

Bamberton's latest welcomed warmly

GETTING WARMER: Community likes revised plan

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News Leader Pictorial

It could have been called the Bamberton love-in.

That was the vibe at a meeting held by Three Point Properties, the company that wants to develop a community at the old cement site and surrounding area when they unveiled its revised plans.

Much of what was said from the stage Tuesday night in the T. Gill Theatre at Mill Bay's Brentwood College drew applause from about 130 in attendance.

Conversely, words from a few dissenters elicited, at best, a smattering of applause.

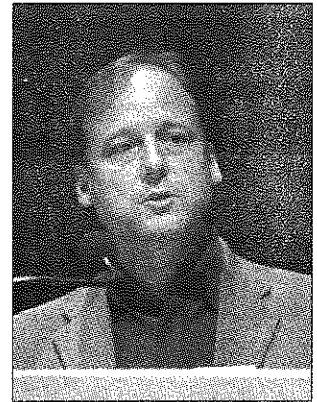
One man said the development near his home would affect his quality of life.

Another man in the crowd shot back: "This isn't about you, it's about community."

It was a marked difference from the mood in the same room during past presentations when many voiced disapproval and concerns about the project.

Ross Tennant, a managing partner of Three Point Properties Ltd., said he brought in Joe Van Bellegham, manager of the award-winning Dockside Green Development, to help with the project.

The newcomer said he'd like to see the project — a modern community that would eventually house about 8,000 people in approximately



Joe Van Bellegham

3,200 homes — built around an ecological, environmental and social perspective.

"I've dedicated my life to doing that," he told the crowd.

Three Point unveiled plans to recycle all the community's grey water so that not even a drop of effluent leaves the area.

The second notable change is including the development in the overall district.

"We should be looking at this as a neighbourhood in Mill Bay, rather than a separate community," Van Bellegham said.

The revised plan also increased land for commercial and eco-industrial use and provisions for employee housing.

The company said it's only weeks away from submitting an updated rezoning application to the Cowichan Valley Regional District.