



Ponoka County

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE LAND USE BY-LAW

Ponoka County Council is considering adding a new zone to its current Land Use By-Law. The “Protected Farmland” district provides permanently protected land which safeguards against the loss and fragmentation of the agricultural land base and supports agriculture as the predominant land use. The Development Officer must refuse any permit which could limit or restrict existing or proposed agricultural operations, including residential dwellings.

Oftentimes a bonafide farmer purchases a quarter that already has a residential subdivision removed. A second house has been established on the quarter which the farmer has no use for. In order to dispose of the residence and farm the balance, the second residential lot must be rezoned. This allows for a third residence to be established on the remaining farmland which causes concern for the neighborhood. The new zone would prohibit establishment of any further dwellings and allow the farmland to remain as is. It could also be requested by anyone wishing to preserve their agricultural land base provided no dwellings are included. No property will be automatically rezoned to Protected Farmland.

A new policy will also be added to the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) encouraging applicants to apply for the Protected Farmland zone when applying to remove the second residence from the balance of the farmland.

Before making a decision on the new zone or the amendment to the MDP, Council will hold a public hearing at which any person may ask questions or state their opinion. This hearing will be held at 11:00 a.m. on July 23, 2024 in the Chambers of the Ponoka County Office, 4205 Highway #2A in Ponoka.

The proposed by-law may be seen at the County Office or will be mailed, emailed or faxed to anyone who requests it. You may forward your comments/concerns prior to the hearing by phone, fax or email as noted below.

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