

From: Suzie Thomas
To: [DL - Council](#); [Comp Plan Update](#)
Subject: Update to the 2017-2018 SJC CP
Date: Monday, April 03, 2017 5:54:31 PM

Dear County Council, Planning Commission, Planners and other relevant decision makers

I don't know anything about a Comprehensive Plan. I looked on the County's web site and found it, but I found it very hard to understand. Can you please create a Comp Plan for Dummies document that explains clearly what it means, for affordable housing, growth of activity centers, wildlife and environment, water, taxes and the preservation of why I came here and live here?

I live on Orcas, and off and on have lived here a total of about 17 years. Prior to that, I moved with my family to San Juan Island in 1967, when I was 11. I graduated from highschool at FHHS. Love island living, love small town community and closeness, love the beauty of the islands. And in particular love the charm and beauty of Orcas Island and its village.

As the years have passed, and more and more mainlanders move to the islands, I've watched massive change happen both on San Juan and on Orcas, not all of which is beneficial. For instance, since I am on the poorer end of the financial scale, it is more and more difficult to find affordable housing, and even now, businesses cannot always find the service people they need due to lack of such housing. Guest houses, cabins, these kinds of dwellings, which used to be offered to low income folks like me, have been turned into vacation homes. And while OPAL, for instance, is thankfully trying to help and able to help with the new apartment building(s), I continue to feel concerned with the difficulty of finding affordable housing.

There are also so many condos, and houses, and buildings, being built in Eastsound, I'm concerned the beauty, charm, and quiet pace of the village are going to be destroyed. Does the Plan make accommodations for maintaining the beauty, charm and pace of the village?

Is there anything being done in the planning department to allow tiny homes (which are affordable!) to be permitted on land they currently are not permitted to stay on year-round? Is there any provision being discussed to allow tiny home villages, as it were, which some islanders (here on Orcas at least) have envisioned building?

In what ways is the public being involved in the planning and visioning stages? The only reason I even know of this is because a Facebook friend posted it!

I love Orcas, love island life. I've lived in the islands the majority of my life, and now at age 61, want to live the rest of my days here, where we have clean air and water, and a community who cares about living in community, cares about local farming, local businesses, organic food... I would not want to see so many changes that it stops being the atmosphere and environment I fell in love with so many years ago when I chose to leave San Juan and move to Orcas.

Most sincerely,
Suzie Thomas