



3/15/2017

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES PROCESS & RESULTS SUMMARY

Glenwood & District Economic
Development Society



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ALBERTA CULTURE & TOURISM

On March 15, 2017, the Glenwood and District Economic Development Society “Glenwood EDS” Board hosted a meeting with 22 community members to discuss and identify the community priorities for the Village of Glenwood. The session was facilitated by Leah Roedler, Community Development Officer, Alberta Culture and Tourism. This report captures an overview of the process as well as a summary of the results from the meeting.

Welcome & Introductions

The Chair of Glenwood EDS welcomed everyone and informed the participants that the purpose of the meeting was for the Glenwood EDS Board to learn what they believe the community priorities are for the Village of Glenwood. The chair also shared that the results of the discussion will inform the Glenwood EDS Board strategic planning process. Following the welcome, introductions were made and the facilitator provided an overview of the role of the Community Development Officer and outlined the services provided by the Community Development Unit.

Agenda and Guiding Principles

To set the context for the session the facilitator reviewed the agenda and confirmed with the participants if there were any other topics they would like added. To encourage an inclusive and respectful environment the group agreed to the following guiding principles.



Brainstorming

The purpose of the exercise was to have the participants brainstorm what the strengths and opportunities are for the Village of Glenwood. Using a post-it storming process participants were asked to 'think about their community' and respond to a series of six questions. Participants were to writing down one idea per post-it note and they could provide as many responses as they could think of. Once the individual brainstorming was complete the participants, working in teams of three, grouped the responses into common themes and then named each theme. The results of the exercise are captured below.

What do you love about it?	
People & Friendliness, Good Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people; People are very caring about each other; I love the unique people that live here; the people; Good people raise good children (the children are good friends) • Everyone knows each other • Peaceful community; the quiet and peace in this area • Friendly; Friends and Neighbours – friendliness; Great Friendly People; The people are friendly; Friendships; Friendly, the friendliness and knowing all of the inhabitants and the sense of “family community”; the friendly people • Freedom • Good Neighbours helpful in time of need • Many residents volunteer many hours to help make Glenwood great; the willing volunteers
Safety, Location, Views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe place to raise a family • Not crowded • Location; Location – Mountains • Home Base • Beautiful, wide open spaces; Beautiful area; beautiful view of nature. • Close to 3 fairly decent size communities • Small town – sense of belonging • Close to US Border easy to travel to the US (highway) • The easy going lifestyle
Small Town Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That it provides opportunity for growth • Mostly quiet • Small town community feel • Lot sizes • Size; size
Amenities for Public and Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library, school • The water; pure water • Low Taxes • Clean air • Village is building(built) spray park and BMX park, fixing the ice rink – all for the benefit of families.

What are you most proud of?	
Town Beautification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Murals; murals; murals; Proud to show off the beautiful paintings in town; Painted up Main Street • Planter • The accomplishments of the committee • Town beautification • The things that are being done by people - moving forward • Heritage; Pioneer Heritage; Heritage; Heritage • Ancestors
Rural area and Natural Beauty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exports • Great Place to live; Glenwood is a safe place to live • Small Town atmosphere • Scenery; The beauty of our surroundings; Wide Open Spaces • Mixed lifestyle; Country living environment; Proud of our rural setting
People Cooperating and Working Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers in the Community • Communities in Bloom people • Dedication of Villagers (Service Minded) • There are lots of people serving on committees and boards • The people who live here and the values they live by • The enthusiasm of village and willingness to help each other • The people • Hard working people willing to be involved
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ice cream parlour

What are your hopes and dreams?	
Harmony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community that is inclusive of everyone. • Everyone getting along; The village residents will get along together • Less political fences and more neighbours helping and caring for neighbours
Family Friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That it may continue to be a good place to live. • Maintain small community atmosphere • Freedom to grow and learn • I hope that we can be progressive and have a higher population; but not lose the "community" feeling we have. • My kids will bring their families back to live in Glenwood;
Economic Increase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a solid economic base • More jobs/businesses; Bring enough business to make a good living for everyone • Keep and increase industry; Tourism related industry • Maintain Viability; Stay viable through growth • Have enough Glenwood Students to fill our school • Bring young families in • Fame and Fortune • High speed internet for the Village and County residents; Fiber Optic • That we can maintain the community and grow; Maintain friendly Village

What should we start doing?	
Support Local Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We could use a little more help with volunteerism • We need to create enthusiasm for being able to live here • Find ways to invite other businesses and venues to come and spend some time here • Attract Business • Support Local; Support local businesses; Support existing businesses • Provide some more amenities to help seniors and the elderly. • Facilitate incentives to attract people to Glenwood and area.
Industry / Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think outside the box. • Incentives to small business owners • Establish an anchor to bring in a money making business • Create jobs for our youth • Some growth but not huge • We need some industry so people can make a living and raise their families and kids can come home to live.
Cooperate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing nice in the sandbox. • Building relationships with neighbours and community • Cooperating with stakeholders/neighbours
Communicate not criticise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should start a community communications forum to relay council info to residents. • Open line of communication; Communicate • Events for tourism to improve – be friendly and considerate • Working together instead of just complaining. • Help others (work on building the community up and not trying to tear it down) • Respect each other's opinions and beliefs
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve roads • Curbs and gutters (clean road side edges) • Fix smell • Fix up ball diamonds • Roof on ice rink
Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work more with county projects. • Advertise; Advertise programs to other communities • Baseball

What have we always done that we should no longer do?	
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under utilizing committees/groups • Gossip; gossiping • We've tired that it doesn't work • Doing things without public input • Being too critical
Decisions/ Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing the CAO to make final decisions. Have council do some research and make final decisions • Village council should make the decisions not the CAO.
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide free services – water, dumping • Wasting money • Depending on Saputo
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burning garbage in town
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking to someone else to make things happen. • I would like to see a decrease of the number of councillors.

What opportunities are presenting themselves?	
Business Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have the best business/industry (least restrictive) land use bylaw. • Start businesses at affordable costs. • Facilitate business and industry through "open zoning" • Small business area
Pure Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water sales
Campgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campers • Campgrounds; campgrounds; campgrounds • Utilize 3 campgrounds – bring them to town
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract more tourists • Tourism; Tourism – spend time in area; Tourism at our doorstep • People coming to visit spend time and money • Influx of people in the summer
Residential Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth • Include more people coming here to be involved • Lots of land/lots to accommodate growth
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Speed Service • Great volunteers, great ideas! • Visits from people like Leah and Cam to help us become better • There are not a <u>lot</u> of opportunities available; not many • Shopping is a concern = have to travel a long distance for most commodities. • There are opportunities to share talents and abilities with others.

Following an review of all of the responses the participants were asked to identify any commonalities, surprises or concerns from what they heard. Their responses are captured below:

- Greatest asset are the people
- Cooperation/working together- it seems to be the same core group of people
- Concerned about the comments that there are not many opportunities
- Campers are a captured audience that we need to focus on.
- Water, air and views were a common theme
- Could be improvements with two-way communication with Village Council

Top Three Priorities

The purpose of this exercise was to have participants identify their top three priorities for the Village of Glenwood. Participants were asked to respond to the question below putting only one idea per post-it note. The participants then reviewed and grouped the responses into common themes and named them. Once the themes were named participants were asked to vote for their top three themes. The results of the exercise are captured below.

“What are the top 3 most important things for our community to focus our time, human and financial resources on in order to move closer to achieving our goal of an economically diverse and viable community?”

Theme	Comments	Votes
Business Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Business in Glenwood • Find a few more businesses to come and help increase our economic base and retain our young people • Encourage new business development • Industry or businesses to provide possible jobs • Employment or business • Businesses and economic • Creating jobs • Bring more business or industry in • Lowering barriers to businesses • Allow business and light industry to operate on residential or commercial or industrial lots • Replacement for Saputo • Business Development & residential growth 	15
IT Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High speed installed in cooperation with the Cardston County • Fiber Optics • Broad Band internet • High speed internet (Broad Band) • Internet Services • Internet, Internet 	10

Theme	Comments	Votes
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People Relation • Catering to campground folks • Tourism – campers • Capitalize on tourism opportunities • Tourism; tourism; tourism; • Develop Tourism attraction • Look at alternate ways to capitalize off the campgrounds 	7
Land Use Bylaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make land available and known • Find land that can be utilized to aid people wanting to locate here • Proper land use bylaw • Allow creativity in land use • Create a land use Bylaw that will accommodate business development 	5
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure; Infrastructure; Infrastructure • Roads • Fix roads, oil and ditches • Water sharing agreement with county • Ball diamonds 	5
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Glenwood with social media and incentives • Advertise and let people know what we have available • Community involvement and communication • Advertise 	5
Strategic Plan (Vision for Community and EDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a community vision • Vision and Mission Statements for community and EDS • Workable and achievable strategic plan • To place the goal of economic sustainability and diversity as the top vision of the community 	5
Support Existing Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help make existing businesses more successful • Support local businesses • Improve digital cell services to support business requirements of local businesses 	3
Other	• Provide opportunities for people to spend money in Glenwood	1
	• Include our youth in our plans, programs and projects	1
	• Find investment money i.e. AG Society Grant	1

Memorable quote from this exercise: “It’s better to die trying than be dying to try”

Parking Lot

Throughout the session a number of topics were raised that needed to be “parked” as the topics needed further discussion or require additional information. The topics are captured below:

- Communication between the Village Council and community members
- Invitations to county residents to participate on Village of Glenwood committees, and/or initiatives
- Purchasing policy – support local
- Hillspring Ag Society – Potential opportunity for Glenwood – need more information
- Defining Community Boundaries – Referred to Glenwood and District Economic Development Society strategic planning session.

Closing Debrief

A closing debrief was facilitated to capture participant’s reflections on the evening. Participants shared that the session was positive, helpful, well organized, and moved along. Participants indicated the facilitator asked thought provoking questions and supported shared learning. The participants were also pleased with the turnout, the level of engagement and interaction amongst the group. One participant had hoped there would be more specific discussions about the actual economic opportunities or potential businesses.

Following the debrief Cameron Spence, Industry Development Manager with Travel Alberta provided a brief overview of the branding session Travel Alberta will be hosting with the community of Glenwood on April 19, 2017.

Next Steps

The following next steps were shared:

- A report capturing the process and summary of the discussions will be developed and forwarded to the Chair of Glenwood & District Economic Development Society.
- The Chair will forward the report to the participants who provided their contact information on the sign in sheet that was circulated.
- The Glenwood EDS Board shared that the information gleaned from session will inform the Board’s strategic planning efforts.