

**Community Sustainability Committee Meeting**  
**Hamlet Reinvestment Strategy**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018**  
**What We Heard Report**

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As part of the Hamlet Reinvestment Strategy process, Parkland County administration engaged the Community Sustainability Committee in a discussion to build detailed components of the broad strategic framework. The Committee was presented with research pertaining to successful elements of complete rural communities and asked to consider which elements of complete communities would be applicable to rural revitalization in Parkland County while ensuring sustainability and a holistic perspective.

Discussion Objectives:

- Discuss opportunities and challenges in Parkland communities
- Discuss what an ideal community would look like
- Develop complete community recommendations to Council regarding:
  - Tangible elements that are a priority for revitalization
  - Broad objectives for each element

General recommendations from the Committee:

1. The Committee recommended that further public participation with the hamlet communities would be extremely valuable to align Council's strategy with their wants and needs.
2. The Committee recommended that further assessment of the areas hamlets service should be an important consideration in setting hamlet service standards or directing reinvestment that will achieve Council's objectives.
3. The Committee suggested that a cookie cutter approach to servicing hamlets will likely not be successful and recommended that strategic principles be applied differently in each hamlet community.
4. The Committee recommended that the reason for hamlet reinvestment should be clearly articulated, with indicators and targets identified for measuring and monitoring success.

Discussion Question #1:

What are some of the reasons you choose to live or do business in Parkland County (ie. What makes our community great!)?

\*demonstrates a repeated answer

- Beautiful Landscapes \*\*\*\*\*
- Access to transportation corridors\*\*\*\*
- Lower taxes, cost of living, property values\*\*\*
- Regional demographics \*\*
- Rural character\*\*
- Sense of community, rural social connections\*\*
- Environmental ethic\*

- Business-friendly policies\*
- Recreation (lakes, education, library programs)\*
- Environmental security, water & air\*
- Access to employment
- Access to amenities (schools, retail, medical)
- Internet
- Good drinking water
- Self-sufficient, food to table, off-grid
- Safe feeling
- Variety
- Majority great people
- Family, history
- Entrepreneurial spirit
- More space

### Discussion Question #2:

What are some of the challenges you face or see others face as a rural resident or business owner?

\*demonstrates a repeated answer

- Rural crime\*\*\*
- Differing expectations, neighbor conflict \*\*\*
- Internet \*\*\*
- Access to employees & employment opportunities\*
- Understanding innovative business needs (permitting)\*
- Access to drinking water\*
- Coal transition impact on services\*
- Increasing urban/rural split
- Infrastructure costs for new business
- Traffic volume
- High cost of living
- Selling attributes for developers (distance from urban)
- Access to amenities
- Look & feel
- Child care
- Emergency services response times
- Poverty issues
- Real-time environmental data
- Wildlife collisions
- Road conditions
- Perception of security
- Conflict communications
- Aging in place
- Access to Wabamun

### Discussion Question #3/4

Based on the above noted observations, choose elements of complete communities that you feel are most impactful to quality of life in Parkland County and describe what each chosen element means to you:

| <i>Element</i>  | <i>Description</i>   |
|---|--|
| <i>Sustainable Natural &amp; Built Infrastructure</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-proper maintenance/cleanup</li><li>-improvements in the road network (over/under served)</li><li>-accessibility</li><li>-water quality, bio swales</li></ul>  |
| <i>Community Identity</i>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-visual supports</li><li>-beautification/esthetics</li><li>-diversity of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-land use</li><li>-business (industrial, commercial, small/home-based)</li><li>-housing</li></ul></li></ul> |
| <i>Internet Access</i>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-business attraction</li><li>-personal entertainment</li><li>-employment/working from home</li></ul>   |
| <i>Social Support</i>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-childcare</li><li>-aging in place</li><li>-housing</li></ul>  |
| <i>Community Involvement</i>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-community hall</li><li>-neighborhood</li><li>-local organisation</li></ul>  |
| <i>Local Food &amp; Cottage Industry</i>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-local markets</li><li>-value-added operations</li><li>-community gardens</li></ul>  |

