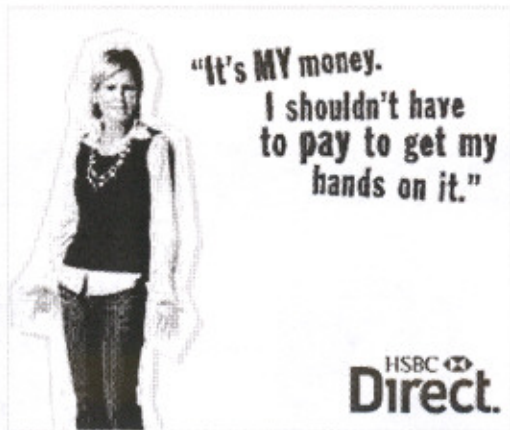


Public could get fifth look at Bamberton proposal

By Mike D'Amour
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The fourth Bamberton public meeting may not be the last.

In an unprecedented move, Cowichan Valley Regional District director Mike Walker said a fifth public meeting is well within the realm of possibility.



"It depends," he said. "We have to look at all the data gathered so far, have the CVRD staff look it over and decide if another meeting is warranted."

The fourth — and what was to be the final — hearing on the controversial project took place May 3 and addressed parks and environment issues.

There were no big surprises. The exception was the developers backed off a bit and said they would not develop a southern portion of the 630 acres that encompasses an old cement plant.

"A considerable amount of that land in the south part of the development will now be parks, trails and open space," said Ross Tennant, of Three Point Properties.

Developers said 60 per cent of the land they have at Bamberton will be green space, with 90 per cent of that land designated as parkland.

"The total parkland dedication will be three times the size of (Victoria's) Beacon Hill Park," said Three Point's Michelle Mahovich, drawing a smattering of applause from the 100 or so members of the audience.

As well, about 20 kilometres of walking trails are planned to be developed on the property that will house about 8,000 people in 3,200 homes within 25 years.

Much of the talk centred around the \$12 million in remediation work already done by developers on the site. Tennant said much of what was discussed during the four public meetings was recorded by developers who will use the information.

"We will come back with a modified rezoning application to incorporate many of the suggestions and comments we heard," said

Tennant.

The four meetings covered a wide range of topics, from land and water use, to infrastructure, sewers and transportation.

For now, there are no other public meetings planned for the coming months.
