Electoral Area H Village Planning - Sustainability Definition

“We understand “sustainability” to mean that we are able to meet our present and future needs in a way which minimizes our impacts on the environment and ensures that future generations will be able to meet their needs too.”

Electoral Area H Village Planning - Guiding Principles

1. Public Health and Safety is our first priority and as such requires consideration be given to: land stability, safe supply of water, appropriate waste management, and emergency response infrastructure and capabilities. The Aquifer is a central thought for all planning.

2. Meet the present and future social, cultural, and economic needs of the community and ensure that these needs can be met in the development of our village centres and village planning.

3. Consider how our social, cultural, and economic needs are interconnected. Too much emphasis on one will upset the balance that is necessary to ensure sustainability.

4. Recognize that everything that we do in our community, whether it relates to our social, cultural or economic needs, affects our natural environment, positively or negatively. Through this project, we want to ensure that the plans created minimize the negative impacts on the natural environment.

5. Meet our near term sustainability goals without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their goals also. This means understanding what the long term benefits and costs are in our planning.

6. Ensure that the community is actively engaged in the planning process and that there is transparency in governance.
H Village Planning Sustainability Principles & Goals

Topic A: THE PLANNING PROCESS

Issues: Think long-term; Community involvement; History; and Surrounding context.

Goals:
1. Provide a clear and ongoing planning process that maintains a long term vision for the village centres in Area H, and that gives all members of the community the opportunity to guide the development of their community.

2. Ensure that the planning process takes into account the history of the area so that we learn from the past and, at least, acknowledge and document it.

3. Ensure that the planning process takes into account what is happening outside of the village centres, outside of the ‘Area H’ boundary, and beyond. Crown Land to be preserved for Community benefit.

4. Consider the financial implications of each development proposal on the existing residents and businesses of Area H.

Topic B: AREA H ECONOMY

Issues: Economic diversity; Commercial development developed in relation to local needs / sufficient services for local population; and vibrant community hub or focal point / mixed uses.

Goals:
1. Support the diversification of the local economy through the development of mixed-use village centres, which provide space for small scale commercial, human service sectors and tourism opportunities within a centralized village core.

2. Ensure that proposals for commercial and industrial development are evaluated in relation to local needs.

3. Ensure opportunities for local food production, marketing and consumption.
Topic C: PLAN AND DESIGN WITH NATURE IN MIND

Issues: Sustainable water resources; Taking responsibility for own waste (green infrastructure); Rural character / rural atmosphere; and Density & urban containment

Goals:

1. Ensure that village centre development does not negatively impact the ability of the community to sustain a continued safe, high quality water supply.

2. Protect rural character outside of the village centres by directing the majority of future growth to locate within the designated village centres, while ensuring that parcels outside the village centre will retain any existing right to subdivide as per existing zoning, i.e., no down-zoning of Area H parcels outside the village centres.

3. Encourage use of the most appropriate forms of waste management within the village centres.

4. Ensure that village planning and design assists in protecting natural wildlife corridors, and promotes the natural, environmental and geographical sensitive features while preserving and/or enhancing the biodiversity of the area.

5. Preserve and enhance existing green space, access to public lands, trails and water access and identify opportunities to provide central open spaces within the village centres.

6. Promote the reduction of our community’s carbon footprint.
Area H Village Planning – Sustainability Principles & Goals

Topic D: POPULATION, MOBILITY AND SAFETY

Issues: Diverse population; Mobility / accessibility; Safety for all; and Vibrant community hub or focal point / mixed uses.

Goals:

1. Plan village centres to be safe places for everyone and pedestrian friendly.

2. Support community activities and interaction in mixed-use village centres.

3. Plan and design village centres to meet the needs of a diverse socio-economic population and all age groups. (Include consideration of: mobility, affordable housing, open space, recreation etc.)

4. Identify and promote ways that the development of village centres will attract families to live in the area.

5. Recognize that an aging population base is an important consideration over the next 20-30 years, and will impact the demand for housing, transportation, and services.

6. Ensure that proposed development supports a decreased dependency on motorized transportation.

7. Plan village centres to support more viable and cost-effective infrastructure and public transit systems in the future.
Topic E: COMMUNITY, PRIDE, ARTS AND CULTURE

Issues:  Pride / culture / aesthetics.

Goals:
1. Recognize and encourage the development of arts and culture in Area H.

2. Recognize that community pride is affected by the quality of planning and community aesthetics.

3. Provide guidance so that street, building and site design and scale, and types of uses of proposed developments consistently reflect the rural and natural character of Area H, with some room for innovation.

4. Explore the options and feasibility of developing a drop in/cultural centre with developer contributions.