Public access to the shoreline at Kure Beach hasn’t kept up with the town’s 10-year population boom, but that’s likely to change as the town tries to plan for more growth.

That growth could include oceanside public restrooms and paving and expanding to the town’s existing access lots. However, it’s riding on the controversial Shoreline Access Plan, which the Town Council will consider adopting Tuesday. The town has grant money to pave three of the lots.

Holland Consulting Planners Inc. of Wilmington developed the plan from July to November last year.

Some residents feel the community wasn’t involved in designing the plan. “It’s a good plan and we’re heading in the right direction, but I don’t think the community input was always there,” said Mac Montgomery, a Kure Beach resident.

He said he believes the town’s growth in recent years is drawing criticism from some residents.

Kure Beach Mayor Betty Medlin stands in one of the gravel parking lots the town wants to pave. The plan

People that have problems with it are saying once we accept this plan it will take on a life of its own and be the law of the land.”

Jim Dugan
Kure Beach Councilman

understands that the plan, which will be considered Tuesday, wouldn’t force any action without further debate, he worries what effect it might have on future funding and grants if it’s not followed.

He asked, “This plan will be presented to the Army Corps of Engineers and CAMA as a demonstration of our good faith effort to qualify for state and federal funds. If we pass a plan and then choose not to implement parts of it, how will our funding be affected?”

The public hearing to address resident concerns will be at 5 p.m. Tuesday at Town Hall, 117 Settlers Lane.

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