

From: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Have You Heard: Current City of Victoria Engagement Opportunities

From: Pam Carbery [REDACTED]
Sent: January 21, 2022 5:09 PM
To: Engagement-External <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Re: Have You Heard: Current City of Victoria Engagement Opportunities

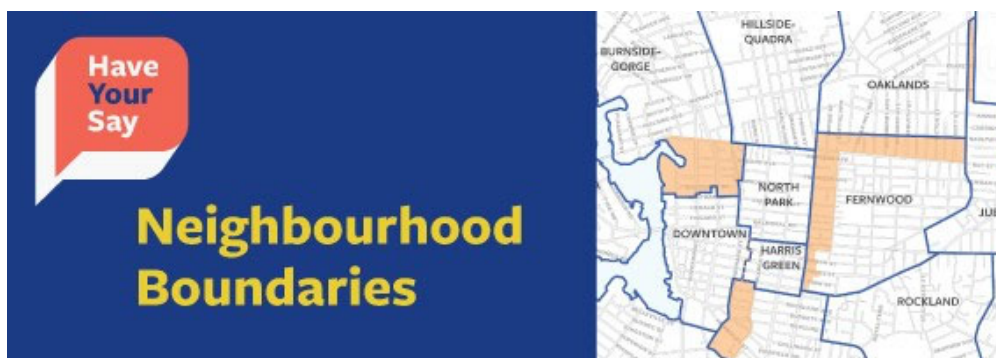
Why is Lisa Helps so intent on changing the neighbourhood boundaries and do you really think our input will make a difference based on every other decision the mayor and city counsel have made in the past? Almost entirely without using any of the requested input.

On Fri, Jan 21, 2022 at 2:38 PM City of Victoria Engagement <support@engagementhq.com> wrote:



Hello!

Here is a quick update for January on some of the City's current engagement initiatives:



[Neighbourhood Boundaries: Final Opportunity for Public Comment](#)

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback on potential changes to neighbourhood boundaries last year.

Two proposed boundary changes are moving forward for a final opportunity for public comment. Learn more about these changes and how to share your feedback at the non-statutory public hearing on [Thursday, January 27](#).

Following the meeting, Council will consider all the feedback and provide staff with direction on moving forward.



[Draft Neighbourhood Plans for Fernwood, North Park, and Hillside-Quadra](#)

Thank you to everyone who provided input on the draft neighbourhood plans for Fernwood, North Park, and Hillside-Quadra.

Coming up this spring will be Council's consideration of the draft plans along with community feedback. Following their consideration, next steps could include approving new neighbourhood plans and design guidelines and continuing to a public hearing for related Official Community Plan updates.

[Stay tuned at engage.victoria.ca for further updates.](https://engage.victoria.ca)



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Sign up for our monthly [CONNECT e-newsletter](#) for updates on City programs and initiatives including what's happening at City Hall, upcoming programs at Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, important dates and deadlines, handy tips for your home or business and other useful information about what's happening in your community.

Questions or comments? You can always reach us at engage@victoria.ca or by calling 250.361.0210.

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[REDACTED]

From: martin jones [REDACTED]
Sent: January 22, 2022 5:08 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Possible change of neighborhood boundaries. Public hearing: January, 27th 2022.

Dear Sir/Madam

I hear that consideration is being given to transferring part of the Fairfield neighborhood to the Downtown neighbourhood.

Firstly, it is not clear to me from the map, what this portion of Fairfield represents. I understand the general idea. This possible change could be interpreted as a trifling matter. I have the feeling that the results could be quite significant.

My instinct is that the proposed change is a ruse to have much taller buildings to the east side of Blanshard. At present taller buildings are to the west of Blanshard. Are taller buildings a good idea? On an individual level some might be fine, some not. What, of course, is highly likely to happen is for endless high/highish rise buildings to go up. Each time there would be talk of affordable housing, having downtown density to dissuade suburban development, and how particularly sensitive and special each new development would be. Developers would contribute to affordable housing funds, community art etc. If this is what people want (i.e. the general population) then that would be fine. It would be instructive to know what people think.

So, I would suggest this could be an alliance of diverse bedfellows.

1. A markedly left leaning Council.

2. Profit driven developers.

3. Investors/speculators who would "Hoover" up units to rent out to the under 40s, for whom the units would be too expensive to buy.

All these 3 groups would have their financial motivations. For the Council it would increase the "tax base", thus providing money for whatever be the current pet projects.

Sincerely, Martin Jones

From: James Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: January 23, 2022 3:46 PM
To: Public Hearings <PublicHearings@victoria.ca>
Subject: No to Change in Neighbourhood Boundaries - Fairfield

Short version - I vote no to the change, Fairfield to Downtown.

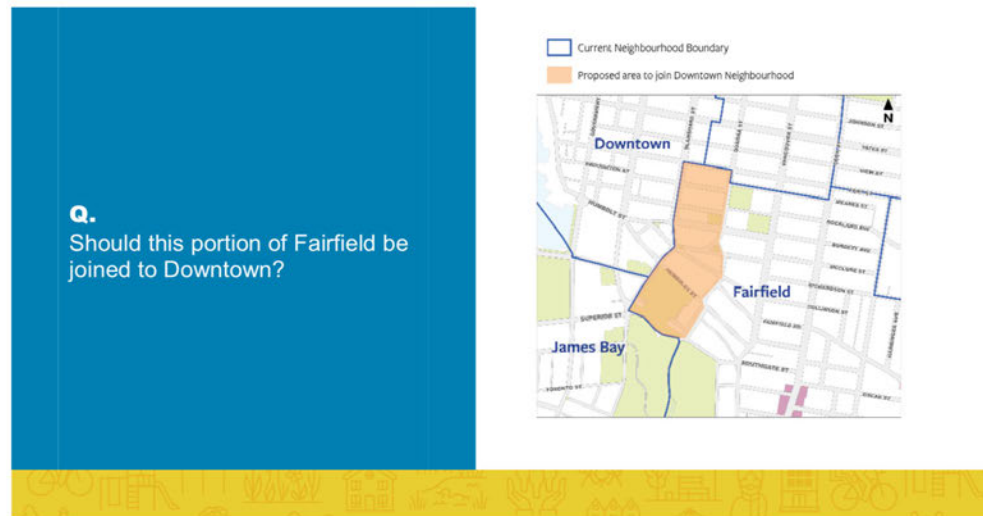
Hello Mayor and Council,

I would like to address the Fairfield-Downtown potential boundary change depicted, below. I live in the heart of the area scheduled for change. I have included images from the 2021 survey results on this issue, I hope they show up for you. My comments are between the illustrative images.

7 of 45

Fairfield/Downtown Boundary

800-block between Fort Street and Academy Close, and Blanshard Street and Quadra Street.



The mayor is on record as saying that this is about “where people see themselves living in the city” and to align boundaries with that “sense of place”.

May 10, 2021

Victoria City Council is seeking resident feedback on proposed changes to boundaries in the following neighbourhoods: Fernwood, Oaklands, Jubilee, North Park, Fairfield, Downtown, Harris Green and Burnside Gorge.

“The intent is to understand where people see themselves living in the city and to align neighbourhood boundaries with that sense of place. For example, there are parts of Fairfield that feel more like Downtown so we want to make sure those feelings are reflected in the neighbourhood map of the city,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “Ultimately, the residents of Victoria decide, which is why we’re going to go out and ask if our proposed neighbourhood boundaries are right.”

The people are on record as saying that they have no idea what “improve residents’ sense of place” even means. People also do not understand the purpose or the impacts. No attempts to clarify have been made to my knowledge. Why are these common beliefs so negative? Why has City council not done a better job of explaining, or even tried.

Survey Insights

What We Heard – Key Findings

Many of the survey comments came from respondents who disagreed, and who wanted more clarity on the proposed boundary changes. Overall common survey feedback sentiments included:

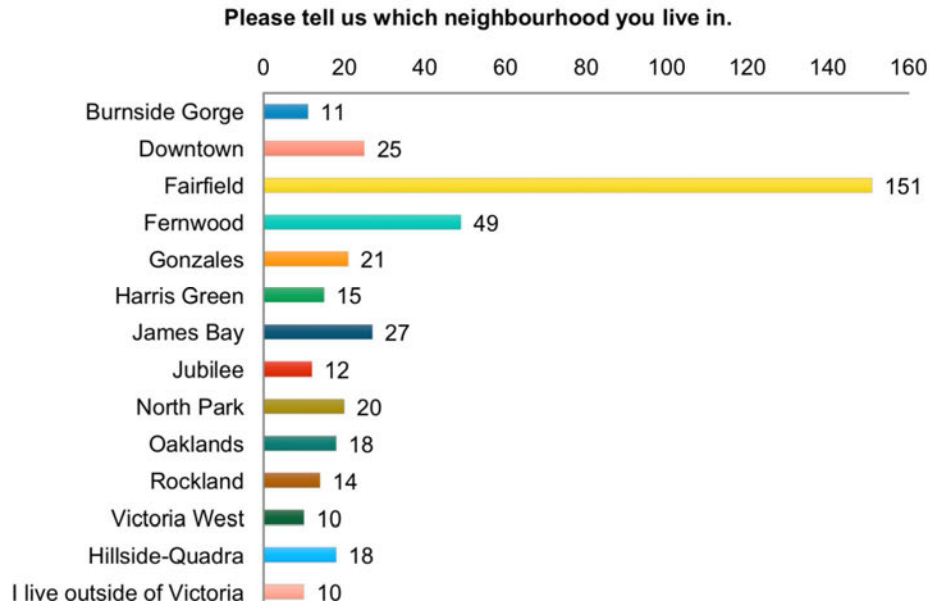
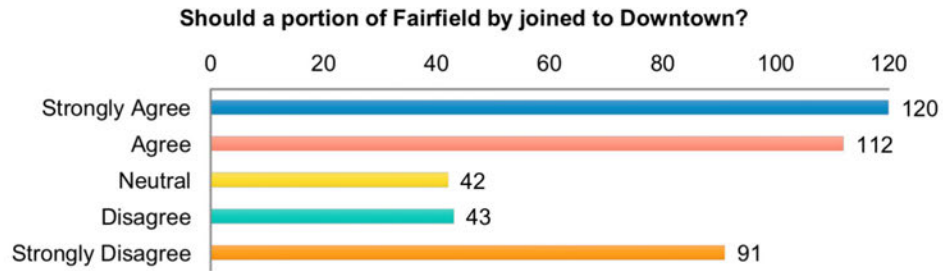
- Not understanding how the changes would impact them (whether beneficial or not).
- Not understanding the purpose of these proposed boundary changes.
- Not understanding what “help reconcile anomalies and improve residents’ sense of place” means.

Overall common beliefs included:

- There is a hidden agenda/ulterior motive to these proposed boundary changes.
- There are other issues in the city that are more important than boundary changes.
- These proposed changes are a waste of time, money and resources.
- Residents did not indicate that current neighbourhood boundaries are an issue.
- Residents are happy with where they live, and do not want to change their neighbourhood.

Analysis of the data for each question is divided into two sections: Overall results and results from residents from impacted neighbourhoods.

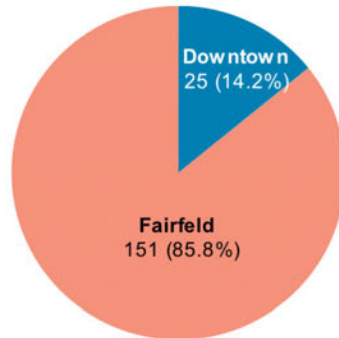
Survey results to determine whether I and my neighbours are satisfied with my sense of place include responses from all over Victoria, as if they can relate to my sense of place.



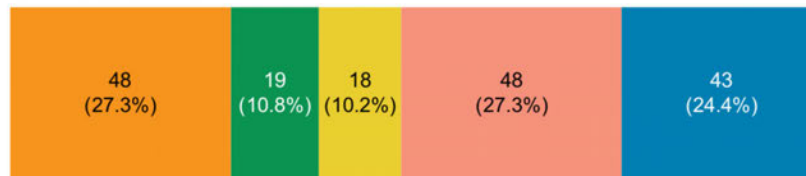
Even more ridiculous is the breakdown that includes not only everyone from Fairfield but also those living downtown. Fairfield is a big place, with most residents not living in the area to be redesignated. Why should their opinion be included if it has nothing to do with the objective of the change? The Downtown residents should not be providing input. So, why was this not broken down to include only the comments of the people directly affected? Do you have that data? Why do you not seem to care, since my “sense of place” was the target of the questions you asked?

SURVEY RESULTS FROM FAIRFIELD AND DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS

Please tell us which neighbourhood you live in



Should a portion of Fairfield be joined to Downtown?



Question options

● Strongly Disagree
 ● Disagree
 ● Neutral
 ● Agree
 ● Strongly Agree

So, here we go with another opportunity to provide feedback. The previous feedback was washed into irrelevance by the City (above). I have no more information today than I had then, so I will walk through my thinking...

I am a member of the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA), which has a Community Center and receives generous grants from the City. But, I am currently represented by Ben Isitt who informed us that we have "Affluenza", then later became our Council representative. Also, the FGCA is prone to bickering and power struggles, falling victim to Sayre's Law, "In any dispute, the intensity of feeling is inversely proportional to the value of the issue at stake." So not conducive to a strong sense of place. During Community Planning discussions, the Fairfield residents were very pleased to be able to make their density commitments by pushing it all into the northwest corner for Fairfield, avoiding a valuable discussion about density increases in the single family home areas. Not appreciated.

I am familiar with the Victoria Downtown Residents Association (VDRA) only in passing as I could not attend being an outsider. I remember looking up a resident feedback meeting from 2014 (I think). All the concerns captured that day are exactly the same as the concerns today, noisy, dirty, dangerous, etc. I do not believe any action was ever taken, and I also have not heard them speaking up during the last two years of downtown troubles. Do they get money from the City? They seem to have no amenities for me to use. Where does the money go? The purpose of the VDRA seems pretty nebulous. No real deliverables on their website list, just vague statements, "promote", "foster", "help". I am sure they are volunteers, so I am sure they are doing what they can, but I do not see any advantage to identifying with the group. I have no sense of place with Downtown.

If you look at your past published Cathedral Hill Precinct Community Plan, you will find a document and a place for which I enjoy a “sense of place”. It is not downtown, and it is not Fairfield. It is a unique, beautiful little area that I hope you do not spoil.

Might as well leave me in Fairfield.

Thank you,

James Campbell

Victoria

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Shelley Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: January 23, 2022 2:44 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: No to Change in Neighbourhood Boundaries - Fairfield

I live in the NW corner of Fairfield, which will be affected by the proposed change in Neighbour Boundaries, if approved. I want to remain in the Fairfield community. I do not want to join the Downtown area.

This is the 2nd or 3rd survey request to confused residents as the City continues to fail to explain how residents will benefit if the boundaries change and who is requesting the change. A previous survey highlighted this confusion among those taking the survey about the changes, but also provided a misleading interpretation of the results. Not separating results to show what the people actually impacted by the change want is ridiculous, unless an attempt is being made to influence the results. If City council is concerned with "sense of place" why include people who do not live in this place?

Is this what the City calls building community? I like the quiet, charm and green environment of the Cathedral Precinct located in Fairfield. Until the City can clearly outline the benefits, intent and motives behind the changes (beyond "sense of place"), I vote **NO** to a change in the boundary.

In these challenging times, I am surprised that a change in boundaries is such a priority issue.

Shelley Campbell
Fairfield

PS. Responding to the City's repeated requests for input on the same issue is time consuming. Seeing the written reported results that lose all important detail is disheartening. I and other Victorians are suffering from bogus survey fatigue. Based on past experience, I have concluded that City Council will not pay any attention to the input from those affected by the changes.

Sent from my iPad