



What we mean by “Guiding Principles”

Guiding Principles – Providing Direction for the Future

As a community’s vision statement begins to take shape, we must also consider how the community can get from where it is today (current state) to where it wants to be (future state). We start this process by creating a set of guiding principles.

Guiding principles set direction for priority areas. This reflects the fact that specific actions or policies will have to be developed to achieve the community vision.

A guiding principle clarifies a community’s values and priorities, without locking you into a specific outcome, measurement or methodology.

Example: **“Support vibrant neighbourhood centres. Support and facilitate the development and expansion of employment and services to meet local needs and provide focal points for the community.”**

Like a community vision, guiding principles express a common understanding of how to move forward. They also help us to consider and address a range of factors that influence policy development. These factors can be foundational (i.e. existing policy frameworks, regional commitments), controllable (i.e. investment decisions and land use policies) and uncontrollable (i.e. economy, population growth).

Guiding principles may sometimes appear to be in conflict with one another. Once we get to developing policy options, however, trade-offs among principles can be addressed. Over time and within the scope of the community plan, the goal is to achieve a balanced outcome.

The existing 1987 Brookwood-Fernridge Community Plan does not include guiding principles. The proposed 2014 update to the Community Plan did include guiding principles. However, since this update is a new process, a rewrite is warranted.





Developing Effective Guiding Principles

Effective guiding principles should:

- ✓ be action-oriented statements supporting achievement of the Community Vision
- ✓ be forward-looking and future-focused
- ✓ address a wide range of topics and themes
- ✓ help form the foundation for policies in the different chapters of a Community Plan
- ✓ be reasonably achievable
- ✓ be stated in clear, easily understood language that anyone – present and future – can understand
- ✓ reflect the dual nature of the community – areas of stability and areas of change
- ✓ generally conform to the Township of Langley Official Community Plan and other relevant regional and municipal plans and strategies

Exercise Instructions:

1. Using the sheet provided, write short phrases that state what we want the plan to accomplish, generally, in each topic area. These should complete the sentence: “The Brookwood-Fernridge Community Plan will...”
2. If you feel a topic area is missing add the topic and write a guiding principle in the space provided on the worksheet.
3. Place a check mark in the box next to the 3 guiding principles you feel are most important, and prepare a short rationale outlining why you feel this way
4. We will then discuss common threads and major findings as a whole group



Guiding Principles - Comment Sheet

This sheet provides a space for you to share your ideas on possible guiding principles

Use this sheet to provide initial individual comments and ideas.

- Complete the sentence below using short phrases that state what we want the plan to accomplish, generally, in each topic area. Add a new topic if one is missing.
- Mark a  in the box beside the 3 topics you feel are most important.

“The Brookwood-Fernridge Community Plan will...”

Topic: Identity and character

Topic: Neighbourhood centres.

Topic: Healthy environment.

Topic: Housing

Topic: Transportation

Topic Infrastructure and Services

Topic: Transitions between land uses

Topic: Health and safety

Topic: Culture and history of place

Topic: Neighbourhood and building scale

Topic: Trees

Topic: _____
