

Community + Council Conversations Southeast Event October 25, 2023 Summary Report

Background

Council has adopted a bold, outlining their strategic priorities to make Kamloops a safe, vibrant, and resilient community. These priorities--Safety and Security, Governance and Service Excellence, Livability and Sustainability, and Economic Health--include areas of focus and key performance indicators that will guide Council's decision making. Council wants to hear residents' feedback on the plan; what's working well, and where Council should focus more effort.

To provide an opportunity for residents voice their opinions, concerns, and frustrations to Council, the City is hosting six neighbourhood meetings and one virtual meeting. The first of these meetings took place on October 25, 2023 for the Southeast neighbourhoods, including Barnhartvale, Juniper, Dallas, Campbell Creek, Rose Hill and Valleyview.

Event Summary

Approximately 60 members of the public attended the meeting that took place at the Barnhartvale Community Hall from 6:00–8:30 pm. The event began with a brief “open house”, which allowed Council to mix and mingle with attendees. This was followed by a presentation from a third-party facilitator on Council's strategic plan, outlining how Council has organized and prioritized their areas of focus. Attendees then had the opportunity to share their neighbourhood concerns and potential solutions with Council in a world café format, rotating between tables representing each of Council's strategic priorities.

At each table--Safety and Security, Governance and Service Excellence, Livability and Sustainability, Economic Health--residents were asked to provide input on:

- What's working well?
- Where can we do better?
- What should we advocate for?

The intention was that attendees would have the opportunity to rotate through at least two tables, and then a table host would report back to the room on the key themes they heard in each area and attendees would have the opportunity to raise anything that has been missed in the group format. However, due to the higher than anticipated number of participants, lively conversations, and poor acoustics in the room, it was quickly determined that the table format was not working as well as intended. Staff pivoted quickly, ended the world café style conversations after one thirty-minute round with table hosts providing a summary of key themes, and then opened the floor up to a moderated open-mic session, where residents could voice their concerns and questions to Council. The open-mic session lasted approximately an hour and was then wrapped up with a prioritization exercise and summary of next steps.

Attendees were also provided with an option to fill out a paper form to request follow-up from staff or Council regarding their concerns or questions. Nineteen forms were collected and forwarded on to the appropriate contact.

City staff facilitated the round-table discussions, captured key themes and ideas, and reported the key themes back to the broader group. Those key themes are documented here, with a full transcription attached in Appendix A.

Key Themes:

Safety and Security

What's working well?

- CSOs in Valleyview are doing an excellent job
- CSOs are prompt to respond
- Car40 is successful

What can we do better?

- Reduce barriers and add clarity in bylaws, zoning and regulations for suites and secondary housing
- Communicate roles of social agencies and different levels of governments, as well as progress and statistics
- Prioritize traffic safety, including traffic calming, safety initiatives for transit, cyclists and pedestrians, speed enforcement, and improving sightlines
- Prioritize sidewalks, especially in school zones

What should we advocate for?

- Improved connections from Highway 1 (MOTI)
- More schools to keep classrooms within capacity, as well as within neighbourhoods (School District)
- Increase availability and affordability of housing for seniors and younger generations (Provincial and Federal Government)
- Social supports such as Complex Care, decriminalization policy, harm reduction programs, recovery centres and programs, wrap around services and offender rehabilitation (Provincial and Federal Government, social agencies, Interior Health)
- Enforcement of Complex Care regulations

Governance and Service Excellence

What can we do better?

- Reduce wait times for response to calls/emails
- Communicate progress on City plans and strategies

Livability and Sustainability

What can we do better?

- Prioritize active transportation connections, including multi-use pathways and sidewalks
- Increased transient population has reduced access to public spaces
- Loss of green space with Pineridge Golf Course redevelopment
- Invest in improvements to recreation facilities such as Centennial Park, Community Hall and arena
- Invest in an indoor turf facility
- Support pickleball

What should we advocate for?

- Improved transit reliability and service (BC Transit)
- Improved highway safety and access (MOTI)
- Grants for Firesmartening private/interface properties (Provincial and Federal Governments)

Economic Health

What can we do better?

- Improving the safety and security of our community is better for business development and attracting new businesses
- Remove barriers for building permits and provide clarity in zoning regulations
- Support and prioritize local farming and agriculture
- Engage the public when developing City plans

What should we advocate for?

- Affordability (Provincial and Federal Governments)

In summary, the most prevalent themes of these communities were:

- Traffic and pedestrian/cyclist safety
- Better connectivity through increased transit and active transportation connections
- Reducing barriers to secondary housing
- Advocate for social supports
- Enforce existing bylaws regarding transient populations and substance use

To learn more and view upcoming events, visit LetsTalk.Kamloops.ca/CommunityConversations.

Appendix A: Full transcription of comments with prioritization dots*

* Noted in parenthesis

Uncategorized:

- Bear proof garbage carts
- Concern for pushing EV when we don't have the infrastructure (3)
- No parking in "red zones"
- Vicars & Frontage Rd intersection
- CCAP seems harsh and unattainable/ too much focus (7)
- More bus service in BHC
- Safe places to ride bikes
- All hotels given over to social agencies, where do other people stay? Lack of housing

Livability and Sustainability

- Pineridge GC development and the loss of green space (1)
- Bus reliability
- VV Community Hall repairs (1), VV sport box needs resurfacing (1)
- VV Centennial Park – dog park? Tot lot?
- Lost beach area in VV
- Improved lighting on VV frontage Rod between Highland and River Roads
- No indoor turf facility (2)
- More pickleball
- No AT connection for East communities to downtown, etc (8)
- Increased Surveillance cameras at local intersections – what are they for? (5)
- River Street access to Hwy (advocacy)
- Unsafe roads in BHV
- Sidewalk in Dallas
- Traffic calming
- Sidewalk near RLC (1)
- Roundabout on Dallas Drive
- Private partnership opportunities to sponsor infrastructure
- Use of downcast lighting

Advocacy

- Highway into Dallas/BHV (1)
- Vicars Intersection (4)
- More schools
- Highway bypass

Safety and Security

- Reducing barriers to additional housing (suites, garden suites, carriage houses) (3)
- Clarity in bylaws/zoning/regulations re: suites and secondary housing (4)
- Firesmarting interface properties
- Investigate programs from other municipalities successful in reducing homelessness (7)
- Traffic calming and safety, transit ped and cyclists, speeding, sightlines (8) +2
- Increase housing densifications
- Who enforces the permitting for complex care?
- Allow for addition suites on properties (8) / Proactive permitting and building dept (1)
- Residents feeling unsafe
- Limiting residents' access to public spaces
- Too many homeless camps
- Sidewalk occupation, moving people along from businesses
- Clarify the misunderstanding / education and communications of social agencies
- Clear understanding of municipal/provincial/federal roles with housing and homelessness and complex care
- Community land trust and royal ave properties
- Speeding in school zones and no sidewalks (10)
- Enforcing bikes on sidewalks
- Discontinuation of roadside mowing in BHV, Campbell Creek = bad sightlines

Advocate

- Province is downloading too much onto the City
- More K-12 schools – not bussing kids to other neighborhoods
 - Work harder at keeping schools at 100% capacity (not over)
 - Better relationship with school board
 - Affordability re: taxes etc
- Affordable and available seniors housing +3
- Densification re: affordability for younger generation
- Grants for Firesmarting (6)
- Complex Care (60)
- Enforcement of public intoxication

Accountability/Governance

- Plans coming to fruition
- Communication on progress of plans and strategies
- What are the plans for water, sewer, paving roads, fire halls
- Better flow and communication when responding to service calls
- Smart meters / cost for removal

Economic Health

- Safety and security of streets = better for business development
- Barriers removed for building permits
- Reduce wait times for response to calls/emails
- Clarity in zoning for residents
- Improve/understand important of local farmers and agriculture (2)
- Affordability (2)
- Hearing citizen voices when proposing/developing City plans