



DATE OF MEETING: March 23, 2021

TO: Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

FROM: Louisa Garbo, Island Planner, Salt Spring Island Team

COPY: Stefan Cermak, Regional Planning Manager, Salt Spring Island Team

SUBJECT: Priority Projects Public Engagement Plan

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee approves the proposed Ganges Village Area Plan Public Engagement Plan.
2. That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee approves the proposed Housing Action Program Public Engagement Plan.

BACKGROUND

Ganges Village Area Plan

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SSI LTC), at their meeting on November 10, 2020, approved the Project Charter, its associated proposed budget, and the Ganges Village Area Plan Public Engagement Framework for the development of an area plan for Ganges Village. At the same meeting, SSI LTC directed staff to develop a Public Engagement Plan that is consistent with the approved Engagement Framework which included early and on-going engagement with First Nations, various agencies and community groups as identified in the resolutions below:

SS-2020-174

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee approve the proposed Ganges Village Area Plan Project Charter and project budget.

CARRIED

SS-2020-175

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee approve in principle the proposed Ganges Village Area Plan Public Engagement Framework.

CARRIED

SS-2020-176

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee amend the proposed Terms of Reference for the Ganges Village Planning Task Force as follows:

- Item 5c) – members should represent a wide cross section and varied interest perspectives, opinions and values of the community.

CARRIED

SS-2020-177

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee approve the draft Terms of Reference as amended for the Ganges Village Planning Task Force.

CARRIED

SS-2020-178

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee support the grant applicant for the Regional Community-to-Community Forum Program 2020-2021.

CARRIED

SS-2020-179

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee transfer \$2,500 from the Cannabis Regulation project to the Ganges Village Planning project.

CARRIED

Housing Action Program

Moreover, at their special meeting in January 2021, shortly after the approval of the Ganges Village Area Plan initiative, SSI LTC, approved the Housing Action Program Project Charter, along with its associated budget and the Housing Action Program Public Engagement Framework. Similar to the direction in approving the Project Charter for the Ganges Village Area Plan Project Charter, SSI LTC also directed staff to develop a Public Engagement Plan that is consistent with the approved Engagement Framework and to conduct early and on-going engagement with First Nations, and various agencies and community groups as identified in the resolutions below:

SS-2021-025

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee approve the “Housing Action Program” Project Charter as amended.

CARRIED

SS-2021-026

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee accept in principle the proposed “Housing Action Program” project budget.

CARRIED

SS-2021-027

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee approve the proposed “Housing Action Program” Task Force Terms of Reference.

CARRIED

SS-2021-028

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee approve in principle the proposed “Housing Action Program Public Engagement Framework”.

CARRIED

SS-2021-029

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to review potential amendments to the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan and the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw as identified in the “Housing Action Program” Project Charter.

CARRIED

SS-2021-030

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to conduct early and on-going engagement with at minimum First Nations, the Capital Regional District, the Agricultural Land Commission, School District No. 64, North Salt Spring Waterworks District, Salt Spring Island Fire and Rescue, Salt Spring Island Arts Council, the Chamber of Commerce, Salt Spring Island Community Services, BC Housing, The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, health service, housing providers and coastal agencies, and Trust Council and other Local Trust Committees in accordance with Section 475 of the Local Government Act, on the proposed “Housing Action Program” and the proposed major amendment to the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan.

CARRIED

SS-2021-031

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to seek opportunities for collaboration and efficiencies between the Housing Action Program Task Force and the Ganges Village Planning Task Force.

CARRIED

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee requests staff to develop a preliminary consultation/engagement plan recommending early and on-going engagement with First Nations, the Capital Regional District, the Agricultural Land Commission and School District #64, Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District, Salt Spring Island Arts Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Transportation and infrastructure.

CARRIED

SS-2021-031

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to seek opportunities for collaboration and efficiencies between the Housing Action Program Task Force and the Ganges Village Planning Task Force.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION

Given the interrelatedness of the two projects, their process timelines, the same twelve First Nations with territorial interest, as well as the same agencies, stakeholder and community groups that will be engaged in the process, coupled with the limited resources in planning process, SSI LTC directed staff to find efficiency in the best possible manner during the planning process as indicated in the last resolution above. As a result of the support of the SSI LTC, staff is able to combine much of the early conversation and outreach efforts by introducing both projects to the First Nations, agencies and community groups. Since the engagement approaches and the engagement tools are similar between the two projects, and for the purpose of expediting the kick-off of the engagement planning efforts, this staff report includes both Public Engagement Plans for consideration.

Early Consultation and Engagement with First Nations

The engagement processes will be reflective of the Trust Council’s adopted policy of the “First Nations Engagement Principles,” the foundation documents of the “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (UNDRIP), the “Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action,” and the “Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice.” The engagement process will be guided by concerns or responses from First Nations on how to proceed in a mutually respectful and relationship building framework. As indicated in the “Summary Table” below, several web-based introduction meetings with First Nations representatives were held in January and February. Staff will continue to collaborate with these representatives

throughout the duration of the two projects to ensure meaningful coordination and collaboration with First Nations.

Community-to-Community Forum

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the First Nations Summit (FNS) jointly organized a province-wide program called the “Community to Community (C2C) Forum” to help bring together the leaders of First Nations and the elected officials from local governments to discuss issues and opportunities for joint action. The Islands Trust Local Planning Services for Salt Spring Island submitted a grant request for the C2C forum and a matching fund was granted by UBCM. Due to the pandemic and the subsequent BC Health’s protocol, the forum will be held on March 15, 2021, in an online Zoom-conference format.

Early Conversation with Agencies/Stakeholders/Community Groups

Staff has met with a number of agencies, business and community organizations as summarized in the table below. The list of contacts will continue to grow as more community groups are reaching out to SSI LTC for enquires and to be part of the engagement process. Many agencies indicated their support of both the Ganges Village Area Plan and the Housing Action Program, and expressed their interest in participating in the Technical Working Group to collaborate on the planning efforts. The first meeting for the Technical Working Group will likely be in May, upon the inauguration meetings of the Task Force for both projects.

Technical Working Group

The Technical Working Group (TWG) encompasses members of various provincial agencies; the round-table discussions intend to maximize the benefit of sharing of subject-matter expertise, knowledge-exchange and collaboration between all agencies involved. Almost all the agencies contacted are also the typical review agencies on the development permits and applications for Salt Spring Island, whereas others are involved in long-range and master planning with Island staff. All agencies indicated their preference to discuss both projects at the same recurring meeting in order to better manage their time and workload. The TWG recurring meeting will be held once a month throughout the duration of the two projects, with additional meetings on an as-needed basis.

Formation of the Task Force

Each Task Force for the two projects will play an important role in advising and evaluating materials, providing feedback and brainstorming of approaches and alternatives on the planning process. Members on the Task Force for both projects will reflect a diverse range of perspectives; they will also help promote and support the public engagement process. They are guided by the Terms of Reference to work collectively as a group, to brainstorm and to collaborate on alternatives, and to objectively apply judgement based on members’ expertise, experience and knowledge of the subject matter as it related to the planning process. Each Task Force is essentially serving as a “*Special Project Advisory Planning Commission*” in accordance with [the BC Community Charter](#) and the [Local Government Act](#), and the structure of each Task Force must also comply with the [Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 467](#). All meetings are subject to Open Meetings, Public Notice and Access to Records requirements. An orientation on protocols for the members serving on each Task Force, their Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will take place at their second meeting. The deadline for the application submission for the Ganges Village Task Force has expired on February 28, 2021, and the SSI LTC will be reviewing and appointing members at a separate meeting today. The application deadline for the Housing Action Program Task Force will be March 31, 2021, with the appointment to be held by SSI LTC in April.

Summary Table of Early Consultation efforts as of to date

First Nations, Agencies, and Community Group	
Cowichan Tribes	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite
Ts'uubaa-asatx (Lake Cowichan) First Nation	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite
Lyackson First Nation	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite
MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite zoomed – Jan 12, 2021
Penelakut Tribe	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite
Stz'uminus (Chemainus) First Nation	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite
WJOLEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite
SXÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite
WSIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite
BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite
WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite zoomed – Jan 21, 2021
Halalt First Nation	emailed staff Dec 3, 2020 emailed/mailed C2C invite zoomed – Jan 14, 2021
Cowichan Nation Alliance	zoomed – Jan 12, 2021
Capital Regional District (CRD) - Various divisions	emailed, Dec 3, 2020 zoomed Dec 10, 2020 zoomed Jan 1, 2021 zoomed Jan 14, 2021 zoomed Jan 26, 2021 zoomed Jan 28, 2021
North Salt Spring Water District (NSSWD)	called on Dec 2, 2020 zoomed, on Dec 8, 2020
School District (SD64)	emailed - Dec 17, 2020, zoomed – Jan 28, 2021
Salt Spring Fire & Rescue (SSIFR)	emailed - Dec 17, 2020
Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)	emailed - Dec 17, 2020, zoomed – Jan 5, 2021
Salt Spring Island Arts Council	emailed - Dec 17, 2020
Chamber of Commerce	emailed - Dec 17, 2020 emailed - Jan 18, 2021, zoomed - Feb 2, 2021

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	emailed - Dec 17, zoomed – Feb 23, 2021
Salt Spring Island Harbour Authority	emailed - Dec 17, 2020, zoomed – Jan 26, 2021
Health Service Agencies VIHA (Salt Spring Island Health Unit)	emailed - Dec 17, 2020, zoomed – Jan 7, 2021
Community Services	zoomed – Jan 04, 2021
Salt Spring Island Housing Council Society	emailed - Jan 14, 2021
BC Transit	zoomed – Feb 18, 2021
BC Housing	emailed - Dec 17, 2020
Ministry of Municipal Affairs	in progress
Salt Spring Conservancy	in progress
Wagon Wheels Society	in progress
FLRNORD (provincial authority of crown leases)	in progress
Coast Guard (federal authority)	in progress
Trust Conservancy	in progress
various development community members - ONNI Group	Zoomed – Feb 11, 2021
Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA)	in progress
Real Estate Association	in progress
water preservation society	in progress
Salt Spring Solutions	zoomed - Feb 11, 2021, & Feb 23, 2021

PROPOSED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLANS

There are similarities in the public engagement approaches and tools being used for both the Ganges Village Area Plans and the Housing Action Program, aside from the timing perspective where both projects are being launched about the same time and anticipated to be completed between two to three years, both public engagement plans (as shown on Appendix 1 and 3) intend to achieve the same following goals:

- a. To promote awareness amongst stakeholders and the general public
- b. To inform the community, agencies and stakeholders 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

Furthermore, from the efficiency perspective and to best utilize resources, discussion on both projects will be held at the same recurring meetings with the Technical Working Group and Virtual Coffee with Planner. Finally, the Public Engagement Tools proposed for both plans intend 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. Most importantly, be able to incorporate any suggestions from each Task Force, or from the consulting service should additional funding is available.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of the resolutions for the Ganges Village Area Plan Public Engagement Plan and the Housing Action Program Public Engagement Plan, staff will conduct the following activities consistent with the two Engagement Plans (activities are not exhaustive and will take place concurrently):

- Contingent upon funding, develop an RFP for consulting service as identified in the Project Charters, Public

Engagement Frameworks and Public Engagement Plans for the two projects;

- Continue the early conversations with First Nations staff, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, Capital Regional District (CRD), School District (SD64), Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), Salt Spring Fire Rescue (SSIFR), Salt Spring Island Arts Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, harbour agencies, and health service agencies;
- Convene the Ganges Village Planning Task Force meeting upon SSI LTC’s appointment of members in March, followed by the Housing Action Program Task Force in April, 2021;
- Convene the Technical Working Group meeting, likely in late May 2021, upon the first Task Force meeting for both projects;
- Launch the public engagement activities established in the Public Engagement Plan;
- Continue the research and analysis on existing conditions, and issues relating to land use development, transportation and mobility, housing, cultural and archeological protection, climate resiliency, infrastructure servicing, protection of aquifers and biodiversity.

Submitted By:	Louisa Garbo, Island Planner	March 2, 2021
Concurrence:	Stefan Cermak, Regional Planning Manager	March 4, 2021

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ganges Village Area Plan Public Engagement Plan
2. Approved Ganges Village Area Plan Public Engagement Framework
3. Proposed Housing Action Program Public Engagement Plan
4. Approved Housing Action Program Public Engagement Framework

Ganges Village Area Plan 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](#) (passed March 2019); and to advance reconciliation efforts set forth in the [Reconciliation Declaration](#) (passed March 2019) and the [Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2022](#) (passed June 2019). 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 Area Plan Public Engagement Framework](#) by providing a detailed plan of engagement activities with the stakeholders, agencies and the general public. 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.

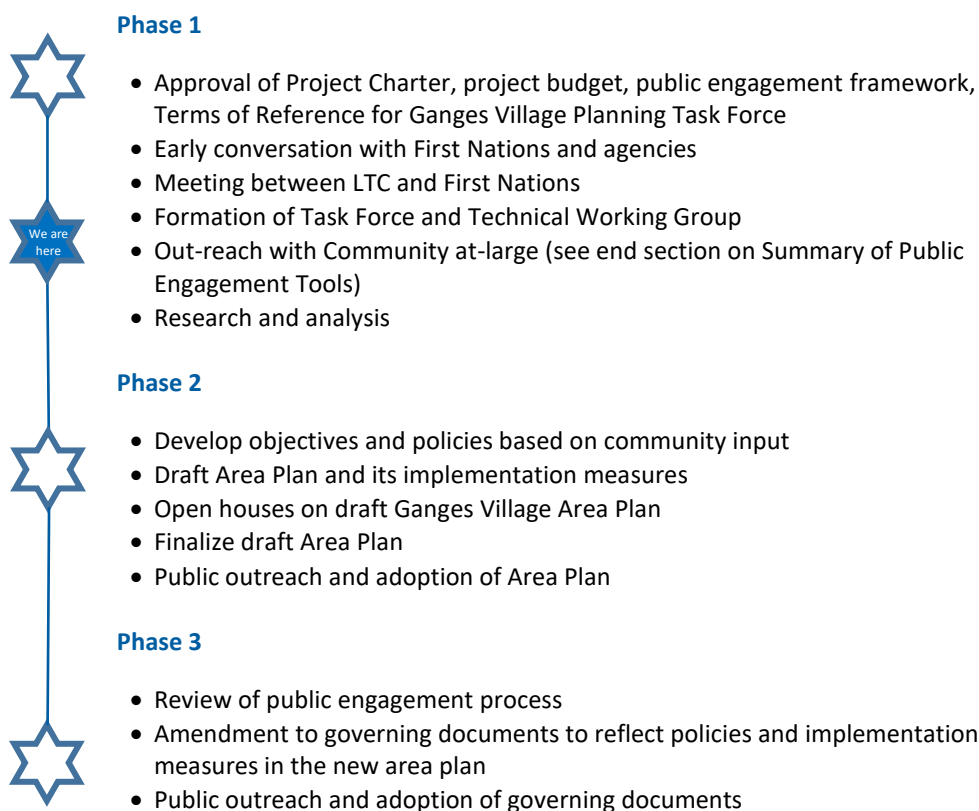
1. Public Engagement Process Objectives

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 stakeholders and the general public
- b. To **inform** the community, agencies and stakeholders 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

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 conversation with First Nations (12 Nations with jurisdictional 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/stakeholders	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 Chiefs 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 potential jurisdictional interest	Agencies	Community groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ts'uubaa-asatx (Lake Cowichan) First Nation • Lyackson First Nation • MÁLEXĒĻ (Malahat) Nation • Penelakut Tribe • Stz'uminus (Chemainus) First Nation • WJOLEĒP (Tsartlip) First Nation • SẂÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation • WSIKĒM (Tseycum) First Nation • BOKĒĒN (Pauquachin) First Nation • WŚÁNEĒ Leadership Council • Halalt First Nation 	<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.








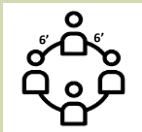




Virtual Coffee with Planner

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		

Ganges Village Area Plan Public Engagement Framework

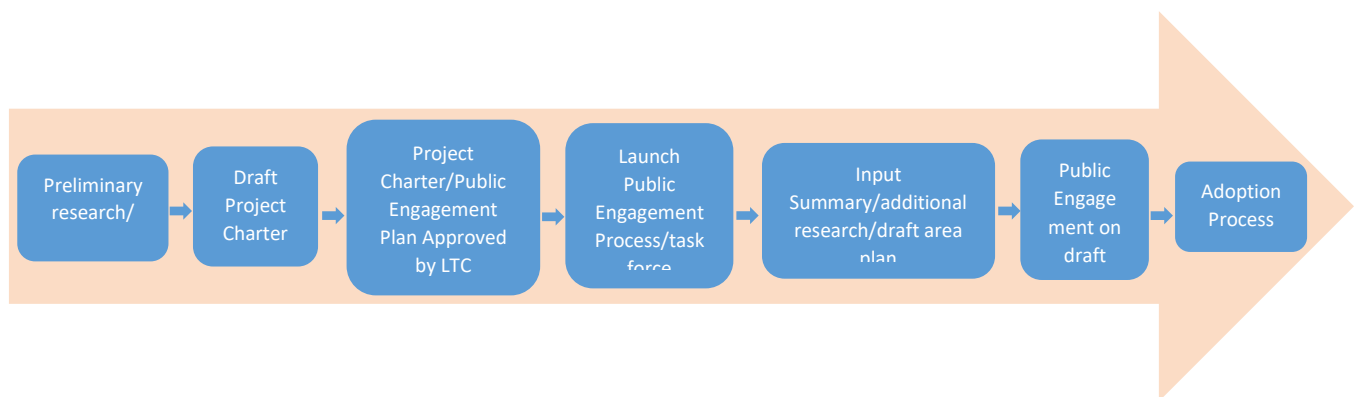
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On June 8, 2020, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) prioritized Ganges Village Planning as a top priority project and subsequently passed the resolution requesting staff to develop a budget level project charter for the Ganges Village Planning for the Trust Council budget process for 2021/22. In order to develop a budget, and to seek direction on the project scope, staff presented a draft Project Charter to LTC on October 6, 2020. To ensure a healthy, resilient and environmentally sustainable village and future generations, LTC directed staff to develop a separate area plan to be referenced in the Official Community Plan for Ganges Village.

GANGES VILLAGE AREA PLAN

The goal of the Ganges Village Area Plan is to provide a planning document that ensures the community within Ganges Village will grow and develop sustainably through objectives, policies and holistic measures. 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](#) (passed March 2019); and to advance reconciliation efforts set forth in the [Reconciliation Declaration](#) (passed March 2019) and the [Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2022](#) (passed June 2019). This project will build on work by community groups, government agencies and collaboration with First Nations and stakeholders.

GENERAL PLANNING PROCESS



KEY ACTIVITIES

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

Phase 1

- Approval of Project Charter, project budget, public engagement plan, Terms of Reference for Ganges Village Planning Task Force
- Meeting between LTC and First Nations
- Early conversation with First Nations, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, Capital Regional District (CRD), School District (SD64), Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), Salt Spring Fire Rescue (SSIFR), Salt Spring Island Arts Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, harbour agencies, and health service agencies
- Launch public engagement program
- Develop vision and objectives for the Ganges Village Area Plan

Phase 2

- Research and analysis, meeting with stakeholders and agencies
- Draft Area Plan and its implementation measures
- Open houses on draft Ganges Village Area Plan
- Finalize draft Area Plan
- Public outreach and adoption of Area Plan

Phase 3

- Review of public engagement process
- Amendment to governing documents to reflect policies and implementation measures in the new area plan
- Public outreach and adoption of governing documents

GANGES VILLAGE PLANNING TASK FORCE

The Task Force is an appointed advisory working group to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC), which consisting of 11 members. The Task Force will have a hands-on role in creating and implementing engagement activities in the community under the direction of the LTC and coordinated by Islands Trust staff. The Task Force will facilitate discussions and host community events, review summary documents from the engagement sessions prepared by Islands Trust staff, and provide the LTC with recommendations on plan concepts, policy options, and the draft Ganges Village Area Plan. All discussions and meetings held by the Task Force are open to the public, and the Task Force members will objectively apply judgement based on their expertise, experience and knowledge of the subject matter as related to development of the “Ganges Village Area Plan” process.

VALUES AND PRINCIPLES FOR ENGAGEMENT

Values and principles are fundamental norms or rules that guide the perspective of an organized group of people, as well as their actions. This Engagement Program is built upon the following Guiding Principles of the Islands Trust:

- The primary responsibility of the Islands Trust Council is to provide leadership for the preservation, protection and stewardship of the amenities, environment and resources of the Trust Area.
- When making decisions and exercising judgment, Trust Council will place priority on preserving and protecting the integrity of the environment and amenities in the Trust Area.

- Trust Council will seek information from a broad range of sources in its decision-making processes, recognizing the importance of local and traditional knowledge in this regard.
- Trust Council believes that to achieve the Islands Trust objective, the rate and scale of growth and development in the Trust Area must be carefully managed and may require limitation.
- Trust Council believes that open, consultative public participation is vital to effective decision making for the Trust Area.

This Engagement Program is also built on the following values of the Islands Trust:

Inclusion

This Public Engagement Program seeks to ensure that every voice can be heard in an authentic way, and to create opportunities for people to contribute when, where and how they feel most heard. The priority interest of First Nations is a key element of the inclusion strategy, and the [First Nations Engagement Principles](#) of the Islands Trust will apply.

Respect

The strategy seeks to ensure that every voice is treated equitably, and the feelings, rights and traditions of others are honoured through the engagement process. Input from the engagement will be wholly and broadly considered.

Community Voice

The Strategy will result in an engagement process that shares relevant and accurate information in order to increase the self-determination of the community so they can better express their diverse interests, needs, and perspectives in the planning process.

Transparent

The public engagement process will be communicated clearly and openly, including the purpose, timing, roles and responsibilities, constraints and outcomes. Timely feedback will be provided for the participants including the range of views expressed and how public input will be considered by the decision makers.

Innovation

The options and mechanisms for engagement will provide a range of ways for citizens and stakeholders to effectively participate in this project. Likewise, the strategy encourages innovation from participants as it seeks input around the identified issues, and encourages new approaches in how the Area Plan may be developed for the Ganges Village community.

Wholly and Equitably Involved

The public engagement process seeks to ensure that anyone and everyone has access to relevant information on the issues related to this project and around the engagement process itself. Importantly, the public engagement program will ensure relevant information is available in a variety of ways and through multiple sources.

On-going Evaluation

This public engagement process will be evaluated on a regular basis to foster ongoing learning and improvement.

PRIORITY ENGAGEMENT THEMES

In order to build a sustainable community in Ganges Village, the development of an area plan for Ganges Village will provide objectives and policies that encompass a wide-range of issues; issues that are interconnected and all are within the context of the Trust Council’s “preserve and protect”

mandate. For this reason, the framework for the area plan will be outlined in the following Priority Engagement Themes:

Land Use Development

Land use designations and zoning districts are in place to ensure appropriate locations and site setting for different types of uses in order to protect the fragility natural environment and archeological significance of Salt Spring Island. Specific policies and guiding principles established for Ganges Village back in 2006 should be re-examined and strengthened to address current conditions within the Ganges Village community.

Transportation and Mobility

Trust Council is committed to promote local and inter-community transportation systems that reduce dependency on private automobile use, and to evaluate and modify road construction and road systems that encompass the environmental, economic and social values of the community.

Housing

The population on Salt Spring Island has increased over time, with more people living and working in the Ganges Village area, but housing options have not been able to meet current needs. Increasing the diversity of housing options, especially secure and affordable rental housing will be examined in the development of the Area Plan for Ganges Village, and in so far as within the SS LTC jurisdiction.

Cultural and Archeological Protection

Ganges Village has a rich First Nations history; Trust Council, through the Reconciliation Declaration, is committed to incorporate Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, stewardship, and understanding in the land use planning and policies guides, and to preserve and protect the cultural sites and archeological significances.

Climate Resiliency

The Islands Trust Council has joined thousands of governments around the world declaring a climate emergency with a goal to “pursue an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in this very special area.” Accordingly, every Islands Trust project must be carried out with a view to minimizing the project’s impacts on the climate.

Infrastructure Servicing

Efficient and cost-effective infrastructure servicing is vital to development growth in Ganges Village, but the provision of such services must not be at the expense of the environment, especially with the limited water, waste-water and storm-water systems on the island and within the Ganges Village core. Land-use planning, infrastructure design, and service delivery go hand-in-hand in creating and maintaining a healthy community.

Protection of Aquifers and Biodiversity

For all the islands in the Salish Sea, the impacts of a changing climate mean serious threats to our already limited aquifers. Furthermore, land conservation and more robust land use planning tools to minimize loss of species and their habitat are critical to allow for resilience of our ecosystems particularly as they relate to sustainable growth within the Ganges Village community.

PURPOSE OF ENGAGEMENT

The primary reason for public engagement is to **inform** the LTC’s decisions in the planning process. In order to make an informed decision, the LTC is committed to **consulting** with the community, to **building** relationships in the community, to **involving** the stakeholders, and to **collaborating** with First Nations.

EVALUATION OF THE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

An on-going evaluation will be performed on the public engagement process, and the evaluation framework








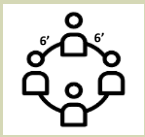





will include:

1. Evaluation sessions to examine, diagnose, discuss, and dialogue the cause-and-effect links and assumptions regarding the engagement process, outcomes, and intended and unintended consequences and impacts;
2. A plan to organize and allocate resources for total evidence-based evaluation of the engagement process (who was engaged, how many, number of responses, depth and quality of responses);
3. Incorporation of lessons learned to be included in future engagements;
4. Development of an ongoing engagement strategy to support current and future LTC processes and projects.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

- Virtual open houses, and/or in-person if proper physical distancing is achievable
- Virtual design charrettes, and/or in-person if proper physical distancing is achievable
- Virtual/telephonic conversation with the planner and/or in-person if proper physical distancing is achievable
- Online survey
- Subscribers option
- Email
- Direct mail
- New release
- Paid ad
- Letter to editor/editorial
- Webpage

• SUMMARY OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

Community Engagement Events			On-going Efforts				
							
Community Presentation	Design Charrettes		Online Survey	Social Media	Letters	Phone Calls	
							
Virtual Open	Open Houses	Virtual Coffee with the planner	Website update	Press Release/Editorial	Email	Virtual Public Meetings	



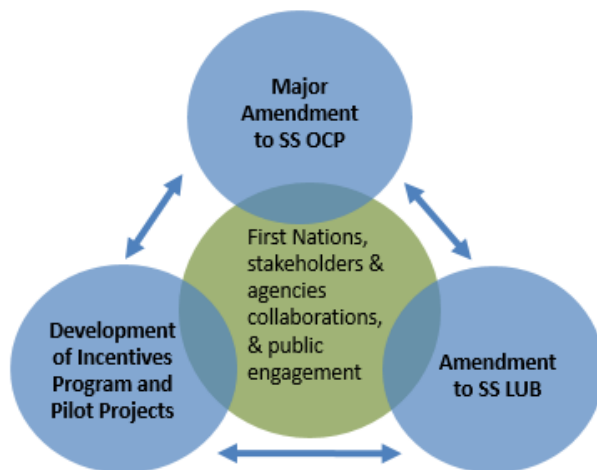
Housing Action Program Public Engagement Plan

1. What is this Engagement Plan?

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee, at their special meeting on January 22, 2021, approved the Project Charter for the Housing Action Program to address a number of issues relevant to the housing challenges in Salt Spring Island. Among them, the lack of affordable housing, low diversity in housing types, and low rental vacancy; the report pointed to the social, environmental, economic and cultural conditions that also impact the housing challenges on the island.

To ensure a holistic approach to be taken, the “Housing Action Program” will explore three main categories of actions:

- A major amendment to the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan (SSI OCP) to provide policies and objectives that support housing development and to address issues impacting housing conditions on the island;
- Potential amendments to the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw (SSI LUB) intend to offer immediate action to help alleviate the housing crisis, as well as long-term measures to promote sustainable development design;
- Potential incentive programs to promote sustainable development and innovative pilot projects.



To ensure success of the Program:

- Early and on-going consultation with First Nations
- On-going collaboration, partnership with agencies, stakeholders, community groups
- Meaningful on-going community outreach

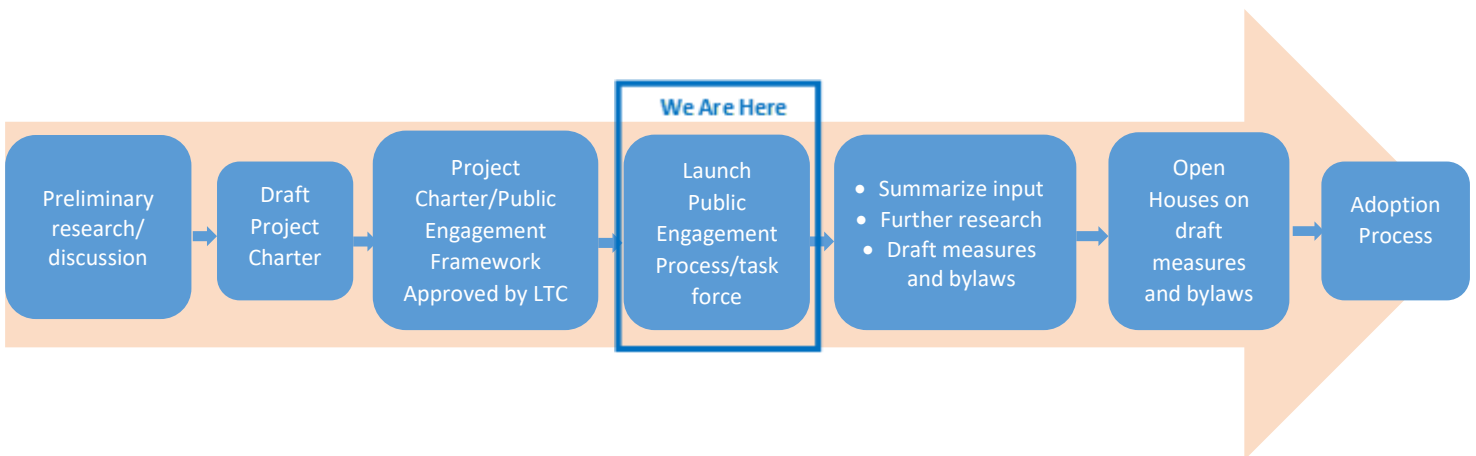
This Engagement Plan intends to implement the principles identified in the approved [Housing Action Program Public Engagement Framework](#) by providing a detailed plan of engagement activities with the stakeholders, agencies and the general public. This Engagement Plan intends to allow for flexibility 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.

2. Public Engagement Process Objectives

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

- f. To **promote** awareness amongst stakeholders and the general public
- g. To **inform** the community, agencies and stakeholders on relevant issues and critical information in the planning process
- h. To **collaborate** effectively with the community on brainstorming of issues and exploring solutions
- i. To **offer** opportunities for all to be heard and to voice their concerns
- j. To **commit** to a transparent process with ongoing updates and opportunities for feedback

3. General Planning Process



6. Who are We Engaging?

Approaches	Timeline	Activities	Comments/status
Early conversation with First Nations (12 Nations with jurisdictional 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, W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council, and Cowichan Nation Alliance Process is on-going
Early conversation with agencies/stakeholders	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 Chiefs 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

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

First Nations with potential jurisdictional interest	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 W̱JOLĒLP (Tsartlip) First Nation S̱ÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation W̱SIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin) First Nation W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council Halalt First Nation 	<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

8. Housing Action Program Task Force

Given the complex nature of the housing issues, with many contributing factors to the housing crisis and how they are all interrelated - be it social, environmental, economic and cultural, SSI LTC is forming a task force composed of a diverse group of people to help guiding the process.

Task Force	Timeline	Status
Formation of Housing Action Program Task Force	04/2021	Application submission in progress

9. 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 – 11:30 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	

10. 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

A variety of workshops such as community events, stakeholders' workshops, classroom workshops, and design charrettes will 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 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.

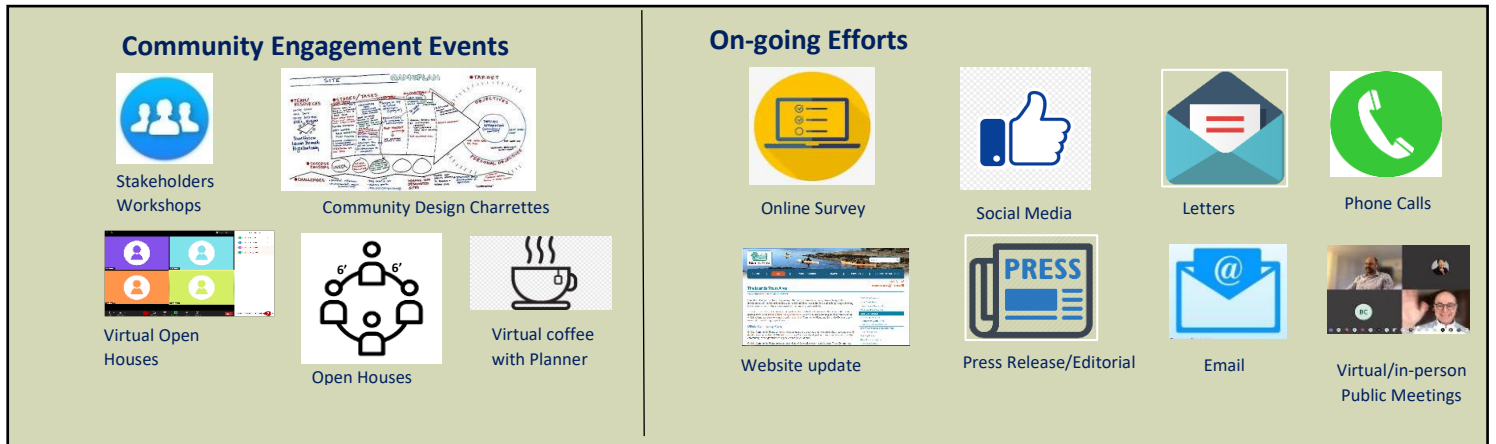
Virtual Coffee with Planner

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 email to the project planner via the Project webpage by noon of the Wednesday before. Due to the limited time available, conversation should germane to the project in question and not outside the scope of the project such as bylaw enforcement issues, 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.

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





Islands Trust

Housing Action Program Public Engagement Framework

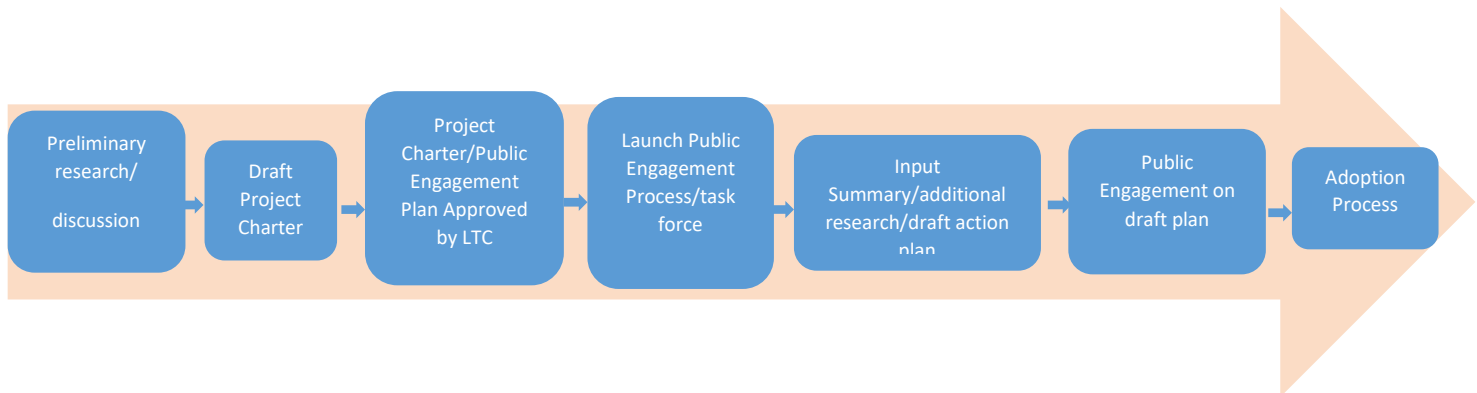
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A “Housing Working Group Report” was presented to Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SS LTC) at their meeting on Oct 6, 2020. Upon receipt of the Report, SS LTC elevated the “Housing challenges and solutions” initiative as a priority at their meeting on November 10, 2020, and directed staff to provide a Project Charter for the implementation of this initiative. This document intends to provide a framework based on best practices on public engagement program. A subsequent more detailed public engagement plan that identifies key stakeholders and partners involved, timing and types of engagement activities, and specific tools being utilized will be developed as part of the planning process.

HOUSING ACTION PROGRAM

The Housing Action Program is proposed to tackle a range of issues that impact the affordability of housing, the types of housing options, and the environmental sustainability as they relate to the locations, sizes, and designs of housing development. Issues such as water availability and the moratorium on new connections to the North Salt Spring community water system, storm-water and sewer systems, active transportation infrastructure, innovative site and building design, arts and culture, archaeological significance will all be examined in the process. The Action Program intends to address the housing issues on Salt Spring Island from a holistic and comprehensive manner. The parameters for the development of an Action Program planning process include the Islands Trust’s commitment to preserve and protect the unique and fragile environment of the island; to address the [climate emergency](#) (passed March 2019); and to advance reconciliation efforts set forth in the [Reconciliation Declaration](#) (passed March 2019) and the [Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2022](#) (passed June 2019). This project will build on work by community groups, government agencies and collaboration with First Nations and stakeholders.

GENERAL PLANNING PROCESS



KEY ACTIVITIES

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

- LTC adopt “Terms of Reference” and appoint members to the Task Force
- Establish Technical Working Group with agencies and subject-matter experts
- Early conversation with stakeholders and First Nations
- Launch public engagement process
- Identify issues, and research and analysis on existing conditions
- Identify the mission for the Action Program with Task Force
- Review existing efforts, BC legislations, housing program and relevant SS regulation, policies and tools (e.g., OCP, LUB, housing agreements, subdivision regulations, etc.)
- Explore land use development, regulatory, incentive tools and pilot programs
- Draft the Housing Action Program to address, at a minimum, the following elements:
Land use development standards, housing density, increase diversity of housing types and tenures sustainable site and building design, climate resiliency, transportation, open space, infrastructure servicing (water, sewer, storm-water), economic sustainability, community health, housing management program and First Nations heritage
- Develop actionable items
- Develop processes that promote and support innovative designs and best practices, incentive programs, and a monitoring system
- Conduct amendment to OCP, LUB, and relevant policies, and various implementation measures as recommended by the Action Program

HOUSING ACTION PROGRAM TASK FORCE

The Task Force is an appointed advisory working group to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC), which consisting of 11 members. The Task Force will have a hands-on role in creating and implementing engagement activities in the community under the direction of the LTC and coordinated by Islands Trust staff. The Task Force will facilitate discussions and host community events, review summary documents from the engagement sessions prepared by Islands Trust staff, and provide the LTC with recommendations on plan concepts, policy options, and the draft Housing Action Program. All discussions and meetings held by the Task Force are open to the public, and the Task Force members will objectively apply judgement based on their

expertise, experience and knowledge of the subject matter as related to development of the Action Program process.

VALUES AND PRINCIPLES FOR ENGAGEMENT

Values and principles are fundamental norms or rules that guide the perspective of an organized group of people, as well as their action. This Engagement Program is built upon the following Guiding Principles of the Islands Trust:

- The primary responsibility of the Islands Trust Council is to provide leadership for the preservation, protection and stewardship of the amenities, environment and resources of the Trust Area.
- When making decisions and exercising judgment, Trust Council will place priority on preserving and protecting the integrity of the environment and amenities in the Trust Area.
- Trust Council will seek information from a broad range of sources in its decision-making processes, recognizing the importance of local and traditional knowledge in this regard.
- Trust Council believes that to achieve the Islands Trust objective, the rate and scale of growth and development in the Trust Area must be carefully managed and may require limitation.
- Trust Council believes that open, consultative public participation is vital to effective decision making for the Trust Area.

This Engagement Program is also built on the following values of the Islands Trust:

Inclusion

This Public Engagement Program seeks to ensure that every voice can be heard in an authentic way, and to create opportunities for people to contribute when, where and how they feel most heard. The priority interest of First Nations is a key element of the inclusion strategy, and the [First Nations Engagement Principles](#) of the Islands Trust will apply.

Respect

The strategy seeks to ensure that every voice is treated equitably, and the feelings, rights and traditions of others are honored through the engagement process. Input from the engagement will be wholly and broadly considered.

Community Voice

The Strategy will result in an engagement process that shares relevant and accurate information in order to increase the self-determination of the community so they can better express their diverse interests, needs, and perspectives in the planning process.

Transparent

The public engagement process will be communicated clearly and openly, including the purpose, timing, roles and responsibilities, constraints and outcomes. Timely feedback will be provided for the participants including the range of views expressed and how public input will be considered by the decision makers.

Innovation

The options and mechanisms for engagement will provide a range of ways for citizens and stakeholders to effectively participate in this project. Likewise, the strategy encourages innovation from participants as it seeks input around the identified issues, and encourages new approaches in how the Action Program may be developed for the Salt Spring community.

Wholly and Equitably Involved

The public engagement process seeks to ensure that anyone and everyone has access to relevant information on the issues related to this project and around the engagement process itself. Importantly, the public engagement program will ensure relevant information is available in a variety of ways and through multiple sources.

On-going Evaluation

This public engagement process will be evaluated on a regular basis to foster ongoing learning and improvement.

PRIORITY ENGAGEMENT THEMES

The development of the Housing Action Program will provide objectives and policies that encompass a wide-range of issues; issues that are interconnected and all are within the context of the Trust Council’s “preserve and protect” mandate. For this reason, the framework for the area plan will be outlined in the following Priority Engagement Themes:

Land Use Development

There is a strong link between housing prices and land use controls. Land use regulations are in place to ensure appropriate locations and site setting for different types of uses in order to protect the natural environment and archeological significance, but these constraints on land development can restrict the supply of housing especially for multifamily and low-income housing. The challenge lies in finding the balance of supporting diverse housing types, increasing density and the associated water demand with preservation of the natural environment and the limited infrastructure services on Salt Spring Island.

Transportation and Mobility

Active transportation refers to all human-powered forms of commuting, including but not limited to, walking and cycling are the most common, horseback riding, using electric bicycles or scooters. Transportation planning plays an important role on choice of residence, particularly on renter housing. Trust Council is committed to promote local and inter-community transportation systems that reduce dependency on private automobile use, and to evaluate and modify road construction and road systems that encompass the environmental, economic and social values of the community.

Housing

The population on Salt Spring Island has increased over time, with more people living and working on the island, but housing options have not been able to meet current needs. Increasing the diversity of housing options, especially secure and affordable rental housing are critical in alleviating the housing crisis on the island.

Archaeological Protection

Salt Spring Island has a rich First Nations history; Trust Council, through the Reconciliation Declaration, is committed to incorporate Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, stewardship, and understanding in the land use planning and policies guides, and to preserve and protect the cultural sites and archeological significance.

Arts and Cultural

Arts and culture play an intentional and integrated role in place-based community planning and development. The concept of “creative place-making,” is not new; such strategy was pioneered by Jane Jacobs who believed that community development must be locally informed, human-centric, and holistic. Salt Spring Island is rich in Indigenous culture as well as home to many

craftsman and artists whose creations have drawn many tourists onto the island. It is important to explore how arts and cultural practitioners could help build an affordable, livable and attractive community on the island.

Climate Resiliency

Global climate change has profound implications for human societies, adapting to a rapidly changing global environment will be a major challenge. In the context of increasing population on the island where additional housing will be required to accommodate the growing population; siting, designing and the construction material and methods will play a critical role in housing development on the island. The Islands Trust Council has joined thousands of governments around the world declaring a climate emergency with a goal to “pursue an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in this very special area.” Accordingly, every Islands Trust project must be carried out with a view to minimizing the impacts on the climate.

Infrastructure Servicing

Efficient and cost-effective infrastructure servicing is vital to development growth in Salt Spring Island, but the provision of such services must not be at the expense of the environment, especially with the limited water, waste-water and storm-water systems on the island. Land-use planning, infrastructure design, and service delivery go hand-in-hand in creating and maintaining a healthy community. The challenge is to find the balance between housing needs versus the demand on the limited infrastructure available on the island.

Protection of Aquifers and Biodiversity

For all the islands in the Salish Sea, the impacts of a changing climate and housing demand cause serious threats to our already limited aquifers. Land conservation and more robust land use planning tools to minimize loss of species and their habitat are critical to allow for resilience of our ecosystems particularly as they relate to sustainable growth for the community of Salt Spring Island.

PURPOSE OF ENGAGEMENT

The primary reason for public engagement is to **inform** the LTC’s decisions in the planning process. In order to make an informed decision, the LTC is committed to **consulting** with the community, to **building** relationships in the community, to **involving** the stakeholders, and to **consulting** with First Nations.

EVALUATION OF THE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

An on-going evaluation will be performed on the public engagement process, and the evaluation framework

will include:

5. Evaluation sessions to examine, diagnose, discuss, and dialogue the cause-and-effect links and assumptions regarding the engagement process, outcomes, and intended and unintended consequences and impacts;
6. A plan to organize and allocate resources for total evidence-based evaluation of the engagement process (who was engaged, how many, number of responses, depth and quality of responses);
7. Incorporation of lessons learned to be included in future engagements;
8. Development of an ongoing engagement strategy to support current and future LTC processes and projects.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

The public engagement tools will include, at a minimum, the following items. Additional methods that could help better engage with the community will be identified in a separate public engagement plan.

- Virtual open houses, and/or in-person if proper physical distancing is achievable
- Virtual design charrettes, and/or in-person if proper physical distancing is achievable
- Virtual/telephonic conversation with the planner and/or in-person if proper physical distancing is achievable
- Online survey
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