

Welcome!

To the Official Community Plan (OCP)
Public Open House
Please sign in.

Purpose of Tonight

The purpose of this Open House is to:

- Summarize key issues expressed by the community;
 - Present draft guiding principles for discussion;
 - Present general policy directions for discussion;
- Suggest some potential actions to be undertaken by the Village of Ashcroft and the community

and most importantly...

- To obtain your feedback!

There are several panels posted throughout the room that summarize what we heard and describe draft directions. Please review the panels that are of interest to you and provide your feedback. Feedback can be provided either in person or in written form through the feedback survey.

Your attendance is greatly appreciated!



Key Topics

What We Heard

- We have received input from a number of people in the community. Some of the key themes that have emerged include:

Population Demographics

- Need to attract more young families through new job opportunities, access to a small town lifestyle
- Need to ensure that key services in the community remain

• *Healthcare*

- Want to see the hospital become viable again
- Need innovative approaches to attract and retain a range of health care professionals

• *Economic Development*

- Need to ensure that development in Ashcroft is straightforward
- Need to market the lifestyle of Ashcroft to attract entrepreneurs to the community
- Need to diversify the economy and build off existing strengths such as agriculture, tourism, government services, industrial

• *Community Facilities*

- Recognize that facilities such as the HUB, the arena, pool, etc. are vital to Ashcroft
- Need to look at affordable ways of maintaining and enhancing facilities

• *Infrastructure*

- Need to maintain existing water and sewer services
- Need to look at ways of having safer connections for pedestrians and cyclists within and between neighbourhoods and into natural areas

• *Housing*

- Need more housing of all types and for all socio-economic characteristics

• *Community Spirit*

- Have an amazing volunteer base that is providing a wide range of activities that help build a strong community
- A strong arts and culture community has evolved and there is a strong recreation community

• *Communications*

- Communications within the community could be standardized on a number of levels
- Communications with agencies outside the community (i.e. other local communities and levels of government) could be standardized



Vision 2040

Key Themes

- **Community Oriented**
 - Strong volunteer base
 - Attracts people to live here because it is an exciting opportunity to make an impact on the community you live in
- **A diverse population**
 - A good mix of young families, seniors
 - Strong relationships with Indigenous communities
- **A creative community**
 - Strong emphasis on visual arts, drama, music
- **Recognition of historical past**
 - Celebration of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous history of the community
- **A centre of wellness**
 - Emphasis on physical and mental well-being through the built and natural environment
 - Provision of a wide range of health care services
 - Great climate
 - A walkable community
 - Quiet/rural
- **A small town atmosphere**
 - Place where people know each other
 - Strong sense of connection to one another and to Ashcroft
 - A safe and trusting community
- **A strong business community**
 - Attraction of creative entrepreneurs
 - Diversity of businesses
 - Strong connection between and integration of businesses and the community
- **Working with neighbouring communities**
 - Developing partnerships and cooperation to achieve local/regional goals (i.e. TNRD, Cache Creek, Clinton, local indigenous communities)
 - Sharing resources, knowledge, and experiences
 - Conducting regional planning initiatives



Guiding Principles

- Leverage volunteerism
 - Encourage and support volunteers making meaningful contributions to the community
- Common Sense
 - Solutions to key issues will be practical and within the capacity of the community to achieve them
- Innovation
 - Encourage innovative solutions to the issues that Ashcroft faces
- Partnerships
 - Leverage partnerships with non-profit agencies, provincial and federal government, businesses, Indigenous communities
- Reconciliation
 - Encourage reconciliation with Indigenous communities
- Education
 - Educate residents on municipal finances and development processes
- Economic Development
 - Undertake initiatives with an eye to improving the economy of Ashcroft
- Role of the Municipality
 - The Village can play many different roles and is not necessarily responsible for leading the implementation of all aspects of the Official Community Plan but can be a sponsor, supporter, facilitator, and/or funder depending on the initiative



Economic Development

Guiding Principle

- Create a more vibrant and diversified economy that attracts entrepreneurs that will contribute to the Ashcroft community

Policies and Actions

General

- Encourage the re-invigoration of the Chamber of Commerce to represent the business community
- Encourage more health professionals to move permanently to Ashcroft to create jobs in the community and to provide services that people moving to Ashcroft will be desiring
- Consider ways of attracting creative entrepreneurs to Ashcroft to establish businesses to take advantage of the lifestyle, strong community, and access to infrastructure
- Consider options to utilize the HUB as a business incubator while trying to encourage businesses to eventually locate in downtown space
- Explore ways of marketing Ashcroft to skilled workers
- Develop an online economic development focused Community Profile that markets Ashcroft's economic advantages and contains all related bylaws (i.e. OCP and Zoning)
- Continue to implement the recommendations from the Village of Ashcroft Economic Development Strategy

Tourism

- Develop an integrated tourism strategy that leverages Ashcroft's agriculture, history (Indigenous and non-Indigenous), scenery, and arts and culture
- Continue upgrading the municipal campground to support tourism
- Carefully consider promoting Air BnB in Ashcroft provided that each Air BnB follows the rules and regulations outlined in the Zoning Bylaw and other relevant policies
- Install visually attractive signs at the entrances to Ashcroft that represent the community to encourage motorists on the Trans Canada Highway to come into Ashcroft.
- Promote and market Ashcroft as a tourism destination
- Continue to support the role of the arts in bringing people to Ashcroft

Agriculture

- Review opportunities to leverage Ashcroft's agriculture to create jobs and generate spin-off activities such as value-added processing and tourism
- Encourage the utilization of agricultural lands and the diversification of crops to include wineries, hops farms, produce, etc.
- Continue to support the Farmer's Market
- Encourage the use of underutilized agricultural land
- Work with local agricultural operations to identify opportunities to help market and promote them
- Encourage the development of agri-tourism uses as permitted by the Agricultural Land Commission

Commercial Development

- Encourage residents to shop locally where possible
- Rewrite Development Permit Area Guidelines for the downtown area to make development processes easier while respecting the underlying desire to preserve the look and feel of the downtown
- Consider allowing a greater range of businesses in the downtown area
- Reinforce industrial areas as being primarily for industrial purposes with residential as a secondary purpose
- Review feasibility of a downtown revitalization tax exemption for new development in the downtown
- Consider how to leverage access to rail, highway, and fibre optics to attract new businesses
- Consider strategic investment in downtown beautification and streetscaping
- Continue to utilize the Northern Development Initiative Trust to access programs to enhance commercial development in Ashcroft, such as the façade improvement program



Environmental Protection and Emergency Planning

Guiding Principles

- Ensure that the natural environment is protected and that the impacts of the built environment on the natural environment are mitigated to the furthest extent possible
- Ensure that we are prepared for emergencies that we may encounter

Policies and Actions

Water

- Protect source water quality in the community
- Encourage water conservation
- Encourage new and existing development to incorporate xeriscaping into the site design
- Undertake water audits of community facilities, parks and key commercial businesses
- Undertake a municipal water and energy study to review usage of water and energy in the Village

Solid Waste

- Support efforts to reduce plastics
- Consider the development of a composting program

Energy

- Encourage energy efficiency in the community and review Village-owned facilities for efficiency options
- Consider how to integrate alternative energy systems into new and existing development
- Review the feasibility of developing community energy systems based on solar and/or wind

Emergency Preparedness

- Update the emergency plan for Ashcroft based on the lessons learned during the recent wildfire
- Consider how to integrate FireSmart guidelines into Ashcroft
- Work to have back-up power available for critical systems
- Develop an emergency access route out of Mesa Vista neighbourhood

Air Quality

- Encourage house and building owners to test for radon
- Encourage the switch out of wood fire places and stoves for natural gas

Natural Environment

- Consider the development of an Urban Tree Program
- Work to remove non-native vegetation from parks and community spaces
- Ensure that riparian areas are protected appropriately



Community Development

Guiding Principle

- We will work collaboratively to maintain and strengthen our community cohesiveness

Policies and Actions

Arts and Culture

- Support the project to create and install mosaics throughout the community
- Consider opportunities to support the development of accessible studio spaces

Food Security

- Consider the development of a community garden
- Permit the raising of backyard hens to enable people to collect eggs
- Enable people to establish backyard apiaries

Community Building

- Encourage residents to take pride in their yards and ensure consistent upkeep
- Identify options to have seniors and youth work together on community building projects to encourage intergenerational integration
- Recognize and celebrate the role of Indigenous people in this area, both historically and currently
- Develop a welcome wagon for new people moving to Ashcroft
- Develop more community events that bring people together and help foster integration between generations
- Establish better working relationships with and between volunteer groups in Ashcroft
- Work with the School District to identify volunteer opportunities for students
- Consider opportunities to celebrate and recognize volunteer efforts within the community
- Review options to hire a grant writer to help local community groups access funding for their programs
- Support the operation of the HUB
- Encourage the re-establishment of the rodeo grounds in Ashcroft
- Continue to support community events such as the Ashcroft Try-Athlon
- Develop a program to better integrate temporary workers and workers commuting from the surrounding area into the community and to sell Ashcroft to them
- Develop a sister city relationship with a Mexican community to reinforce connections with Mexico
- Implement rainbow crosswalks in the village to signify support for the LGBTQ community
- Work with neighbouring communities and local governments (such as the TNRD) to share resources in the delivery of recreational programming and activities

Infrastructure

Guiding Principle

- Ensure that Ashcroft's key infrastructure services are maintained and enhanced in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner

Policies and Actions

- Address the infrastructure deficit in Ashcroft by continuing to invest in asset management and seek funding from senior government agencies to address deficits
- Strive to improve the community's understanding of the costs associated with infrastructure and how it needs to be managed
- Review the extent of water leakage in the community water system
- Consider the implementation of water meters
- Undertake water audits of facilities such as the HUB
- Review the feasibility of allowing golf carts on public roads as another mode of travel
- Develop an electric vehicle charging station in the community
- Upgrade sidewalks in town and consider opportunities to add new sidewalks where feasible or other types of pedestrian connections
- Review the feasibility of a pedestrian overpass over the train tracks
- Consider integrating traffic calming into all neighbourhoods
- Implement a maximum traffic speed of 30 km/h on all non-arterial roads
- Ensure that streets are not used for RV storage in order to enable safer navigation for pedestrians and to remove potential barriers to municipal and emergency services
- Consider updating the Subdivision and Servicing Bylaw
- Investigate a Safe Routes to School program

Housing/Residential Land

Guiding Principle

- Ensure that a diverse range of housing is developed and maintained that meets the needs of the community

Policies and Actions

- Promote development of a greater range of housing types including multi-family and single-family houses
- Permit the development of secondary suites in houses
- Permit the development of carriage suites on lots that are large enough and where the infrastructure supports the development
- Consider how to market Village Reserve land for residential development
- Review lots that have been previously identified for a school site and firehall in the Mesa Vista neighbourhood to determine if houses could be constructed there
- Work with BC Housing to provide affordable housing in Ashcroft
- Lobby IHA for more assisted care units in Ashcroft
- Consider the development of a housing co-operative in Ashcroft to provide affordable housing
- Encourage new houses to be constructed to meet visitability guidelines that includes a bathroom and visiting areas on the ground floor of a house and a level entry that allows people with reduced mobility more ability to enter and visit homes
- Consider options to develop acreages in appropriate locations
- Encourage the development of rental housing through the provision of secondary suites, carriage suites, and rehabilitation of existing multi-family homes and new multi-family homes
- Encourage the rehabilitation and renovation of existing houses in Ashcroft where applicable
- Encourage developers to include space for storage of RVs, boats, trailers, etc. in new residential developments
- Encourage the development of more housing appropriate for seniors independent living
- Develop Zoning provisions that enable smaller lot single-family housing in appropriate areas
- Encourage local business to find housing solutions for workers who commute to Ashcroft regularly

Parks and Recreation

Guiding Principles

- Ensure the maintenance of a variety of park and recreation facilities that are appropriate for a small town and meet the needs of all ages

Policies and Actions

Parks

- Continue working with the Dog Park committee to determine the feasibility of a dog park
- Consider expanding the skateboard park
- Review fiscally responsible opportunities to provide cemetery space
- Consider the development of a waterpark and a BMX park
- Work with community partners to develop a demonstration garden for native vegetation

Facilities

- Consider upgrades to the arena, in particular making the dressing rooms larger
- Review options to revitalize the Curling Rink facility
- Maintain and enhance programming at the HUB
- Review the feasibility of winterizing the pool including projections of operating costs and review the feasibility of re-opening the hot tub
- Develop outdoor pickleball courts in Ashcroft
- Consider opportunities to develop outdoor exercise equipment
- Encourage the development of a bowling alley and similar amenities in Ashcroft

Trails

- Review the feasibility of developing a riverfront trail
- Develop public access points to the river
- Determine if there are any feasible options to provide a public access to the slough
- Work with the community to formalize trails in the Mesa Vista area

Recreation

- Work with teens to identify suitable activities for them
- Continue to encourage the offering of summer camps



Social Needs

Guiding Principle

- Support health and wellness in Ashcroft by expanding access to key services

Policies and Actions

Healthcare

- Work with IHA to recruit more doctors to Ashcroft
- Lobby IHA to maintain Emergency Room service in Ashcroft
- Support community partners promoting innovative methods of healthcare in Ashcroft
- Continue to explore options to develop a Primary Care Model for Ashcroft health care
- Review opportunities to have more local control over the health care system
- Lobby to have full-time emergency paramedics located in Ashcroft
- Lobby for long-term care in the community
- Develop a community kitchen program to help people learn how to can food and provide nutritious meals

Transportation

- Work with community partners to increase transportation options to other communities
- Maintain and expand transit service in the community and connections to Ashcroft
- Encourage the development of a volunteer driver programs for seniors in the community

Daycare

- Encourage the development of a daycare in Ashcroft that could offer permanent and temporary child minding services
- Enable daycares to be located in residential zones



What is the best way of getting a hold of you to let you know of Village news and events?

Method	Vote
Community Newsletter	
Facebook	
Twitter	
Instagram	
Village Website	
Newspaper Articles/Ads	
Email	
Mail-outs	
Digital Sign Board	
Neighbourhood Bulletin Board	

Do you have any other thoughts on how communications in the village can be enhanced?

