

Staff Report for Decision

File Number: DP001062

DATE OF MEETING January 15, 2017

AUTHORED BY GARY NOBLE, DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL PLANNER, CURRENT

PLANNING AND SUBDIVISION

SUBJECT DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NO. DP1062 -

20 PRIDEAUX STREET

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present for Council's consideration, a development permit application for a 57-unit rental apartment building at 20 Prideaux Street.

Recommendation

That Council issue Development Permit No. DP1062 at 20 Prideaux Street with the following variance:

- increase the maximum height of a principal building from 14m to 15.25m; and,
- reduce the required off-street parking from 57 parking spaces to 17 parking spaces.

BACKGROUND

A development permit application, DP1062, was received from D-Architecture on behalf of Mount Benson Seniors Housing Society to construct a four-storey rental apartment building for seniors. The proposed development is funded by BC Housing under the Investment in Housing Innovation (IHI) program and will create affordable housing units targeted to seniors with low to moderate incomes.

Subject Property:

Zoning	R8 – Medium Density Residential
Location	The vacant subject property is near the corner bounded by Mill Street, Barsby Avenue, and Prideaux Street.
Total Area	2,960m ²
Official Community Plan (OCP)	Map 1 – Future Land Use Plan – Downtown Urban Node Map 3 – Development Permit Area No. 9 – Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Multi-Family, and Mixed Commercial/Residential Development
Relevant Design Guidelines	General Development Permit Area Design Guidelines

Site Context

The surrounding neighbourhood is in transition with a mix of building stock, including one - and two-storey single residential dwellings, a four-storey rental apartment building, and a four-storey condominium building with under-the-building parking to the east of the subject property. Barsby Park is on the north side of Prideaux Street.



DISCUSSION

Proposed Development

The proposed development is a four-storey, 57-unit rental apartment building with a gross floor area of 3,688.25m². All units are one bedroom with a floor area of 51m².

Site Design

The subject property has three road frontages: Prideaux Street, Mill Street, and Barsby Avenue. The proposed building siting creates three desirable site conditions:

- a strong street wall along Mill Street with ground floor units having direct access to the street;
- a south facing amenity space with ground floor access; and,
- at-grade parking allocated to a less desirable site area along the east property line abutting an existing multiple-storey concrete wall - the parkade wall of 24 Prideaux Street.

Building Design

The rhythm of the structural peak-roofed building bays, with outdoor balconies along the southwest and northeast elevations, creates a residential architectural vocabulary and building articulation. The over-height gables, a feature of each structural bay, effectively break up the length of the horizontal roof parapet that is designed to hide the flat roof.

The northeast building elevation incorporates additional architectural details for the underbuilding entrance to the at-grade parking area, the main building entrance, and a small office storefront. The use of exterior finishes of cultured stone veneer, Hardie panel, and siding tie in all the building activities together and express a strong building base. The west and east elevations are articulated through the use of horizontal siding and Hardie panel.

The building construction will target Step 3 of the BC Building Code, which exceeds the standard of the current BCBC energy requirements by 20%.

Landscape Design

The landscape design has three themes:

Street Edges

The street trees and the front yard metal picket fence locations create a strong street edge along the three street frontages.



Outdoor Amenity Space

The outdoor amenity space is southwest facing and has been programmed with a covered pergola for shade, raised planting beds for gardening, and hard surfaces for tenant gatherings. The amenity space is designed to be accessible.

Adjacent Condo Multi-Storey Parkade Concrete Wall

The design strategy for the existing wall along the east property line is a combination of green wall and a surface treatment (ie. paint or mural). The extent of the finish needs input from the strata council of the neighbouring property at 24 Prideaux Street. The proposal includes painting the wall prior to the planting of two climbing vines (Virginia creeper and clematis Montana) at the base of the wall, which over time will provide a floral expression in the spring and summer, and an architecture of stems in the fall and winter.

Design Advisory Panel Recommendations

At its meeting held on 2017-SEP-28, the Design Advisory Panel accepted DP001062 as presented with support for the proposed height variance, and provided the following recommendations:

- Consider ways to anchor the floating section of the building at the entrance area (materials/colour);
- Consider ways to break the massing of the building at the belly band;
- Consider ways to make the ground floor units more distinct and read more "residential" (fence detail or continuation of sidewalk);
- Consider providing separate walkways for ground level units along Mill Street;
- Consider ways to enhance the lower level units (ie. patio space / porches);
- Consider expanding the shelter for the outside amenity space; and,
- Look at ways to create some variation, and better identify the main entrance way.

The applicant has made the following changes in response to the above-noted recommendations:

- The floating section of the building (entrance to onsite parking) is anchored with a larger wall face (4m wide) on the east side of the drive-thru. The supporting elements of the entrance to the parking area are clad in stone to ground the building;
- A belly band has been added between the first and second floor to emphasize the change in material finishes;
- Ground floor units along Mill Street have a fence detail and a connection to the public sidewalk;
- The lower level unit patio areas are enhanced with additional landscaping and an arbour with an entry gate;
- The pergola has been increased in size; and,
- The main building entrance is highlighted with a variety of finishes including stone, Hardie panel, and wood soffits.

For more information, see the Attachments.



Proposed Variances

Building Height

The maximum height of a principal building is 14m. The proposed building height is 15.25m, a proposed variance of 1.25m.

The flat roof of the building has a height of 13.61m, which is 0.39m below the maximum permitted height; however, the roofline includes 16 over-height gables. The gabled bays, which are pitched to contrast the building's flat roof, represent just 25% of the roof area.

The increased building height applies only to these portions of the roof and allows a design that mitigates potential overlook issues from neighbouring properties. The over-height gables also provide the development with a residential expression that is consistent with the General Development Permit Area Design Guidelines.

Required Off-Street Parking

The required off-street parking in Area #3 – Reduced Multi-family Parking Area – is 57 parking spaces (1 parking space per dwelling unit). The proposed off-street parking is 17 parking spaces (0.3 parking spaces per dwelling unit), a variance of 40 parking spaces.

Mount Benson Seniors Housing Society operates more than 200 seniors rental housing units in downtown Nanaimo. Based on their observations of similar existing developments, it is anticipated that the number of seniors that own a car will be less than 30%. The proposed parking rate (0.3 spaces/unit) is consistent with the rate for seniors congregate housing, a comparable use, and is an appropriate rate for the anticipated demand. In addition, a housing agreement will be required as a condition of development permit approval, to be registered on the property title prior to building permit issuance in order to secure the rental units for affordable seniors housing units.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Development Permit Application No. DP1062 is for a multi-family development for senior's rental units at 20 Prideaux Street.
- The proposed development meets the intent of the General Development Permit Area Design Guidelines.
- Staff support the proposed height and parking variances.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Permit Terms and Conditions

ATTACHMENT B: Location Plan ATTACHMENT C: Site Plan

ATTACHMENT D: Building Elevations

ATTACHMENT E: Site Details



ATTACHMENT F: Landscape Plan ATTACHMENT G: Aerial Photo

Submitted by:

Concurrence by:

L. Rowett

D. Lindsay

Manager, Current Planning and Subdivision

Director, Community Development

ATTACHMENT A PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TERMS OF PERMIT

The City of Nanaimo "ZONING BYLAW 2011 NO. 4500" is varied as follows:

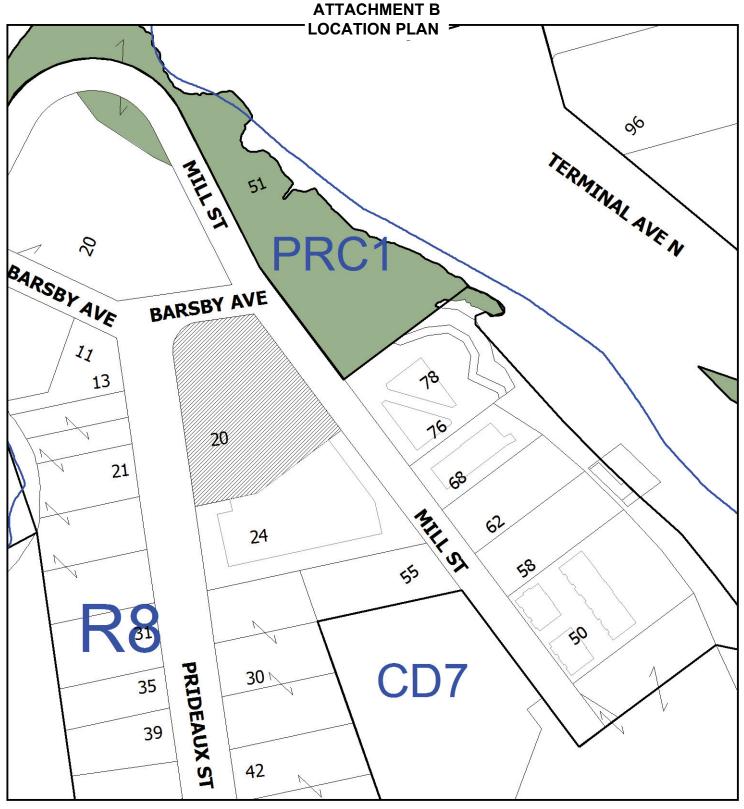
1. Section 7.6.1 Size of Buildings – to increase the maximum height of a principal building from 14m to 15.25m for up to 25% of the roof area.

The City of Nanaimo "Development Parking Regulations Bylaw 2005 No. 2013" is varied as follows:

1. Schedule 'A' – to reduce the required number of off-street parking spaces from 57 to 17 parking spaces.

CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

- 1. The subject property is developed in accordance with the site plan prepared by D-Architecture, dated 2017-OCT-10, as shown on Attachment C.
- 2. The development is in general compliance with the building elevations prepared by D-Architecture, dated 2017-NOV-27, as shown on Attachment D.
- 3. The development is in general compliance with the site details prepared by D-Architecture, dated 2017-NOV-27, as shown on Attachment E.
- 4. The subject property is in general compliance with the landscape plan prepared by JPH Consultants Inc., received 2017-NOV-27, as shown on Attachment F.
- 5. The subject property owner agrees to enter into a housing agreement with the City in order to establish the terms and conditions regarding the occupancy of the Housing Units identified in the Agreement prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.





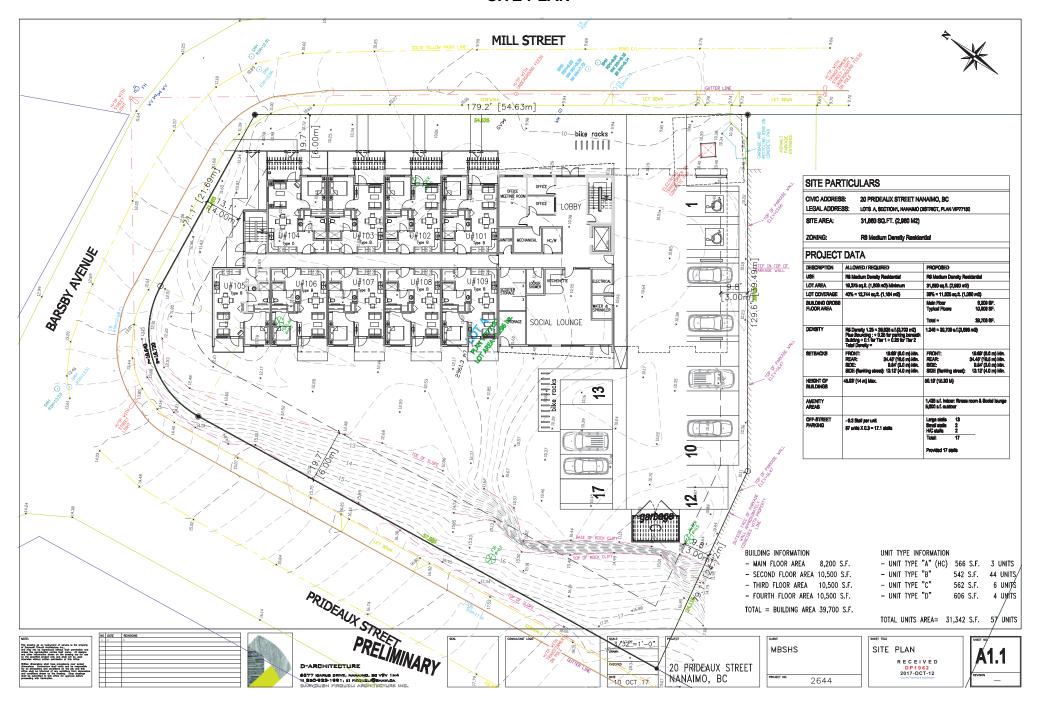


LOCATION PLAN

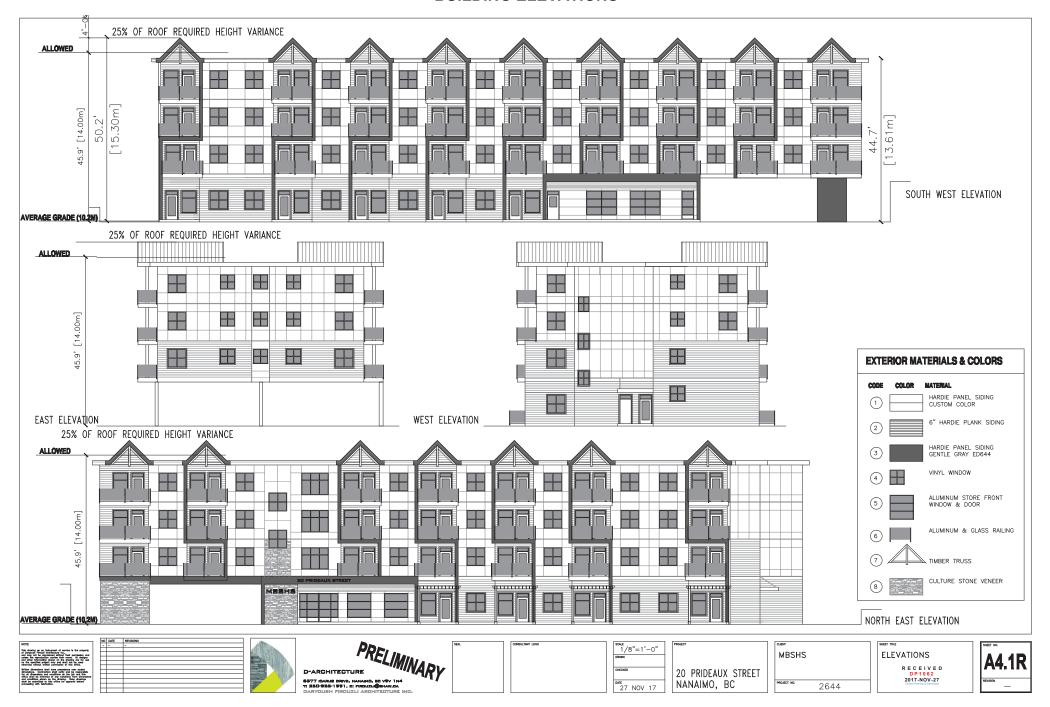


Civic: 20 Prideaux Lot A, Section 1, Nanaimo District, Plan VIP77182

ATTACHMENT C SITE PLAN

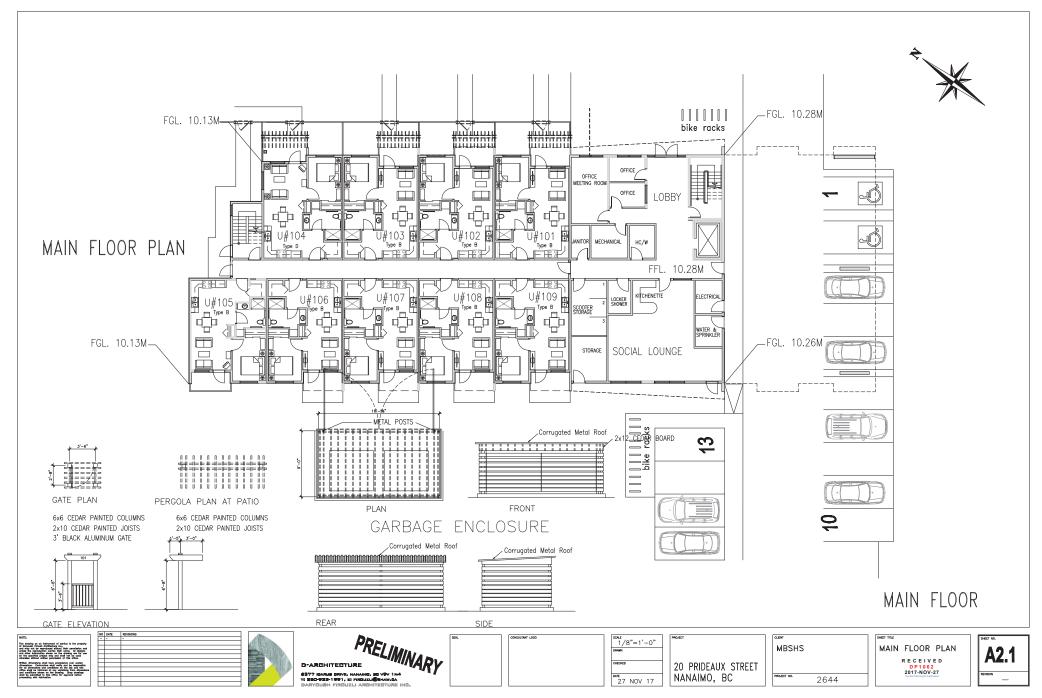


ATTACHMENT D BUILDING ELEVATIONS

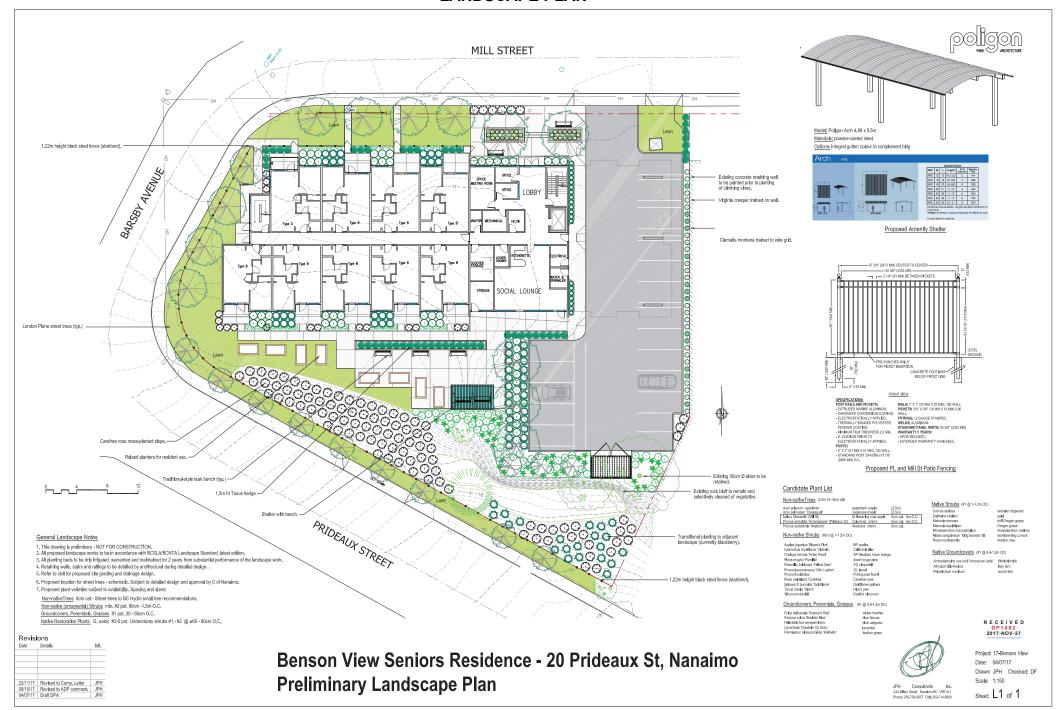




ATTACHMENT E SITE DETAILS - ARBOUR GATE AND GARBAGE ENCLOSURE



ATTACHMENT F LANDSCAPE PLAN



ATTACHMENT G AERIAL PHOTO



DEVELOPMENT PERMIT NO. DP001062

