

URBAN AND NATURAL SYSTEMS POLICY SECTION
CITY OF OTTAWA

MUNSTER

VILLAGE REVIEW PUBLIC WORKSHOP SUMMARY



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PUBLIC WORKSHOP
APRIL 2, 2011

V 1.0

PART I: DESCRIBING A VISION FOR THE VILLAGE

The intent of the visioning session was to get residents to think about what they see as the ideal future for their village. Facilitators at the meeting asked residents to describe in a word or two, their ideal village. The following are the words, concepts and phrases that residents used to describe their ideal village.

- Most important thing about Munster is that it is small, quiet, peaceful and away from the noise and bustle of the city.
 - Residents felt that this was the key thing that needed to be included in the vision for 20 years.
- There is some threat to this peace and quiet by increased use of snowmobiles and ATVs.
- Munster is safe and should stay that way
- No new development in the Village
 - By far the most popular opinion in the group
 - What about stagnation? If there is no growth at all can the village survive?
 - Stittsville was a small village 25 years ago and has grown now and many people who moved there are moving back to Munster because Stittsville is too big and overdeveloped.
 - Why can't the village stay the way it is? No need for new development, any services required by the community are available within a 10 minute drive.
- Recreational Space
 - A number of unofficial recreational spaces used by residents of the village for hiking, biking, walking, dog park, etc. - In particular, the private land to the east of the village (in between the village and the sandpit). This area, including Sample's Hill, is very important to the Village and forms an important part of the vision for the future.
 - City should buy the property so that it doesn't end up being logged. The area could become a true recreational space.
- Multi-generational Community
 - The village is home to a large number of young families so activities for children are important. The community centre, school and recreation fields and parks are the core of the community. Maintaining, upgrading and investing in these facilities will be very important to the future success of the village.
 - What about seniors? Munster is not a very "senior friendly" place right now. The vision for the future should provide for seniors in the community. There is

no small scale housing for seniors and many of them have to move out of the village when they have to downsize their homes. If any new development is to occur, this would be an appropriate type- small senior's home or apartment building.

- School
 - Munster School is constantly threatened with being closed, but it is very important that it remains open.
 - School is the heart of the community and residents don't want to have to send their kids out of town to school.
- Strong Community Spirit
 - Community is active and involved, everyone knows each other and people volunteer for activities and help out at the community centre and the school. This is a really important part of life in the village and would be sad to see that change in 20 years.
 - Active Munster Community Association is very important in this.
- Environment
 - Munster is clean, with good water and beautiful surroundings.
 - Concern over expansion to existing sand pit or new quarry activities.
- Other themes on the sticky notes:
 - No bio-solids
 - friendly, active
 - Munster community association

In the weeks ahead the village review team will use the words and themes from this vision session to prepare a vision for the village to include in the secondary plan.

PART II: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS (SWOT) DISCUSSION

The second part of the village workshop consisted of a discussion strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in and around the village. The intent of this exercise was to identify issues applicable to the village that can be addressed through land use designation changes or through policies specific to the village in the Official Plan.

During the exercise residents placed coloured stickers on a map of the village to illustrate the location of these different issues. Green denoted strength, red denoted a threat, yellow denoted a weakness and blue denoted opportunities for the village.

STRENGTHS (GREEN)

- Core of the village was identified as a strength including: school, community centre, library, church, restaurant, Orange Lodge and the Schoolhouse reception venue.
- School and Community Centre were noted as particular strengths that help create the village atmosphere that is important to the residents. **
- Parks in the centre of the two neighbourhoods at the north end of the village were also strengths
- Saunders Farm outside the village boundary but still a strength in bringing people into Munster, especially in the fall.
- Village Boundary was also discussed as a strength in terms of restricting the size of the community.
- Recreational area west of the village boundary as a natural recreational area.

WEAKNESSES (YELLOW)

- The Community Centre and adjacent outdoor recreation space were also seen as a weakness by many in the group. The group felt that the existing facilities need significant upgrading and expansion to keep them working properly and provide an appropriate level of services to the community.
- No Senior's residence
- No gas station

OPPORTUNITIES (BLUE)

- Former sewage lagoon area was seen as an opportunity for a naturalized recreational area. Depending on level of contamination, it was felt that the area could be used as an open space with walking trails
- Wooded area to the east of the village is identified as an opportunity for an “official” recreational area that is publicly owned.
- Empty commercial lot west of Munster Road could be a gas station
- Opportunity for new retailers in the Village. The current retail space is mostly empty except for Danby’s restaurant and more services would be good in the community.
- Dog Park at Sample’s Hill (east of the village)

THREATS (RED)

- Wooded area noted above in Opportunities was also a threat in that if the City were to purchase the property there was concern that the things that make the area special (natural area, wooded, biking and hiking) would be threatened and the Village would end up with a large park that was highly manicured and regulated.
- Additional threat on the wooded area was in the case that the existing owner decided to restrict access to his property or that it was logged.
- Existing sand pit to the east of the Village boundary was seen as a threat***
- Village boundary is a threat in terms of stagnation (there was one person in particular at the table who felt concerned about the potential for the Village to be stunted by no new development).

The village review team will use the map and notes from the SWOT discussion to help recommend changes to land use designations for the village and may also recommend village specific policies if necessary.

PART III: LAND USE

Part II largely concluded the main village workshop. Prior to leaving however residents were asked to review the land use map for the village and to answer a question about the village. Residents were asked specifically:

Below are the responses to the question we asked and any other observations that residents gave us about the village map.

Question 1 regarding large land parcels and Open Space:

- In general participants felt that all of the open areas should be designated as OS in the Zoning schedule. In particular the area of the sewage lagoon south of the village.

Question 2 regarding commercial zone expansion along Bleek's Road:

- There was some confusion about the question that refers to St. Stephen's Anglican Church. The Church is actually the Public Library it is just housed in the church.
- There is also no funeral home in the village right now, nobody was aware that Tubman owned land there.
- There was discussion of a lot being sold across the street from the library (south side of Bleek's road) already being sold as commercial when it isn't currently zoned as such.

Question 3 regarding use of the lands where the existing lagoons are:

- Area is currently zoned Rural Institutional 3 which does not permit residential uses. This was confusing for the participants because the map showed it as a "residential" area and the question referred to it as residential when in fact it is currently zoned as institutional.
- Discussion amongst the group regarding the area to the south of the village where the sewage lagoons are located. There was a general feeling that the area should be open space and not developed.
- If the area was to be developed perhaps it could be severed with the northern section being developed and the southern section remaining as is.
- There was a strong preference amongst the group that the area be designated not as industrial, but as open space (see question1)

THANK-YOU

The village plan review team is very appreciative of the input we received from residents and community leaders. Over the months ahead we will be completing our analysis and reporting back. We hope to see you all again in the fall when we return with a draft vision statement, land use maps and village policies for the secondary plan.