

What We Heard Phase II



Animal Control Bylaw #1035
October 2024



What We Heard Phase II



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Background

The Town of Hanna is reviewing its Animal Control Bylaw to consider the possibility of allowing urban hens within town limits. This process began in 2017 when Council was approached by a resident. At the time, the existing Animal Control Bylaw, established in 1993, prohibited keeping fowl within town boundaries.

After years of intermittent discussion, the topic resurfaced in 2023, prompting the development of a draft Animal Control Bylaw in 2024, which includes provisions for urban hens. The new bylaw modernizes regulations and proposes a framework for raising hens, pending public engagement and Council review.

✓
Bylaw 1035-2024 the Animal Control Bylaw was given first reading on May 14, 2024.

What We Heard Phase II

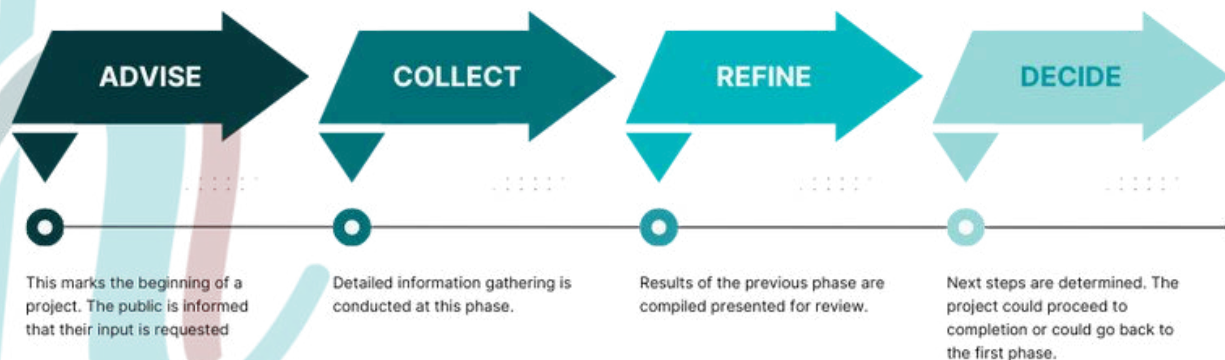


Public Engagement

In June 2024 Council was presented with a draft Public Engagement Plan from the Director of Business & Communication, Laurie Armstrong. This plan was approved by Council with modifications to the timeline presented. Council wanted to delay the process until early fall when it was most likely to capture more attention from residents.

A four-phase dynamic approach was used to provide the foundation for the Communications Plan. This approach was approved by Council when they approved their Public Engagement processes.

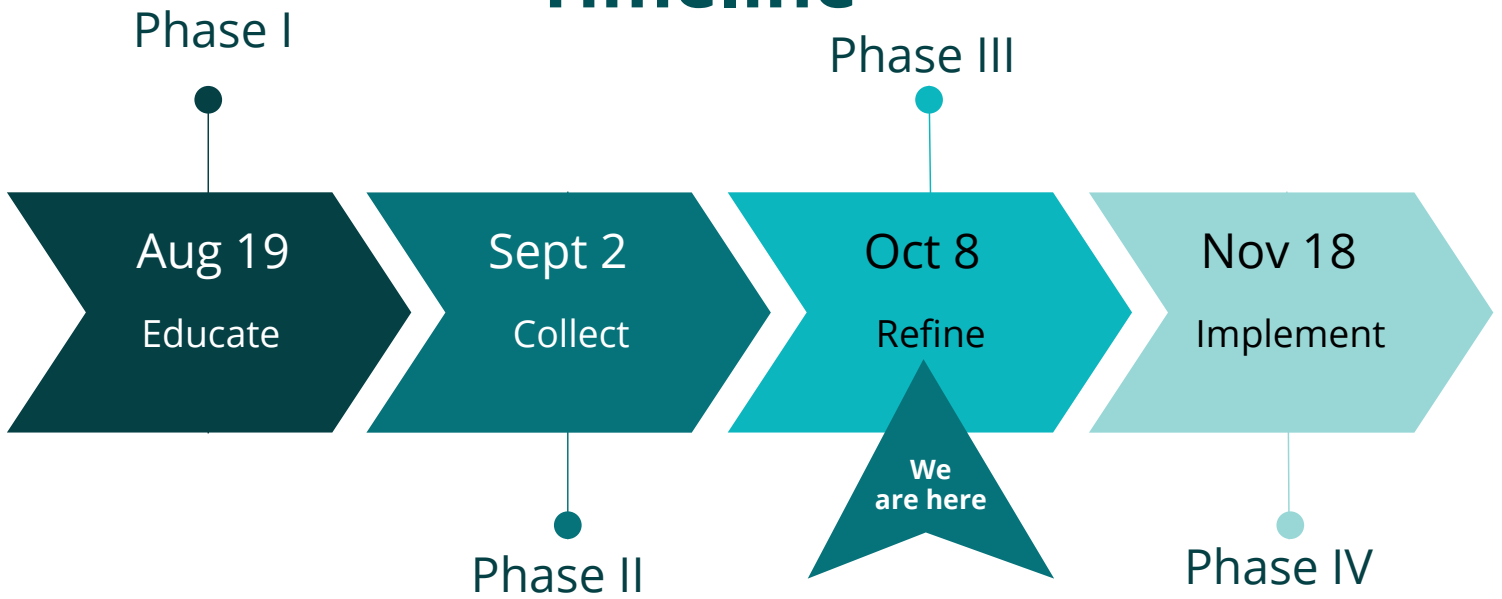
Public Engagement Process



What We Heard Phase II



Timeline



What We Heard Phase II



Communications Plan

Educate

Aug 19

- Aug 21 Press Release*: Hanna Council Considers Backyard Hens in Bylaw Update. Appeal to residents to begin their research.
- Sept 3 Press Release*: Residents Asked to Research Responsible Pet Ownership.
- Graphics released to support the public engagement process.
- Fact Sheet released identifying highlights of the changes between the two bylaws.
- Dedicated page on the Town's website as a one-stop-shop for information including the 2 bylaws and an FAQ section.

Collect

- Sep 6 Press Release*: Survey Open: Animal Control.
- Sept 14 Press Release*: Public Hearing Animal Control Bylaw.
- Sept 20 Press Release*: Survey Deadline: Animal Control
- Email can be sent to hens@hanna.ca.
- Written correspondence encouraged.
- A non-statutory Public Hearing is held Sept 16.
- Elected Officials and Municipal Enforcement are receptive to discussions with residents.
- Sept 24 Press Release*: Public Engagement Complete

Sept 2

What We Heard Phase II



Communications Plan Cont.



Survey is open a full 17 days closing on Sept 23

Refine

Oct 8

- Preparation and Presentation of What We Heard Report.
- Press Release* Oct 11 (tentative): Animal Control: What We Heard.

Implement

- Final bylaw comes before Council for approval.

Nov 12

Digital & Print Information

6

Different Press
Releases

Community
Event Calendar

Kiosks
6 Weeks

Utility Bills
1300 Accounts

4,800
Flyers

into mailboxes

Emails

Sent to Subscribers

12,360

Animal Control

hanna.ca/animal-control



Bylaw 808 Current

- Animal Control bylaw is 30 years old.
- A request has come forward to consider urban hen-keeping.
- Vicious dog licensing \$100.
- Dogs 3 months and older require a license.
- Dog fanciers may have 2 dogs.
- Dog licenses are renewed the first business day in Jan annually.
- Cats are not addressed.
- No fowl or livestock is permitted.
- Excrement is not addressed.

Changes Proposed in Bylaw 1035-2024

- Section 6 pertains to urban hen-keeping.
- Vicious dogs will not be licensed.
- Dogs 6 months and older require a license.
- Dog licenses are to be renewed before Jan 30 annually.
- Residents are limited to no more than 3 dogs over 6 mo of age.
- Section 5.7 addresses excrement.
- Dog fanciers term has been changed to breeder.
- Dog Kennels are not permitted.

Non-Statutory Public Hearing Mon. Sept 16 6:30 pm

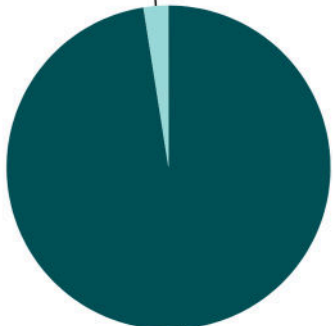
Survey Results

Q1 Where do you live?

Answered: 121

Skipped: 0

Outside Hanna Town Limits
2% (3)



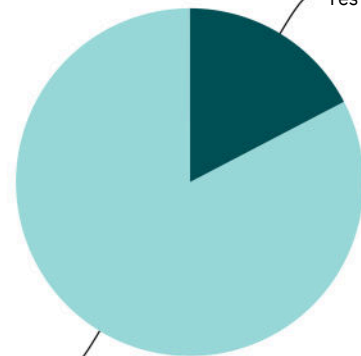
In Hanna 98% (118)

Q2 Are you interested in keeping chickens on your property in Hanna?

Answered: 121

Skipped: 0

Yes 17% (21)



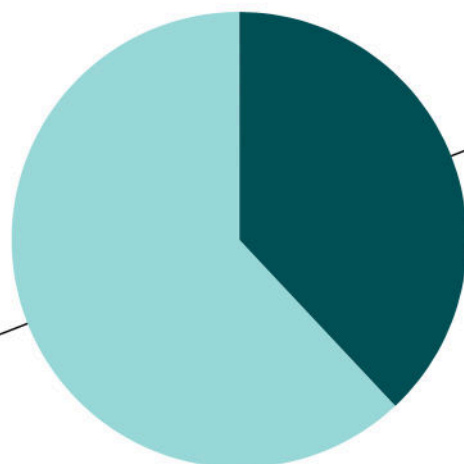
No 83% (100)

Q3 Do you think Hanna residents should be allowed to keep chickens (laying hens) within Town limits under certain guidelines?

Answered: 121

Skipped: 0

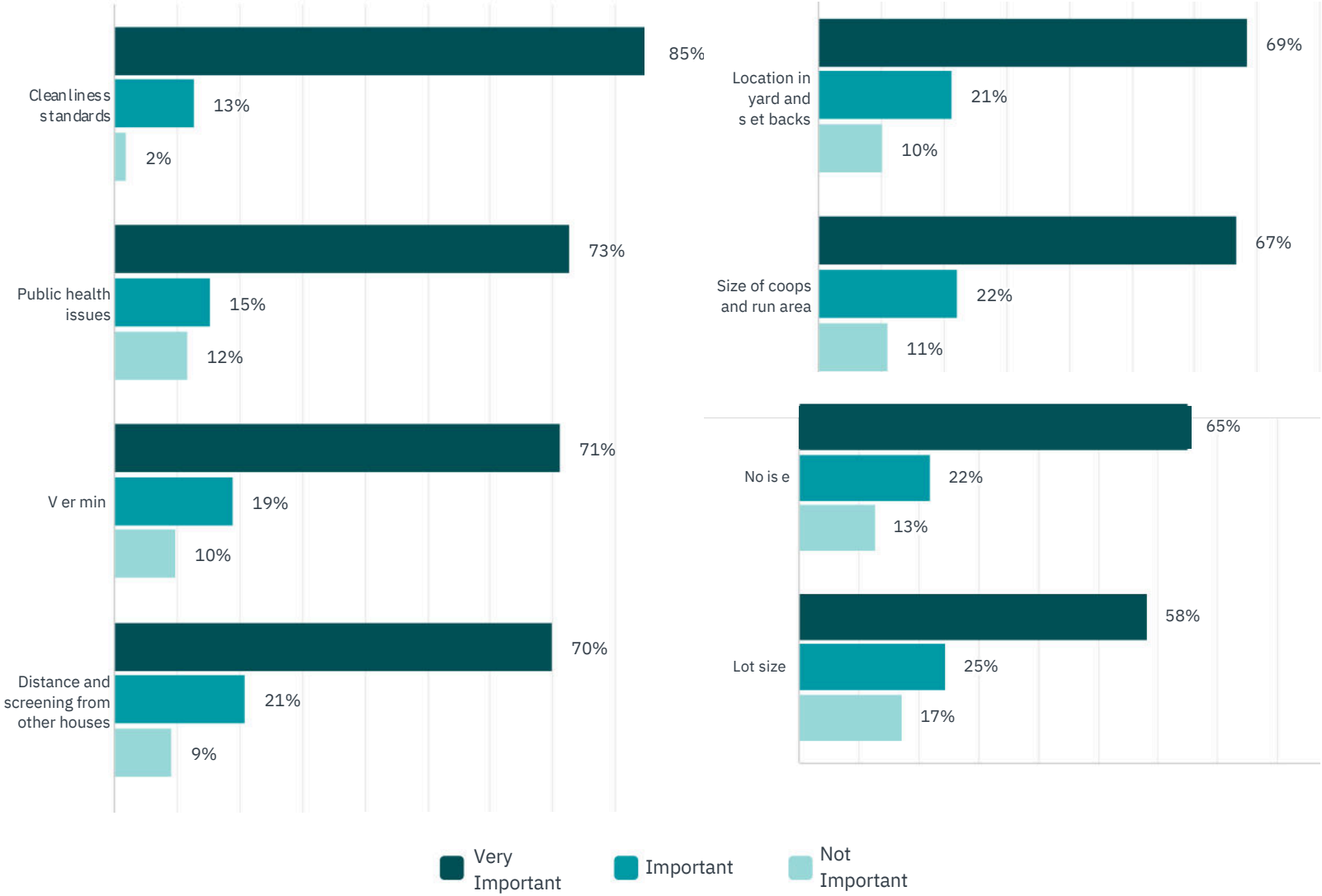
Yes 38% (46)



No 62% (75)

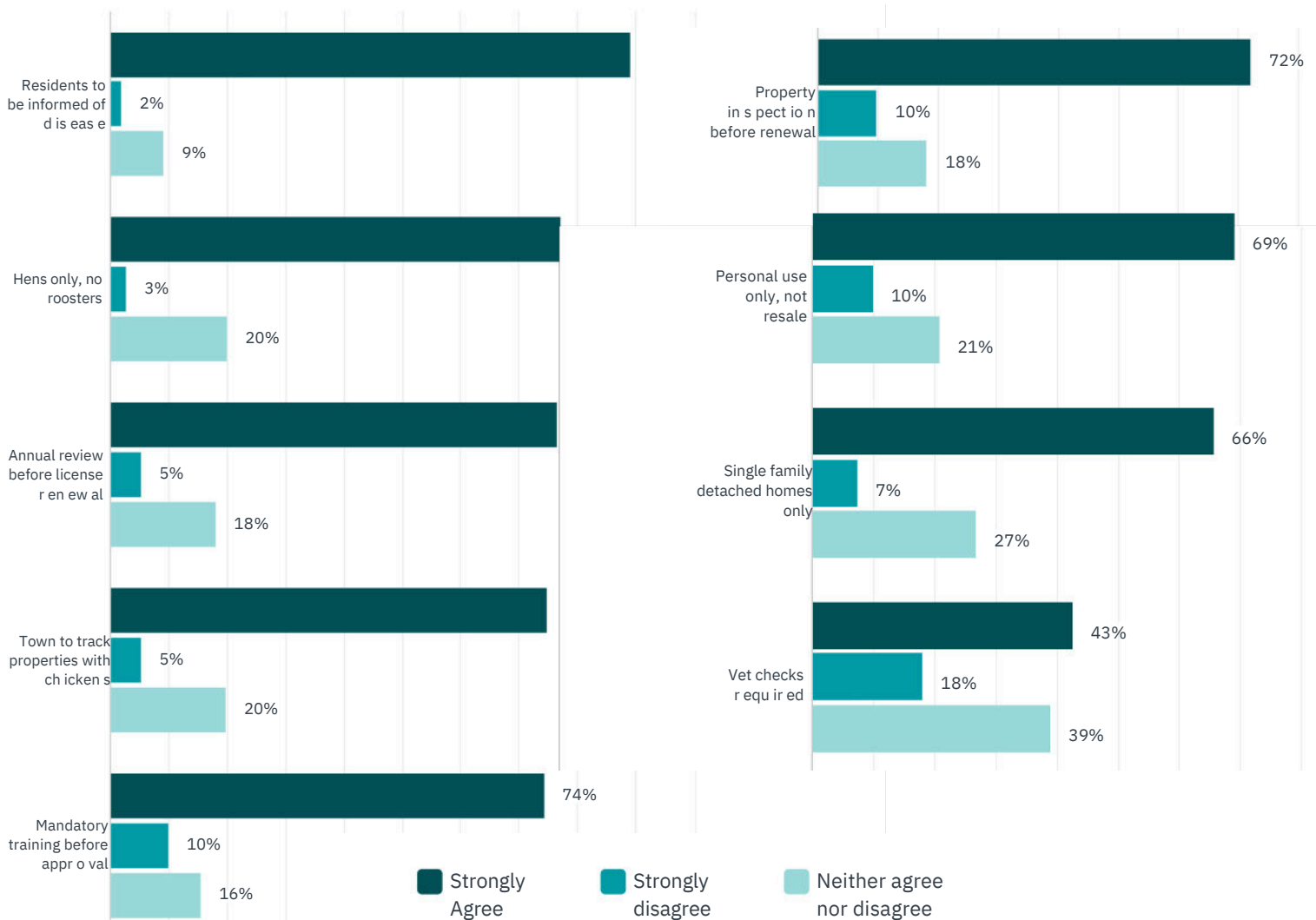
Q4 What regulations are important to consider in the bylaw.

Answered: 111 Skipped: 10



Q5 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Answered: 111 Skipped: 10



Q6 Additional Comments: Example: What looks good or what is missing in the new bylaw? Are there sections in the proposed bylaw that need to be changed and why?

✓ The Municipal Enforcement Officer, requested open ended questions be included.

A word cloud is a graphical representation of word frequency that gives greater prominence to words that appear more often.



Q6 Additional Comments:Example: What looks good or what is missing in the new bylaw? Are there sections in the proposed bylaw that need to be changed and why?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 61

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	If the program does move forward, I would appreciate it if the bylaw also included a section that requires tagging or identification of some sort, enabling the hens to be traced back to their owner in the event they get loose or are abandoned.	9/22/2024 12:17 AM
2	While the bylaw itself seems to have covered the primary bases of hen keeping in an urban setting, my own personal concerns with regards to proper space, threats from predators & potential problems with vermin, manure / smell, disposal and overall care (especially through the winter) have left me with the opinion that it is not in the best interest of the hens for this program to move forward. Additionally Section 6.15 of the proposed bylaw document references appeals that may be made under clause 5.13(i) or 5.13(ii); however Section 5.13 does not have any clauses listed. Similarly Section 6.15(ii) references clauses 5.12 (i), (ii), (iv), or (v) all of which do not exist.	9/21/2024 11:41 PM
3	No chickens allowed in town of Hanna	9/21/2024 12:51 PM
4	Leave the chicken to KFC	9/21/2024 7:49 AM
5	With all these regulations and fees keeping hens will be uneconomical. Fifty dollars per year per hen assuming about 150 eggs per year per hen would work out to about four dollars per dozen. Once you add the cost of food and housing for the hens it will be cheaper to buy eggs from the store. If you're going to make it financially difficult to keep hens then why bother at all. This appears to be creating the illusion of allowing a choice and the taking that choice away through fees.	9/20/2024 7:06 PM
6	I feel the feral cat problem should be dealt with first and foremost! It is absolutely out of control! Chickens WILL attract mice,rats,lice and a multitude of diseases can be possible with them if not looked after properly.I feel a tiny yard is not a proper area to raise chickens. The cats will move in looking for food and lodging as well there are all ready coyots coming into town, just wait till fowl are available.. I come from a place that had licensing of cats. It was a bill of expense that you wanted to look after your investment. they were at that time 15 dollars for a fixed ant 25 for non fixed. If animal was caught it was put in pound, you were notified, if you didnt pick up asap you would be charged pound fees. If after a specified time they were still in the pound they were adopted out or put down.If put down you were were billed for vet services and the pound fees if not paid and a home owner it was added to taxes if non home owner you were direct billed and if not paid small claims court..no one wants that for a max 25 dollar licence fee so most got the licence. I feel there will be alot of problems with dogs trying to get them and the cats and the wild creatures of the night. NO CHICKENS and LOOK AFTER STRAY/FERAL animals first.	9/20/2024 6:42 PM
7	I think the town of Hanna has a huge stray cat problem, we need to focus that before chickens! There needs to be a course to keep chickens, I believe that the town should have to check up on these chicken if this is passed and make sure they are being taken care of. If complaints are made then the town needs to check in on them. This is a ridiculous thing to allow in town when we have many other problems to look after first.	9/20/2024 6:16 PM
8	They do not belong in town. And do not agree at all. Animal control is not governed now by bylaw so by adding chickens will make animal issues even worse	9/20/2024 5:08 PM
9	business property	9/20/2024 3:51 PM
10	Not on chickens but why is there no limit, licensing and limits on cats especially with how many are at the shelter and the number going into others yards/gardens etc.	9/20/2024 3:31 PM
11	If the Bylaw officer does routine annual/sub annual check ups on these properties making sure they follow policy, there shoud be no issues. Same goes for dogs and cats.	9/20/2024 10:14 AM

12	with dogs problem should only be allowed 2 dogs not 3 nobody is cleaning up after dogs smell is terrible and more flies.	9/19/2024 9:47 AM
13	Curious why cats are not included in bylaw. Cats deficate in flower beds/gardens which is a health risk to many especially pregnant women who may enjoy gardening. Only 3 dogs are allowed as pets however no limit to number of cats?	9/18/2024 4:35 PM
14	I'm concerned about enforcement of bad behaviour. This is already a problem with animals that are traditionally acceptable in a town like cats and dogs. Livestock have a lot of possible issues and a license doesn't seem to mean an owner will be well behaved. I'm also concerned about noise and smell.	9/18/2024 11:00 AM
15	We already have a problem with dogs barking at all hours of the day and night with nothing being done, cats that have over run the town destroying flower beds etc and nothing being done about any of this. I can only imagine what is going to happen with chickens being c ont rolled	9/17/2024 6:44 PM
16	Coops must be well built to keep hens in and predators out with secured windows/doors for storms. Coops should be on wheels/skids for ease of cleaning/moving to prevent other unwanted animals or rodents taking up residence.	9/16/2024 8:29 AM
17	While I agree that it is important for Children to grow up with animals/pets, I'm not sure that Chickens are the answer, for if you change the Bylaw to include them you should also consider including other farm animals as well, cows, goats, pigs and so on. I am sure at one point or another someone came up with the idea to declare these animals " make you feel good " animals meaning they are supposed to provide you with emotional stability. Will you include Snakes and other critters? If you want to teach Children about animals, there are places you can go to I'm sure if asked a Rancher would let you and the kiddies visit the animals they have, the local SPCA has an abundance of cats just waiting for someone to come and spend some time with them, that way you can gauge how the child interacts with animals and teach them whats involved. While you think it is cute that your Grandson or daughter held a Chicken, getting an animal is a long commitment. All this aside from the facts that there are a lot of people out there for whatever reason refuse to pick up after their dog, what makes you think that these people will be more responsible in taking care of the Chickens, cleaning up after them is a lot different than a dog or cat. Your inviting more wild critters to come into town, do not safe for small children, cats and dogs. Diseases, bird flu and many more, do we really need this with so much other crap out there. In addition to the rest of the bylaws your planning on changing, you stated that no more licenses will be provided for vicious dogs? Who ever came up with that one needs to put their thinking cap back on, domesticated animals like dogs or cats are not born vicious, they are babies just like humans, it is the owners who turn them into a vicious animals. So if you label the dogs as vicious and no license what will you do to the owners? This bylaw is very bias towards dogs, cats can be vicious as well bylaw should be the same for them. Furthermore you will allow people with two dogs to breed them? That means any tom dick or Harry can breed their dogs, I hope you have bylaws inplace to assure that each and everyone of them is certified and licensed to be a breeder, you need to be extremely clear on that. There are enough unwanted animals out there. I hoped to attend the meeting and speak about these points but having mobility issues prevents me from doing so. My last point I lije to bring up is there are many outlining towns like Hanna that have or are in the process of getting dog parks, what are Hannas plans in that regard? Thank you	9/15/2024 8:09 PM
18	I would like to know why council is wasting time on such a ridiculous issue. Our bylaw officer to go to great lengths to get people to clean up their alleys and yards. I ant imagine how you expect any rules regarding chickens to be enforced	9/14/2024 3:43 PM
19	Do they track dogs? why are cats and goats or sheep not included ? why go to the work and not include other animals that are a problem How do you wash a dog with a neck tag on at a dog groomer when you can't take it off?	9/12/2024 1:30 PM
20	We believe that hens should not be allowed in town. Just because the cities are doing it doesn't mean we should. They have more resources for bylaw enforcement and actually do something. It puts the onus on the neighbours to report on those owning the chickens if they are outside of the standard thus becoming the neighbours that tattle on everyone. Trying to set a standard for the sense of smell is hard to do as everyone has a different sense of smell. If you look at our yard and one of our neighbours you can see the definition of an unkept yard is very different. Bylaw has done nothing over the past 26 years. It should be put to a vote at the next municipal election to get consensus and not follow the will of the loud few.	9/12/2024 10:36 AM

21	4 birds. Eggs, not meat. Private use. Unable to resell birds or eggs.	9/11/2024 6:46 PM
22	We seem to be behind on negligent property bylaws, this is going to compound our lack of bylaw enforcement and visibility.	9/11/2024 7:14 AM
23	I am 100 percent opposed to urban hen-keeping. This will only attract skunks, coyotes that will not only enter the owner for a potential hen-keeping properties that surround the hen Koop. The noise is also not controllable and when these hens get out of there cage and then you have loose birds that are even more attractive to the skunks, coyotes, and any other animals that prey on birds. This proposed bylaw does not at all address the vowel smell that comes with these birds. You cannot tell me that every single owner will have a clean pen and when it is cleaned out where is the waste going. Into our landfill? . WHAT ABOUT THE CAT PROBLEM. CAN SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME WHY CATS ARE ABLE TO RUN FREE AND SHIT AND PISS IN YARDS WHO DO NOT HAVE CATS NOR WISH TO EVER HAVE CATS. THIS IS NOT AN INCLUSIVE BYLAW. HANNA HAS A CAT PROBLEM.	9/10/2024 10:31 PM
24	Chickens make great pets!! It is very important that people clean up after them, especially in the summer so the smell or flies dont ruin it for everyone else. I think its also important to check on complaints etc before renewing a license and to check on the hens to aee they are properly looked after.	9/10/2024 9:14 PM
25	With all the cats roaming around and causing issues, why not deal with them first before they start killing chickens potentially	9/10/2024 6:39 PM
26	I don't want chickens in the town of Hanna. People can not seem to take care of there cats or pets of any nature in town and the SPCA is always full because people can't take care of there pets. The bylaw officer doesn't seem to want to deal with any sort of pet issues. (Like my neighbour who has 10 cats that are coming into my yard digging in flower bed and garden and bugging my dog.) on top of it all the loose pets (cats) that are currently roaming our streets are attracting enough unwelcome/unwanted critters (badgers, coyotes and etc.) which endangers our streets to our citizens especially our young children. We shouldn't be allowing rural animals in our town, till we can responsibly take care of our current pets. On a somewhat separate note I don't understand why we have a bylaw on dog registration and not cats? And now the town wants to try and have a chicken bylaw, but still not willing to deal with the cat situation in this town. What the use of having bylaws if you don't enforce them or follow them? I think our bylaw officer needs to be better at their job.	9/10/2024 5:47 PM
27	Chickens belong in rural areas not in urban settings!	9/10/2024 5:41 PM
28	Not sure how this will be regulated/tracked as currently no one is enforcing current by-laws / res t ric t ions !	9/10/2024 5:35 PM
29	If bylaw can't keep up with the lack of properly licensed dogs in Hanna . The dogs that are running lose is a major problem. Allowing chickens into town will cause nothing but more problems for some of us with breathing issues and the manure and smell from them will have me heading to the hospital . Chickens belong OUTSIDE of town limits they are a farm animal.	9/10/2024 5:32 PM
30	Number of chickens on a lot is important to add along with being able to affordably care for them properly.	9/10/2024 5:31 PM
31	Nothing about this bylaw is a good idea.	9/10/2024 5:17 PM
32	Allow 2000000 hen per permit	9/10/2024 7:44 AM
33	Further to the proposed bylaw it should be amended so that cats are included. I am tired of cleaning cat feces from my flower beds. They should be required to be controlled like dogs and allowed to wander freely as now occurs.	9/9/2024 5:50 PM
34	Chickens do not belong in residential areas. If you want to raise any animal or bird for food you should not be in a single family residential neighborhood. If chickens then why not pigs. It's are actually cleaner than chickens. Chicken droppings are the most potent smelling of all animal was t e.	9/9/2024 5:38 PM
35	On Nov 16, 2023 a house resident in Hanna laid out four skinned animal carcasses on their roof top. No one knows WHY except they were laid out uniformly, like they were to be frozen or dried? I HEARD that the house was a rental. I DO have pictures! Considering the IQ of some	9/9/2024 11:42 AM

35	On Nov 16 2023 a house resident in Hanna laid out four skinned animal carcasses on their roof top. No one knows WHY except they were laid out uniformly, like they were to be frozen or dried? I HEARD that the house was a rental. I DO have pictures! Considering the IQ of some On Nov 15, 2023 people living here (and the added problems of flies, mice and predator's being drawn to the "organic compost" sulphur facility) I think we have ENOUGH predator and pest problems AS IS. Don't you?	9/9/2024 11:42 AM
36	The licensing fee is too high for a chicken. I'm excited to get this going!	9/9/2024 9:16 AM
37	Do not feel this should allowed within town limits at all.	9/8/2024 7:14 PM
38	It seems to me that dogs and cats currently aren't monitored to the extent that is being currently looked at for chickens. Dogs make much more noise and can be much more aggressive, and cats are allowed to wander and poop on other people's property. If you're going to crack down on chickens please do the same for dogs and cats.	9/8/2024 11:46 AM
39	It is astounding that this "Bylaw 1035-2024" was brought to Counsel, and actually passed first reading!	9/8/2024 6:59 AM
40	No chickens in town period bylaw!	9/7/2024 7:26 PM
41	I do not agree with chickens in town. People who would like to keep farm animals should live on the farm. On a farm there is adequate space and distance from neighbors. Why is this all of a sudden necessary? Is there an example of a community that has done this? We should hear from those residents before moving forward.	9/7/2024 4:06 PM
42	Personally I think it's a great idea. I think it should happen and the process should be made easy for those that would like to participate in it	9/7/2024 3:38 PM
43	Cats run rampant around town and nothing is done about that. Very concerned as to how the chickens will be monitored	9/7/2024 10:13 AM
44	I'm against the keeping of chickens in the Town of Hanna. This is not the Farm of Hanna, but rather our Town! Further we live in a Agriculture rich surrounded area where our Town of Hanna is located. This area already has a number of Farm Businesses which raise chickens for both Meat & Egg Laying. The disgusting part of the education portion, is in seeing children photographed in cute arm holding of hens, in settings that really market & mislead from the underlying real issues of responsibly! These are live creatures and not an extension of ones ideas of pets!	9/7/2024 8:33 AM
45	Create a dedicated space for hens just like the Community Garden where it can be properly monitored. If the bylaw is approved it should be after a trial basis so if there are things that need to be changed the bylaw can be updated.	9/7/2024 6:38 AM
46	The biggest reason I selected NO to chickens is if they are allowed, what comes next?	9/7/2024 6:14 AM
47	This seems like a poorly done survey. All questions with the exception of the third one is geared towards approving chickens. There are homes all over town that are overgrown with weeds, grass, falling apart, and poorly maintained etc., and they are not dealt with by the town. We are led to believe that chickens will get properly tracked and dealt with? I don't think so. Chickens are very smelly, can cause serious sickness and disease, and they do not belong within town limits. They will ruin the resale value for anybody nearby them as well. Please respectfully shut this bylaw down. From a concerned resident and business owner for many years in this town.	9/7/2024 12:03 AM
48	It may not be a problem if the owners are responsible however we all know someone that is not responsible with their dogs or cats and it's very hard to actually do anything when they violate the bylaws. People wanting this have never cleaned a chicken coupe and I sure don't want that smell beside me. I don't live in town to be living beside someone raising chickens and coaxing coyotes etc. into town.	9/6/2024 8:10 PM
49	Birds cut down on the kitchen waste that goes to the landfill! There should be a limit to the number of birds!	9/6/2024 8:09 PM
50	Why did the Acadia Lodge In Hanna get rid of the hens? Check it out. Taxes are too high to allow more possible unkempt properties. Way to launch another attack on small business trying to provide service in the community. Let them rent property outside of town, how about over by the new town shop.	9/6/2024 7:30 PM
51	How complaints will be dealt with? Three strike rule?	9/6/2024 6:57 PM

52	<p>Your survey is geared for the assumption that the bylaw will pass, so I had to answer accordingly. I do not want chickens in town. The bylaws and the bylaw enforcement don't look after the cats and dogs in this town, never mind adding chickens. One thing no one looks at is, all the chickens would be relatively safe from predators when they are in their coops, but all the predators are going to be running around in our yards trying to figure out how to get into the coops. I bicycle everyday in this town at 5:30 a.m. and see all the wildlife that is in this town, which some is on two legs and bicycles, but nobody seems to care about them either. Our little perfume factory on the hiway makes enough odour for this town, never mind adding chickens.</p>	9/6/2024 6:16 PM
53	<p>I am happy to see that neighbors are to be included in the process. I am strongly against hens as I have an allergy to feathers.</p>	9/6/2024 4:36 PM
54	<p>The risk of avian flu is a reminder of how quick COVID was spread. Why take the risk?</p>	9/6/2024 4:32 PM
55	<p>Chickens should not be allowed in town until there is a proper method of dealing with predators first as they are going to attract more into town. Coyotes have already been an aggressive and an issue as well as skunks, fox, snakes and no proper way to deal with those already. Chickens are susceptible to disease and lice- how will that be handled?? We have no proper bylaws to deal with these issues that happen now.</p>	9/6/2024 4:12 PM
56	<p>Chickens are meant for rural areas, not towns.</p>	9/6/2024 3:39 PM
57	<p>There should also be bylaws about cats as well as there is too many running around loose in this town and the rescue center is overwhelmed with them already for years. If you are going to have chickens in town then you may as well allow pigs and cattle too. All of those animals belong on a farm where they have room not crammed in someone's single lot yard. There should also be approval from the neighbors as well to see if they want to live with the smell of farm animals next door</p>	9/6/2024 3:36 PM
58	<p>I don't think hens belong in the community. What about odors. Also we have enough wild life coming into Hanna. Some people don't clean up after dogs and cats running free. Also dogs running free .we will have problems with hens being killed eggs going missing. If this is going to take place I think unannounced coop calls should take place .Pick so many every month .If not following the rules .Shut them down period. How will you keep track of the un licensed coops. In town</p>	9/6/2024 3:29 PM
59	<p>DO NO HARM! The law every one of us have to follow. There needs to be nothing more. If that law is broken, then proceed. You can't punish people even before they are given the chance! Legislated law....can change in a heartbeat! They mean nothing People must be treated equal and given a fair chance to succeed! No government bodies can impede that! Unalienable human right to own property, to earn an income and be .^{END} is trying to create dangerous situations, nor the residents. Councillors makes up less than. 28% of our population. That needs to be kept in mind at all time's. DO NO HARM</p>	9/6/2024 3:15 PM
60	<p>My biggest concern is related to the approval and enforcement process as the license holder continues to renew. What is the process upon renewal? And, if all conditions are not met in the bylaw, will it actually be enforced. Who's job will it be to monitor these coops. For example, if a homeowner has movable coop, and after approval moves it closer to the fence line, is it going to be up to me to complain about my neighbor before it is enforced? not good.</p>	9/6/2024 8:49 AM

Correspondence

From: neil.b.jesse@ [REDACTED]
To: hens@hanna.ca
Thu 29-Aug-24 6:36 PM

While this may seem a great idea to many, without any foreseeable problems, I totally disagree to allowing this to occur in the township of Hanna AB.

We are living in a Northern climate which means there must be suitable housing to keeping the birds safe from the cold during winter months. That means we will allow for small heated sheds in the back yards of those choosing to keep chickens. That means there must be regulations on what is acceptable in a shed (measurement of size) & safe heating units and light(s)/switches as needed. There is the risk of fire hazards while in use. Will these sheds be inspected by a fire marshal to get accepted and approved?

There is also the need to ensure these birds are indeed keep safe. Are cared for in the manner needed, in acceptable feed(s) and a fresh water supply. How often would there be a check on their keeping in a year and who would do that?

There is also the acceptable used & disposal of manure. Can the owner use the raw manure in their gardens or would they be required to bag & dispose at the local dump? What if the manure is allowed to sit for long periods smelling up the back yard as well any adjacent properties? In the dead of winter the amount of manure may grow until spring thaw and what would be the requirement for manure removal? Who would regulate this?

To me there is too much opportunity for neglect, the need for regulations, and the risk of diseases due to poorly managed birds & manure. It is a situation already where some dog owners do not clean up after their own dog in their back yard. This leads to an unsightly mess, as well the stench of dog manure, when left unattended.

Simply my answer is NO!

Thank you for listening.
Best regards,
Neil Jesse
Phone 403-854-8886
Sent from Mail for Windows

Correspondence

Daniel K. Campbell- [REDACTED]
To: hens@hanna.ca
Fri 06-Sep-24 8:47 PM

I've already filled out the survey. The survey is geared towards assuming that the bylaw is going to pass and what should be required to have hens. That made it very difficult to properly voice my opinions and concerns.

#1. If my neighbours all decide to get urban hens, how will this impact the resale value of my property? Has anybody done any research into this. My property value in this town has dropped at least \$100,000 in the last 10 years. It's hard enough trying to keep property values up, and now you want to put chickens next door. So, when a potential buyer for my property shows up to view my place, and we're sitting outside in the back patio having an ice tea, and a nice big quaff of chicken manure floats by our noses, how much is that going to hurt my sale. I bought my house in this town, because it was in this TOWN, not beside a barnyard. I know all the excuses about the bylaws that will be in place regarding the maintenance of the coops and the disposal of the manure. I also know how well the bylaws regarding dogs work in this town. Bylaws in this town basically haven't been enforced in the last 10 years. Take a drive around town, look at how many vehicles are parked on the wrong side of the road, how many alleys are partially blocked with trailers and RV's. A holiday trailer on 1st Ave. Was tagged with a warning tag almost a month ago. Three days later the tag was ripped off, the trailer is still parked there, not hooked up to anything, never mind being moved. They park a truck in front of it to make it look good, but it's not hooked up.

If we are updating our bylaws to enable ur local want a be farmers to have chickens in town, then why don't you include bylaws for cats. There are far more towns and cities in Alberta that have cat bylaws, than there is that have chickens.

As I said in the survey, there is an abundance of wildlife in this town during the dark hours of the night. I ride my bicycle every morning at 5:30 a.m. and see all the fox, coyotes, skunks, weasels, etc., not to mention the bicycle bandits on their way home with their full back packs. Anyway, the wildlife will become more so in town if they start hunting chickens and their eggs.

I'm not sure how this chicken thing got started, but it seems that there wasn't much thought went into it. I have yet to talk to one person that would be in favour of having chickens next door. Feel free to reach out to me if you need clarification on any of my comments.

Dan Campbell
Hanna, Alberta
Canada. T0J 1P0
403-854-1102 cell

erniep08 [REDACTED]
To: hens@hanna.ca
Sat 14-Sep-24 10:45 AM

I am totally against allowing hens in town limits. It is quite obvious that our bylaw system and enforcement does not work. Keep hens in the barn yard where they belong.

Thank You
Ernie Pedersen

Correspondence

L. Nelson-Karg

To: hens@hanna.ca

Mon 16-Sep-24 7:10 AM

Relative to the members of Hanna's Town Council, how many were raised on a farm and had the daily job of looking after a pen of chickens, including gathering eggs, cleaning the poop out of the chicken house, plus also keeping the chickens fenced in area clean of the 'not so pleasant' smelly chicken droppings? Chickens also 'moult' (lose all their feathers yearly), thus lots of feathers, noise and smell... What plan does Town Council have for the proper and timely removal of smelly droppings from their yard, plus the removal of moulted feathers in the surrounding area, as feathers will also end up in their neighbors' yards? And exactly where will the droppings be disposed of?

Both my husband (on a farm near Watts) and myself (on a farm near Michichi) raised chickens for many years, and it involves a lot of work to keep the chicken house clean, not to mention the fenced in area, plus chickens can be very noisy...

Chickens also attract skunks, etc looking for a 'tasty meal'... We personally do not want skunks looking for food anywhere near our home in Hanna.

I am hoping that if you decide to approve residents having chickens in their backyards, that you also approve considerable reductions in yearly property taxes for all their neighbours, as this will impact the value of all the homes that are near neighbours that have chickens.

If you go out to any farms that raise chickens, I am thinking you won't find any chicken houses/pens near their homes and that is for good reason. Plus we have farmers in the Hanna area that raise chickens (and also sell eggs) to help support their farm business. This is a farming/ranching area and we also need to support our farmers.

We hope that common sense, and consideration of all your tax payers, will prevail in your decision.

Yours truly,

Les & Linda (Nelson) Karg

Correspondence

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to propose an initiative for an Urban hen pilot project for the town of Hanna, AB. This project would allow citizens of the community, like myself, who have a passion to build a “greener”, more self-sustainable lifestyle to help return to a more meaningful and simple way of life that reaps the rewards on a deeper level between man and nature.

The domestication of poultry took place thousands of years ago. Many people feel “tied” to supermarkets and with the imploding inflation, a once affordable food source has turned into an unfortunate expense, even for the average person. It is becoming increasingly difficult to purchase basic healthy food sources on a budget due to economic strain.

Many communities and cities have allowed or are beginning to allow residents to have poultry on the property. One such city is Edmonton, AB. “The goal of the pilot project was to further understand the impacts of urban hens to determine good husbandry principals within urban context.” The pilot program started in late 2014 with 19 sites and continued for the next 2 years. On March 7, 2016, the city of Edmonton extended the project for another year and increased the total number of urban hen keeping licences from 19 to 50. Limitation has been lifted effective May 2019, allowing residents to have hens so long as they follow bylaw guidelines and licencing requirements. For more information regarding their program, I encourage you to visit the city of Edmonton website to review their information regarding their Urban hen project program.

Another such city, is the city of Lacombe, Ab. The city of Lacombe’s Bylaw 469, which was brought in on June 28, 2021, allows residents to keep hens on their property. With any pilot project specific terms and conditions must be met before permits are issued to approved applicants, to ensure a safe, humane and enjoyable experience. Again, if you have questions or concerns, I would encourage you to visit Lacombs website to get more details or information about their specific program. Other such locations with similar Bylaws include:

Whitehorse – residents allowed up to 6 hens.

Vancouver – allows maximum 4 hens per lot.

Victoria – has no backyard chicken limits, but the number of chickens must be consistent with the Residents personal egg use.

Self-sustaining practices support human and economic health along with vitality without compromising future generations and depleting natural resources. Consider the following benefits of the Urban hen project:

1. Chickens lay eggs which are a healthy food source.
2. Chicken manure contains nitrogen, which is an excellent natural fertilizer.
3. Urban hen project supports family activity, responsibility and learning for adults and children, helping them get involved in understanding how food gets to our table.
4. Great compost system. Chickens eat many food scraps that would otherwise end up in the landfill.
5. Bug control.
6. Because the program would not allow roosters, noise would be limited to cute cooing and clucking.
7. This program may appeal to retirees.
8. Local financial stimulation, including local hardware shops for lumber and feed.
9. Surplus eggs could be donated locally to food banks or town gatherings such as rodeo weekend pancake breakfast, for example.
10. Our country partners(farmers) who have or had chickens can be our “poultry professionals”, who can provide education to those interested in raising hens.
11. Local vet care is available to provide support and care if needed.
12. Local bylaw officers can help deal with concerns as needed.

In closing, a number of people from the community have shown interest and are excited about a potential prospect of an Urban hen project and would gladly support it. Thankyou for your time and consideration of this incredible opportunity of self-sustaining practices and bringing about a more simple and rewarding way of life, a harmonious connection between man and nature.

Sincerely,
Charlene Crowle

What We Heard Phase II



Summary and Next Steps

Survey results, submitted correspondence and the public hearing strongly indicate that Hanna residents do not want Urban Hen-Keeping added to the Town of Hanna's Animal Control Bylaw.

Q3. 68% of survey respondents do NOT think Hanna residents should be allowed to keep laying hens in Town limits.

Q4. The top 3 things that the survey respondents are most concerned about are:

1. Cleanliness Standards
2. Public Health Issues
3. Vermin

Attendees of the Public Hearing were not polled but staff in attendance are confident that the feedback from their presentations will increase the percentage of residents opposed to adding Hen-Keeping in the Animal Control Bylaw.

This report will be presented to Hanna Town Council on October 8, 2024 for acceptance and direction to staff and municipal enforcement.

