

Ganges Village Planning Public Engagement Plan

What is this Engagement Plan?

On October 6, 2020, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SSI LTC) directed staff to develop an area plan for Ganges Village to be referenced in the Official Community Plan for Ganges Village to ensure a healthy, resilient and environmentally sustainable village and future generations. The parameters for this village planning initiative include the Islands Trust's commitment to preserve and protect the unique and fragile environment of the island; to address the Climate Emergency; and to advance reconciliation efforts set forth in the Reconciliation Declaration and the Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2022. This project will build on work by community groups, government agencies and collaboration with First Nations and stakeholders.



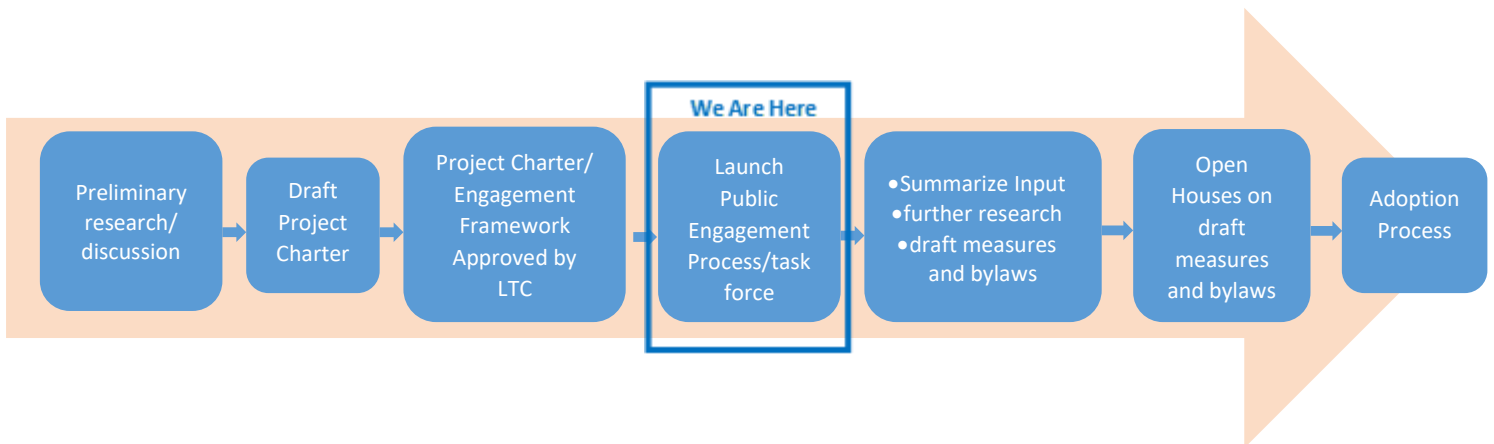
This Engagement Plan intends to implement the principles identified in the approved Ganges Village Planning Public Engagement Framework by providing a detailed plan of engagement activities with the stakeholders, agencies and the general public. The interest of First Nations is a key element of this plan, and the First Nations Engagement Principles of the Islands Trust will apply in the engagement process. To ensure a meaningful consultation with First Nations, the processes will include on-going engagement with First Nations with treaty and territorial interests in the area of Salt Spring Island. The collaboration and consultation will be reflective of the Trust Council adopted policy on First Nations Engagement Principles, and the foundation documents of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice. Engagement process will be guided by concerns or responses from First Nations on how to proceed in a mutually respectful, collaborative relationship-building framework. Finally, this Engagement Plan intends to allow for flexibility to respond to any unforeseen circumstances and changes in the resource capacity, to adjust any gaps in the strategies, or to improve any deficiency in the process midstream. The Plan will also be revised should funding become available for a consulting service to take over the public engagement process.

1. Public Engagement Process Objectives

The intent of the engagement process is to provide a meaningful public engagement process and to achieve the following goals:

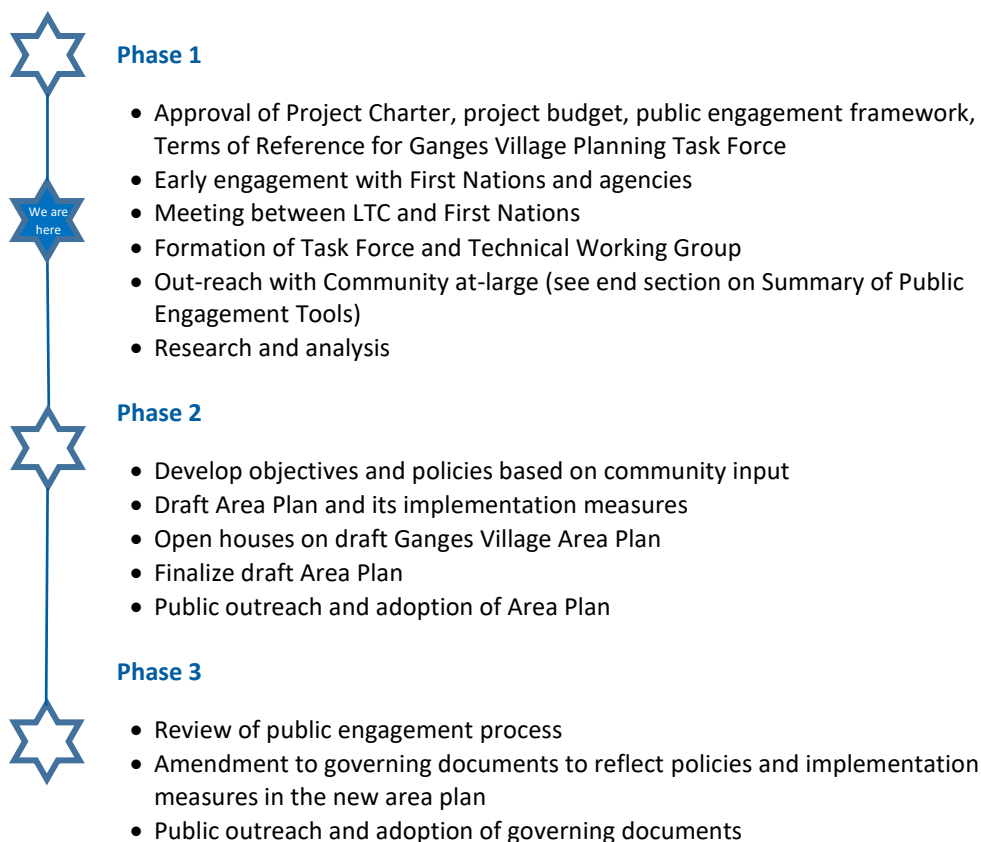
- a. To **promote** *awareness* amongst islanders and the general public
- b. To **inform** the community, agencies and First Nations on relevant issues and critical information in the planning process
- c. To **collaborate** effectively with the community on brainstorming of issues and exploring solutions
- d. To **offer** opportunities for all to be heard and to voice their concerns
- e. To **commit** to a transparent process with ongoing updates and opportunities for feedback

2. General Planning Process



4. Key Activities in the Planning Process

The project will be implemented in three key phases over the next two years:



5. Who are We Engaging?

Approaches	Timeline	Activities	Comments/status
Early engagement with First Nations (12 Nations with treaty and territorial interest)	12/2020 – 02/ 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email & ground mail of Project Charter • Zoom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoom meetings with Halalt, Malahat, WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council, and Cowichan Nation Alliance • Process is on-going
Early conversation with agencies/islanders	12/2020-02/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email Project Charter • Zoom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoom/telephonic meetings with agencies responded • Invite to Technical Working Group
Early conversation with community groups	02/2021	Phone/zoom/email	In progress
Develop outreach communication on project	12/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meeting on Project Charter • Project webpage • Subscribers notice 	Posted on project webpage
Community-to-community forum between First Nations representatives and LTC	03/2021	Preparation of forum in progress	Zoom meeting to be held on March 15, 2021
Formation of Task Force	03/2021	Appointments of members from community at-large	Application submission in progress
Technical Working Group	04/2021	Collaboration with Agencies	In progress

6. List of Nations, Agencies, Stakeholders and Community Groups *(this list is not meant to be exhaustive)*

First Nations with treaty and territorial interests	Agencies	Community groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ts'uubaa-asatx (Lake Cowichan) First Nation • Lyackson First Nation • MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation • Penelakut Tribe • Stz'uminus (Chemainus) First Nation • WJOLEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation • SẂÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation • WSIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation • BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation • WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council • Halalt First Nation • Cowichan Tribes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRD • NSSWD • School District (SD64) • Salt Spring Fire and Rescue (SSIFR) • Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) • Chamber of Commerce • Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure • Salt Spring Island Harbour Authority • Health Service Agencies VIHA (Salt Spring Island Health Unit) • Community Services • BC Housing • Ministry of Municipal Affairs • Islands Trust Conservancy • FLRNORD - provincial authority of crown leases) • Coast Guard (federal authority) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wagon Wheels Society • Salt Spring Conservancy • Development community • Salt Spring Island Arts Council • Salt Spring Island Housing Council Society • Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) • Water Preservation Society • Green Community Design • others

7. Ganges Village Planning Task Force

The complex nature of developing an area plan and the plan's potential impacts on land use planning for the Ganges Village community, a task force encompassing members from a diverse background that will apply objectively their expertise, experience and knowledge will assist in the development of the "Ganges Village Area Plan" process.

Task Force	Timeline	Status
Formation of Ganges Village Planning Task Force	03/2021	Application submission in progress

8. Tentative Timeline on Outreach Process

Methods	Date	Locations	Status
Virtual open houses, and/or in-person if proper physical distancing is achievable	Summer/fall 2021	TBA	Have yet to develop RFP for consulting service
Virtual design charrettes, and/or in-person if proper physical distancing is achievable	Summer/fall 2021	TBA	Have yet to develop RFP for consulting service
Virtual/telephonic conversation with the planner and/or in-person if proper physical distancing is achievable	Every Thursday 9:30 am – 11:00 am		Website update in progress
Online survey			Upon appointment of Task Force

Subscribers option	On-going		Website update in progress
Direct mail (to properties affected by the planning process)	Prior to public hearings		
New release			
Letter to editor/editorial			
Webpage			Ongoing updates
Paid ad			Ongoing updates
Brochures		Online/hard copies	

9. Public Engagement Tools

Various engagement tools will be utilized to ensure a meaningful outreach and engagement process. The tools utilized below are not exhausted, should additional resources become available to the project for additional public engagement activities, this Public Engagement Plan will likely expand and more tools could be incorporated.

Project Webpage

A project webpage will be maintained for the duration of the planning process. The webpage will provide information about the project, including the Ganges Village Planning Project Charter, Ganges Village Planning Task Force Terms of Reference, Ganges Village Planning Public Engagement Framework, and a list of relevant documents. The webpage will also provide an online survey, as well as various public engagement updates to keep the community informed. Understanding some people may not have access to the internet, the Project Webpage provides a cost-effective means to post notifications, project updates and various community outreach activities, and to reach a diverse population on the island and beyond.

Brochures/Paper Mails

An easy-to-understand and graphically-engaging document that highlights key elements of the project, updates and general information will be made available online, printed copies may also be available at various locations such as Salt Spring Island Local Planning Office, community centers, and various community-organizations. Paper mailings on legal notifications will be available to properties on public hearings and on properties that will be affected by any particularly proposed regulatory requirements.

Advertising

Paid advertising from local newspaper will be provided on any public meetings and may be utilized to promote upcoming project events.

Survey

Various surveys related to different phases of the project will be posted on the Project Webpage to seek input from the community. At different stages of the project, a set of questions will be posted online in an attempt to seek input from the respondents. Well-crafted questions can elicit a wealth of valuable insight with statistical validity. This technique is effective for understanding public opinion and preferences to help identify key issues.

Workshops

When permitted under B.C. Health protocols, a variety of workshops such as community events, stakeholders’ workshops, classroom workshops, and design charrettes may be held throughout the duration of the project. Café-style workshop is often a great way to bring a diverse group of people

together to have simultaneous conversation, to share community’s concerns and to explore alternative solutions. Each round of discussion per table or small group focuses on one key question, before each person moves to a new different group for the next round. This type of setting has been proven to be very successful in allowing diverse perspectives to be heard and collaborating on collective solutions. Design charrettes have also been a popular part of a public engagement process as they bring together a diverse range of expertise (architects, landscape architects, engineers, planners, content specialists, educators, students, community representatives, and governmental staff) to collaborate on innovative design solutions that are based on mutual interests. Design charrette helps translating ideas into visual form which and is an effective form of engagement in generating creative solutions to difficult problems in the least amount of time. Classroom workshop is another option to partnering with local schools, which offer a fun and interactive means to engage with students, and a great way to stimulate ideas from the future generation while fostering youth in civic engagement.

Open House

Open house is an informal setting with the project team present to highlight specific topics. The public is free to peruse the various areas and interact with the project team. This is a good technique for seeking input on specific options or alternatives, but it is fairly resource-intensive and capturing all public comment in this format may be challenging.








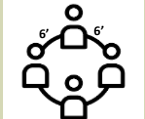





Virtual Coffee with Planner

In an attempt to provide additional opportunities for the public to discuss the project with the project planner, a web-based (Zoom) or telephonic ½ hour conversation will be available every Thursday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. A request to have the conversation can be emailed to the project planner via the Project webpage or at lgarbo@islandstrust.bc.ca by noon of the Wednesday before. Due to the limited time available, conversation should be within the scope of the project and not bylaw enforcement, development application or permit on a specific property.

Public Hearing

Public hearings allow affected citizens to provide their views to their elected representatives on any proposed bylaw. It is a formal meeting with a presentation and dedicated time for public comment. At the public hearing, all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaw must be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard. This involves an opportunity to make a speech or presentation to the elected officials or to present a written submission. In many cases, notices about the public hearing may also indicate a time and location to submit comments prior to the public hearing.

10. Summary of Public Engagement Tools *(the list of the tools is not meant to be exhaustive)*

Community Engagement Events			On-going Efforts			
						
Stakeholders Workshops	Community Design Charrettes		Online Survey	Social Media	Letters	Phone Calls
						
Virtual Open Houses	Open Houses	Virtual coffee with Planner	Website update	Press Release/Editorial	Email	Virtual/in-person Public Meetings