



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

**FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OF THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

 2. **PRESENTATIONS**
 - 2.1. Pathways to Wellness
 - Walking Path at Evans Road
 - 2.2. Other Items as Time Permits

 3. **TERMINATION**
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405 Brink Street,
Box 9
Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0

August 26, 2019

Village of Ashcroft
PO Box 129
Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0

Dear Mayor and Village Councillors:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a citizen's group working on the construction of about a three kilometre multipurpose community pathway down Evans Road in Ashcroft and to seek resolutions of support for the project's objectives from the Village Council:

"That Council directs staff to forward a Letter of Support to the ad hoc task force Pathways to Wellness approving in principle the objectives of the project."

"That Council directs staff to research, prepare a report and report back to Council on the process of how to acquire provincial land along Evans Road for the purpose of creating a natural park and accessing the river for the general public."

One of Ashcroft's greatest, yet most unrecognized, assets is the riverine frontage along Evans Road that extends for several kilometres. Families with children, people with dogs, friends out for a stroll and athletic individuals have used this road frequently as a pathway. Train enthusiasts travel the highway and are thrilled to see both the CN and CP lines so intimately close. The roadway has regularly been used for community events such as the Terry Fox Run and the Kids Triathlon. Rafters and other boaters use a rough sloped driveway on Evans Road down to the water's edge in order to launch their crafts. Tourists and guests are often directed down the scenic route, which provides a different perspective of the inherent beauty of the area.

A designated pathway along Evans Road would enhance the quality of the living environment by encouraging the mobility and safety of residents and visitors in the area. Currently, narrow shoulders with no-posts in place impinge on having any adequate surface for pedestrians. Heavy transport vehicles and fast-moving pickup trucks are common and destined to increase with the expansion of the trans-loading and bulk handling facility. Many people cycle, walk or run along the roadway where vehicles travel or have given up using this route for cycling, walking or running.

A citizens' group called Ashcroft Pathways To Wellness is a grassroots movement with no formal organization. Individuals have initiated and worked on a pathway along Evans Road on and off for a couple of years. Members have picked weeds, levelled, and mowed some sections of the pathway with rake, shovel and pick ax and without funding. Obviously, if machinery were used, funds were raised, and community organizations supported the project, the pathway could be constructed at a much faster pace.

It is the aim of the volunteers building the pathway to provide a safe space on the side of the no-posts segregated from vehicle traffic in order to reduce possible conflicts with vehicles, to promote visitors to spend time in our area, and to allow all persons to enjoy Ashcroft's biggest natural asset. We envision a gravel pathway, approximately two to three meters in width allowing two people to comfortably walk side-by-side, to be constructed from the intersection of Evans Road and Highway 97C to the end of the paved section of Evans Road. Some sections would require the placement of concrete railway ties to stabilize the bank or bridge type walkways to skirt narrow sections. Most sections require gravel and rocks to build up the path area and several inches of crush to create a level, compacted multi-purpose pathway.

Pathways along watercourses exist in almost every community that are fortunate enough to have such a natural feature. Be they wooden, paved, gravel or a combination of materials, all enhance their communities and attract young and old alike. It is the vision of this ad hoc task force to not only have a pathway, but to eventually see the addition of a small park, strategically placed mosaics, and informational signage for points of interest as well.

The town's Official Community Plan, a document the result of two years of community consultation, states, "Much of the community continues to be interested in the development of trail systems between neighbourhoods and in creating better access points to riverine areas and the river." Support also comes from other organizations or individuals who over the years have donated time and resources towards improving the experience along the road through the installation of a picnic table, port-a-potty, bench or regular use of the existing facilities and pathway. Outreach to businesses and industry has been initiated as well as to interested individuals in the community. A petition of over a hundred names was collected in a few short hours.

We hope that you will agree with the potential economic, social, and aesthetic benefits of building a pathway down Evans Road. This pathway will help promote Ashcroft's brand, Wellness Awaits You.

At the All Candidates Forum last October, all councillors indicated that they supported this project. We ask now that you act on that verbal commitment and write a formal letter of support. Your resolution will help us move this project forward by providing the political backing needed to secure grants and financial support, to solicit in-kind donations from businesses and industry, and to further mobilize the community.

We look forward to hearing from you and count on your support.

Sincerely,
Jim Duncan, Ashcroft Pathways to Wellness Task Force

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