

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS!

Over the past several months, the District of Lake Country, with the assistance of CTQ Consultants Ltd, has been undergoing the public input stage of their Official Community Plan review. This involved four Stakeholder meetings, a Mayor and Council Visioning session and a *public survey*. More information regarding the Stakeholder meetings and Mayor and Council Visioning session is available in the complete report.

The comprehensive survey questionnaire was distributed to all Lake Country households during June of 2007. The intent was to elicit feedback regarding key issues and concerns specific to Lake Country. A modified survey was also created and distributed to George Elliot Secondary School students; 238 additional surveys were returned.

The Survey

A total of 1172 surveys were returned by the July 10, 2007 deadline. This corresponds to a 31% return rate. Due to the high return rate there is a strong level of confidence that responses are representative of the Lake Country population.



The survey was divided into three main sections. The first set of questions covered respondent demographics. The second section covered several topics, including;

- Issues related to the current OCP
- Population Change and Residential Growth
- Commercial Land Use
- Industrial Land Use and Economic Development
- Institutions and Schools
- Agriculture
- Open Space and the Environment
- Services and Utilities
- Transportation.

The final section was a series of open ended questions designed to allow the respondent to express their vision for the future of Lake Country.

Survey Themes

Detailed responses and analysis on each of the survey sections are available in the Public Survey Report. Examination of the answers revealed several common themes. These include;

- A strong emphasis placed on completing and enhancing the Town Centre and Main Street.
- Controlling the rate and location of growth.
- Improving the transportation infrastructure with special attention being placed on Highway 97.
- The preservation of the “*rural atmosphere*” of Lake Country.

Town Centre

According to survey respondents, the Town Centre and Main Street need to be developed as an “*economic core*” and focal point for the community. In the open ended questions, respondents referred to a completed Town Centre and Main Street as an essential part of the 5, 10 and 20 year vision for Lake Country. A “*completed Town Centre*”, “*developed Town Centre with a commercial area*” and “*a thriving community with a bustling downtown core*” are samples of respondent’s comments.



Control of Growth

Overall, the desire to control the rate and location of growth reoccurred as a highly supported topic. Respondents indicated that growth should be limited to designated areas, including the Town Centre. Survey responses ranked the use of District planning and development principals and zoning policies, as the preferred means to control and manage residential growth. Survey results showed that long term residents (ten or more years) were more likely to feel that the current growth rate was too high.

Roads and Connectivity



Highway 97 and internal connectivity are both concerns with residents of Lake Country. A large percent of residents commute outside of the area for work likely influencing the high level of support for improvements to transportation infrastructure. Four laning, or constructing a bypass in place of Highway 97 were common sentiments in the open ended questions of the survey. General improvements and road maintenance of all transportation routes within Lake Country also ranked very high.

Rural Atmosphere

Preservation and enhancement of the “*rural atmosphere*” in Lake Country, was the number one issue respondents identified when asked to rank the top 5 concerns that need to be addressed over the next 5 – 10 years. Responses from the open ended question indicate that *rural atmosphere* is a combination of the open space, pristine environment, mix of agricultural and residential, and the rate and type of development in Lake Country. All questions pertaining to “*rural atmosphere*” or “*neighbourhood character*” received strong support.



Report Availability

A complete copy of the report and survey results is available for download on the District of Lake Country website (<http://www.lakecountry.bc.ca/>). Copies are also available for viewing at the Regional Library.