

RDOS

Electoral Area "G"

Official Community Plan



Citizen's Committee Meeting #3

May 17, 2021



Agenda

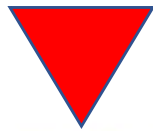
1. Welcome and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
2. Area “G” Project Update (where we’re at)
3. Summary of Resident Survey Input
4. Discussion: Key Priorities & OCP Directions
5. Other Items
6. Next Meeting Date
7. Adjourn

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Previous Meeting Minutes – *dated April 19th, 2021*

Project Update

We are Here



Citizens Committee | Online activities | Community survey | Focus groups | Open houses or online community sessions

Resident Survey



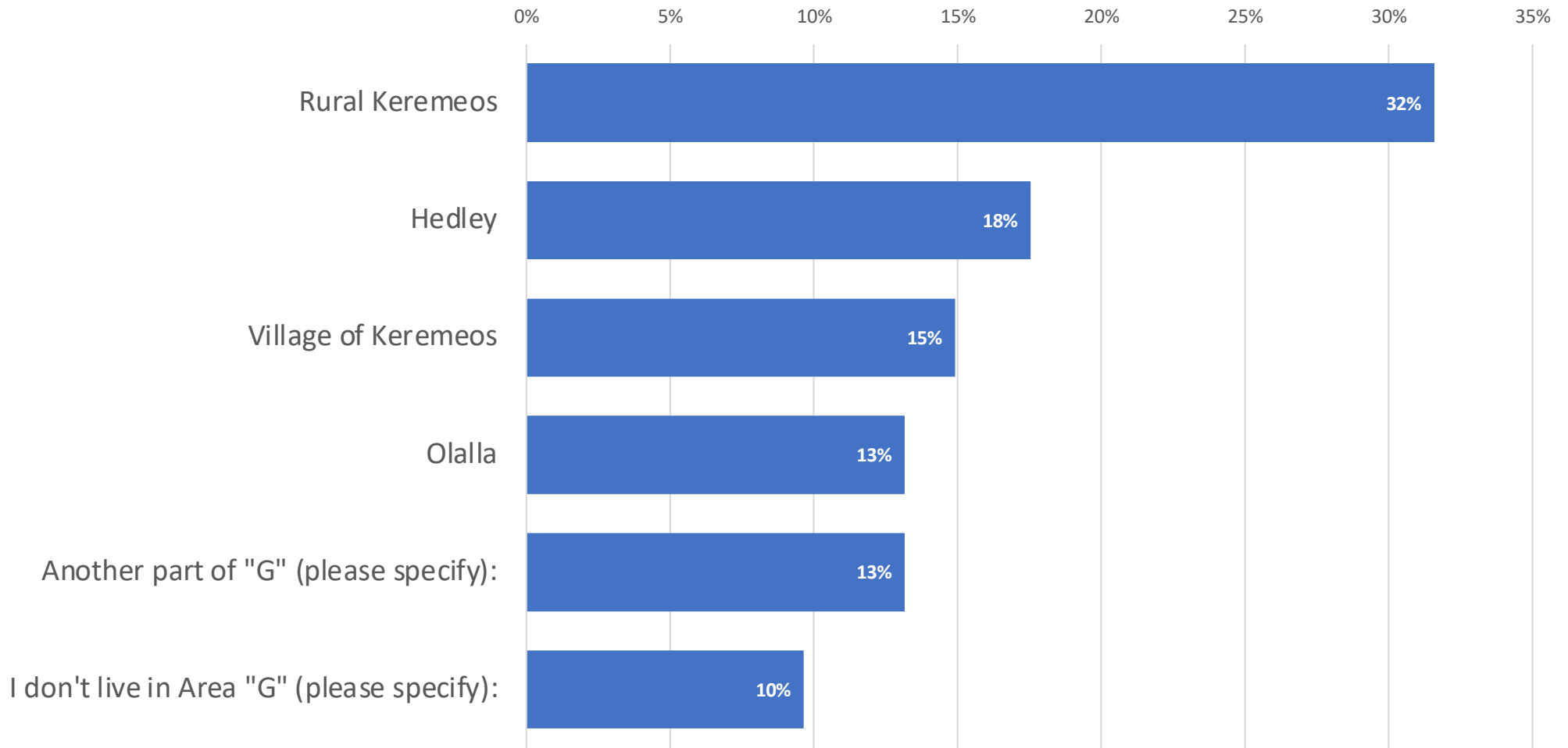
- Posted from March 29th to April 30th (one month)
- Paper and Hard Copy
- Advertised:
 - Post card directly to residents
 - RDOS Regional Connections Site
 - Community posters
 - CivicReady notice (2)
 - Newspaper ad (4)
 - Social Media release (5)
 - Citizens Committee
 - Stakeholder calls
- 124 Responses received

Survey Objectives



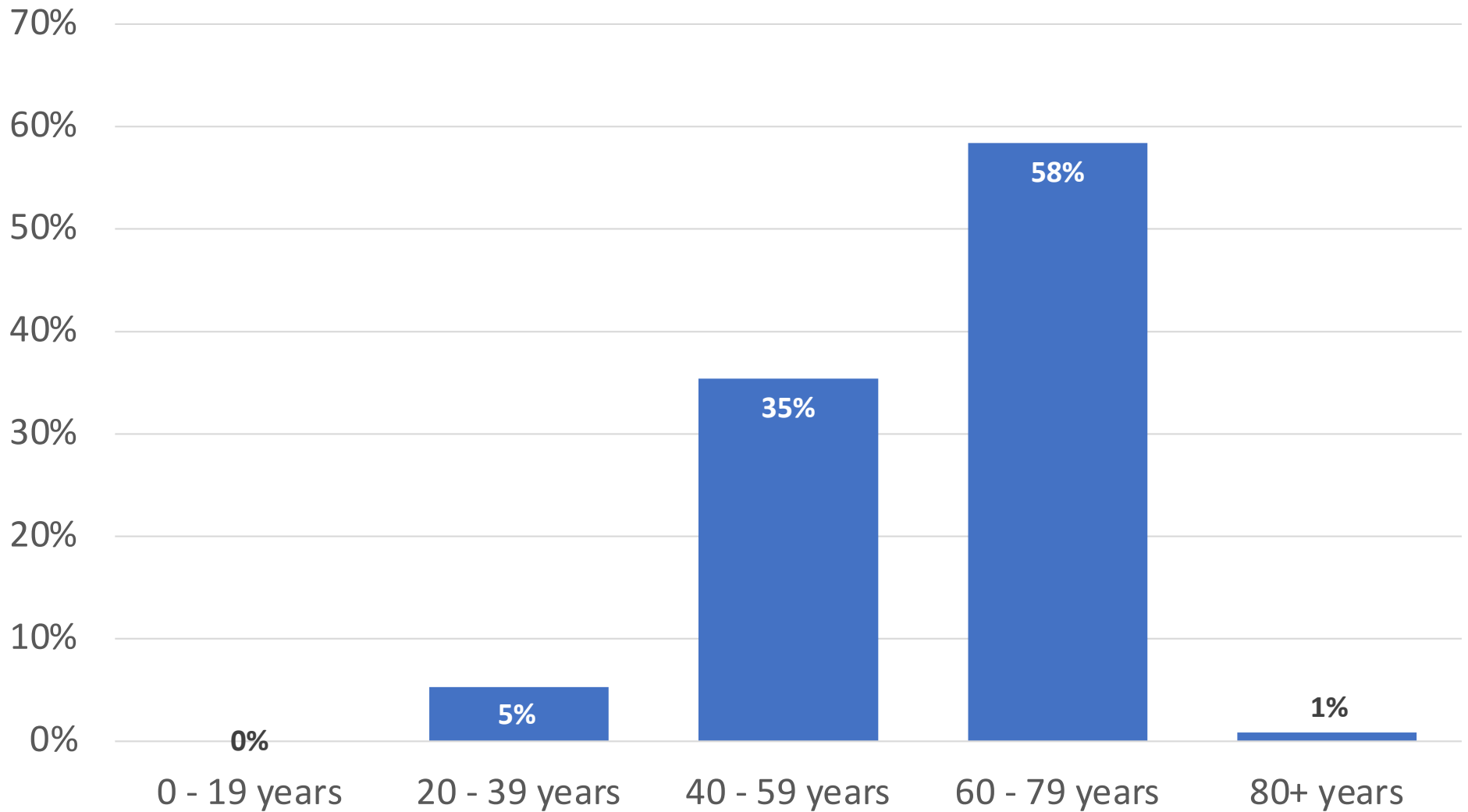
- Understand resident and communities' interests within Area "G"
- Help identify key priorities for the OCP

Respondents – Who took the survey?



83% of respondents were permanent, full time residents.

Respondents – Age Profile



Reflective of the population, but a gap in 0-19 years.

What do you not like? And how could this be resolved?

Unkept properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Junk removal bin program- An initiative to generate resident pride- Community clean-up events- Pet waste stations, bags and bins- Additional regulation and enforcement for unkept properties- Financial incentives for property clean up or improvement- Information on the maintenance of existing homes
Lack of services and utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Natural gas- Attract new businesses that support development of services- Review the role and responsibilities of the Hedley Improvement District (HID)- Improve and expand trails (e.g., rail trail from Hedley to Keremeos) for pedestrians and small motorized vehicles- Pave roads- Upgrade water treatment (improved water quality)- Improved cellular towers- Establish additional neighbourhood parks- Build a pool, ice rink, and recreation centre for residents- Attract a banking institution

What do you not like? And how could this be resolved?

<p>Safety Concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish speed limits and no-passing zones - BC Building Code checks or enforcement of the building code - Improve or support accessibility - A land use plan with residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural zones and bylaws - Bylaws that promote more environmental protection and less development on properties located in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) - Clean yard bylaws or programs to help reduce junk and/or illegal dumping - Environmental stewardship initiatives - A bylaw enforcement officer
<p>Crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater RCMP presence - Enforcement for thieves and vandals - Diversity and inclusion awareness and initiatives (e.g. discrimination -free zone declaration, rainbow sidewalk, incorporating Indigenous land acknowledgements)
<p>Natural hazard Preparedness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More funding for natural hazard prevention (i.e. fire, flooding) - A diking system - Updated flood mapping (actual and 100-year) - Fire hydrants and fire department - FireSmart programs
<p>Mobility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bus service between Keremeos and Penticton - Improvements to BC transit frequency and timing (weekends and holidays)

Differences in Communities?

- Hedley – water quality, infrastructure
- Rural Keremeos – stronger connections to the Village of Keremeos

What changes have you noticed?



- Housing – lack of rental and new larger homes
- More people moving here and less younger people staying
- Changes in local business
- Wildfire risk increase
- Increase in agricultural activities (wineries, fruit stands)

What do you like?



- Rural lifestyle
- Close knit, active community
- Close to natural areas, landscapes, and outdoor recreation
- Heritage and history
- Agriculture
- Services nearby (Rural Keremeos) and the Hedley store

What is needed?

Rural lifestyle / Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Manage development (e.g., slow growth, no large developments)- Protect the ALR- Community involvement and volunteer opportunities
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Small business support- Community infrastructure and services (e.g., water system, sewerage system, sidewalks, streetlights, neighbourhood parks, health and dental options)- Invest in the library- Law enforcement- Affordable housing- Reconciliation
Natural areas, Outdoor Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Protect nature- Trails for bikes and walking- Protect and monitor freshwater water sources- Community composting- Parks
Heritage & History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Protect historic sites- Prepare for and mitigate natural hazards (e.g., wooden historic sites, especially vulnerable to wildfire)- Maintain the museum

OCP Priorities (ranked from Let's Talk Land Use)

Priorities	Very Important	Neutral	Less Important
Protecting community watersheds for water quality and quantity*	75%	5%	1%
Maintaining ALR land primarily for farming and food production only	57%	15%	0%
Defining and planning areas for future growth*	56%	10%	6%
Protecting sensitive ecosystems such as grasslands, riparian areas, forests, wetlands and shallow soiled rock outcrops	52%	13%	8%
Ensuring new development is outside hazard areas such as floodplains, geotechnical hazardous areas, or high fire risk areas	49%	17%	2%
Improving access and transportation corridors	30%	13%	15%

**Water issues were more important for Hedley and growth and development more important for Rural Keremeos (growth in the Village, not in rural areas).*

Other Priorities



- Economic development – tourism, small business, outdoor recreation
- Environmental protection
- Housing availability - seasonal workers, low income
- Hazards
- Property upkeep

Community Differences

- Hedley – need for community and social services, water infrastructure, supports for local business or encouraging more local business
- Olalla – agricultural/cannabis production sites
- Rural Keremeos – growth/development nearby, protection of rural areas/agriculture, access to natural areas and recreation

For the Future



- Quiet, rural lifestyle
- Beautiful landscape, natural areas and outdoor recreational opportunities
- Safe
- Thriving agriculture
- Local business
- Improved infrastructure
- Slightly wider demographic profile (younger families and individuals)
- Good housing and housing options

A scenic landscape photograph of a valley. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, dry, golden-brown grass. The middle ground features a large, vibrant green field, possibly a golf course, with a winding river or stream to its right. The background consists of dark, forested mountains under a sky filled with heavy, grey clouds. The overall mood is serene and natural.

Discussion:
Your thoughts on the
resident survey?

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Mural Exercise:
Community Vision & Goals

Other Items - Open House Update



- Direct mail resident update (May)
- Online Open House (June)
- Potential: Outdoor “pop-up” Kiosks (July/August) TBD based on health restrictions
- What We Heard Report (September)

Next Meeting Date

- **OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, June 24th**
 - Two sessions scheduled- 11:00am and 6:00pm
- Next Citizens Committee Meeting – resume in September
- Next Agenda:
 - Review Open House & Outdoor Summer Kiosk Input
 - Draft OCP Framework



Be Part
of the
Plan

- *Meeting notes will be emailed with slides & posted on the Regional Connections page*
- *Further thoughts? Please email anne-marie@ecoplan.ca*