

Results of the public consultation and statements presented by residents

Date:	November 23, 2011
Project No.:	0521883
Project:	Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development Borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro
Location:	Borough Hall, Council Chamber
Goal:	Public presentation of the preliminary version of the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development for the Borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro

The public consultation regarding the preliminary version of the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development for the Borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro took place on November 23, 2011 at Borough Hall. The public consultation had been advertised in the local papers and on electronic billboards in the Borough. Personal invitations were sent to the partners from the milieu, that is to say the people who had participated in the various consultation activities associated with the key steps in preparing the plan. About thirty people attended the public consultation.

The aim of the public consultation was to present the main issues involved in sustainable development that the Borough must deal with, the structure of the strategic plan and the main actions in the local and corporate action plans. After the presentation, those attending the consultation were invited to share their thoughts on the contents of the presentation and to ask for further details. In the days following the public consultation, the full version of the action plan was made available on the Borough’s Web site and the residents were invited to comment, in writing, on this full version of the action plan. Four residents submitted statements with their comments. The following table presents the common themes in these statements and our recommendations as to whether or not to modify the action plan accordingly.

Common themes	Recommendation from AECOM
Specify in the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development why an extra document is required when several of the actions or intentions could be added to the Borough Chapter (adopted in 2007), which already sets out a series of actions related to sustainable development.	There was no obligation to prepare the SPSP; this was done on the initiative of the Borough Council in response to the invitation from the Ville centre to make sustainable development a priority on the local level.
It would be in the interests of the Borough to establish the costs associated with the actions in the Plan so as to gauge their feasibility and to establish priority for these actions in a realistic fashion.	This is a legitimate concern for Borough residents. This exercise is to be planned internally in order to include the actions in the budget and in the Borough’s TCWP. The cost/benefit analysis could become the subject of a separate mandate should the Borough deem it necessary.

Common themes

Tie the actions in the plan in with the regulatory tools that empower the Borough, provincial regulations, policies and other planning documents to support these actions.

Produce a table (summary) of the actions prioritized in terms of their timetables for a better understanding of the Borough's priorities and commitments.

Remove certain actions that are no more than simple good management practices (e.g., finding out about and making the best use of the financial aid programs available, and obtaining certificates of water quality in drinking fountains).

Recommendation from AECOM

It might be pertinent to add these references for internal management purposes. We do not believe that this addition would be an added value element that would help residents understand the Plan.

We are in fact of the opinion that it would be opportune to add a summarized table of actions prioritized in terms of the years for their execution. This table could also serve as a checklist for the municipal administration to help in monitoring the action plan. It would also help in planning the implementation of the SPSP and if necessary, in planning its inclusion in the Borough's TCWP.

Some of these actions have yet to be put in place in municipal practices. Thus we recommend keeping them, as the SPSP is a work program and we do not believe that any action should be neglected in the sustainable development process. As a large number of activities make reference to the need for changes in behaviour, they must be recorded in a document so that they can serve as a reference when the processes are reviewed.

Among the other elements of interest that were presented in the statements received, the following did not constitute common themes.

Suggestion

Introduce a wireless island on the territory of the Borough.

Modify the price of building permits in terms of the amount of GHG emissions the proposed building will produce.

Recommendation from AECOM

Effectively, raising awareness in stores and businesses could be done to publicize this project and to encourage them to join in (offer free Wi-Fi Internet service). However, we do not believe that adding an action in this direction is necessary, because this is not directly related to sustainable development.

A program of this type was introduced in Laval. Any developer who applies for a connection permit for the construction of a residential, commercial or institutional project, must pay monetary compensation established in terms of the surface area to be developed. In fact, it would be very interesting to equip the Borough with such a project; however, the Ville centre would have to make sure that such a measure was feasible.

Suggestion	Recommendation from AECOM
Provide municipal tax reductions for owners who improve the energy efficiency of their buildings.	Certain municipalities do offer such municipal tax holidays for renovations or for new LEED-certified buildings. An energy efficient building offers many benefits for residents, for the environment and also for the Borough on a fiscal level. We believe that this possibility should be studied by the municipal administration.
Draw up a grid using sustainable development indicators to help PAC members make decisions when studying projects.	Drawing up such a grid is already proposed for the decision-making process for members of the municipal council and for municipal officials involved in managing and evaluating projects. The idea for PAC members is interesting; instead however, in compliance with the LAU (Act respecting Land use planning and development), we recommend adding objectives and criteria in this vein to the by-law on SPAIPs. If you wish, an action aimed at amending the planning by-laws in order to incorporate the principles of sustainable development could be added to the action plan.

This concludes the analysis of the statements received from Borough residents. Of course, many other suggestions were made in the statements, but only those that had not been touched on in the action plan have been included here. Concerns regarding the internal management of the Borough and relations with residents were also not included in this summary. We consider that concerns of this nature do not belong in a planning document such as the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development for the Borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro.