



The Village Project – What You Need to Know

The “It Takes a Village” Project (the Village) is a partnership between Cowichan Housing Association (CHA) and Lookout Housing and Health Society (Lookout). Funding is provided through the provincial and federal government, and North Cowichan submitted the application on behalf of Cowichan Housing Association.

- 34 people will be provided with temporary accommodation at the Village site.
- There will be additional facilities for Lookout staff as well as fully functioning washrooms.

During the Temporary Use Permit deliberations, City of Duncan Council recommended that we reduce the number of sleeping units to 34 (initial application for up to 40 units).

The 6 additional units are being stored until we confirm what community partner will be using them elsewhere in the Cowichan Valley.

- CHA’s agreement with the landowner and the City of Duncan was signed and issued on January 6th, 2022, and we commenced site work on January 10th, 2022.
- Anticipated opening/move in of people is mid-February 2022.

The project has been delayed by four weeks because the sleeping units were manufactured overseas and were stuck in the Port of Vancouver for a month. These port delays were largely due to transportation disruptions and the backlog resulting from the mid-November floods. Snowfall events and labour shortages due to Covid likely caused additional delays.

The sleeping units are now on Vancouver Island and being assembled at the Nexus Modular facility in Cobble Hill. **The placement of the sleeping units on site will begin the first week of February 2022.**

Intake/Selection Process

- The intake/selection process for the Village is happening through Coordinated Access process.
- This means that for people to be considered for the Village, they will need to submit a Supportive Housing Registry (SHR) application and also submit a Cowichan Valley Supportive Housing Assessment (Supplemental Assessment).
- The SHR can be submitted to the <https://puf.bchousing.org/ProgramUploadForm/Start> link and the assessment can be emailed to the vancouverislandshr@bchousing.org email and copy sarah.sadler@bchousing.com



Closure of St. Julien and the Mound

The two existing cabins sites are being decommissioned in March 2022. We recognize this is a significant loss of essential community resources and a difficult time for everyone as we adjust to this new reality. The closure of these sites cannot be helped because the land leases are up in March and the sites need to be cleaned/cleared by the end of March at the latest.

We need to have people transition out of (move out expected mid-March). There are not enough units at the Village to accommodate all the people at both sites, as well as others who are still waiting to be housed. Through the Coordinated Access process, people are working hard to find housing for people that best meets their need.

Meal Preparation/Food

Meals will be provided by Cowichan Green Community, delivering meals, and providing both breakfast and a dinner for each participant daily. Snacks and the occasional lunch will also be provided when available. The Cowichan Valley Basket Society will be utilized to gain access to additional nutritional needs and supplementation to the planned meals per day. Shelter participants will have access to a full-sized refrigerator shared between their "pod" grouping to help store their personal items and assist in keeping meals fresh. Guests will also be encouraged to access additional community resources, such as The Friendship Centre, Life on Wheels, and others who will be coming forward to assist.

Security Plan

The site will be staffed 7 days a week by 2 Lookout Shelter Resource Workers per shift, two shifts beginning at 8am and ending at 12 midnight. Lookout provides staff fully trained in first aid, conflict resolution, overdose response, utilizing Trauma Informed Practice in all interactions. Lookout will ensure that the immediate neighbourhood is patrolled by security and peers that are well versed in managing this population and the related challenges. Abiding by the good neighbour policy drafted.

Blackbird Security will have 2 static security guards posted at the site from 12am to 8am, 7 days a week. During this time, there will be an additional 6 patrols a night by two additional units to help support the surrounding neighbourhood as well.

- Installation of perimeter fencing around the whole of the property
- The installation of lighting in all areas where people will be on site
- Removing bushes/shrubs that could be used as hiding places and retain any trees that provide a natural barrier
- No visitors outside of support, other related services, will be onsite at any time.
- Use of personal protective equipment including but not limited to personal alarms, cell/portable phones and walkie talkies.
- Site leadership is available on-call 24/7.
- Smoke detectors in each temporary shelter unit.