Village of Longview, Alberta

Integrated Community Sustainability Plan 2010

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Current Status – 2010

The Village of Longview is a small community located in the MD of Foothills #31, situated 30 KM west of High River, 18 KM South of Black Diamond, and 61 KM Southwest of Calgary along Provincial Highway 22 (Cowboy Trail). Nestled in the scenic foothills of the Rocky Mountains Longview consists of 1.09 sq. km. and is home to 334 people in 130 dwellings. The population of Longview has increased 8.79% since 2005, putting it very close to the provincial average. Longview hosts a large retired population and this is reflected when considering that our average household income is $31,187, significantly lower than the provincial median of $63,988.

The major economic base in Longview is centered around the tourism industry. Situated on the historic 'Cowboy Trail' and known across the province and around the world as 'The Gateway to Kananaskis' Longview hosts thousands of outdoor enthusiasts every summer. Boasting a very popular Rodeo and Stampede every July, the Arts and Music festival, and the annual Longview K100 race the Village is buzzing all summer long. Considering the general beauty of the area, with many tourism related sites and activities the area attracts for many day visitors from Calgary, as well as longer stays in one of the hotels or campsites. Those attractions which bring tourists to the area include: close proximity to Kananaskis Country, the Bar U National Historical Site, the Cowboy Trail, the Turner Valley Gas Plant Historic Site, and many local Golf Courses.

Secondary to tourism is the oil and gas sector. There are many area residents that make their living in this sector and pump jacks still operate within the Village. Also important is the ranching industry which makes up a large economic base in the immediate periphery of the Village. As is typical for many southern Alberta communities, ranching and the oil and gas sector both play a large role in the culture of Longview.

Longview is also known for their rich musical and artistic culture. Often renowned for being the home of Country Music legend Ian Tyson, Longview is home to many other talented, world-class musicians and artists.

As of October of 2009, the Village of Longview entered into a shared services agreement with the MD of Foothills #31 for the provision of Administrative Services and Water/ Wastewater Services. The MD is also providing Bylaw Enforcement and Planning Services. The Village of Longview will maintain their status as an independent Village with an effective Municipal Council. This is a new innovative strategy to address such issues as the ability to retain trained staff and cost-savings in relation to provision of services.

The Village of Longview, in conjunction with the MD of Foothills and other local organizations, provides a full spectrum of services to its citizens which include; Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development, Public Works, Bylaw Enforcement, Road Maintenance, Garbage Disposal, Fire Protection, Water Services and Wastewater Services.

The Village of Longview faces a variety of issues that threaten the long-term sustainability of the Village in its current form. The largest issue is the condition of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. An aging mechanical treatment plants currently in place that must be replaced or extensively repaired in the immediate future. The Village of Longview has in place a self-imposed moratorium on new development until the wastewater capacity can be expanded, as it is currently functioning at full capacity. Secondly, the Water Facility must be upgraded before the new Alberta Environment regulations come into effect on April 1, 2012. There is much potential for development in the Village of Longview, however this cannot be realized until the water/ wastewater treatment issues are resolved.

The Village's Community Standards Advisory Board (CSAB) has completed much work in relation to Alberta's 5 pillars of Sustainability. They plan to continue this crucial effort through continued development and implementation of the Sustainability Plan. The Board has developed an outline on initiatives and issues that need to be addressed in terms of sustainability. CSAB has also identified priorities and initiatives in relation to Governance, Culture, Social, Economic, Environmental, and Public Engagement. These will be outlined in greater detail later in the document. It is only with the support and information provided by the CSAB that this essential exercise can be completed in a truly comprehensive manner.

The ICSP is a living document and as such is subject to frequent review and revision as the Village and the CSAB may deem appropriate. The Village of Longview shows great potential for sustainable practices and once infrastructure projects are completed the Village will be well situated for continued economic, cultural, governmental, social, and environmental sustainability.

Issue #1 – Wastewater Capacity

A 2006 report from MPE Engineering Ltd. identified significant infiltration into the wastewater collection system. The study also identified the Wastewater Treatment Plant to be undersized for current flows. Longview has seen an almost 10% population increase since 2006. More recently, Council has enacted a moratorium on development due to wastewater treatment capacity issues. The plant has fallen into such disrepair that Village will need to spend an estimated #350,000 to extend the life of the plant 3-5 years. In 2009, operation of the current wastewater treatment facility cost over $135,000 to meet affluent standards regulated by Alberta Environment. This is un-sustainable and therefore alternatives must be explored.

To address this issue three potential outcomes have been explored: first, the creation of a regional water/wastewater pipeline with Black Diamond, Turner Valley and the MD of Foothills; secondly, a new mechanical wastewater treatment facility; and finally, the construction of a wastewater lagoon. With guidance from area municipalities, as well as Alberta Transportation, Alberta Environment, and MPE Engineering, the aforementioned options were considered as follows:

The Village investigated a regional water/wastewater system with the Towns of Black Diamond & Turner Valley & the MD of Foothills, members of the Quad Regional Water Partnership. A feasibility study indicated that a regional system would work; however, for Longview the capital and annual operating expenses would be quite high. The province informed the members of the Quad Regional Water Partnership that grant funding for the regional system would not be available for at least another five years.

Longview also looked into replacing the existing mechanical treatment plant. The capital costs are reasonable at $4,600,000; however, the operating costs are estimated at $207,000 per year.

After consultation with Alberta Transportation about funding, and Alberta Environment about sewage treatment options, both departments agreed that the Village would be allowed to construct a sewage lagoon and that 75% of funding should be available in 2010 through Alberta Transportation's Water for Life program. Shortly after those meetings, a conditional offer to purchase land near the Village was made and the appropriate tests were run. The results of this testing imply that this land would be a suitable site for a three acre lagoon. The capital costs associated with this option are almost equivalent to constructing a mechanical plant at $4,650,000, including land. However, the operating costs of a sewage lagoon are estimated to be only $22,000 per year, making this the most attractive option available at this time.

Currently, the Village is in the process of acquiring said land, and has had indication from Alberta Environment that 75% funding will be made available. It will become apparent in a matter of weeks if not months, whether this project will become reality.

Water

As of April 1, 2012 Alberta Environment's new standards for the treatment of drinking water will come into effect. With this knowledge the Village commissioned an assessment of the current water treatment facility in 2007 to determine the necessary steps needed to reach compliance and guarantee safe drinking water for the ratepayers. The assessment determined that we need an additional raw water supply and upgrades to the existing water treatment plant. The estimated cost of these provincially required upgrades is $1,200,000; of which the Village should be able to obtain 75% provincial funding assistance.

To address the issue of water the Village also considered the aforementioned Quad Regional Partnership, however under advice from the province that funding would not be available for this project until the medium to long term future, It became apparent that upgrading the Village's water treatment facility was much more cost effective and an immediate means to address this problem. Therefore, the water treatment upgrades are scheduled to occur at the same time as the aforementioned construction of the wastewater lagoon system. Also significant to mention is provincial funding of 75% through the Water for Life Grant Program being applied for both portions of the water/wastewater upgrades.

Pillars of Sustainability –

Governance

Governance is a main pillar of sustainability, and is of utmost importance to uphold and plan for in the long term. The survival of the Village in its current form is dependent on effective local government. Dissolving into the MD is an option, but not one the Village wishes to pursue at this time. Longview wants an effective and efficient local government. Under the pillar of Governance the Community Standards Advisory Board outlined four priorities; Bylaw Development, Communication, Joint Community Initiatives, and Shared services.

Bylaw Development: This section outlines the needed encouragement in terms of developing bylaws and regulation in the Village. This ICSB has illustrated the need to review the Land Use Bylaw, and identify future potential annexation locations, in the next 3-5 years.

Communication: Communication was a frequent and emphasized theme as part of the Sustainability planning in the Village of Longview. As part of this overall plan the Village will enhance communication to its ratepayers. The Community will undergo a village questionnaire, which is to be completed in the fall of 2010 to gauge and assess the needs and desires of the community. The Village will employ an open house format for bylaw development; and will work to increase MLA engagement in the community. The establishment of the Community Standards Advisory Board in 2008 was an integral part of enhancing two way communication between the Village and its residents. Finally, the Village will actively use the Active Creative and Engaged (ACE) Communities program to actively find and subsequently train new community leaders and volunteers. The Village staff are developing a new website and creating a Facebook page to enhance and improve current communications practices.

Joint Community Initiatives: This governance initiative focuses around the Village's desire to partner with neighboring municipalities; most notably around issues of water and wastewater treatment. The exercise that identified Joint Community initiatives took place when the community was very much involved in the Quad Regional Partnership, pertaining to the piping of water and wastewater to and from Black Diamond and Turner Valley as outlined previously in this document.

Shared Services: The Village of Longview successfully negotiated a series of shared services agreement with the MD of Foothills #31 in October of 2009. This agreement is a vital part of the ability of the Village to retain trained professional staff; most notably in administration, bylaw, planning, and water/wastewater services.

Culture

A vibrant culture is essential to the sustainability of Longview. The Village is fortunate to have a very active cultural scene for a mere 330 people. The Village's culture is useful for both attracting residents, as well as bringing in tourists from surrounding areas and abroad.

Arts and Music: The Village is currently a destination for artists and has a very active arts and music culture. The CSAB emphasized continued support from the Village and the community as a whole for: the annual Art and Music Festival and development of other musical and artistic opportunities, Little New York Daze Festival and other Community events such as the Chuck Wagon Dinner theatre. The Village will promote Art and Musical opportunities for the community via ACE and other programs and encourage youth art initiatives on a continuing basis. To ensure the financial sustainability of arts and music programs the Village will pursue funding, grants, and donations to construct a permanent stage and washrooms in Centennial Park, in the next 5 years. Longview will sustain a great culture that continues to emphasize the arts.

First Nations: To enhance cultural well being, it is in the interests of the Village and its residents to pursue and develop a relationship with Eden Valley residents and Band Council to enhance the historical and cultural ties to the community to our west. Secondly, the Village will promote innovative and collaborative ways to share Village and Tribal Heritage with one another. As the nearest urban center to the Eden Valley Reserve residents often use Village services, and are therefore part of our greater sphere of influence. Increased cultural ties between the two communities will serve for a richer, more fulfilling, cultural landscape for all parties involved.

History: To insure cultural sustainability Longview wishes to instill a solid sense of history and appreciation for this remarkably significant area. There is a deep history of Ranching and Oil and Gas exploration in the area, an area resident dubbed Longview 'where it all began'. Therefore to ensure that this knowledge is maintained Longview will explore potential funding opportunities to construct a museum for Longview and area to showcase this history. The CSAB also recommends that the Village employ the ACE initiative and similar governmental programs to help us search out and preserve various artifacts pertinent to the rich Ranching, Oil and First Nations history which are deeply intertwined. It was also recommended that a walking trail be considered complete with stories and pictures to outline the historical significance of the area. CSAB outlined the timeline for all of these historical initiatives to be in the next 5 years.

Recreation and Entertainment: A crucial part of any municipality's culture involves recreation and entertainment available in the area. Longview certainly no exception and is fortunate to have a number of volunteer organizations devoted to this cause. The Village will continue its support of the Stampede and Little New York Daze Festival, which plays an important function for recreation and entertainment in the Village. The Village will also encourage physical recreational activities and events such as the annual Longview K100 Race. CSAB has also identified a desire to pave the skating rink and outfit it with basketball nets, and possibly skateboard equipment for summer use. A walking trail was also

recommended, both of these projects are functioning on a 5 year timeline. Longview is fortunate to be a small walkable community and should exploit this walkability to enhance the physically sustainable environment and take steps to enhance these practices.

Social

For the Village of Longview to remain sustainable a social scene must remain active. Socially, an active community will retain residents and keep the community economically as well as socially viable.

Community Events: The CSAB identified community events as an important factor in terms of municipal sustainability. If people are not socially active in a community it seriously limits desirability of Longview to current and potential residents. Also, a comprehensive review is to be undertaken concerning the liability issues for community events and risk management for our volunteer base. Also significant to mention is the continued success of the Longview Stampede, Little New York Daze, and the Longview Arts and Music festival; as they are important community events that will continue to ensure an active and vibrant community, essential to the sustainability of the Village of Longview.

Community Facilities: One of the most important facilities in terms of long term sustainability of the Village of Longview is the survival of Longview School. This facility is very important to the survival of the area and ability to attract new families to the area. As previously mentioned the upgrading of the skating rink to include basketball hoops and skateboard equipment would help improve both community facilities and social sustainability of the area. There were also a variety of potential projects outlined by CSAB that would enhance the social sustainability of the Village of Longview such as: a Community Center, a church, a new municipal building, a potential library expansion, a covered cook house near the ice rink, a stage and washrooms in Centennial Park, outdoor washrooms near the info booth, as well as trail development with historical markers. Due to budgetary constraints these are long-term facility plans, but would certainly help attract new residents, and retain current ones. Making Longview an attractive and active Village with adequate facilities will certainly enhance the attractiveness and therefore the sustainability of this municipality.

Seniors: Due to the large senior population in the Village of Longview their needs are assessed thoroughly as part of the sustainability plan, especially in relation to their social issues. On a 5 year time line the Village is to investigate options for building a Seniors Living Facility, and investigate the feasibility and potential funding opportunities for a senior's center and or recreational facility. Longview will continue to promote and attract senior's activities and programs in the Village that enhance their health and safety.

Youth: Youth play a large role in Longview, due in part to the local elementary school and the focus they garner in the community. The first action pertaining to the social needs of youth is to support Church groups and other youth programs, and the development of new programs to enhance the social and physical growth of our youth. The Village would like to actively recruit a youth representative for CSAB and eventually develop a Youth Advisory Council, giving area young people an opportunity to vocalize their opinions pertaining to social sustainability. The Village will support summer recreational activities and programs for youth. Also, Longview will review options and funding opportunities for a youth center, possibly in conjunction with the aforementioned senior's center. Sustaining a vibrant youth culture is essential to retaining residents and attracting new residents and businesses to the area.

Economy

Economic sustainability is of paramount importance to Longview. Once wastewater capacity issues are addressed there is much opportunity for Longview to expand economically. It is also important to maintain current businesses and opportunities in the Village.

Economic Development: For a community the size of Longview that does not have a Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development can be an obstacle, however a vibrant economy is essential to the long-term sustainability of the municipality and therefore must be emphasized. CSAB provided the Village with very prescriptive advice pertaining to an economic development strategy. The business community will be provided with a questionnaire pertaining to a needs assessment as to what should be done. Secondly, in the following year the Village will develop a new 'brand' possibly entailing a new emblem and/or catch phrase. Once these are complete the village will develop a profile for investors, to educate and promote the Village. In the considerably longer term future the Village will consider a Motel/Hotel and convention center development.

Alternative Energy: To remain economically sustainable the Village is encouraged by CSAB to explore options pertaining to alternative energy including: wind, solar, geothermal or coal/methane power. This will be covered in more detail in the environmental portion of this document.

Commercial Development: In the next 5 years the Village will be developing various aspects of infrastructure, most importantly the new wastewater lagoon and water plant treatment upgrades discussed previously. Also important is the future need for land annexation from a 5-10 year perspective.

Residential Growth: Residential development cannot occur until a new wastewater system is constructed, as the current facility already operates at capacity. Once the wastewater capacity has been addressed plans have been made for a development called 'Cattleman's Court' on the East side of the Village. Once this land is developed, in the short to medium term future, the Village will have to look at annexing lands from the MD, in the next 5-10 years.

Tourism: As tourism is a highly emphasized and major portion of business in town it is essential to the economic sustainability in Longview. The Village must consider accommodation development to expand capacity, as well as the intention to develop 'destination' activities. Also significant is the Eco-tourism industry in the area that attracts hunters, fishers, and campers to take advantage of the exceptional outdoor amenities the area has to offer.

Environment

Longview is very fortunate to be surrounded by a beautiful natural setting. It is in the best interests of the Village to preserve the natural surroundings as much as possible. A sustainable future is dependent on environmental protection, and in Longview this obligation is taken very seriously.

Alternative Energy: CSAB recommended an alternative energy feasibility study to take place in the next 5 years, and in the 5 years following the implementation of the Alternative Energy Plan should be undertaken. This includes any possibility for wind, solar, geo-thermal, or coal/methane production.

Conservation Initiatives: The Village will continue to enforce a 2 bag limit in solid waste removal. This will continue to lead to a reduced impact on the regional landfill site. CSAB also recommends the Village develop conservative environmental bylaws, such as low flow/ low flush appliances and the inclusion of green space. The Village will take steps towards energy efficiency, including the possible enforcement of a no idle zone (for automobiles), as well as preventing light pollution through introducing the Dark Skies initiative for all street lighting.

Water: Conservation of the water supply is of paramount importance in the Village of Longview, in recent years a metering system has been set in place and usage has dropped 30%. To continue to limit the demand for water, Longview wishes to continue conserving by enacting summer watering restrictions to enhance a preservation of resources. Also, a feasibility study is to be continued upon in relation to regional water supply and its potential implementation.

Public Engagement

The Village has had difficulty in the past with actively communicating to the ratepayers. However, at this current juncture it has become clear to staff and Council that more must be done. For municipal government to remain sustainable in Longview the ratepayers need to be more involved in the democratic process. This engagement must be actively sought by Council and municipal staff.

Informational Engagement: A business questionnaire, resident questionnaire, an update of the Village website, the ACE tour, as well as continued communiqué through the Longview Link in the Gateway Gazette, are touted by CSB. Also important is continued open houses for delivering or receiving public information as needed. The public is to be more involved in the early stages of planning and policy formation in the Village of Longview.

Social Engagement: Social functions are a vital part of the sustainability of Longview. The Village will; create an opportunity for neighbours to meet one another (IE Village x-mas party), encourage block parties, and encourage Villagers to mentor and get to know neighbours. CSAB also provided recommendations for recruiting new volunteers, an atmosphere should be created that makes volunteering fun and a 'social' event, suggestions included constructing a Village and or volunteer float, create a Welcome Wagon package and delivery slip.

Community input On Bylaw Development ongoing

Governance

Bylaw Development

- Encourage Community Input for Bylaw Development
  - Review Land Use Bylaw And useable Annexation sites 3-5 years

Communication

- Village News Letter and Longview Link for Village updates
  - Employ Open House Format For Bylaw Development etc. Increase M.L.A. engagement in Community
  - Community Services Advisory Board Est. 2008
  - Village Questionnaire
  - Use ACE Program to help promote An Active, Creative and Engaged Community, find and train new Community Leaders and Volunteers 0-2 years

Joint Community Initiatives

- Water/Waste Water Initiative with Black Diamond/Turner Valley 0-5 years

Shared Services

- Negotiate and sign a Shared Services Agreement With M.D. of Foothills 31 Oct. 2009
  - Shared Services C.A.O. **In Place**
    - Shared Services for Bylaw Enforcement **In Place**
      - Shared Services for Planning and Development **In Place**
        - Shared Services Personnel For Water/Waste Water **In Place**

Culture

PROJECT 75
Gary Bailey

Arts and Music

- Continued support of Annual Art and Music Festival and development of other musical and artistic opportunities
  0-10 vears
- Ongoing support for Little New York Daze Festival and other Community events (Chuck Wagon Dinner Theatre)
  0-10 years
- Promote Art and Musical opportunities for the community via ACE and other programs Encourage Youth Art Initiatives
  ongoing
- Access funding, donations and Volunteer labour to construct a permanent Stage and washrooms in Centennial Park 0-5 years

First Nation

- Develop a relationship with Eden Valley residents and Band Council
  0-5 years
- Promote innovative and collaborative ways to share Village and Tribal Heritage with one another
  0-5 years
- FIRST NATIONS HISTORICAL DISPLAYS
- RANCHING

History

- Explore and act on funding opportunities to construct a Museum for Longview and area history
  0-5 years
- Employ ACE and other governmental programs to help us search out and preserve various artefacts pertinent to our rich Ranching, Oil and First Nations History which are deeply intertwined
  0-5 years
- Walking Trail With Historical Markers complete with story and pictures
  0-5 years

DIANE VALLEE.
— INTERPRETIVE CENTRE. — SENIORS. —

Recreational Entertainment

- Support Longview Stampede and Little New York Daze Festival
  Ongoing
- Encourage physical Recreational activities and events
  Ongoing
- Pave Skating Rink and outfit with Basketball hoops and skateboard equipment for summer use
  0-5 years
- Walking Trail Development and Serenity Park Development (at Village office)
  0-5 years

XMAS LIGHTS.

Social

Community Events

- Promote more extensive use of existing Community Facilities 0-5 years
- Review liability issues for community events and Risk management for our Volunteer Base 0-5 vears
- Promote continued growth for Longview Stampede, Little New York Daze, Longview Arts and Music Festival Ongoing

Community Facilities

- Investigate ways to ensure survival of Longview School 0-5 years
- Skating Rink Upgrade, Paving for winter and summer use, add Basket Ball Hoops and Skate Board equipment 0-5 years
- Community Center, Church, Library, and Municipal Building. Review options to restore or rebuild 0-10 vears
- Build Covered Cook House by Rink in Camp Ground. Build Stage and Washrooms in Centennial Park, outdoor washrooms by Info Booth. Trail Development with Historical Marker 0-5 years

Seniors

- Investigate options for building Seniors Living Facility (Foothills Foundation-Affordable Housing) or P3 option. May include extra suites for Village revenue 0-5 years
- Investigate feasibility and funding opportunities for a Senior's Center and/or Recreational Facility 0-5 vears
- Promote and attract Senior's activities and Programs in the Village that enhance their health, well being and safety. 0-5 vears

Youth

- Support current Church and other youth programs and the development of new programs to enhance the social and physical growth of our youth. 0-10 years
- Recruit a youth representative for C.S.A.B. and develop a Youth Advisory Council 0-5 vears
- Support Summer Recreational Activities and Programs for Youth 0-10 years
- Review options and funding opportunities for a youth center (Possibly combine with Senior's center) 0-5 vears

Infrastructure Development 0-5 years

Economy

Alternative Energy

- Review Options 0-5 years
- Wind Power
  Solar Power
  Geo Thermal
  Coal/Methane

Commercial Development

- Infrastructure Development 0-5 years
- Annexation 5-10 years

Economic Development

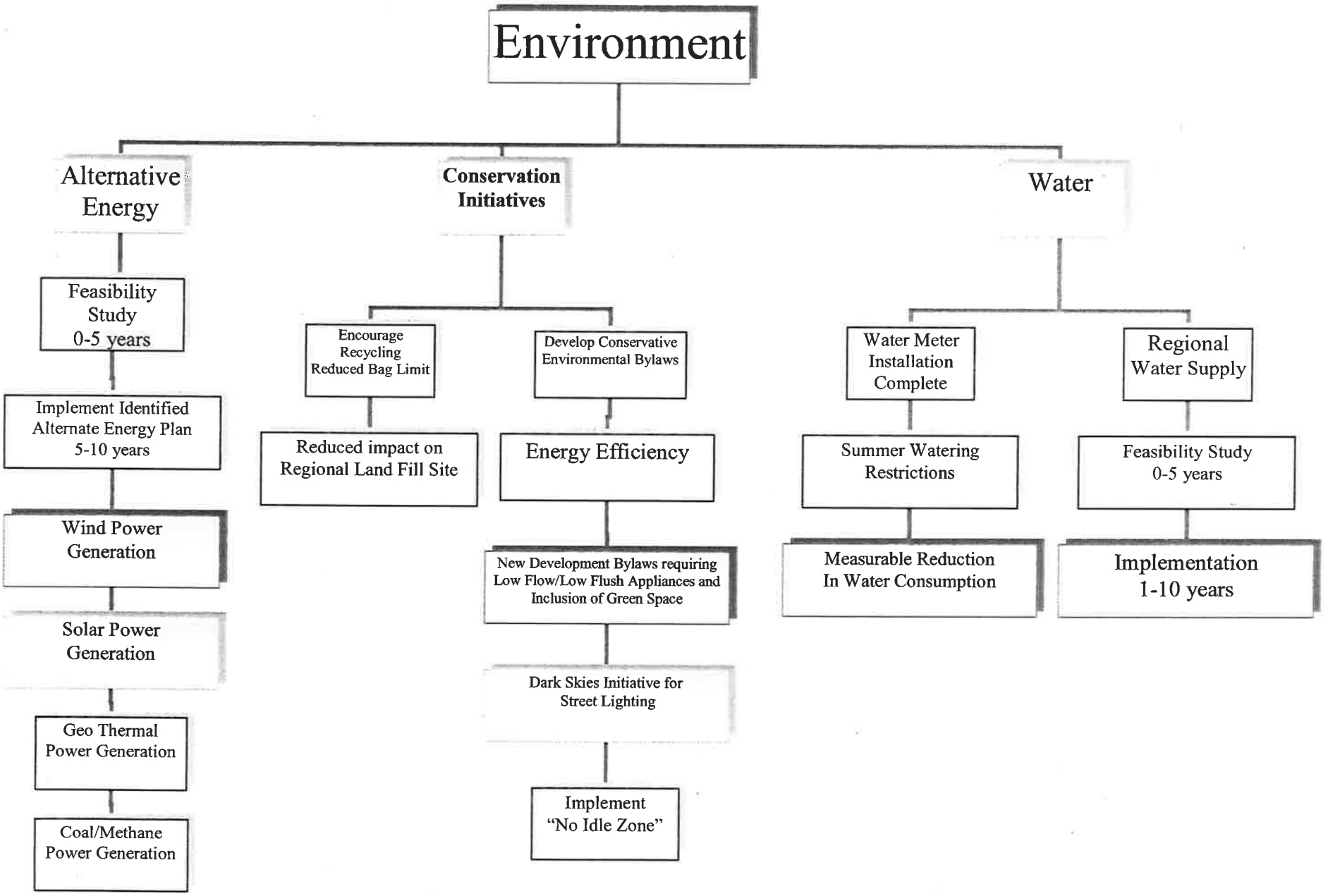
- Business Input via Questionnaire *Immediate*
- Develop "Village Brand" 0-1 year
- Develop Village Profile for Investors 1-5 years
- Motel and /or Hotel Development (Convention Facilities) 5-10 years

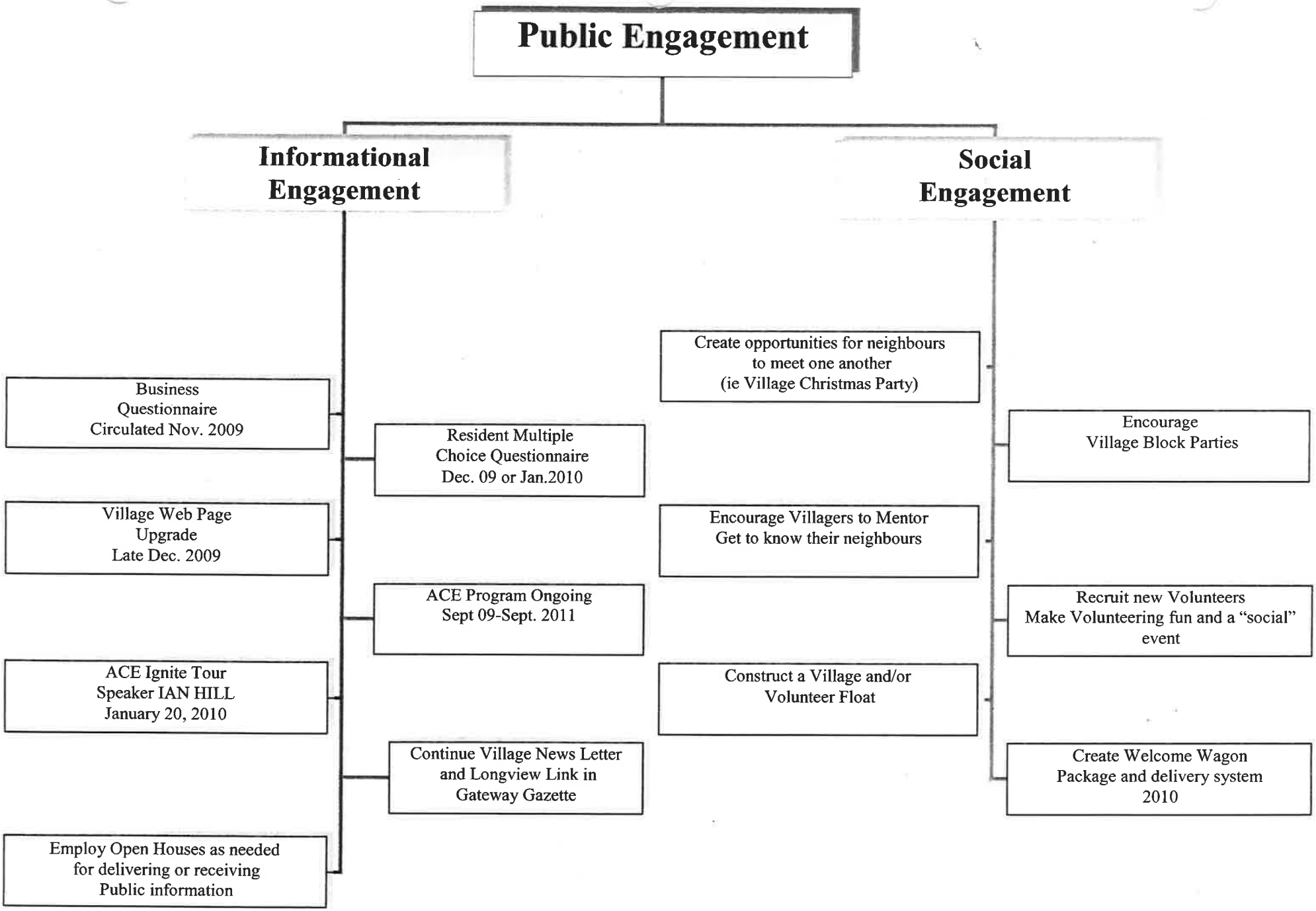
Residential Growth

- Infrastructure Development 0-5 years
- Cattlemen's Court Development
- Annexation 5-10 years

Tourism

- Accommodation Development
- Develop Eco Tourism
- Attract Hunters/ Fishers and Campers
- Develop "Destination" Activities


Environment
Alternative Energy
Feasibility Study 0-5 years
Implement Identified Alternate Energy Plan 5-10 years
Wind Power Generation
Solar Power Generation
Geo Thermal Power Generation
Coal/Methane Power Generation
Conservation Initiatives
Encourage Recycling Reduced Bag Limit
Reduced impact on Regional Land Fill Site
Develop Conservative Environmental Bylaws
Energy Efficiency
New Development Bylaws requiring Low Flow/Low Flush Appliances and Inclusion of Green Space
Dark Skies Initiative for Street Lighting
Implement "No Idle Zone"
Water
Water Meter Installation Complete
Summer Watering Restrictions
Measurable Reduction In Water Consumption
Regional Water Supply
Feasibility Study 0-5 years
Implementation 1-10 years


Public Engagement
Informational Engagement
Social Engagement
Business Questionnaire Circulated Nov. 2009
Resident Multiple Choice Questionnaire Dec. 09 or Jan.2010
Village Web Page Upgrade Late Dec. 2009
ACE Program Ongoing Sept 09-Sept. 2011
ACE Ignite Tour Speaker IAN HILL January 20, 2010
Continue Village News Letter and Longview Link in Gateway Gazette
Employ Open Houses as needed for delivering or receiving Public information
Create opportunities for neighbours to meet one another (ie Village Christmas Party)
Encourage Village Block Parties
Encourage Villagers to Mentor Get to know their neighbours
Recruit new Volunteers Make Volunteering fun and a "social" event
Construct a Village and/or Volunteer Float
Create Welcome Wagon Package and delivery system 2010