



What We Heard Report

VILLAGE OF FOREMOST MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1. Introduction

The Village of Foremost initiated the development of a Municipal Development Plan (MDP) in October 2018. Prior to the start of the development of the MDP, a Public Participation Plan (PPP) was prepared in accordance with the Village of Foremost's Policy Regarding Public Participation and Section 216.1 of the *Municipal Government Act*. The PPP was developed to recognize the value of public participation and will create opportunities for meaningful public participation in the development of the MDP. The PPP can be found in Appendices 1.

The "What We Heard Report" provides a summary of the feedback from the public participation opportunities throughout the development of the Plan. The report will form an appendices of the MDP document.

2. Public Participation 1 – Vision and Goals

The focus of the first public participation opportunities was to focus on establishing a vision and goals for the plan through a public open house and online survey.

On November 6 2018, 22 community members attended an Open House hosted by the Village of Foremost and A2 Planning. The Open House began with a 30 minute presentation providing an overview of why the Village was completing a Municipal Development Plan including explanation of the 'Planning Hierarchy'.

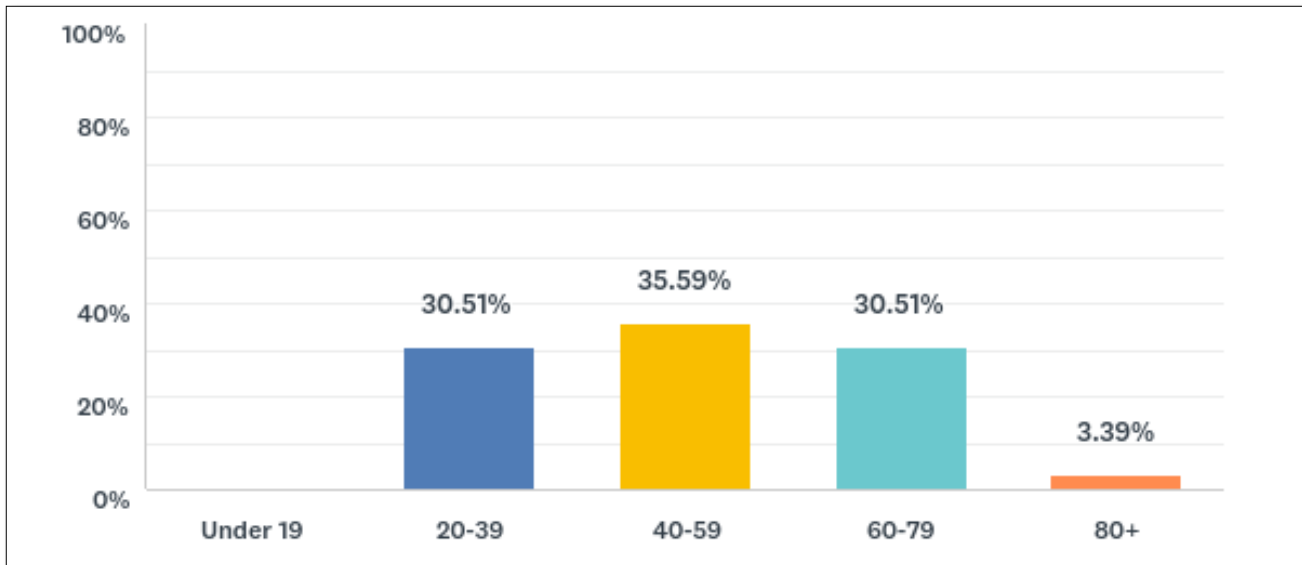
Following the presentation community members were asked to complete a survey individually and then through a facilitated conversation were encouraged to discuss their answers and perspectives with others at their table. A series of photos were provided on a slideshow to spur ideas (e.g. For questions related to residential development the following photos were shown – basement suite, duplex, acreage, single detached home, renovations, apartment building, shipping containers, infill homes, rowhouses, and seniors facilities). One spokesperson for each table then shared highlights from their table discussions with the entire group.

The survey was then made available online for community members who were unable to attend the open house. The survey was open to the public from November 7th until November 28th. 22 surveys were completed at the open house and 39 surveys were completed online for a total of 61 unique surveys.

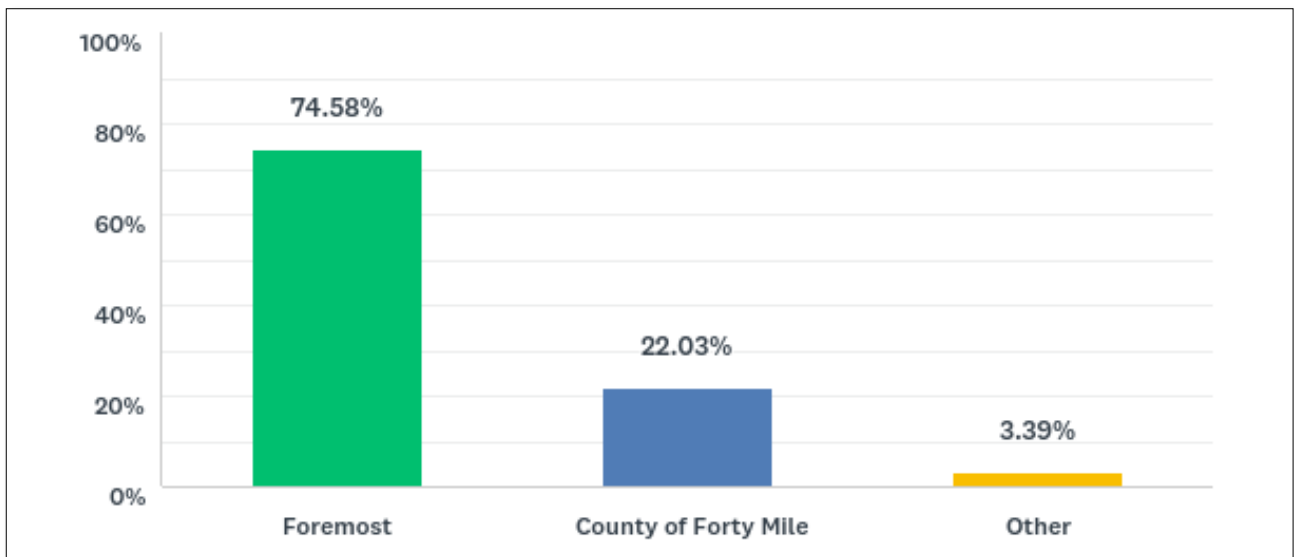


2.1 Detailed Results from Open House and Online Surveys

Q1: How old are you?



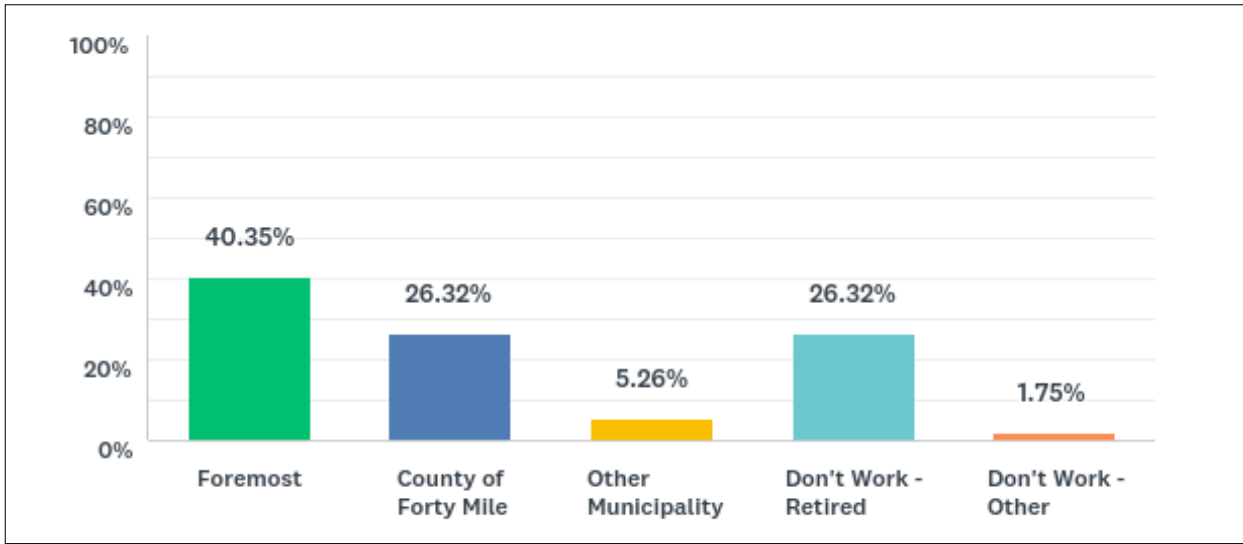
Q2: Where do you live?



Other:

- Medicine Hat (1)
- Lethbridge (1)

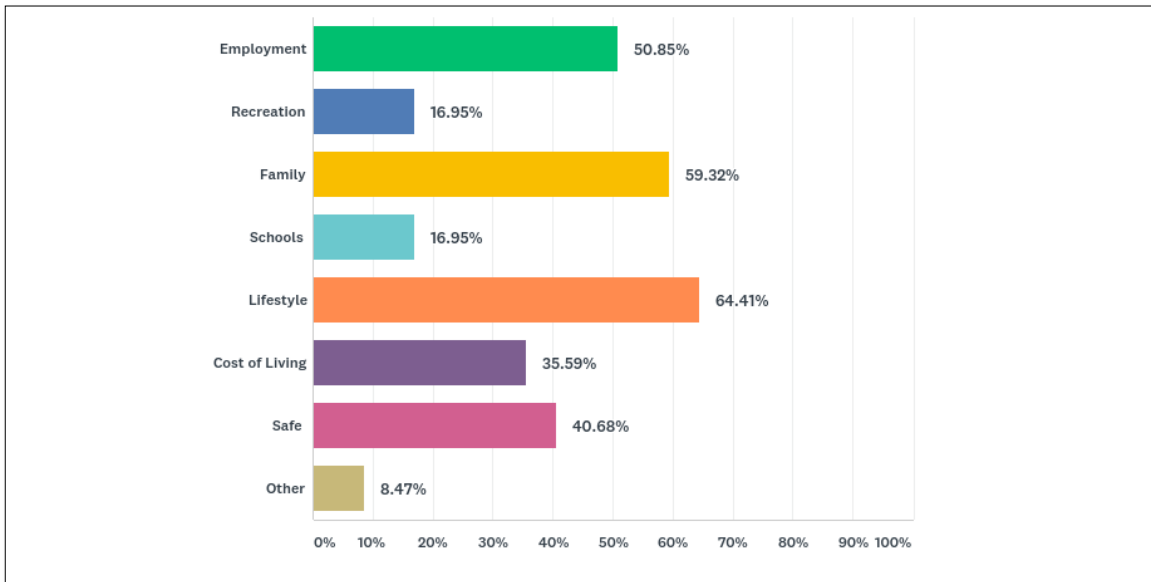
Q3: Where do you work?



Other :

- Maternity Leave (1)

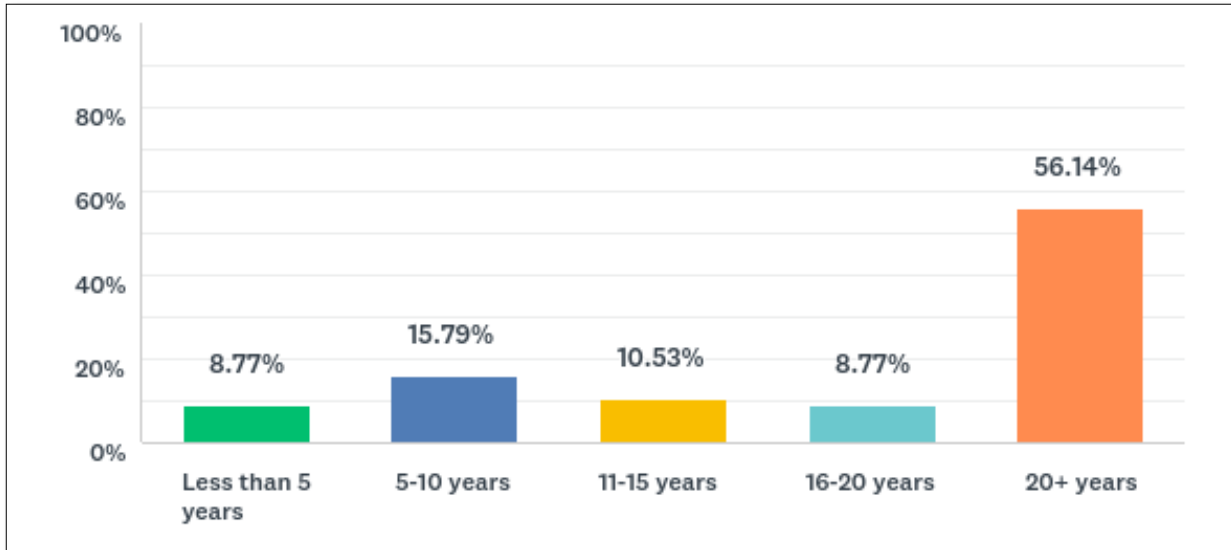
Q4: Why do you choose to live in Foremost?



Other:

- Farm (2)
- Friends (1)
- Quiet (1)
- Retired Here (1)

Q5: How long do you expect to live in Foremost?



Q6: If you were to leave the community within the next 10 years, what do you think would prompt this move?

Health Care (12)	Age (6)	Employment (5)	Family (3)
Retirement (2)	Housing	Public Transportation	Life changes
Relationship	Child Care	Education	Grandchildren
Cost of Living	Crime		

Q7: What are three things you value or most appreciate about living/working in Foremost?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
Small Town Feel/Community (35)	Care and concern, slow pace, small, values, small size, Cohesion, Events, Participation, Spirit, Supportive, Atmosphere
Friendly (19)	Good People, Friendly, Friendliness
Safe (18)	Low crime, safe,
Local Businesses & Services (15)	Variety, Basic Needs, School, Doctor, Groceries, Banks, Post Office, Hardware,
Recreation Opportunities (11)	Sports programs, golf course, skating, walking path
Cost of Living (11)	Affordable, cheaper, affordable housing, money
Family & Friends (9)	Familiarity, family, friends
Quiet & Peaceful (8)	Quiet, Peaceful
Short Commute/No Traffic (4)	Short commute, no traffic
Municipal Services (3)	Snow removal, garbage pickup, paved streets
Volunteerism (3)	Strong, Dedicated
Clean (2)	Clean
Historical Main Street (2)	Main Street, Historical Buildings

Q8: What are three things you would hope could be changes or improved related to living/working in Foremost?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
Recreation and Culture (28)	Better services for seniors, health care & access, childcare, family centre, activities, child friendly, recreation for seniors, engage and provide opportunities for youth, Better baseball diamonds, community arena, outdoor pool, indoor riding area, pool hours/days, walking path, running track and tennis courts.
Economic Development (19)	Full time service station/convenience store, more businesses, more industry, more shopping + retail, attract people, support local business, support farmers, highway frontage development, more jobs and employment opportunities
Diverse Housing (16)	Housing, Multi-family, Rentals, Retirement, Assisted living/seniors facilities (10).
Support School (7)	lighting, more kids, maintain, funding, stabilize population
Revitalize Mainstreet (5)	Beautify, ambience, improve, buildings and landscaping, care and attention, historic buildings
Municipal Services (5)	Recycling, Cleanliness, Garbage Cans, Garbage Collection,
Property Maintenance (5)	Care of properties, aesthetics, unsightly, bylaw enforcement
Infrastructure (4)	Road maintenance, fix streets, pot holes, repairs
Community Beautification (4)	1 st impressions, campground,
Safety (3)	EMS, Policing
Playgrounds (2)	Playgrounds

Q9: What are three opportunities Foremost should capitalize on to improve the community?

Economic Development
Attract business and tourism
Attract business that provides employment opportunities
Bring in more industry
Attract businesses related to the UAS
Promote industrial growth and development
Support family businesses
Leverage Forty Mile Rail to attract industrial development
Service station/convenience store
Industrial Development
Agricultural commercial (i.e. pellet plant etc.)
Rail shipping including windmill offloading site

Community & Recreation
Ball diamonds
Attract business that provides employment opportunities
Community Dances
Community/Youth Centre to create opportunities for youth
Grants to improve parks, library, etc.
Programs for Mennonite families
Enhance the rodeo grounds
Indoor Riding Arena
Modernize and expand parks/playgrounds
Recreation buildings require some updates
Outdoor pool renovations/improvements

Housing
Additional housing
Attract rental housing opportunities
Supportive housing that keeps seniors in town
Low income housing
Affordable housing for young people
Duplexes and multi-unit buildings
Senior housing

Institutional
Bring and keep families for school population
Attract rental housing opportunities
Ensure churches remain operational
Hockey program within school

Community Appearance
Invest in beautifying Main Street
Cleanliness of old, junky yards
Maintain and improve infrastructure

Community Services
Expand medical services
Improved health care services
Opportunities for youth

Other
Family focused
Friendly people
Working together
Stability of community

Q10: Order the following in order of importance:

The following order represents the average weighting of importance based on 35 responses.

- 1) Ensure orderly and efficient growth by utilizing existing infrastructure whenever possible.
- 2) Promote and encourage the provision of a full range of goods and services for the residents.
- 3) Provide enhanced community facilities to improve the social, cultural, and recreational needs of the community.
- 4) Ensure new development is complementary of existing development and the environment.
- 5) Encourage a mixture of housing types so a variety of housing options is available to all residents.
- 6) Ensure a high quality and aesthetic appeal with all development.
- 7) Municipal services are provided in a timely and efficient manner.
- 8) Cooperate and engage with the County of Forty Mile.
- 9) Support adequate and efficient provision of municipal and private utilities
- 10) Develop a strong tourism sector in the village and surrounding area.
- 11) Incompatible land uses (e.g. residential and industrial) should be separated and buffered.
- 12) Provide well designed and maintained transportation network.
- 13) Protect and preserve existing natural area whenever possible.

Q11: What are three aspects about the residential areas in Foremost that you like?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
Well Maintained Properties (20)	Cleanliness, properties, yards, pride, well-maintained, care, well-kept
Close to Amenities (19)	Walking path, school, parks, golf course
Well Maintained Roads (18)	Good, well-maintained, paved, snow removal, wide,
Good Size Lots (11)	Bigger, Large
Mature Trees (8)	Mature trees, trees, nicely treed
Irrigation Water (5)	Water system, affordable rates
Quiet (3)	Quiet, quiet streets
Street Lighting (3)	Well-lit
Available Parking (2)	Parking available
Older homes (1)	Older homes
Slow traffic (1)	Slow traffic

Q12: What are three aspects about the residential areas in Foremost that you dislike?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
Unightly Properties (18)	Trailers that never move, messy yards, unkempt, yards, homes, buildings, junk, cars, tall grass
Poor Lighting (15)	Better lighting, inconsistent, lack of, dark, none on 1 st St W, poorly lit
Abandoned/Derelict Properties (10)	Abandoned, empty, run down, unsafe, eyesore
Animal Control (6)	Cats running freely, strays, no leash, feces not picked up, waste
Sidewalks (5)	No sidewalks, missing links, updating, hazardous, inconsistent
Parking Concerns (4)	Newer areas, cul-de-sacs, limited,
Alleyway Maintenance (2)	Potholed alleys, weeds, repairs
Street Maintenance (1)	Repair
Water Issues (2)	High water table, Stormwater Drainage
Slow Development	New areas take long to develop
Speeding	Speeding vehicles
Too many homes for sale (1)	Too many

Q13: What are three aspects about the commercial areas in Foremost that you like?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
Location (15)	Close together, accessible, walkable, central, ease of access, parking, walking distance,
Appearance (11)	Clean, pride, maintained, neat, well-kept, tidy
Quality Businesses (9)	Hours of operation, open most days, good hours, personable, quality, welcoming, well-stocked.
Variety of Key Businesses (5)	Grocery, Banks, Post Office, Restaurants
Historic Main Street Buildings (4)	Historic buildings, main street, preserved
Community Driven (3)	Family-owned, support charities, small town feel
Available Parking (2)	Parking, doesn't interfere with traffic

Q14: What are three aspects about the commercial areas in Foremost that you dislike?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
Main street revitalization (15)	Beautification, improved signage, upgrades, consistent theme, empty lots, messy, not maintained, face lift, revitalized, curb appeal
Abandoned/Derelict Properties (10)	Old, unused, unsafe, falling down, vacant, clean up, out of place, unsightly, aging, weeds,
Hours of Operation (4)	Close to early, decreased, missing, inconvenient
Lack of new business (4)	Little competition, lack of opportunities, little variety
Access and Entrances (2)	Difficult, dangerous
Street Lighting (2)	Dark, poor lighting

Q15: What are three aspects about the industrial areas in Foremost that you like?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
Location (13)	Separate from residential, location, away from core, separated, concentrated
Available Land (7)	New, available lots, large lots, potential, well designed
Well Maintained (6)	Clean, cleanliness, tidy, maintained
Ease of Access (4)	Easy, good, large trucks/machinery
Composting Area (2)	Composting area
Job Opportunities (2)	Creates jobs, employment
Forty Mile Rail	Forty mile rail

Q16: What are three aspects about the industrial areas in Foremost that you dislike?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
Safety in School Zone (5)	Large machinery, school zone, safety, too close, speeds, visibility
Lack of Signage (5)	Signage, visibility, lacking, poor
Drainage (4)	Drainage, improve, poor
Appearance (3)	First thing you see from south, not pretty enough, first impression
Impacts of Growth (3)	Noisy, noise, impact on residential,

Q17: What are three aspects about recreational facilities, parks, and open spaces in Foremost that you like?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
Accessible and Available (12)	Access, accessibility, ease of access, open for everyone, open, available, availability,
Variety of Recreation Facilities (4)	Arena, swimming pool, golf course, rodeo area, good variety, great,
Walking Path (5)	Orchard, Dam, Campground
Clean (3)	Clean, maintained,
Community Pride	pride
Low Cost (8)	Low cost, free, low user fees
Library	library
Parks (3)	Great parks, green spaces, large parks,

Q18: What are three aspects about recreational facilities, parks, and open spaces in Foremost that you dislike?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
General Facility Maintenance (8)	Upkeep is minimal, maintenance, unmowed grass, high costs, weed control
Playgrounds (7)	Lions Park, equipment not painted or maintained, modernize with paint, non-safe equipment, upgrades, add to
Campground and Walking Path (7)	Garbage, not maintained, updating, washrooms
Outdoor Pool (6)	Hours/days of operation, updating, needs help
Public Washrooms (4)	Needed, unclean
Ball Diamonds and Rodeo (3)	TLC, cut grass, weeds
Library (3)	Hours of Operation
Facility Staffing (2)	Problem, difficult
Golf Course (1)	Expand to 18 holes
Youth Centre (1)	lacking

Q19: What are three aspects about utilities and infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, garbage collection, recycling, etc.) in Foremost that you like?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
Roads (16)	Good condition, great care, potholes fixed regularly, maintained all year, paved, repaired
Garbage Collection (11)	Always available, consistent, weekly, good, clean dump
Potable Water (11)	New water treatment plan, great, good, high quality.
Recycling (11)	Availability, good options, access, option, good location, trailer
Good Services (5)	All necessary provided, everything we need, good service, prompt service, maintained, good shape
Snow removal (4)	Great, well-done
Irrigation (4)	Like separate system, nice to have, affordable
Reasonable Rates (3)	Reasonable, good
Sewer (3)	Condition, no issues, good shape
Composting (2)	available
Groundwater	High water table

Q20: What are three aspects about utilities and infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, garbage collection, recycling, etc.) in Foremost that you dislike?

Themes	Key Supporting Words
Garbage Collection (11)	Don't know where to put it, lack of garbage bins, inconsistent, picky, rural dumping in town,
Repairs and Maintenance (11)	Constant repair, upgrading, more maintenance, laneways, long term planning, modernization, potholes
Recycling (7)	More, trailer around more, consistent place, curbside, misuse of trailer.
Burning Barrels (3)	Get rid, ban
Sidewalks (3)	Lacking, inconsistent
Compost (2)	Curbside bins, grass pickup for seniors
Snow Removal (1)	Windrows clear of intersections
Trees (1)	Overgrowth

Q21: Do you have any ideas on economic development opportunities Foremost should be pursuing.

40 Mile Rail/Rail Line
Ag commercial and ag manufacturing/ag related industries
Bottle depot
Decide what we want to be – agricultural centre, drones, etc. What is our theme?
Encourage small businesses
Home based business, smaller business rather than larger ones.
Indoor riding arena
Look to attract innovative companies who can set up around the drone announcement
Meals on wheels
Partnerships
Help small businesses growth within
UAS/drones
Variety of event during rodeo weekend
Promote downtown/main street through special events
Windmills, solar panels
Pursue “dark sky community”

Q22: How could Foremost better support existing businesses and attract new business?

Affordable housing/multi-family
Revitalized Main Street commercial district
Businesses supporting businesses
Consistent standards of development on main street and highway 61
Find ways to appreciate and partner together
Encourage shop local
Longer hours i.e. Weekends
Rental housing
Offer incentives for new businesses
Promote the businesses and services we already have
Communicate with Chamber.

Q23: Do you have any thoughts on the environment and sustainability in Foremost?

Maintain what we have
Partner with BI to improve recycling
Maintain our green spaces
Preserve area around the dam
Recycling program is excellent
Burning barrels need to go
Maintain infrastructure we have and open spaces

Maintain green areas – campground, reservoir, and golf course
Don't get crazy just maintain what we currently do (or don't do)

Q24: Do you think there is anything that will greatly impact Foremost's ability to grow into the future?

Doctor must stay in Foremost
Ability to keep your family here
Population
Rental housing – not houses for sale but multi-dwelling units
School, seniors, water treatment
Rental units, school
Farms selling/Farms getting bigger
Availability of housing
Loss of students – closing of school
If school closes will be huge impact
Availability of staffing
Lack of water supply for industry
Seniors moving and not enough young people staying
Citizens not supporting local
Railway
New water treatment plant (+)
Large amount of seniors having to move away

Q25: Is there anything else that you think we should know regarding future growth and development in Foremost?

Don't be swayed or slowed down by old fuddy duddy ideas. Take some calculated risks.
Work together let everyone know what is going on and keep them in the loop.
Opportunity to prove services to wind and solar companies
Need for updating our main street and overall appearance
Ensure school stays open
Restrict building large farm-related buildings on Main Street.