

From: Emma-Louise Elsey Elsey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 6:52 PM
To: ssiinfo <ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Huge Yes to New Working Group for Affordable Housing!

Trust Committee,

The housing crisis on Salt Spring has escalated to a shocking level such that rental costs have gone up enormously, and there are 30 people showing up for every "moderately" priced rental.

In particular I am upset by the continual downplaying of housing as a priority -especially when it is such a huge issue. I have a Driftwood newspaper from about a decade ago which had 40+ rental listings in the back. No such luck now.

The housing crisis here is harming our island culture and quality of life - and creating a two speed economy - those that own and those that struggle to rent.

We will lose our young people and young families if they cannot afford to live here.

One year ago, housing advocates delivered a short report titled 8 tangible actions the Trust can take to address the housing crisis while protecting the environment. Each action was the result of consultations with many experts and community leaders, were deeply researched, and fell within existing regulations and the mandate of the Trust.

One year later, I am upset to hear that not one of these actions has been undertaken.

The new Housing Working Group project proposed for the Trust is one way to move forward on this issue.

This working group proposal should be approved and housing thus made one of the top 5 priorities of the Island, with Trust staff time allocated.

Housing solutions can be found that protect the environment and people. It's not an either/or situation! But surely our fellow humans must at least have equal priority with the environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly, Emma-Louise

Emma-Louise Elsey Elsey

