

Glenora Community Visioning Workshop Consultation Summary

Glenora Hall
November 3, 2015; 6:15 - 9:15 pm,

Attendance:

Approximately 35 community members

Staff: Katy Tompkins, Mike Tippett, Ali Garnet, Bev Suderman and Maddy Koch

Director: Alison Nicholson

Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to identify the core values of the community, and to begin to create an Official Community Plan (OCP) community vision statement that is consistent with the community's core values.

The Director for Electoral Area E, Allison Nicholson, gave a brief presentation before introducing Katy Tompkins, who provided an overview of the previous public events and an orientation to the community visioning workshop, before facilitating the individual and plenary exercises.

Exercise I: Core Values

Staff provided an overview on the importance of core values to the preparation of Official Community Plans. Participants were asked to reflect on their lives, the community, the built and natural environment and the long history of the their land. They were then requested to record their individual core values on paper, and a plenary discussion followed. Core values were stated (not in order of priority) as:

- Agricultural is key to local sustainability
- New farmers having the opportunity to share former farm land, or arable land with owners who do not wish to farm, with CVRD assistance, knowledge, and small grants. Build connections between farmers and land owners.
- Mutual respect
- Food – security, quality
- Protect water resources
- Protect our natural resources and ecological assets
- Safe community environment
- Stewardship of where we each live – take care of your land
- Changes to the community need to embrace sustainability and care for the environment
- Respect agricultural history
- Agriculture
- Sustainability
- Protection of resources
- Autonomy

- Sustainable organic farming/living
- Community support
- Sustainable agriculture for land owners and develop for new and younger generation
- For agriculture – hope that it would continue – no subdivisions
- Maintain agricultural lifestyle
- Welcome people to the community who want to farm
- A sustainable agricultural community
- Collaborative consultation processes vs. Hearings
- Respect for neighbours and community
- I am my brother's keeper
- Equality
- Community decision making.
- Respectful planning for quiet recreation.
- Respect the environment
- Respect of water source and keeping it clean
- Ability for people to earn a living salary in line with our values in an environmentally sustainable way
- As property owner; having certain rights and privileges
- Less regulation – we hear a lot about developing local farming and providing for local communities, but over regulation has put some local businesses out of work – example- our local butcher
- We live well
- Mutual respect
- Rural community, quiet, safety
- Fair, transparent collaborative processes that allows one to accept good as well as difficult decisions that affect oneself and family
- Inclusion of people from all different walks of life (cultures, countries, special needs etc.)
- Connecting with people on a very human level – knowing deeply our neighbours, being able to rely on others and support those we live near
- High quality of life with access to clean water and high quality local food
- Equality for all – meeting the needs of the community
- Community connectedness
- Safe environment
- Environmentally awake/ecologically balanced/respect for environment/community/individuals
- Recognize the wilderness/wildlife interface with the community, whereby the wildlife is accommodated not controlled/removed.
- Fences make good neighbours
- Safe place for children
- Accessible mixed recreation, especially those that can function as transportation (e.g. bike

routes)

- Glenora historically safe community to raise families
- Strength and support of community – overt plan, inclusive decision making
- Supporting each other knowing neighbours, creating healthy relationships and discussions
- To respect our neighbours by – watching out for their health, well being as you would for your own family
- Recreational facilities that benefit the area as a whole
- Enough for all
- We are Glenorans
- Respect for neighbours
- Children – safety-inspiration-learning
- Respect for other views and of other opinions
- Stay true to yourself
- Inclusion
- Strengthen our neighbourhood – assistance for each other (usually on our block)
- Share among our neighbours the “goodies” – be it from the garden or orchard, skills, etc
- This is our children’s land
- Values reflect Canadian Constitution of peace, order and good government that reflects the collective interests of a community - global, national to local
- Be open to change and other opinions
- Evolution of the community from forestry/industrial to mixed use
- Healthy environment
- Respect for the environment
- Glenora creek is an indicator of the health of the community
- Protection of our ecology and landscape
- Educate people on water usage during dry spells. Last summer most neighbours were delinquent in usage, others just watered all the time with no concerns
- Care for our local and world environment
- We need to live in harmony with the earth, in a way that allows people, animals, plants, micro organisms etc. to thrive for many generations
- Protect environment
- Environment – inclusion – sustainability
- Water should be main issue
- Resources
- Sustainability for the environment that preserves the diversity and health for future generation. This includes commercial uses that rely on the environment, such as farmers, fisheries, tourism, etc.
- Maintaining ground water integrity
- Important to protect aquifers for people on wells
- Healthy ways of living on the land protection of the land, environment, forests, etc

- water to be protected
- We need to find other ways (ie. Smaller homes, ground living) to reduce our impact on wildlife and land
- Glenora creek – water-health-volume
- Respect the environment
- Co-exist with wildlife
- We are a community the interfaces with the wilderness
- Multi use of land with approval of land owners
- An ocp can't be useful if it is an unrealistic not in my back yard document.
- Change is constant –need to adapt with mixed uses
- Education – overt sharing of ocp – and a “briefer/summarized” version Having a minimum of laws and regulations but enough to protect well being of others
- Honouring the freedom of individuals not imposing laws that restrict peoples choices
- Property rights – freedom to use your own property as you wish
- A realistic community plan is one that realizes the need to participate in all the greater areas needs
- CVRD having more input on how forestry companies handle our local forests
- Disregarding climate change and not making option available to land owners to deal with the changes
- Local community and its direction in the future and its values for its present residents
- Belief in one god

Exercise 2: SWOT (Plenary)

Staff explained how the SWOT process can help the community to collectively gather information about internal and external factors that may impact the future evolution of the community. Participants were asked to convey the community's strengths and weaknesses, the threats to the community, and its opportunities. Each participant then rated the results by placing markers on what they perceived to be the most important strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats:

Strengths

- Beautiful and attractive lifestyle (11 marks)
- Trans Canada Trail (10 marks)
- Well established and maintained agricultural land (10 marks)
- Block watch Glenora- strong organization (10 marks)
- Community members band together (6 marks)
- Alderlea farm market store and restaurant (6 marks)
- Small business which can take advantage of assets (5 marks)
- Beef and dairy farms (4 marks)
- Glenora is a destination Contained- not a lot of traffic (4 marks)
- We live well- it's what we do best (4 marks)

- Glenora website (2 marks)
- Glenora Community Association (2 marks)
- Diverse farming community
- Glenora Farm
- Shared values and beliefs- core values
- Motorcycles and wine routes
- Helps identify strangers
- Non-intensive, with large lots
- Home businesses that provide employment
- Keep families in area
- Glenora Trail Head park

Weaknesses

- Current forestry practices out of sync with ecological and economic needs to the community- clear-cuts affect water supply, wildlife and vegetation - diversity (24 marks)
- Limited water availability (8 marks)
- Lack of young people in the community (5 marks)
- Lack of relationships with neighbouring first nation community (6 marks)
- Conversion of farms into non-farms (7 marks)
- Grandfathered zoning that is not appropriate (5 marks)
- Reliance on old wood stoves-smoke during temperatures inversions (4 marks)
- Difficult to get farm status-hardship (4 marks)
- Not much of a buffer between forestry lands and rest of community ie. TC Trail (4 marks)
- Cycling and other connections Trans Canada Trail to Duncan- narrow road shoulders (4 marks)
- Too dependent on fossil fuels (3 marks)
- Enlists community-NIMBY-ism (1 mark)
- Lack of say over whether there will be through traffic in future
- High bar to meet in light of water restrictions

Threats

- Running out of water or having contaminated water (13 marks)
- Freeway through Glenora (11 marks)
- Climate change (10 marks)
- What we don't know, like what could happen at the end of our roads? (10 marks)
- Garbage dumping and littering along roads (7 marks)
- Inappropriate forestry practices (7 marks)
- Crime – Robbery (3 marks)
- Forestry trucks going too fast on local roads (3 marks)
- Resource extraction
- Graded pits, an example of threats from Senior Governments

- Lack of oversight regarding toxins
- Will happen faster than what we anticipate
- Forestry practices – influence practices
- Downstream impacts
- Access – losing access to forest lands through sale of real estate
- Risk of blow down
- Costs assumed/borne by community

Opportunities

- Road Improvements for multi model events- marathons, cycling races (15 marks)
- Relationships with neighbouring First Nations (11 marks)
- Better use of resources (10 marks)
- Bioregional approach (9 marks)
- Incentives to youth to farm (7 marks)
- Small business (5 marks)
- Improved public outreach (from CVRD) (5 marks)
- Keep economic benefits within the community (3 marks)
- Changing crops (3 marks)
- Openness to new ideas (2 marks)
- Exchange of local natural resources (2 marks)
- Inclusiveness in decision making (2 marks)
- Strengthening relationships – (1 mark)
- Abundance of crown land
- Capitalized on local attributes
- Compatible with community
- Low impact on environment

Exercise 3: Visioning (individual/Plenary)

- Initially an individual exercise was provided, to encourage participants to imagine Glenora in 2046, in the most hopeful and optimistic light, while still acknowledging the existing challenges of the community. They were then asked to write down their thoughts about Glenora in 2046, at a time when all of the OCP's goals had come true. This was followed by an opportunity to discuss the future at each group table. A plenary conversation was then held. Visioning comments (not in prioritized order) as follows:
- Food from your backyard
- Hub farmers market (local)
- Get back to producing more food at 70% local
- Whole, not processed food
- Valuing forests – value added wood products
- Horse industry supports broader agriculture sector
- Healthy Cowichan River

- Keeping traffic slow and safe
- Signage – speeding
- “Silent” cars
- Trans Canada Trail
- Grow infrastructural
- Tourism and recreation
- “Slowing down”
- Recreation
- Improved signage
- Quiet recreation nature sounds
- Cycling
- Wine tours
- Solitude
- Safe modes of travel (scooters)
- Urban centre near Glenora Store
- Solar panels and heat pumps
- Work remotely
- Air propelled vehicles
- E-votes for decision making
- Tree replacement requirements
- Opportunity to stay in community as we age
- Solar energy opportunities
- Self sufficiency and diversity of energy sources
- Embrace new technologies
- Support for implementing alternative energy
- Representation from all community members – across socio-economic and age spectrums
- Family friendly
- Voices from youth. Participation from youth.

Summary of the Visioning Graphic

Throughout the duration of the workshop planning staff undertook graphic recording, and later explained the significance of the graphics to the participants.

Next steps

Planning staff discussed the next steps of the project and thanked community members for attending.