NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsforward Releases Draft Official Community Plan

ABBOTSFORD – April 4, 2016 – Abbotsford City Council received and supported a draft Official Community Plan (OCP), completing Stage 3 of the Abbotsforward project today, announced Mayor Henry Braun.

The draft OCP is based on work completed through the Abbotsforward process so far, including ideas and input from almost 7,000 resident interactions, and an analysis of different growth options. The draft OCP provides a land use plan for the city to grow to a future population of 200,000 people, focusing 75% of this new growth in existing urban areas and 25% in new neighbourhoods. As a result, the plan promotes growth in areas where it is financially sustainable by using existing infrastructure and amenities, and aligns with new priorities like making walking, biking and transit delightful.

"The draft Official Community Plan brings together wide-reaching community engagement of 7,000 resident interactions with sound financial analysis of different ways for our city to grow," said Braun. "The result is a new vision that will help Abbotsford continue to attract new families and young people, while providing long-time residents more certainty about the future of their neighbourhoods."

The next stage in the process is to gain final input from residents on the draft plan. A public event, the **Abbotsforward Popup Park**, is being held for 3 days from April 15 to April 17, where residents can see the draft plan and talk to a City Planner. The event will provide an opportunity for residents to see the draft OCP's new vision, as well as the ideas residents provided through past engagement activities. The **Abbotsforward Popup Park** will be located at the Sevenoaks Shopping Centre parking lot, in the southeast corner of Gladwin and South Fraser Way, and will have a park-like atmosphere, with food truck vendors, mini golf activities, and live music.

Dates and times:

- Friday, April 15, 1pm-7pm
- Saturday, April 16, 10am-7pm
- Sunday, April 17, 10am-4pm

Residents can also view the draft plan on the Abbotsforward website (www.abbotsforward.ca) and at the Planning Services desk on the 2nd floor of City Hall. More information about these events and the OCP update project can be found at www.abbotsforward.ca, or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/abbotsforward and Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityOfAbbotsford.

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