

Good Neighbour

Date of Approval by Council: 01/12/93; 03/16/99**Resolution No.:** 17/93; 205/99**Lead Role:** Council**Replaces:** N/A**Last Review Date:** April 18, 2017**Next Review Date:** 04/2020**Administrative Responsibility:** Bylaw Enforcement / Legislative and Legal Services**Special Notes:** May also refer to the Strathcona Mediation Society (464-8445)

Policy Statement

Strathcona County believes that the mediation of disputes should be attempted prior to bylaw enforcement proceedings being instituted to reduce neighbourhood conflict. Strathcona County also endorses the philosophy that it is desirable to have members of the public attempt to resolve difficulties with adjacent landowners themselves prior to the involvement of County staff in enforcement proceedings under County bylaws. Such a policy is also reflective of budget restraints and the need to reduce the costs associated with enforcement actions.

Procedures

The administration of this policy is the responsibility of the County departments which initiate bylaw enforcement proceedings.

The County recognizes its obligation to effectively enforce its municipal bylaws but also recognizes the financial and social advantages to be gained by the cooperative resolution of neighbourhood disputes and shall, to the extent possible, encourage a mediated settlement of such matters.

1. County staff involved in the enforcement of County Bylaws shall encourage complainants to discuss concerns directly with the party allegedly responsible for the infraction.
2. Where there is a reluctance on the part of a complainant to conduct face-to-face negotiations, County staff shall contact the party allegedly responsible for the infraction in an attempt to resolve the situation without the necessity of issuing a violation tag or stop order.
3. Where the complaint received is of an emergent nature, or where a negotiated settlement is not possible, timely enforcement proceedings may be instituted.
4. Strathcona County staff shall not become involved in mediating disputes between individuals in those instances where the matter in dispute is a purely civil matter.