

Making Waves Phase 2

Engagement Outcomes from Beach Event: Draft Vision & Goals

Colwood OCP and Land Use Bylaw Update | June 2017



Making Waves



Navigating Colwood's Future

This report was prepared by DIALOG as part of the Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Update Process for the City of Colwood.

DIALOG®

INTRODUCTION

The City of Colwood is growing and changing. To help manage growth and shape development in Colwood, the City is updating its Official Community Plan (OCP) as part of a three stage process, which will be followed by a Land Use Bylaw (LUB) update process that will help to catalyze implementation.

The first phase of the OCP process sought community input on priorities and ideas for the future, and included background research and analysis on existing conditions. As part of the second phase, a public engagement event was held on the beach on June 3rd, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM, to seek input on: the draft vision, goals, and strategic directions that will form the basis of the new OCP; and the location and form of future growth.

Interactive panels presented information and provided opportunity for participants to identify their level of support for the vision, goals, and strategic directions. A graphic facilitator recorded input on the future location and form of growth. Food trucks and live entertainment was also available.

Approximately 75 people attended, and overall there was support for the draft vision, goals, and strategies. The outcomes of the event will be used to develop the draft OCP, and are summarized in the following pages.

1 Priorities + Big Ideas for Colwood

September - February 2017

- Hearing from the community about priorities, issues, aspirations, and ideas for the future

2 Developing the Plan Together

March - July 2017

- Building a draft Plan based on community input, best practices, and ecological, social, and financial needs

*** We are here**

3 Reviewing + Finalizing the Plan

August - December 2017

- Hearing from the community on revisions to the draft Plan
- Revising and finalizing the Plan



INTERACTIVE PANELS

Input on the draft vision, goals, and strategic directions were collected on the panels through sticky dots and post-it notes:

A VISION FOR COLWOOD

The following vision emerged from the extensive input received by the community. It is intended to articulate the desired future state of the community, and serve as the foundation for the goals and policies of the new OCP:

Colwood is a seaside community, set apart by its spectacular natural setting and by the outstanding quality of life enjoyed by its residents. Colwood is comprised of green, affordable neighbourhoods anchored by mixed-use village centres where residents can meet their daily needs on foot, shopping at local businesses and crossing paths with neighbours. The community embraces its natural capital – its trees, shoreline, hillsides, and habitat areas – by protecting and regenerating it, recognizing that the city's natural infrastructure is part of what makes Colwood the West Shore community of choice.

Extending from this vision, five goals are outlined on the following panels.

**What do you think about this vision?
Anything to change or add?**

A total of 18 comments were received. Representative comments are included below:

- *Urban density means more bus friendly - put density in the right place*
- *Interaction and integration with local First Nations, including with new development. Sharing cultures*
- *Missing: interconnection with Royal Roads*
- *Making sure that high storey condos do not get placed in established residential areas*
- *Urban sprawl means too much traffic*
- *Cultural diversity needs to be explored more. Canada is welcoming and Colwood should be too - perhaps an Arts Centre?*
- *Allow more infill on large lots*
- *Encourage the arts to draw people here to live*
- *No to high density housing*
- *Ensuring appropriate development of our community - maintaining single family neighbourhoods*
- *Missing Arts and Culture Centre*
- *Yes to increased high density housing*

GOAL #1: A WATERFRONT SOUL



The waterfront distinguishes Colwood from other cities: it's the place residents and visitors identify as the soul of the community.

The waterfront is characterized by a village-like setting with homes, shops, services, and other amenities that make it a destination for locals and visitors, all day and all week long. Access to the waterfront – with pathways and spaces for public life – will be balanced with measures that protect sensitive ecological areas from human activity, thereby safeguarding the qualities that make it this place special.

What do you think about Goal #1? Place your dot on the scale below.

Needs Some Work —————> Perfect!

Examples of possible strategic directions: Use a green sticky dot to let us know if you like the direction, a yellow dot if you are neutral or unsure, and a red dot if you do not like the direction.

Diverse Land Use - Support diverse housing types, shops, services, and other uses.



Pedestrian-Scaled Development - Require that new development support a village-like character.



Waterfront Walkway - Provide a continuous waterfront connection to be enjoyed by all.



Sensitive Ecological Areas - While maintaining views, restrict physical access to areas that are ecologically sensitive.



Shoreline protection - Protect and enhance the shoreline, while also preparing for natural changes that may occur.

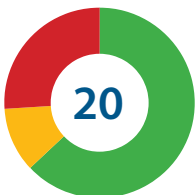


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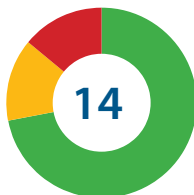
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Needs Some Work —————> Perfect!

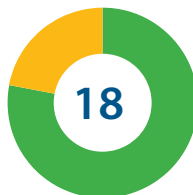
What do you think of the following strategic directions? (Number represents total dots)



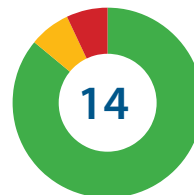
Diverse Land Use



Pedestrian Scale
Development



Waterfront
Walkway



Sensitive Ecological
Areas



Shoreline
Protection



GOAL #2: CONNECTING PEOPLE + NATURE

People and nature are exceptionally well-connected

Colwood is green by nature, blessed with natural beauty and home to trees, hillsides, shoreline, and other ecological areas. These cherished natural areas will remain intact, with new development not only protecting them, but also connecting and regenerating them. Decisions will be made from the perspective of the watershed scale, considering the impact of projects on the overall health, water balance, and habitat of the watershed. Habitat areas will provide space for wildlife to thrive while offering residents access to nature close to home, linking Colwoodians to a broader network of connected green spaces and waterways.

What do you think about Goal #2? Place your dot on the scale below.

Needs Some Work —————> Perfect!

Examples of possible strategic directions: Use a green sticky dot to let us know if you like the direction, a yellow dot if you are neutral or unsure, and a red dot if you do not like the direction.

Parks and Trails - Link parks, plazas and natural spaces with a network of low-impact trails.



Intact Habitat Areas - Protect habitat areas and connections, including on private land.



Healthy Urban Forest - Maintain existing and expand tree canopy in both public and private land.



Greenfield and Hillside Development - Disallow development on greenfields and hillsides, focusing all new growth in existing urban areas.



Rainwater Management - Develop green infrastructure that naturally protects streams and groundwater.



Results:

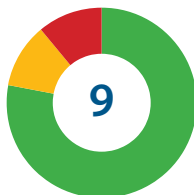
What do you think of Goal #2? (Total of 5 dots were placed)

Needs Some Work —————> Perfect!

What do you think of the following strategic directions? (Number represents total dots)



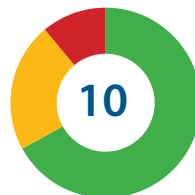
Parks and Trails



Intact Habitat Areas



Healthy Urban Forest



Greenfield Hillside Development



Rainwater Management

GOAL #3: TRANSPORTATION CHOICE



Residents have realistic transportation choices.

While personal automobile use will remain a mobility option that is safe and accessible, other modes will become viable, enjoyable choices. Walking will be the first choice for short trips, with nearly all residents living within a 10-minute walk of a neighbourhood grocer, café, and/or other destinations that help meet their daily needs. For longer trips within Colwood, residents will choose to get around by bicycle or transit. Transit will become an increasingly convenient and enjoyable option for regional commuters who leave the City on a daily basis.

What do you think about Goal #3? Place your dot on the scale below.

Needs Some Work —————> Perfect!

Examples of possible strategic directions: Use a green sticky dot to let us know if you like a direction, a yellow dot if you are neutral or unsure, and a red dot if you do not like the direction.

Investment Priorities - Invest based on the following order of priorities: walking; cycling; transit; goods movement; and personal vehicle use.



Shorter Distances to Destinations - Establish a rich mix of uses in neighbourhoods to make walking a more attractive alternative.



Improved Walking and Cycling Environment - Create safe, high quality environments for pedestrians and cyclists.



Supporting Transit - Support transit use by focusing residential development and mixed-use village centres near frequent transit corridors.



Prepare for Transformative Shifts in Mobility - Design flexibility into infrastructure, so that it can adapt to changes in technology and mobility trends.

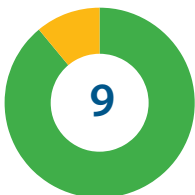


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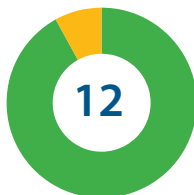
What do you think of Goal #3? (Total of 3 dots were placed)

Needs Some Work —————> Perfect!

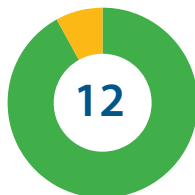
What do you think of the following strategic directions? (Number represents total dots)



Investment
Priorities



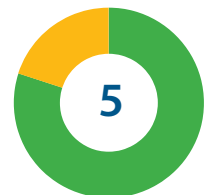
Shorter Distances
to Destinations



Improved Walking
and Cycling
Environment



Supporting Transit



Prepare for
Transformative
Shifts in Mobility

GOAL #4: PUBLIC LIFE + PEOPLE PLACES



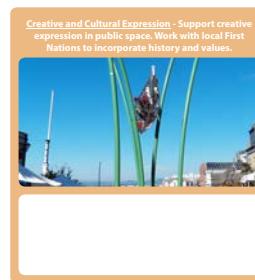
Public spaces – including streets – are for public life.

Streets will be attractive, comfortable, and interesting public spaces. Pedestrian-friendly buildings will provide the frame for public life, and sidewalks and plazas will provide the stage. On retail streets, sidewalks will be filled with people going about their daily lives, socializing, shopping, resting, eating, drinking, people-watching, and more. These and other public spaces will reflect local culture, reinforce neighbourliness, foster health and active living, and strengthen sense of place.

What do you think about Goal #4? Place your dot on the scale below.

Needs Some Work —————> Perfect!

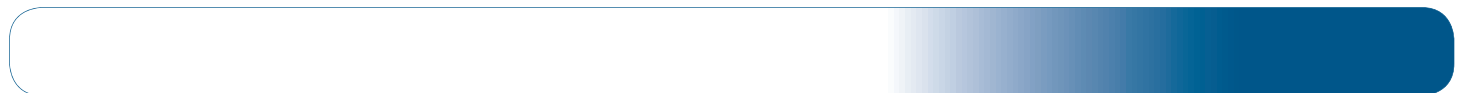
Examples of possible strategic directions: Use a green sticky dot to let us know if you like the direction, a yellow dot if you are neutral or unsure, and a red dot if you do not like the direction.



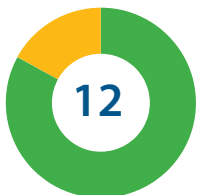
Results:

What do you think of Goal #4? (Total of 5 dots were placed)

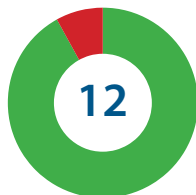
Needs Some Work —————> Perfect!



What do you think of the following strategic directions? (Number represents total dots)



Places to Gather



Colwood Corners



Sooke Road



Creative Cultural
Expression

GOAL #5: READY FOR CHANGE



Colwood is prepared to adapt to a changing world.

The world is changing at an ever-increasing pace, with housing affordability and climate change topping the list of challenges faced by communities in the Pacific Northwest. For decades, Colwood's quiet, safe, and affordable neighbourhoods have been a draw for people choosing to raise families. Colwood continues to be home to family-friendly neighbourhoods, as well as other choices that are affordable and appropriate for an aging population, allowing residents to live within their chosen neighbourhoods throughout their lives. Colwood also puts in place measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, building resilience to rising sea levels and other natural disasters. Colwood is carbon neutral, energy positive, and water smart.

What do you think about Goal #5? Place your dot on the scale below.

Needs Some Work —————→ Perfect!

Examples of possible strategic directions: Use a green sticky dot to let us know if you like the direction, a yellow dot if you are neutral or unsure, and a red dot if you do not like the direction.

Housing Choice - Create a diverse range of housing that supports a variety of incomes, age groups, and household types.



Energy Security and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Reduce energy demand and utilize renewable energy sources.



Climate Change Adaptation - Plan for resilience to rising sea levels and other global impacts, so that Colwood is liveable as the climate continues to change.



Sustainable Food Systems - Strengthen the local food system, including production and processing. Protect the harvesting of traditional food and medicine.

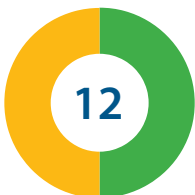


Results:

What do you think of Goal #5? (Total of 1 dot was placed)

Needs Some Work —————→ Perfect!

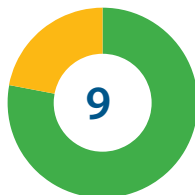
What do you think of the following strategic directions? (Number represents total dots)



Housing Choice



Energy Security
and Greenhouse
Gases



Climate Change
Adaptation



Sustainable Food
Systems

THANK YOU!

Any other comments? Please share them below:

Stay in touch!

If you have any questions or comments please contact us through the following channels.

✉ info@colwood.ca

☎ 250.478.5999



@cityofcolwood



www.colwood.ca/ocp

Thank you for sharing your comments and ideas with us today!

Making Waves
Navigating Colwood's Future

A total of 24 comments were received. Representative comments are included below:

- *Outdoor performance space, like a band shell or amphitheater*
- *Traffic calming along Lagoon and Milburn and Metchosin Road*
- *High density housing - should only be in town centres*
- *Please enforce no parking on the Lagoon Walking Path*
- *I feel density pays for infrastructure without increased homeowners tax*
- *Accessible walkway along the Lagoon*
- *Improve infrastructure before increasing density. Respect the value of single family residential use away from City Centre Areas*
- *Protect the continued enjoyment of family neighbourhoods*
- *Define "town centres"*
- *Bikes & Pedestrian trails connecting destinations. Skateboard park, mountain biking trails, more public common areas*
- *Talk of neighbourhood hubs is great however high rise condos (higher than 3 storeys) is not needed in residential neighbourhoods off main roads*
- *Not enough input in OCP - sent survey to each residence. Many people do not know OCP is being redone*
- *Seniors co-operative housing close to amenities so we don't have to move into Victoria*
- *Goal #5 should be broken down - it is trying to include everything under the sun*
- *Heritage site - Colwoodians need a place to go to learn about other Cultures and other perspective*



ADDITIONAL BOARD COMMENTS

A few additional comments were left on each of the Goal boards. These comments are included below.

Goal #1

- Waterfront is Royal Bay, the Lagoon DND, FRH, Esquimalt Harbour. Need to be clear, not all are the same.

Goal #2

- Wayfinding for trail system
- Provide incentives for tree retention and planting on private land
- More food forests

Goal #3

- Local pubs - walkable
- Mobility and accessibility/ sidewalks in neighbourhoods/ better lighting
- Separation of walking routes from commuter cycling routes. Safety!
- Rail - rail connection and transit link for rail
- Need to solve access to Royal Bay homes
- Consider community impact (including transportation) before approving new developments
- More covered bike racks at destinations
- Bike trails/ routes connecting destinations with covered bike racks at all destination areas
- Metchosin Road, Ocean Boulevard, traffic problems with all the development. Royal Bay/ Pacific Centre etc.

Goal #4

- Public Art
- Need a central home for arts and culture
- Skateboard Park
- Maintain public boulevards - older neighbourhoods need sidewalks and lighting
- Ensuring our streets are safe for our children - safe routes to school. For example Metchosin Road

Goal #5

- Keep density to commercial centers and preserve single family neighbourhoods
- Family friendly neighbourhoods should include maintaining single family neighbourhoods
- Cars park on the "sidewalk" down by the food trucks
- This is not the Pacific North West. We are in South West Canada
- We need more high density buildings in Colwood
- High density housing should only be on main roads. In city centre and Neighbourhood Centers
- Keep Colwood single family dwellings.

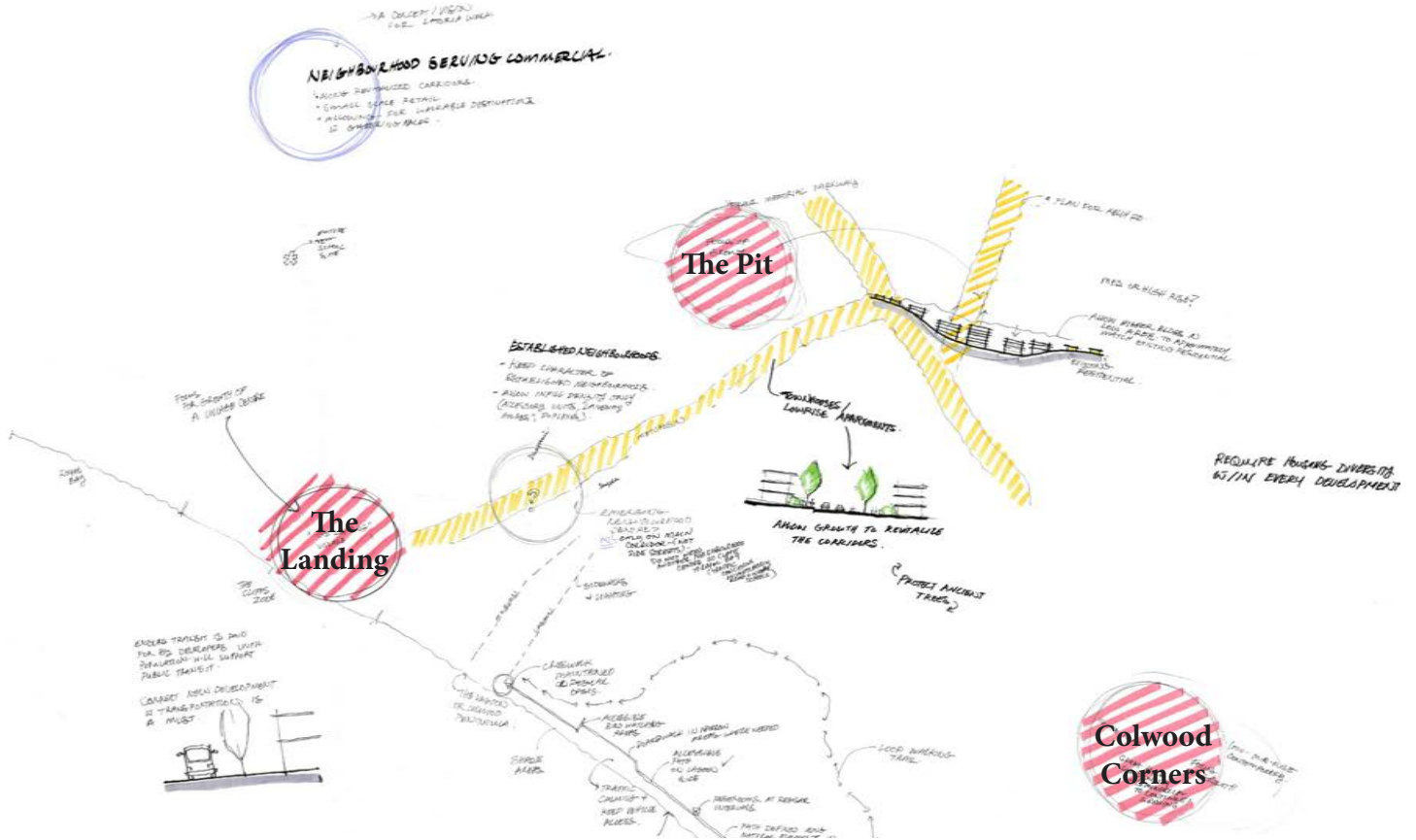
GRAPHIC FACILITATION: GROWTH

A consensus began to form around the location and form of future growth, the results of which are summarized below:

- Allow for townhouses or low-rise apartments along corridors that need revitalization (Metchosin Road and Sooke Road).
- Maintain the character of the established residential neighbourhoods, allowing for gentle infill in the form of accessory suites, 'laneway' houses, duplexes, or even some multiplexes.
- Ensure that new development has access to transit.
- Create an 'entrance' to Colwood through urban design to better frame the street.
- Consider a location for a performing arts centre that could act as a 'magnet'.



Sketch #1 | Areas for Growth



Sketch #2 | Arts Centre

