

Community Engagement Summary – KinVillage Community Centre Redevelopment

1. Purpose of Submission

This submission provides a summary of community feedback collected through engagement sessions related to the proposed KinVillage Community Centre redevelopment.

The purpose of this document is to:

- Inform the City's review process
- Provide context on community perspectives
- Identify considerations relevant to site use, design, and accessibility

Project Context:

This is a privately delivered redevelopment project, funded in partnership with BC Housing. The City's role is limited to the municipal approvals process.

2. Engagement Overview

Community engagement sessions were conducted with community centre members and stakeholders to:

- Share information about the proposed redevelopment
- Gather input on community needs and priorities
- Identify potential concerns related to the project

The engagement generated a high volume of feedback and strong participation, reflecting the importance of the community centre within the local area.

3. Summary of Key Feedback Themes

3.1 Food Services and Social Gathering Spaces

This was the most frequently raised topic.

Participants emphasized:

- The importance of shared meals and informal gathering spaces
- The role these spaces play in reducing social isolation
- The need for areas that support social interaction and programming

Clarification:

A number of participants expressed concern regarding the perceived loss of a revenue-generating café.

The existing café is **privately owned and operated** and is **not a revenue source for KinVillage**.

Feedback in this area is therefore best understood as relating to:

- Social connection and community experience rather than financial impact.

3.2 Building Size and Capacity

Participants expressed concerns that:

- The proposed building is perceived to be smaller
- There may be reduced capacity for programs and events
- Future demand from a growing senior population may not be accommodated

3.3 Accessibility and Site Considerations

Participants noted the importance of:

- Convenient access to the building
- Proximity for individuals with mobility challenges
- General ease of arrival and movement within the site

(Comments related to parking were raised, but were typically framed within broader accessibility and convenience considerations.)

3.4 Unique Boutique (On-site Retail Space)

Participants expressed strong attachment to the on-site retail space:

- Viewed as a valued amenity for seniors
- Important for accessibility and convenience
- Considered part of the community identity

3.5 Communication and Engagement Process

Feedback included:

- A perception among some participants that decisions had already been made
- Desire for ongoing communication and updates
- Interest in understanding how feedback is being considered

Project Communication Context:

As part of the project's funding agreement, communication related to the redevelopment is subject to requirements established by BC Housing, including direction on the timing and release of project information.

This context is relevant to understanding some of the feedback received regarding transparency and information availability.

3.6 Fitness and Activity Spaces

Participants raised design-related considerations:

- Appropriate flooring for safety (e.g., sprung floors)
- Adequate space for class sizes

3.7 Transition and Continuity of Services

Participants expressed concern about:

- Potential disruption to programs during construction
- Maintaining access to services during the transition period

3.8 Accessibility and Inclusive Design

Key considerations included:

- Accessible washrooms
- Acoustic performance for hearing support
- Mobility-friendly layouts and furnishings

3.9 Programs and Community Use

Feedback highlighted:

- The importance of maintaining programming
- Need for space to support events and activities
- The role of the centre as a community hub

4. Key Observations

Across all feedback, the following overarching observations were identified:

- The community centre is highly valued as a **social and community hub**
- Feedback reflects a strong interest in **maintaining continuity of services and experience**
- Many concerns relate to **perceptions of change**, particularly regarding space and amenities
- Some concerns regarding communication are influenced by **project communication constraints associated with the funding agreement**

5. Considerations Relevant to Municipal Review

Based on community feedback, the following considerations may be relevant to the City of Delta's review of the application:

- **Site design and access** to support ease of arrival and mobility
- **Provision of flexible interior spaces** to support a range of uses
- **Design features that support social interaction** (e.g., gathering spaces)
- **Accessibility considerations**, including acoustics, lighting, mobility, and parking

6. Applicant Response to Community Feedback

KinVillage acknowledges the feedback received through the engagement process and recognizes the strong attachment the community has to the existing community centre and the role it plays in supporting connection, activity, and wellbeing.

The feedback has been carefully reviewed and is informing ongoing planning and project discussions with BC Housing.

In response to the key themes identified:

- **Social Connection and Gathering Spaces**

The importance of social interaction and informal gathering has been clearly identified. The proposed design approach prioritizes flexible, multi-use spaces intended to support a range of social, recreational, and community activities.

- **Perceived Building Size and Capacity**

While the proposed facility may differ in layout from the existing building, the design is intended to support multiple concurrent uses through flexible programming spaces. Further information regarding space functionality and capacity will be shared as it becomes available.

- **Accessibility and Site Access**

Site planning considerations include ease of access and movement, with attention to the needs of seniors and individuals with mobility challenges.

- **Continuity of Services**

Planning for the transition period will aim to minimize disruption to programs and services, recognizing the importance of continuity for community members.

- **Communication and Engagement**

KinVillage is committed to ongoing engagement and information sharing. As part of the project's funding agreement, communication is guided by requirements established by BC Housing, including the timing and release of project information. Within these parameters, efforts will continue to provide updates and opportunities for input as the project progresses.

The project team remains focused on delivering a facility that meets the needs of the community, supports accessibility and social connection, and aligns with the approved scope and funding framework.

7. Conclusion

Community engagement indicates strong interest in ensuring the redevelopment continues to support:

- Social connection
- Accessibility
- Community programming

While feedback includes concerns related to space, amenities, and communication, it also reflects a high level of community investment in the long-term success of the facility.