

Tony Burbeck, WCNC 9:49 p.m. EDT October 3, 2014



VAN WYCK, S.C. -- Neighbors in Van Wyck want the community of about 2,000 people to incorporate into a town, claiming that action will give them more say in the future growth and quality of life of that area.

"Van Wyck effectively doesn't have any political representation at all," said homeowner J.R Wilt.

Van Wyck has a lot of land, but not that many people, and Wilt says, little if any input or influence into decisions made by the Lancaster County Council regarding growth.

"We get regarded as a source of land for the expansion of Indian Land, but we don't see it that way. We've had a community here for 200 years."

"We're trying to keep a small, rural atmosphere here and it's just not happening," said neighbor Tom Foster.

Neighbors know new homes are coming, and that's ok.

Foster and Wilt want larger homes on larger lots, not hundreds of smaller homes in tightly packed cluster subdivisions.

"It's more than the roads can handle, the school system can handle," Foster said.

Incorporating would mean greater control over development, plus their own mayor and council.

It would also mean a town tax, roughly \$100 a year on a \$100,000 home, Wilt said. That is an expense people who live there do not pay now.

"There's no taxation without representation, so let's go with that. I think its fine," said Foster.

Turning into a town requires a signed petition, approval by the state and then a special election.

If that works, the plan is start small, literally, by incorporating less than two square miles.

Then, hoping it grows through neighbors with the same beliefs willing to annex their land in exchange for a larger say in Van Wyck's future.

Neighbors will meet about possible incorporation next Tuesday night.