better. Be polite and prepared to be flexible - if the previous speaker(s) have made your major points, say you agree and thank Council for listening. Be clear on what it is you want council to put forth as a motion. Do not be surprised that a number of people have called in to express their support for the project, some developers work very hard to arrange for Saanich residents to phone in with their support.

After public input, council will ask questions of the applicant. They may ask a question as a result of public input but, they do not always pick up on your important questions. Questioning is an opportunity for the applicant to refute what has been said by the public and to have the final word.

A motion will be made by a council member and that motion will be put to a vote.