



Regular Council Meeting

To:	Mayor and Council
Date:	March 1, 2021
From:	Elana Arthurs, Clerk
Report Number:	Corporate Services 2021-08
Subject:	Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Public Consultation and Status Update

Recommendations:

1. That By-law No. 2020-62 as amended by By-law No. 2020-78 restricting ORV use on Township roads be maintained until the completion of the County of Peterborough Transportation Master Plan; and
2. That Staff be directed to report back to Council following its completion.

Overview:

At the December 21, 2020 Regular Council meeting Staff was directed to amend By-law No. 2020-62 being a by-law to regulate the operation of Off-Road Vehicles (ORV's in the Millbrook and North Monaghan Wards within the jurisdiction of the Township of Cavan Monaghan to include prohibiting ORV's in the Cavan Ward. At this time, By-law No. 2020-62 as amended by By-law No. 2020-78 prohibits ORV use in the entire Township of Cavan Monaghan.

During the November 30, 2020 Special Council Meeting, Council heard from fifteen (15) individuals who provided their views on ORV use in the Township, nine (9) members spoke in favour and six (6) members spoke against.

Leading up to and following the Special Council Meeting held on November 30, 2020 staff collected comments through a variety of methods, representing a variety of views on the use of ORV's in the Township of Cavan Monaghan. **423** submissions were received from individual people, **277** of them were in favour and **146** of them were against ORV use on Municipal Roads in the Township of Cavan Monaghan.

Those that are in favour provided comments indicating that the use of ORV's provide a variety of benefits including recreational enjoyment, the ability to provide maintenance on their properties and in some cases for neighboring properties and a greater opportunity to travel for those who may have mobility issues. Residents also spoke to the increase in property values, the efficiencies that ORV's provide for gaining to access to and between their properties for economic benefit and farming purposes.

Many submissions spoke to moving to the country to enjoy the use of their ORV, the beautiful scenery and the natural heritage of the Township of Cavan Monaghan.

Those that submitted comments against the use of ORV's on Township Roads noted that they are designed for off road use, had concerns with the enforcement, safety and excessive noise and exhaust pollution. Many residents spoke to the risk of ORV's on the roadways that are shared with heavy truck traffic, motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. There were a number of comments that addressed the potential increase in insurance cost due to additional exposure and risk of accidents and the number of users that do not abide by the rules of the road and are trespassing on private property to access the trails. Many submissions indicated their experience with disrespectful riders and their lack of respect for the environment and natural features, also noting that Cavan Monaghan should remain a tranquil and peaceful community.

In addition to the comments, there were three (3) different petitions were received.

Petition #1 received **608** supporters and stated the following:

Petition to Council concerning ATV road usage;

The following residents of the Township of Cavan Monaghan are requesting Council to take the necessary steps to implement a by-law to allow ATV's to be operated on all roads that fall under the jurisdiction of the Township.

Petition #2 received **20** supporters and stated the following:

Support for opening roads in Cavan Monaghan Township to ORV's

Petition #3 received **46** supporters and stated the following:

Let them ride! Please sign petition to allow ATV riders to commute down back roads to trails for Cavan Monaghan area.

The County of Peterborough is continuing to develop their Transportation Master Plan which includes a review of ORV use on County Roads to help identify opportunities to support safe ORV use. <https://www.ptbocounty.ca/en/living/off-road-vehicle-study.aspx> The timelines are uncertain although their website offers an opportunity to subscribe to receive notification of updates and additions to their website. The County website indicates they will provide further opportunities for input and feedback as the study progresses.

At this time staff is recommending that the By-law in place restricting ORV use on Township roads be maintained until the completion of the Transportation Master Plan which includes community engagement and feedback and the review of ORV use on County Roads. Once the County of Peterborough Transportation Master Plan is completed, staff will provide a report to Council to allow for further discussion on the opportunities for ORV use in the Township of Cavan Monaghan.

Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact at this time.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Elana Arthurs
Clerk

Yvette Hurley
Chief Administrative Officer