

Dear Amsterdam/Churchill Resident:

On January 19, 2010, the Gallatin County Commission adopted the Amsterdam/Churchill Community Plan. This plan represented countless hours of work by the community over the past two years and will guide land use decisions in the Amsterdam/Churchill area as our community continues to grow and change.

The following are next steps we are taking to implement our Community Plan:

Zoning. A primary tool implementing the Community Plan will be drafting and adoption of a zoning regulation. Generally, this means we will take the policy statements found in the Community Plan and convert them to regulatory language. Everything in the regulations must follow the Community Plan.

As many of you know, the entire county is currently covered by an interim zoning regulation addressing gravel pits. This interim regulation does not stop permitting of gravel pits; it simply requires gravel pit operations to go through a public process and address concerns of surrounding neighbors. This interim regulation expires on May 7, 2010. The Gallatin County Gravel Pit Task Force has created a set of recommendations for adoption after expiration.

Our Community Plan addresses adoption of standards mitigating gravel pit operations (Policy 5.5). In keeping with the desire for Amsterdam/Churchill residents to maintain local control of land use changes in the area, the Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group (ACCPG) will incorporate those standards into our local zoning regulation. Given the expiration date of the interim regulation, the ACCPG is proposing the Amsterdam/Churchill Zoning Regulation be adopted in two separate steps:

- *Step 1:* Adopt the gravel pit portion of the zoning regulation in early May;
- *Step 2:* Adopt the remainder of the zoning regulation by summer of 2010.

Community Water. Another primary implementation tool of the AC Community Plan is a discussion of a potential community water system in the Town Core. The Amsterdam Rural Fire Department has offered to host those discussions, which should begin in Spring 2010. Additionally, the Local Water Quality District is in the process of annexing the Amsterdam/Churchill area, which will allow local residents to take advantage of water quality monitoring and testing through the County.

Sidewalk. The ACCPG was awarded \$90,000 by Gallatin County and the Montana Department of Transportation in August 2009 to construct a sidewalk along Churchill Road. The group continues to work with Gallatin County to move that project forward. The ACCPG eventually would like to connect all of the primary roads of the towns of Amsterdam and Churchill with sidewalks and will continue to apply for grants to move that project forward.

As you can see, there's a lot happening over the next several months and we need your help. If you have questions, please call Walt Sales at 570-2128 or look at www.amsterdamchurchillcommunityplan.com. If you want to help, the ACCPG meets on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 7 pm at the Churchill Bank. Our next meeting is February 8, 2010. We would love to see you there!