

TAGISH LOCAL AREA PLAN



*building
bridges*

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY & NOTES

January 2016

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

A special round of engagement was organized to capture youth perspectives in the Tagish Local Area Plan in December 2015. An event had originally been slated for Tagish Planning Week in July; however, a scheduling conflict with a major youth gathering resulted in a postponement. The purpose of engagement was to gather youth input to serve as a final "check" against the draft Vision and Values for the Plan and generate ideas and concepts for future land uses in the area.

Youth engagement took place via two formats: a participatory session at the Tagish Community Centre on December 10, 2015, and two subsequent one-on-one interviews held at the Independent Learning Centre in Carcross. Participants at the Tagish session included six youth between 7-12 years of age (including one Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN) youth). The interviews were held with CTFN youth ages 16 and 17, both of whom are long-time Tagish residents.



AGENDA

The Tagish session started with a round of "Tagish Trivia" after which participants were guided through a discussion of **three key questions**:

1. What do you value most about Tagish? What do you want to see preserved long into the future?
2. What are the hard parts about living in Tagish? What would you change to make life here better?
3. What would Tagish ideally look or be like in 20 years? (Participants were encouraged to think about: people, places, land, work, transportation, community life, etc.)

At the Tagish session, the final question was answered through a hands-on mapping exercise. The two interviewees were also asked to review the draft Vision, Values and Principles for the Plan and provide feedback.

KEY FINDINGS

Youth participants shared a broad range of ideas with the Planning Team during the Tagish session and Carcross interviews. The following is a complete account of their responses. (Please note that responses appearing in bold were heard during both the session and interviews, and * signifies a response from the interviews. All other responses were heard in Tagish only).

Values

Key values expressed by Tagish youth residents echoed many of those raised by their adult counterparts: wilderness, quiet, recreation, and a land-based lifestyle.

- Not crowded/open spaces
- Fishing
- Wildlife
- Skidooing
- Fresh air/water – no pollution
- Playground
- Skiing
- Community centre
- Camping
- Swans
- Biking
- Trails
- Motorbiking
- Privacy and quiet*
- Hunting*
- Trapping*



Issues & Challenges

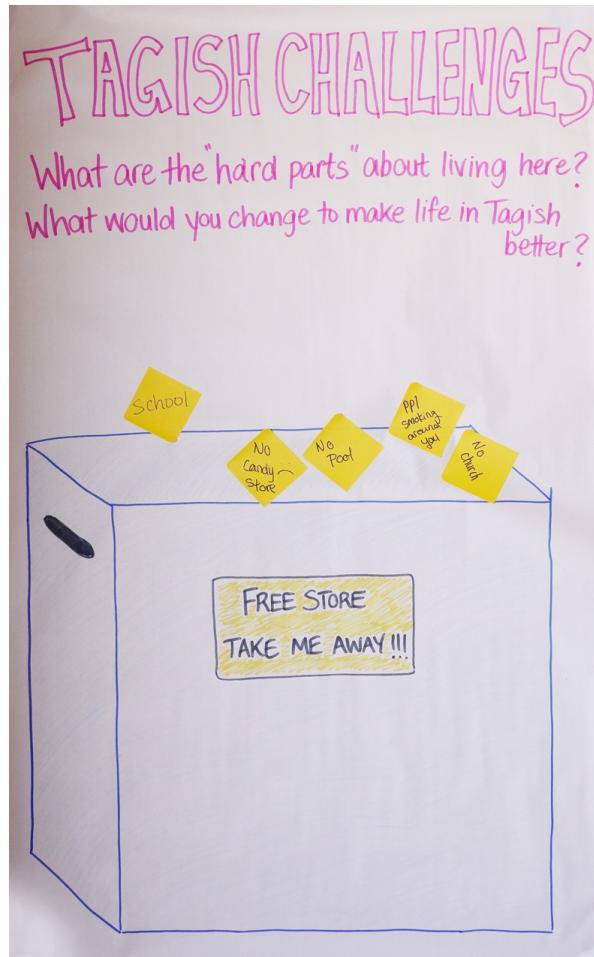
The younger participants in the Tagish session had relatively little to offer to this discussion – apparently life in Tagish is pretty good! Several of the responses of the older interviewees were similar to those provided by adult Tagish residents during the initial phase of consultation, particularly with respect to limited opportunities for youth, lack of services, and partying. The complete list of responses is as follows:

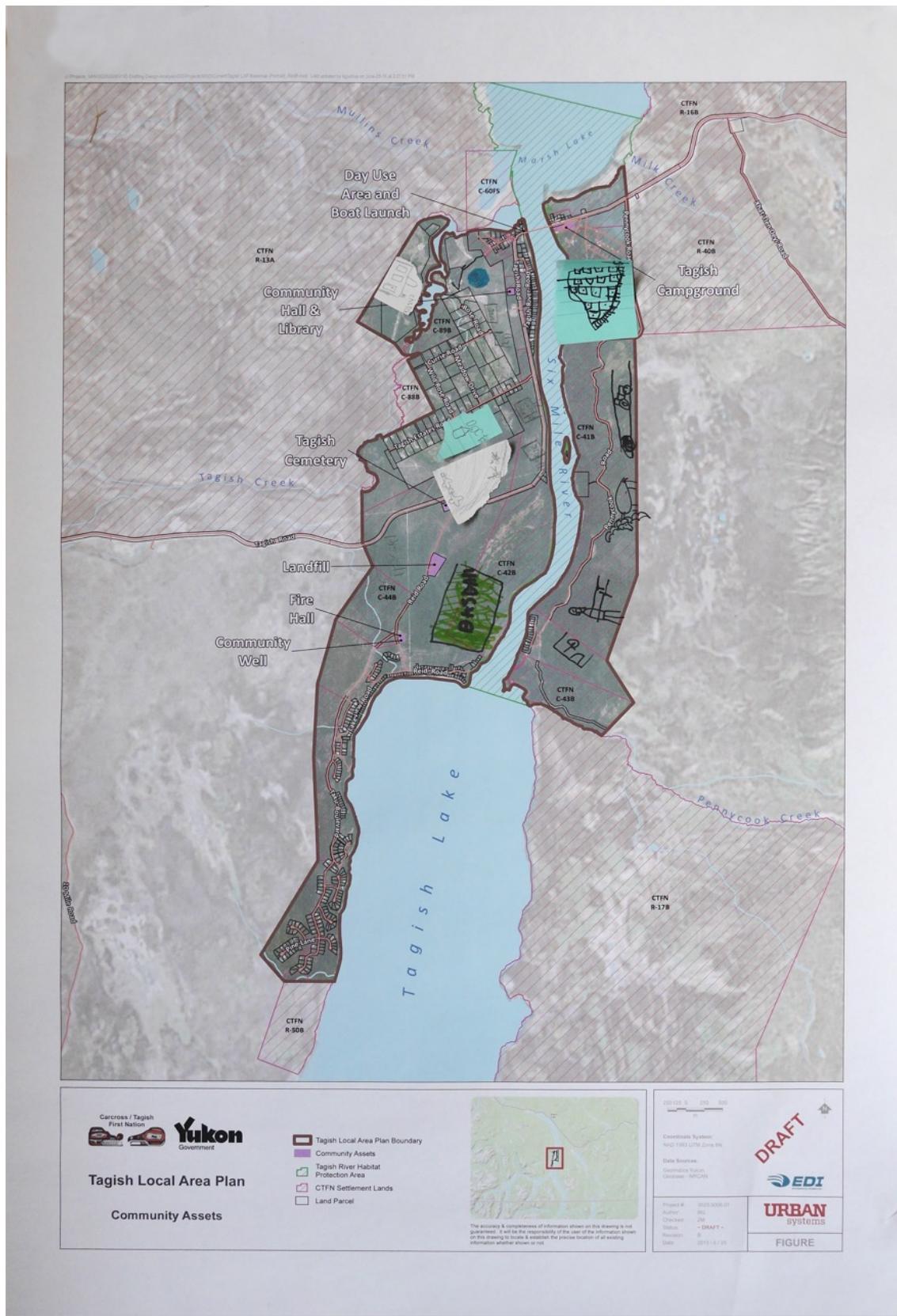
- Having to go to school
- No candy store
- No pool
- People smoking
- No church
- Use of Tagish as a party spot*
- No youth centre*
- Not a lot of youth/teenagers around*
- No jobs for teenagers*
- No store/gas station*
- Not enough defined trails*
- No basketball court*

Vision

Tagish participants' "future maps" (please see pp. 4-5) focused largely around improved recreation facilities, services/businesses, and even tourism. Interviewees in Carcross echoed and elaborated upon some of these themes. Of particular note is the fact that youth participants not only envisioned similar future developments to Tagish adults, some of their ideas around appropriate siting of land uses were also similar. The complete list is as follows:

- **Shooting/gun range**
- **Pool**
- **Healthy fish and wildlife**
- **More housing**
- **Skate park**
- Candy store
- Hospital/doctor's office
- Hotel at campground
- Restaurant (Pizza Hut)
- Grocery store
- Senior's residence
- School
- Church
- Zipline and sliding hill
- New (or updated/enlarged) community centre*
- Gas station*
- More jobs*
- Shuttle transportation to Carcross/Whitehorse*
- Basketball court*
- More land developed*





Group 1's "Future Tagish" map: note the shooting range and dirtbike track along Pennycook Road, hotel at the current campground, pool, doctor, gym and stores along the Tagish Road close to Community Centre, and church north of Tagish Estates.



Group 2's "Future Tagish" map: there are many similarities to Group 1. Other additions along the Tagish Road include a school and a hospital. A police station is pictured along Pennycook Road (along with shooting range/skate park). New waterfront homes are proposed for the CTFN block located on the west side of the Six Mile River.

Feedback on Draft Vision, Values and Principles

The Planning Team asked the two interviewees to review the draft Vision, Values and Guiding Principles for the Tagish plan and provide feedback. Both responded that they agreed with all of this content and had nothing to add; one even commented that she “would not change a thing.”

CONCLUSION

The results of youth engagement in Tagish and Carcross bore many similarities to the results of previous engagement efforts in May/July 2015 that captured primarily adult input. Youth expressed many of the same values: healthy environment and wildlife, peace and quiet, recreation, and open spaces. When asked to envision a better future for Tagish, youth spoke to improved services, recreational opportunities, and tourism/businesses – similar themes to those expressed by adults. Interestingly, even some of their site/physical planning ideas – such as concentrating services and development along the Tagish Road – were reminiscent of previous input.

This round of youth engagement provided a “snapshot” of Tagish youth perspectives, versus a comprehensive inventory. However, the close alignment of youth responses, and their further alignment with adult input, is reassuring. The Planning Team noted that Tagish youth showed a strong pride in their community and enthusiasm to learn more about it – this too bodes well for the future!