

Vision & Objective Statements – Open House & Online Survey Feedback

Not fully supported	Suggestions	Unclear how it relates to the objective
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Through sustainable land use planning and effective community design, the Town of Bridgewater fosters a vibrant and healthy community where people of all ages choose to enjoy their lives. Citizens and visitors enjoy the benefits of a thriving downtown, an abundance of regional services and employment opportunities, convenient and diverse neighbourhoods, a variety of housing and transportation options, attractive streetscapes and dynamic public spaces, rich built and natural heritage, and the efficient use of the town’s shared infrastructure. Bridgewater’s thoughtful planning builds community identity and pride, while ensuring the community meets the needs of current and future generations.

Vision is too detailed and too long to be useful, meaningful and memorable.
Great! To sum up: “A place people don’t want to leave.”
A wonderful vision statement – Sounds perfect!
Good, but too wordy.
Wonderful goal.
If implemented well, the elements of the vision statement begin to establish a value proposition for the community – ie. “Why would you come here to live, work, learn and/or play.” Great!
When we’re able to say “we’ve done most of this,” we will be an exceptional place to live and work. I feel proud of this statement – now we just need to achieve it!
How would this vision statement be different than any other community in the province/country? What will make Bridgewater different/special/unique? We need to pull out the elements that will differentiate us from other communities...
I like it.
ok
I like it! I like the emphasis on sustainability and that it is complimentary to the ICSP's vision statement.
I like it, except that it doesn't mention arts and culture.
Sound good. However some might fear that taxes would have to increase to achieve such a vision.
It seems to address a lot of general concerns.

Objective #1: Encourage opportunities for development and employment which foster the town as a regional employment and service centre.

Be careful to separate industrial areas and a nice downtown.
Position Bridgewater as a simple, affordable alternative to city living. Actively recruit young people from cities like Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver. Focus on the value and opportunities. Perhaps the town could purchase the post office and offer it as a business incubator for people under 30 to start and grow new businesses. This could be rent free space - internet/phone/heat/power – in return, the town could have some equity in the new businesses and opportunities created.

This must be coordinated with MODL and to a larger extent, the other municipal units.
Much unregulated sprawl and growth just outside of the town borders.
I like the intention/desire to have high quality appearance of our commercial areas.
Absolutely Essential! Need to promote the town more (especially now with Lifestyle Centre) Need to bring in more secure jobs vs. subsidized call centre and fast food spots
Need to reduce the reliance on just one or two industries.
Attracting new people and young families is important for growth and sustainability.
Improve transportation options within the town and outside. Improve the ability to get to and from Halifax/Dartmouth area in a useful time frame.
It is crucial to our future that we make our community an attractive place to live and work. To attract and retain great employees and businesses, we need to be a great place to live and work.
Stop bringing in big box stores, franchises and multi-national corporations!!! If you want to foster regional employment, you have to foster and allow the local economy to flourish! Big box stores INCREASE unemployment and DECREASE sustainability! They make Bridgewater look uninviting and boring, like the rest of North America where their roots and unique identity have been lost.
Good if it is followed.
ok
I am happy with the objective. In terms of how to achieve that, I would like to see an emphasis on mixed-use planning so that people can live, work, shop and play in their own neighbourhoods. I would like to see the "new areas for commercial growth" located within existing developed land as much as possible. Yes to improved transportation options!
Wouldn't use 'employment' twice and would use promote not foster. Under 'How this might look:' everything is internal to Bridgewater and there should be some advertizing to the outside world.
Okay

Objective #2: Control land use and development in a manner that will minimize conflicts between land uses and in a manner that is compatible with the town's service infrastructure.

I think that you have a handle on this. Not impressed with the monster home on Empire – live the lure, hate the location.

All of these objectives are enabled/enhanced by a cogent long-term plan and the resolve to meet it. This is a great plan. Let's follow it!

Green spaces replace excess and underutilized pavement/parking lots, etc. Green spaces NEED to not use invasive or non-native plant species!

Ensure lots of green space and play areas for children.
Protect Diversity.
Enhance the focus on the river.

Once green space/buffers are established – important to be guaranteed long-term.

Good Plan. Bring back the “plant a tree program” or something similar.

Very thoughtful (considerate).

This is great! Interested and intrigued to explore complementary land uses and what that means for health impact. For example, school zoning and location of fast food, alcohol outlets and on the flip side, the location of open space.

Should keep everyone happy or at least most people.

ok

In moving towards this objective. I would like to see emphasis on creating strategies and opportunities for dialogue and conflict-resolution among stakeholder groups. I think it is more important to develop diverse mixed-use neighbourhoods (where people can live/work/play/shop) rather than grouping complementary land uses together. There is a large educational component to this, in order to help citizens see the benefits of it, but I think it is imperative if we want to move towards the stated vision. Yes to building where existing services are present!

Looks good.

Excellent.

Objective #3: Mix compatible land uses to promote diverse and convenient neighbourhoods.

Having shops/stores downtown is key.

Find a way to make the downtown a wonderful and pretty place to walk through.

Neighbourhood Convenience Stores.

Bring back the downtown.

Consider a mix of residential/commercial uses for existing vacant downtown properties.

Do this on the Glen Allan Drive extension.

Non-profit community space too.

Just as long as corner stores are not coming on every corner.

Include spaces for multiple organic community supported gardens on lands that will actually be useful for small-scale community/urban farming – would look beautiful interspersed throughout the town!

Less reliance on cars is a great idea. The town has everything but it's quite spread out.

Good thinking would love to see it but seems like it might be a little advanced for the small population here.

Less auto use?? With the steep hills in Bridgewater it can be hard walking for some.

YES!!!!!!!!!! As part of this I would like to see it become easier for re-zoning in cases where the re-zoning proposes to meet this objective.

Good.

Okay, but can the small corner stores really compete today with the big box stores?

Objective #4: Encourage compact development to maximize the town’s shared infrastructure and to promote healthy,

close-knit neighbourhoods.
Good idea.
Excellent.
Yes!
It's about wisdom and efficiency.
Living near the downtown core makes walking easier.
This would be a key factor in controlling the tax burden (ie. control sprawling development).
Close off a portion of King Street for walking traffic.
I like it. There ARE a few unused buildings that have a lot of potential.
You need the sprawling development to get objective #3.
Concerned about less parking, not opposed to sprawling development.
YES!!!!!! This is on-the-mark! It will take a significant educational effort to gain citizen buy-in for this, but again I believe it's absolutely necessary if we are to move toward the vision. I recommend cohousing as one option for increasing residential density while also increasing quality of life.
Don't understand 'Reduce off-street parking requirements' under this objective.
Okay.

Objective #5: Support a functional and sustainable transportation network by improving street connectivity and supporting a range of transportation options.
Yes, yes, yes.
Promote public transit system for Lunenburg County. Promote special community "action" events.
Bring the real cost of driving to the forefront (insurance + gas+ maintenance). Eg. \$5 to go to the mall, \$2 to ride a bus.
Bike lanes confusing.
Developing public transit would be very positive for youth and senior people.
No public transit fueled by NATURAL GAS! We want public transport!
A wide range of transportation options meets many needs.
During Winter "active transport" is currently often unsafe (sidewalks not plowed in a timely fashion, etc).
More sidewalks for it is safer to walk!
Absolute must!
Very important – more efficient transportation options.
Bikes lanes on Glen Allan are confusing.

I hope there will be room for skate/long boarders in this plan. And well-lit trails 😊
Support the Citizens for Public Transit initiative. Establish a bus system that serves the town and connects it to neighbouring communities.
Encourage and support a public transit system. Have decent bike paths.
Currently very limited public transportation. Volume of vehicular traffic appears to be on the rise. Traffic flow/safety issues (for pedestrian traffic) need to be addressed.
I agree with the bus system. Taxis are great but aren't really "public transit" in the sense that many people use the same vehicle.
I like this idea it does seem like it could be very costly.
Before this, finish the North St/ Aberdeen reno.
Yes! Prioritize pedestrians (rather than cars/vehicles) when planning or improving streets. People first! More 4-ways stops to calm traffic and make it safer for people to walk. Promote development in areas that are walkable/bikeable or on public transit routes.
Good.
Okay.

Objective #6: Enable the development of a full range of housing options so that all people can live out their lives in Bridgewater.
A good idea.
Shows a sensitivity to its citizens (inclusive).
Find ways to provide more Government assisted seniors housing – Current stock isn't enough!
I feel very upset that we're worrying about appearance over the environment.
Establish co-op housing as a way to empower people to (<i>illegible</i>) their own personal neighbourhood.
Room for affordable housing for youth and seniors.
Room for second stage housing for women/children.
Full range of housing options – great idea. Balanced according to incomes in the area.
Support affordable low income housing (1 floor) with green social space.
Housing options for seniors have improved and should continue to be developed. Business opportunities will stem from their service requirements.
Encourage low income housing that is affordable, accessible, and has sociable green space.
Great idea... low-income housing is needed; however, these houses need to be maintained properly.
Affordable housing is something we need. Right now there is none except maybe LaHave Heights which the price is

getting too high as well for new and even used.

ok

The wording "live out their lives" doesn't sit quite right with me. Sounds a bit morbid or something. I like the meaning but not that wording. Otherwise, I really like this objective! I would like to see acknowledgement of using existing structures (which contain a lot of embodied energy and re-usable materials) by making it easy for these older structures/homes to be renovated and retrofitted to be more energy efficient. I think the approach of cohousing has a lot to offer for many aspects of this objective and I think it is a type of housing that should be encouraged. I would like to see the types of residential zoning be flexible to these new diverse and dense housing options.

The last point implies that the town might improve the appearance of private homes.

Okay.

Objective #7: Improve the design and appearance of Bridgewater's built form to foster community identity and a strong sense of place.

Vibrant riverside space would be wonderful (behind the mall).

Attractive landscaping of properties is a big plus.

Accessible buildings (wheelchair ramps, wide door frames, etc.).

Traditional building shapes and facades are needed to preserve the visual integrity of the town.

No interest in big box style buildings! Businesses should utilize old traditional buildings, not build new ones that the French view as "plastic houses" that look like the rest of North America!

Glad to hear that the design of buildings is important.

That would be really nice so that we the citizens could feel proud.

ok

Take advantage of AND PRESERVE AND AUGMENT natural features. Planting trees is a relatively cheap and easy way to do this. Also preserving and rehabilitating the riverfront. I think a lot of this also comes back to planning for people rather than cars. Walkable streets, inviting storefronts and cafes, greenery and trees, density of services, etc. Large parking areas especially when placed in front of businesses are ugly and inhibit walkability. I think they should be highly discouraged. I would love to see both parkades removed and the riverbank rehabilitated and reclaimed as a place for people rather than cars. I would like to say the same for the mall, however, that may not be reasonable :)

Again implies taxpayer's money to improve private buildings. Don't like 'built form'.

Okay

Objective #8: Enhance and protect the historic downtown to strengthen its appeal as a destination for residents and visitors.

Yes.

Yes, so important!

Focus on green spaces. Keep mature healthy trees in all areas.

“Maintenance” keeps our “old” buildings from looking tired.
Old needs updating and uniformity to make visually attractive.
Bridgewater desperately needs an easily-found tourist bureau! Not @ the DesBrisay! Imagine entering a town, as a stranger, and trying to find the tourist bureau at dusk??
It’s vital to encouraging tourism to be able to negotiate entering a foreign community and to find what you need: help, rescue, information, to make you stay for a day or longer.
Designate more heritage structures on King Street (proactively approach owners).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build indoor parking that has several levels (E.g. Near the old courthouse/police station) Close to King Street to vehicular traffic between new Bridgewater and Dufferin Street Do away with parkades and make the riverfront more attractive. Once people are out of their cars they will walk and frequent merchants and restaurants on King Street Makes the downtown more vibrant and attractive
Clean up the LaHave River with better septic regulations to control pollution.
Actually start a successful downtown revitalization that worked, and more importantly, endorsed.
Not impressed with the development being put up beside town hall. It is the complete opposite of the objective.
I see #8 and #10 as somewhat integrated. My vision for Bridgewater includes a rejuvenated King Street that has people parking at one end of town and walking to the other, enjoying shops, parks, restaurants and services along the way. Part of the barrier to this is the “need” for people to park directly in front of the door where they are shopping. Perhaps parking is too readily available? Many places successfully introduce pedestrian only streets or sections. It may be worth considering, but only if the plan also includes “destination” sports at the same time.
See previous comment! (I agree, but there are some historical buildings in the town. I think those buildings should remain as they are (with proper upkeep).
If done, we need to make sure the rules will allow businesses to retrofit or build without too high of cost.
ok+
YES! AND at the same time we need to allow for appropriate uses of the historic buildings that will serve the community (it's no use preserving empty historic buildings). The town must work with building owners to enable green/energy efficient building retrofits, while preserving heritage. If we are serious about this objective it will mean making difficult decisions about disallowing "big box"/chain development in other areas of town. Larger national/multinational superstores are draining the downtown core. It is fine to preserve the look and feel of the historic core but if no one is shopping there the businesses can't stay. Small business development and support must go hand-in-hand with this objective and that means saying "no" to their competitors. Related to this it is imperative that the TOB work with adjacent municipalities to develop a common vision and approaches.
Again, who pays?
Okay. The LaHave River is not being used enough by the public and should be. Future development along the river will provide access and interest.

Objective #9: Celebrate and preserve Bridgewater’s historic culture and built heritage for current and future generations.

Nice to have some history but it's not a priority.
Yes, it is the identity of the town!!
If we don't preserve this, we lose our charm and only draw outsiders because of Wal-Mart.
Our "Older" buildings can say something about our community's story and culture.
Do not be in a hurry to place the "heritage property" label: ++ expensive in maintenance insurance and restricts some upgrades.
Highlight the museum.
Have a tourist centre that is central, well advertised and welcoming.
I agree, but there are some historical buildings in the town. I think those buildings should remain as they are (with proper upkeep).
Historic architecture.
Our heritage is our point of differentiation. We should use it to build our brand and promote who we are.
This one does not make a difference for me.
I agree, but there are some historical buildings in the town. I think those buildings should remain as they are (with proper upkeep).
ok
Yes to designating more heritage properties!! Why do we only have 3?!?! Preservation efforts must allow for green/energy efficient retrofits so that buildings are affordable enough to remain in use.
Good. Much better wording.
Okay.

Objective #10: Improve the pedestrian experience by promoting safe, accessible and inviting streets and public spaces.
Very good!
Really important.
Great!!!
Connect existing parks (See Objective #4).
Well lit public spaces.
Great! Organize Sunday afternoon concerts in the newly fixed up park on King Street.
It would make the town a beautiful place.
This creates a feeling of being welcomed.
Connection between shopping experiences and recreation experiences (Also applies to Objective #1).
Shopping, eating, strolling, markets – a leisurely day in Bridgewater would be fantastic.
Maintenance important for accessibility – wheel chairs, strollers, etc.

People have been looking for a nice spot to take a walk but when there is trash on the ground they might not want to, and people need to look around more (The playgrounds are sometimes messy)
When putting in new trees please invest in trees that have some maturity and look like trees. Saplings are too small and will take years to look anything like a tree.
Lighting and safety should be a priority. Hand rails where necessary. Park benches at regular intervals.
I like this objective.
ok
YES!!!! And this will contribute to many other previously mentioned objectives. It also requires a large public education aspect. In hand with making spaces more safe/appealing for pedestrians spaces must be made less appealing for cars.
Good.
Okay.

Objective 11: Develop a comprehensive parks and open space network that meets the leisure and recreational needs of the community.
Larger garden areas.
Encourage and support the Farmer's Market.
Edible forests and gardens in public spaces.
LOVE the edible gardens comment!
Connect all public spaces along the river by pedestrian friendly trails/walk ways.
Ensure continued maintenance of these spaces, once constructed, to promote continued use.
Ensure <u>safe</u> , well lit parks and green spaces so people feel safe walking alone.
Shipyards Landings is a wonderful use of the waterfront.
A great idea for recreation programs (such as a seniors walking group or preschool or summer day camps).
Good.
ok
Yes. However, I feel that Bridgewater already has some excellent natural/park spaces. The issue in my mind is that people are not using these spaces. This is not an issue of building more spaces (which I do support) but more of how do we get people using what is there. I think this is connected to getting people out of their cars (more easily said than done!). One suggestion is to increase signage to guide people towards already existing spaces.
Good.
Okay.

Objective 12: Improve public access to the LaHave River to promote community identity, human interaction and the enjoyment of nature.

I think it's a great idea.
Sound?
Yes! It is such a wonderful river.
What about outdoor exercise gyms? A great affordable way to promote healthy lifestyles – Nice public space idea.
Public access and usage of the LaHave River requires watershed restoration and preservation of wetlands.
Leverage LaHave River and a town centre.
<u>Idea</u> : Include the river in the Growing Green Festival...maybe welcome paddlers to the parade?
The river is a beautiful thing to look at but it should be used – boating (canoe, kayak), swimming and business promotion to encourage these activities.
Walking trails from downtown and all along the river.
Allow for commercial development near the river – restaurants and cafes to encourage traffic on the riverfront.
Why not remove the existing mall and put it close to Wal-Mart? Then use the empty spot to leverage the LaHave River!!!
Opportunities to think strategically and collaboratively with other communities in the region that also have access to the water. How can we leverage this asset together?
This objective is one of my favourites. The LaHave River is one of our best natural assets. If we develop the land around it properly, and with respect to nature, people will say “Wow!” The LaHave River is our centerpiece and we need to treat it as such.
Focus on the <u>river</u> as the centerpiece of our community for recreation, cultural activities and community pride.
Take advantage of the LaHave River more.
I was going to mention river access in my comment on Objective 11. Public access to information may ease the public's hesitation about the river and its cleanliness. Also if the river becomes more of a part of daily life people will become more used to using the river.
Don't we still have the relics tied up at the dock?
ok++
YEP!!! Absolutely. Again this is also strongly related to other objectives. Please see my previous comments about the parkades. Promote development that will encourage people to interact with the river in an ecologically sensitive way. It is important that the increasing of public access be done in a way that is ecologically responsible and rehabilitating.
Good.
Okay to promote more recreational activities events at Mariner's park and Shipyard Landing (i.e. organize canoe and sail boat competitions).

Objective 13: Control land use and development in a manner that will preserve, enhance and protect the natural environment.
Yes!
A-one. Key!

Stop using (approved) fertilizers in recreational areas.
It's <u>vital</u> to be prudent caretakers of our environment.
Very important! Keep and develop natural features (such as duck pond). Leverage the LaHave River and a downtown centre.
Woodland Gardens could be so much more than a walking trail – education, play area, restore the gardens, and restore the waterfall. There's no reason to go there on a beautiful day – only 1 or 2 other people are there.
Has to be looked at for sure when doing any development.
ok
YES! Limit erosion during AND AFTER construction. Preserve existing trees AND PLANT MORE! While it is important to preserve natural spaces that are for the benefit of people (see previous objective) it is also important to protect/enhance natural areas for the sake of the natural environment. Our natural spaces provide incalculable ecosystem services that we rely on.
Good.
Okay.

Objective 14: Promote the use of sustainable infrastructure and green building design in new development.

Yes!
Yes
Excellent.
Yes. Promote and do active demonstration projects to help lead the way.
I Like it. Opportunities to work with other communities in our region who are interested in promoting this concept as well!
Start with small scale wind and solar, not multi-million projects to get the ball moving!
"Educate" existing bylaws and building codes to accommodate ecologically responsible building techniques!
It would help us get the best gains from the monies available to us.
This is very important to me. Before the installation of wind power 1 turbines, make sure to do a <u>wind study</u> !
If we could create one "model" building, it would help all of us to see and feel the vision of the future. Let's create the model – even a small building/project would be a great start.
Strongly encourage energy efficiency with information and \$ incentives.
\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
ok
YEP! Definitely. This should be a "must" for every new building and every retrofit. Being firm on this in the short term will result in so many long-term benefits for Bridgewater. I am willing to pay more in taxes now in order to reap these rewards as a citizen later.
Good.

Okay, but there is an upfront cost to all this with a longer pay back time.

Objective 15: Undertake adaptation and mitigation measures to prepare the community for the impacts of climate change.

Something we have to deal with for our future generations.

The Sustainability Plan needs more substance! The steps towards fulfilling these plans/the vision are lacking.

We are already becoming known for our spirited and effective recycling program. Let's build on that success!

Objective #15: Air Pollution
Ensure policies/by-laws/regulations are in place to address air clarity: reduce/eliminate smoke from residential sources, especially if not crucial.

I think development near the river should be limited regardless of climate change.

Again, very forward thinking. We see what can happen (e.g. Manitoba flooding will only get worse with time and climate change - if they had planned with these in mind then there would not be the devastation we see almost every single year) when these are not taken into consideration. The community will benefit from careful planning in this area.

I agree and believe this is a real threat we face. Freak/severe storm and drought preparedness are other aspects to keep in mind in addition to flooding and sea level rise.

Don't understand the last point.

Okay.

What are we Missing?

The rec. department for children.

Urban Farming – change by-laws to allow residents to keep chickens.

Low income senior housing - Gov/Town assisted.

Citizens must not be silent bystanders when some citizens abuse/disregard responsible behaviour.

How to make people aware that there are (or would be) jobs available here. Bridgewater is not known as a place where finding a job is doable.

Activities for families, youth and children – crucial for the attraction of new families!

Someone else agrees!

Need to include low income and disenfranchised youth of town to encourage pride and ownership that creates a productive, educated youth population.
This will not happen with youth who are already engaged; we need outreach!

- Reduce the number of fast food outlets
- Be better managers of traffic routing and control
- Provide public washrooms
- Have police walk the beat or cycle

What about education? How do we make sure we provide today the education to the people who will fulfill jobs tomorrow?

Don't follow Mahone Bay's example: Allow town residents to keep chickens to promote urban farming! Chickens can be kept in NYC AND the City of Chicago! We look backwards when we don't encourage this sustainable lifestyle!

NOISE POLLUTION

Ensure policies/by-laws/regulations are in place to address excessive noise (e.g. after 11pm); address quiet curfews; noisy behaviour in residential areas that falls under "nuisance" category: give police force something to work with. HELP police force do their jobs! Reflect the need for policies/by-laws/regulations for a town that has grown to the point to require pollution – air, noise, water, land – controls via legislation.

I think these are all great ideas but I think Bridgewater needs a younger demographic to really make this work. I think the town should expand its employment opportunities to encourage younger people who are often more environmentally conscious to stay in the area.

Finish North St/Aberdeen, divert trucks and encourage development behind Lawtons (large area there)

You are not missing anything but I wanted to comment that I found that all of the objectives flowed and made so much sense. It is very exciting that the planning review can have such a positive impact on our community. I look forward to seeing what happens next!

If the committee is not already doing so I would like to suggest that it researches best planning practices in other places (a few in N America but mostly in Europe) where communities with Bridgewater's characteristics have transitioned to towns that are more resilient and where residents have a higher quality of life. There are some awesome case studies out there. Thanks for providing this opportunity to give input!

Don't recall seeing anything about encouraging local food production.

No.