

Town of Langham

Quality of Life Survey: Summary



2025

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Introduction

This summary is designed to give you a clear picture of how you and your fellow community members responded to the Town of Langham's Quality of Life Survey that ran from June 18th to July 4th, 2025. It's an opportunity to see what others value, what concerns have been raised, and where there's shared vision or differing opinions. The report was prepared by Matthewson & Co., the consultants supporting Langham's Strategic Planning process. While the Town supported the survey, the findings and interpretations presented here are those of the consultants. The results reflect the voices of community members who chose to participate—they are not a reflection of Council decisions or actions. We encourage you to view this summary as a tool for understanding community perspectives, not as a critique of current leadership. If you have questions, comments, or additional feedback about this report, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to reach out to us directly by email to: anna@smallplacesrock.com

Public Input and Council Decision-Making

The input provided by residents during the Strategic Planning process is highly valued by the Council and plays a crucial role in shaping priorities and identifying community needs. While public feedback helps guide the direction of future projects, Council must also consider a range of other factors when making final decisions. These include:

- Asset management plans, which ensure infrastructure is maintained and replaced responsibly;
- Budget constraints and financial sustainability;
- Regulatory requirements and legislative obligations;
- Staff capacity and operational feasibility;
- Risk management and liability considerations;
- Alignment with long-term strategic goals and regional partnerships.

Together, these elements help Council make informed, balanced decisions that reflect both community aspirations and the practical realities of municipal governance.



Respondent Demographics

We received 124 responses to the survey, representing approximately 8% of the local population. While not exhaustive, this sample offers meaningful insights into the demographics and perspectives of residents.

Demographic Snapshot:

The majority of respondents were female, aged 31–40, who have lived in the area for 11–20 years, indicating a strong base of long-term residents.

Newcomer Insight:

Interestingly, 22 respondents indicated they moved to the community within the last 1–5 years—the same number as those who have lived there for 11–20 years. This suggests recent growth and appeal, pointing to factors that may be attracting new residents.

Cultural Background:

While 96.6% of survey respondents were born in Canada, the 2021 Census reports 115 immigrants living in the community. This suggests that the Council should consider strategies to better reach and include immigrant residents in future engagement efforts.

What Makes Langham Unique:

Community Perspective

The insights on this page and page 5 are drawn from responses to the survey question: **“What do you think sets Langham and the surrounding area apart from other communities of similar size in Saskatchewan? What do you like about it?”**

We carefully reviewed all submissions and identified recurring themes. The points listed below reflect the most frequently mentioned qualities that residents appreciate about Langham.

The Strong Sense of Community

The most commonly mentioned theme was the deep sense of connection among residents. People value the friendliness, helpfulness, and community spirit that define life in Langham.

The Small-Town Charm

Many respondents appreciate the familiarity, slower pace, and welcoming atmosphere that come with small-town living—an essential part of Langham’s identity.

It’s Peaceful and Safe

Langham is seen as a quiet and safe place to live, especially appealing to families and retirees seeking a secure and tranquil environment.

It’s Close to Saskatoon, Yet Distinct

Residents enjoy the best of both worlds: rural living with easy access to the amenities, jobs, and services of a major city.

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It's A Great Place for Kids

The town's child-friendly environment—where kids can play, bike, and grow up safely—is a major draw for families.

The Active Lifestyle Opportunities

Access to sports facilities, curling, trails, and recreational programs, to name a few, contributes to a high quality of life and strong community engagement.

The Quality Education

Local schools and educators are commended for their dedication and care, further solidifying Langham's reputation as a great place to raise children.

There is Room to Grow

Some respondents see Langham as a community with potential, thanks to its location, family appeal, and capacity for thoughtful growth.

Affordability

While mentioned less frequently, lower housing costs and taxes remain an important factor in Langham's appeal.

Ideas for Growth:

Community Suggestions

Pages 6 and 7 summarize responses to the survey question:

“What changes or improvements would you make to the community to help bring people to live, work, or visit here?”

We carefully reviewed all submissions and identified common themes. The suggestions listed below reflect the most frequently mentioned ideas from residents, offering valuable insight into what the community sees as opportunities for growth and enhancement.

Improving Roads and Sidewalks.

This remains the most urgent concern among residents. Many feel that poor road conditions, potholes, and crumbling sidewalks negatively impact safety, accessibility, and the town’s overall image.

The Addition of a Grocery Store

The absence of a local grocery store is seen as a major inconvenience and a barrier to attracting and retaining residents.

Increased Local Businesses and Job Opportunities

There is a strong desire for more commercial development and employment options within Langham to support economic growth and reduce reliance on nearby centres.

Expanded Recreational Facilities

Residents would like to see expanded recreation infrastructure, such as a new arena, pool, gym, or multi-use centre, to enhance the quality of life and attract visitors.

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More Housing and Rental Options

The community could benefit from more affordable housing, senior-friendly units, and rental properties to accommodate population growth and support diverse housing needs.

Increased Public Services

Requests for a medical clinic, fire hall upgrades, and improved policing reflect concerns about access to essential services and emergency preparedness.

More Parks and Green Spaces

The community would like to see more parks, dog parks, and walking paths—especially in newer or underserved areas—to support outdoor activity and community wellness.

Improved Tax and Budget Transparency

Some residents are worried about high taxes and unclear spending priorities, calling for greater transparency and fiscal accountability.

More Community Events and Activities

The community has a desire for more public events, such as Canada Day celebrations and fireworks, to foster community spirit and engagement.

Improved Town Governance and Communication

Some respondents feel disconnected from local decision-making and would like to see improved communication and responsiveness from town leadership.

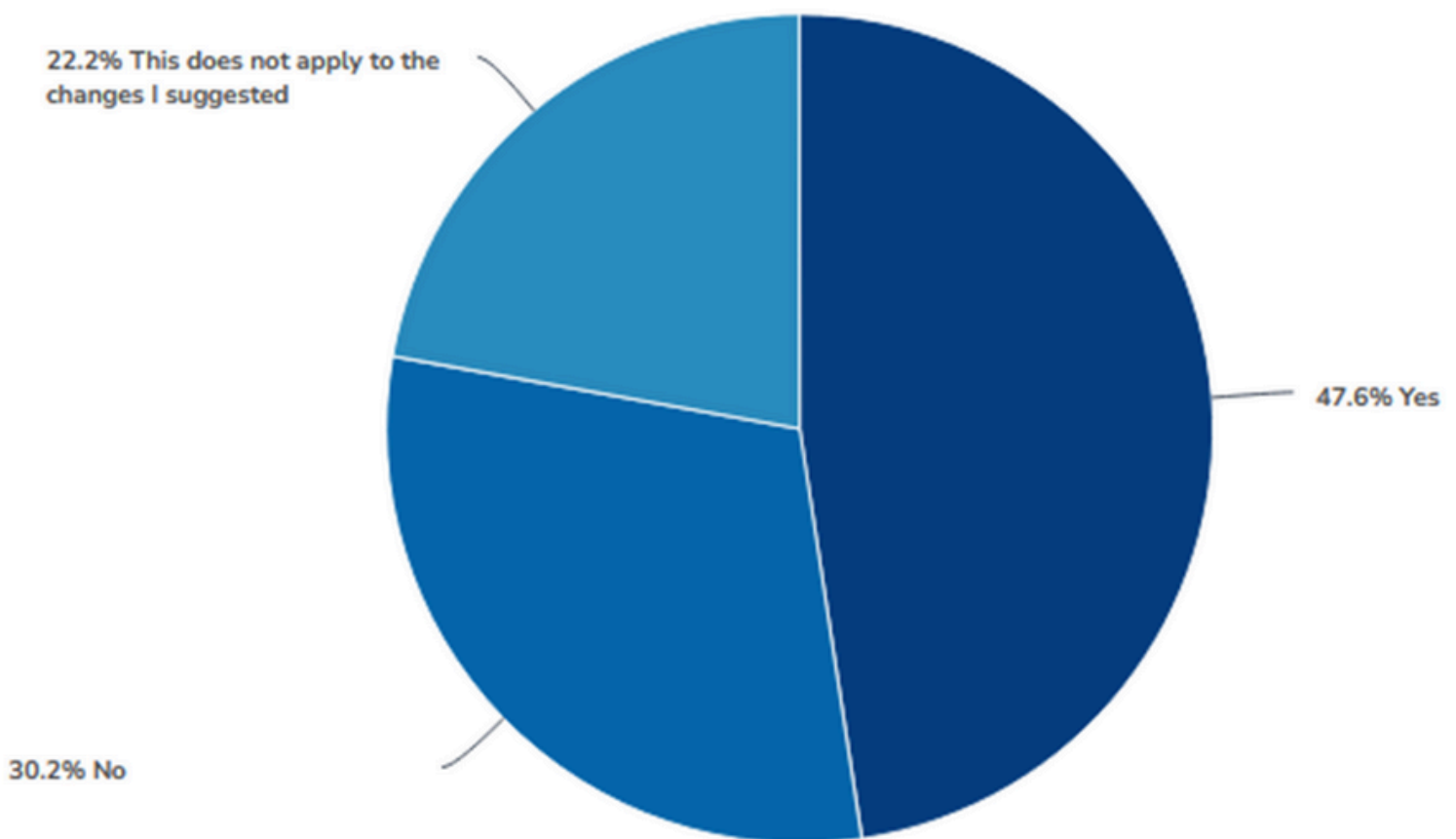
More Daycare and Childcare Options

The shortage of licensed daycare services is a concern for families, highlighting the need for expanded childcare support.

Respondents are Willing to Invest in Community Improvements

To better understand residents' openness to funding changes, we asked: **"Would you make these changes (from the previous 2 pages) if you knew there would be a tax increase or a user fee as a result?"**

The chart below illustrates the responses, offering insight into the community's willingness to financially support improvements that could enhance living, working, or visiting in the area.



Community Contributions

To explore how residents actively support their community, we asked: **“What do you do to contribute to the well-being of the community?”** The top responses were:

- Attending local events
- Shopping local
- Volunteering
- Contributing to local fundraisers



Online Engagement w/ Council Meetings

In our previous survey, residents expressed appreciation for the broadcasting of Council meetings. To better understand how this service is being used, we asked: **“Do you attend these meetings online?”** Responses were nearly evenly split between:

YES
50.8%

&

NO
47.7%

Budget Transparency

To assess how effectively the town communicates its financial information, we asked: **“Is the town budget easy to understand?”**

66.7% of respondents had never seen the budget. Of the 22 people who have seen the budget, 16 said it is not easy to understand, and only 6 said that it is easy to understand.

As part of our recommendations, we have suggested that Council sort the annual budget into simple, easy to understand categories so that ratepayers can see where the money goes.

Balancing Value and Cost

In 2023, residents were asked to rate the value of town services and programs relative to the property taxes they pay. While responses showed moderate satisfaction, fewer than half felt they were receiving strong value.

We understand that many residents are concerned about how their tax dollars are spent. In this question, you provided suggestions to reduce costs. While these suggestions reflect important community perspectives, it's worth noting that not all ideas may be feasible or adopted by the Council. Nonetheless, they offer valuable insight into what matters most to ratepayers:

- **Reassess staffing levels:** Reduce the number of town and Council staff and review Administrative wages to ensure they align with community needs and budget constraints.
- **Increase financial transparency:** Provide more precise, more detailed breakdowns of how tax dollars are spent so residents can better understand and evaluate spending decisions.
- **Prioritize essential services:** Focus funding on core infrastructure like roads and sidewalks rather than less critical or cosmetic projects.

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- **Eliminate inefficiencies:** Address wasteful practices such as watering plants before rainfall or maintaining underused infrastructure.
- **Review spending priorities:** Shift resources away from non-essential programs and toward areas that directly benefit the majority of taxpayers.
- **Consider tax reductions:** Explore ways to lower taxes.
- **Evaluate service improvements:** Some residents are open to maintaining or even increasing taxes if it leads to noticeable improvements in public services.

Garbage & Recycling Services

Most respondents expressed general satisfaction with the town's current garbage pickup and recycling services. However, many also offered thoughtful suggestions to enhance these services:

- Review and adjust dump fees to address concerns about excessive or inconsistent pricing.
- Introduce a dedicated drop-off day or location for hazardous waste to make disposal easier and safer for residents.
- Make green bin usage optional during winter months, when organic waste collection is less necessary.
- Offer smaller garbage bin options to give residents more flexibility and potentially reduce waste.
- Establish a local recycling depot to improve access and convenience for recycling materials.



Resident Experience with Council

In 2023, survey respondents voiced clear concerns about the town Council and Administration's transparency, highlighting a need for better communication and more meaningful consultation on key decisions. To understand whether progress has been made, we asked residents to reflect on their experience with the Council over the past six months. Their responses offer insight into how public perception has evolved—and where further improvements may still be needed.

- Reduce reliance on closed (“in camera”) meetings, which were seen as limiting public insight into decision-making.
- Provide more accessible updates, especially for those who do not actively seek out information online.
- Increase direct communication from leadership, as many felt disconnected or uninformed about Council activities.
- Diversify communication channels beyond Facebook, which was often cited as the only source of updates, posing challenges for seniors and those less active online.
- Introduce printed newsletters and meeting summaries to ensure consistent, inclusive communication across the community.

Rating Municipal Services

Residents were asked to rate various municipal services on a scale from 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent). The responses offer a snapshot of how the community perceives the quality and effectiveness of local services. These ratings help identify areas of strength and highlight opportunities for improvement based on public experience and expectations.

Top-rated services included:

- Street plowing, snow and ice removal
- Parks and green space maintenance
- Upkeep of outdoor recreational facilities
- General facility maintenance
- Town beautification

Services with moderate ratings included:

- Information and services from the town office

Services with lower ratings included:

- Pothole, sidewalk and curb repair

While some services received moderate or lower ratings, the results offer helpful insight into what matters most to residents. Feedback around communication, service delivery, and infrastructure points to areas where residents see room for improvement—areas the Town may consider exploring further as part of ongoing planning and responsiveness to community needs.



Arts & Culture

Residents were asked to indicate how strongly they agree or disagree with the statement:

“Arts and culture are important to a thriving community.”

Over half of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed, showing broad support and appreciation for their role in community life. However, a significant portion remained neutral or disagreed, indicating that not everyone clearly sees value in arts and culture.

Given these mixed perspectives, there is a clear opportunity to strengthen public understanding and engagement around arts and culture initiatives. To ensure future programming reflects the community’s expectations and fosters broader support, Matthewson & Co. recommends that Council:

- Clearly define programming, with detailed descriptions of goals, activities, and expected outcomes to help residents understand what is being offered and why.
- Share how decisions are made, including how community input is gathered and used, and how funding is allocated to ensure transparency and build trust.
- Host regular engagement opportunities—such as surveys, town halls, and focus groups—to gather feedback and shape programming that reflects the diverse interests and values of residents.

Recreation in Langham: What Residents Use Most

To better understand how residents engage with local amenities, respondents were asked to select the **top five recreation opportunities and facilities they use in Langham**. The results offer a clear picture of which spaces and programs are most valued, helping guide future investment, maintenance, and programming decisions. These insights also highlight patterns of community activity and preferences across age groups and interests.

Activities:

1. **Hockey (tied with) Baseball**
2. **Curling**
3. **Soccer**
4. **Skating**
5. **Dance/Ukrainian Dance**
6. **Ski Club**
7. **Pickleball**

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Facilities:

1. Langham Affinity Community Hall
2. River Ridge Trails
3. Splash Park
4. Langham Sports Grounds/Parks/Playgrounds
5. Langham Centennial Arena
6. Wheatland Library
7. Langham Curling Rink
8. Soccer Field
9. Museum
10. Skate Park
11. Plus 60 Club
12. Langham Multi-Purpose Rental Facility

Recreation Gaps: What Residents Want to See in Langham

To identify opportunities for expanding local amenities, we asked: **“What recreation programs or facilities would you like to see that you do not have now?”**

1. An indoor or outdoor pool.
2. Outdoor pickleball, tennis, and basketball courts.
3. Youth/teen programming (summer camps, safe hangout spaces, community-led activities)
4. Arts and culture programming (drama, dance, art classes, adult recreation activities)
5. Social and entertainment venues (bowling alley, arcade centre)

Facilities Needing Improvement: Community Feedback

We asked: **“What facilities do you think require improvement?”**

This question sparked thoughtful responses about areas where existing infrastructure may be falling short.

1. The rink/arena
2. Library
3. Community hall
4. Parks
5. Elementary playground
6. High school grounds

Did We Hear You Right?

This report is based on what we heard from you and your fellow community members, but if you think we missed something important, or if you'd like to share more thoughts, please feel free to email us directly at anna@smallplacesrock.com

