



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Terri Towstiuc, Clerk
Date: 2024-11-28
Subject: Backyard Urban Hens

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Terri Towstiuc, Clerk Re: Backyard Urban Hens, one-year pilot project and draft-by-law; And

That Council approve the pilot project by-law as presented/amended, to be reviewed in one-year time; And

That Council direct staff to bring back a final policy and by-law for approval at the next Regular Meeting of Council.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide a draft by-law for the purpose of Backyard Urban Hens, for discussion, comment and approval in theory.

Background:

West Elgin Council requested staff to initiate a Backyard Urban Hen policy, to allow residents to house Backyard chickens on non-agricultural properties.

The by-law was created in comparison with the Municipality of Southold, who passed this same by-law in October 2024. Currently, we share the same By-law Enforcement Officer, therefore making the by-law comparable makes sense from an ease of enforcement standpoint.

In collaboration with By-law Enforcement, a report will be brought back to Council late fall, 2025, with details regarding the 2024 Backyard Urban Hen Pilot Project, including complaints, enforcement issues and recommendations for improvements.

Financial Implications:

Fees to be collected pursuant to 2025 Fees and Charges Schedule

Policies/Legislation:

Creation of new Policy and By-law

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Infrastructure Improvement	Recreation	Economic Development	Community Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/> To improve West Elgin's infrastructure to support long-term growth.	<input type="checkbox"/> To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	<input type="checkbox"/> To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by,

Terri Towstiac
Clerk