# Cochrane Public Library

# Community Ideas and Input Conversation

# March 18th, 2023

# Contents

# Overview of the Event

52 individuals participated in the Community Input and Ideas Conversation on March 18, 2023 to talk about their ideas for the Cochrane community and the public library. These individuals represented a wide diversity of community organizations, demographics, and interests. They discussed three questions through interactive small and large group work.

1. What do you want in your community?
2. What are the main challenges that Cochrane faces?
3. How could the public library address the challenges and achieve your vision for Cochrane?

Library Chair, Cyndie Baum, welcomed the participants and thanked them for their willingness to give ideas for the library's Plan of Service. Barb Pedersen of Barbara Pedersen Facilitation Services Inc. facilitated the session and produced this report.

**This report contains two sections:**

1) The themes from each of the three questions

2) The detailed information from the small groups for each question
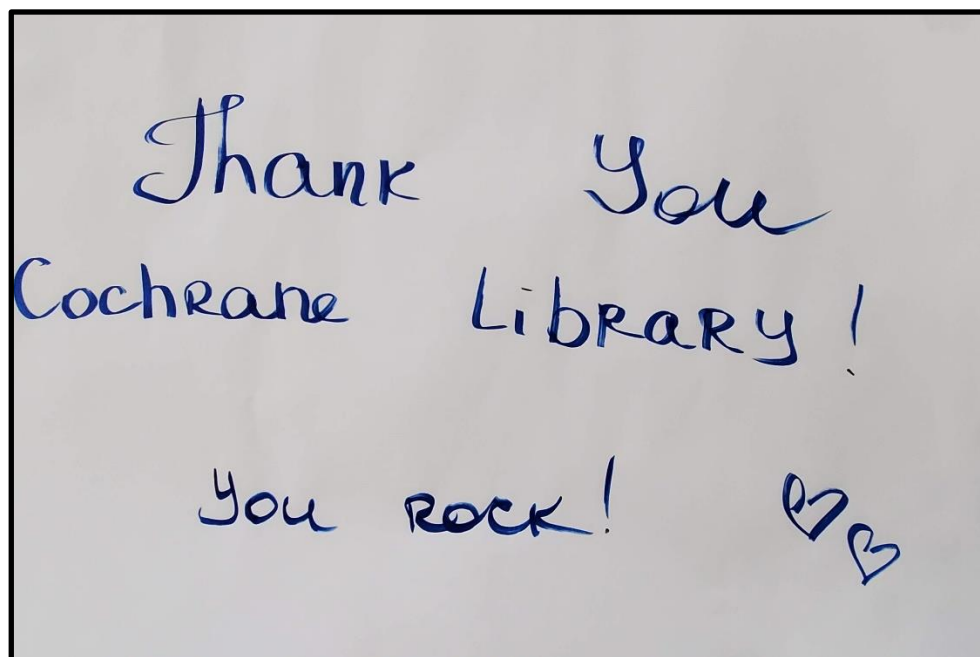


Note from a participant

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**Summary of the themes for Question 1: What do you want in your community?**

1) **A community with green and natural spaces**
   - Preserve and enhance natural spaces
   - Green spaces and nature
   - Preserve and expand green space and nature
   - Green space (wild life, connected pathways)
   - Natural spaces
   - Nature

2) **A connected community**
   - Connectivity
   - Growth yet coming together
   - Connectivity – people, places, ideas, space, opportunity
   - Interconnected (Meaningful partnership, collaborative, muti-generational, a HUB)

3) **An inclusive and diverse community**
   - Intergenerational inclusion and diversity
   - Diversity, inclusion, connection
   - Inclusivity
   - Inclusive (diverse, cultural, rural inclusion, safety, accessible, affordable)

4) **A gathering or connection place (Hub) in the community**
   - Natural and intentional community spaces that facilitate connection between diverse people(s)
   - Place to connect people, resources, Hub
   - Gathering areas (hub and spoke)

5) **An accessible community (transportation)**
   - Accessibility – to transportation, to doctors, to work
   - Accessibility
   - Access and exposure

6) **A community with arts, culture, multicultural, and historical spaces and events**
   - Building arts and culture infrastructure
   - Multicultural centre (arts focus, performance)
   - Historical (Spaces, events, celebration)

7) **A community with resources**
   - Resources - Courses such as financial literacy, first aid, health, drug education, driving education, $$$ Grant and Proposal writing, Outreach

8) **An innovative community**
   - Innovative (Keep up with growth, adaptive, responsive, dynamic)

9) **A community with inclusive and holistic health**
   Inclusive and holistic health

**Summary of the themes for Question 2: What are the main challenges facing Cochrane?**

1.  **The need for community-wide communication, information (Community Hub)**

2.  **The struggle to cope with growth**

3.  **Limited transportation and accessibility**

4.  **Infrastructure issues**

5.  **Affordability issues for residents**

6.  **Funding concerns**

7.  **Disconnection**

8.  **Civic literacy is needed**

9.  **More health services are needed in the community**


**Summary of the themes for Question 3: How could the public library address the challenges and achieve your vision for Cochrane?**

1)  **Acting as a community information hub**
    - Acting as a community information hub
    - Facilitate knowledge transfer between segments of the community
    - Clearinghouse for information sharing
    - Serve as a Communication Hub (other groups, events, messages)
    - Communication Hub (Connection point, centralized point where community groups come together (spoke and hub),  ongoing lists of groups, volunteering, and nonprofits (data hub), collaboration

2)  **Community outreach and partnerships**
    - Community outreach and partnerships
    - Add library to the agenda of other local groups
    - Partner on a community needs assessment to understand community needs
    - Collaboration

3)  **Be a gathering place for community organizations and residents**
    - Increase use of community gathering spaces in the library
    - HUB

- Service Hub (Increase program choices for teens, grant writing expertise, volunteers, counselling, connect with schools, Learning Commons concept – Rebrand?)
- Facilitate community program meetings to increase collaboration and decrease duplication
- Access to afterhours spaces

**4) Expand space and hours**
- Expansion of space and hours
- Space, Space, Space, Space
- Private business (coffee shop) to support revenue/or social enterprise

**5) Increase awareness of the library services**
- Library services awareness

**6) Diversity and inclusion**

**7) Early childhood development**

**8) In person tactile experiences**

# RECORDED NOTES FROM THE GROUP ACTIVITIES

## Question 1: What do you want in your community?

Activity: Images and Small Group Discussion and Creation

**Group 1**

- **Inclusive and holistic health**

- **Natural and intentional community spaces that facilitate connection between diverse people(s)**

- **Preserve and enhance natural spaces**



**Group 2**

- **Play/Fun/Recreation**

- **Green spaces and nature**

- **Accessibility – to transportation, to doctors, to work**

**Group 3**

- **Preserve and expand green space and nature**

    While

- **Building arts and culture infrastructure**

    With/improving

- **Accessibility**

    And

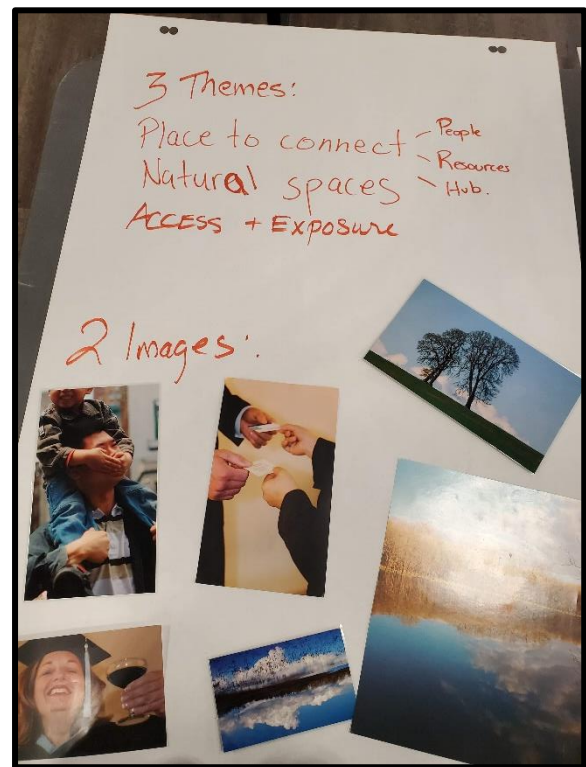- **Intergenerational inclusion and diversity**



**Group 4**

- **Multicultural centre (arts focus, performance)**

- **Historical (Spaces, events, celebration)**

- **Green space (wild life, connected pathways)**

- **Diversity, inclusion, connection**

## Group 5

- **Place to connect people, resources, Hub**

- **Natural spaces**

- **Access and exposure**



## Group 6

**Community is:**
- People
- Connectivity
- Live, work, and play
- Gathering areas (hub and spoke)
- Growth yet coming together
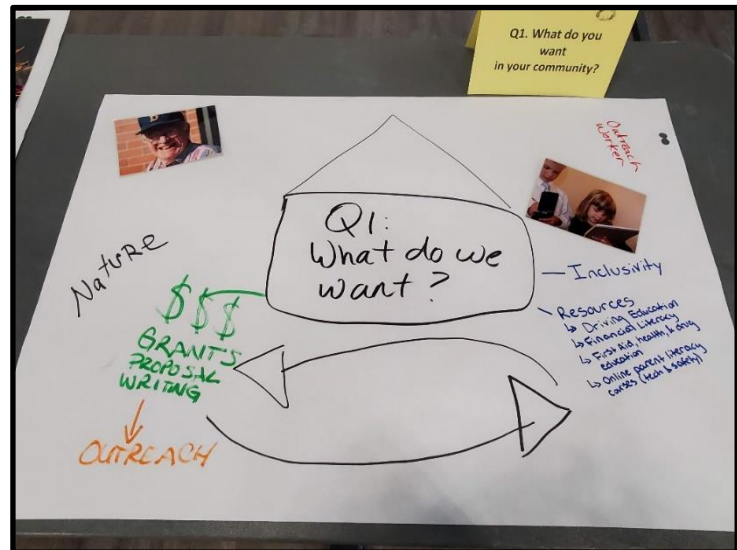- Exploring together/supporting each other

**Key idea:**

**Connectivity** – people, places, ideas, space, opportunity
*(see image)*

**Group 7**

- **Nature**

- **Inclusivity**

- **Resources**
  - Driving education
  - Financial literacy
  - First Aid, health, and drug education
  - Online parent literacy courses (tech and safety)

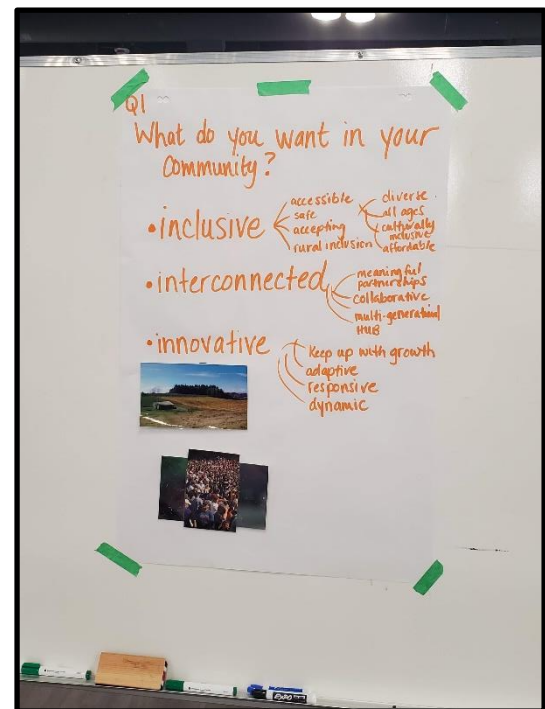**$$$ Grant**
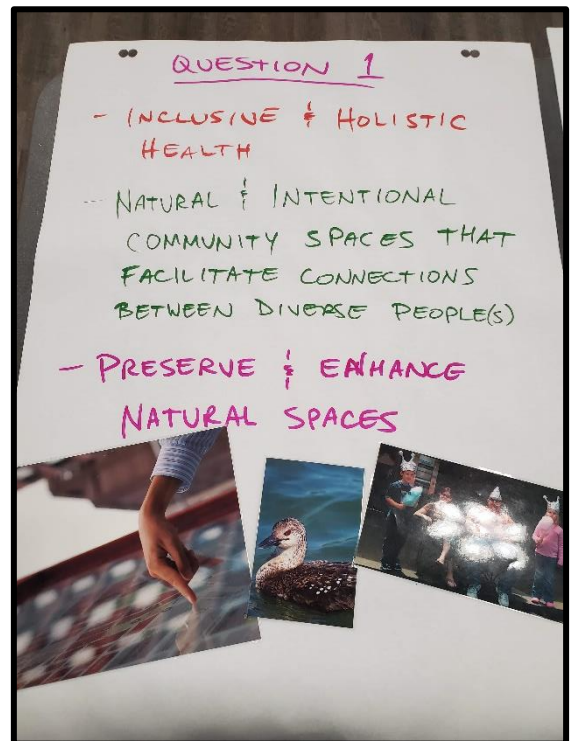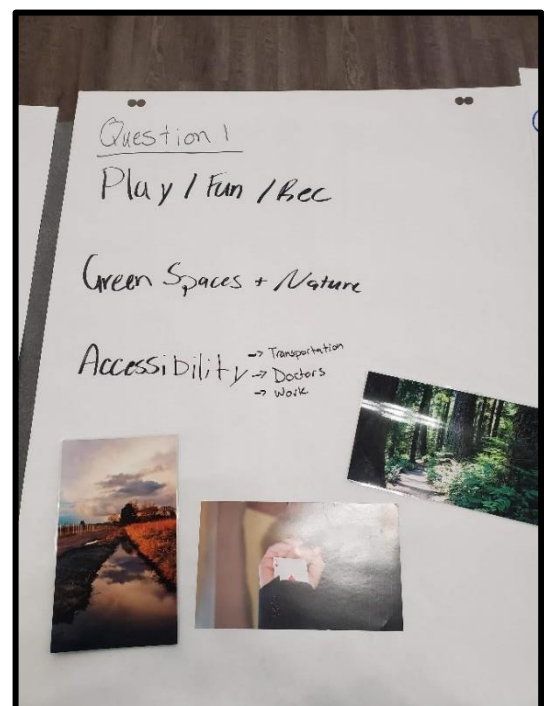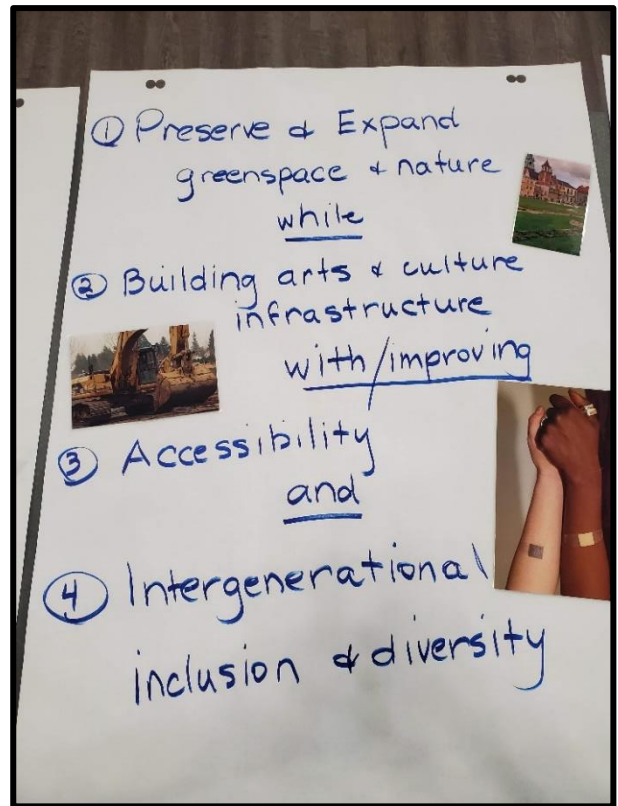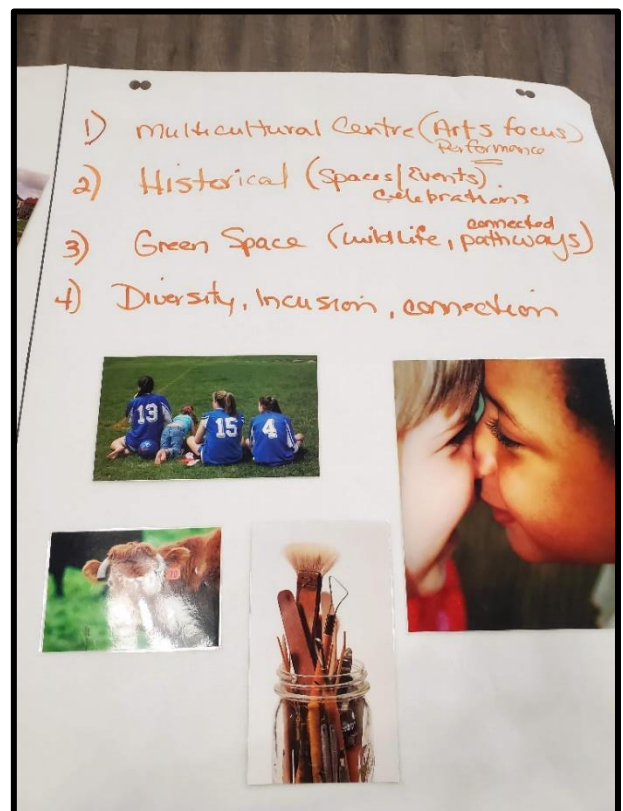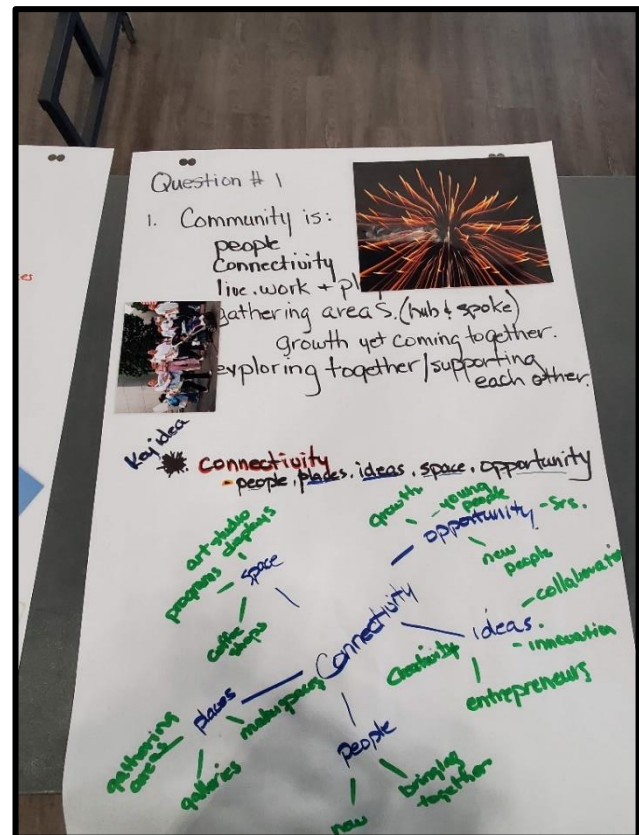
**Proposal writing**

**Outreach**



**Group 8**

**Inclusive**
- Accessible
- Safe
- Accepting
- Rural inclusion
- Diverse
- All ages
- Culturally inclusive
- Affordable

**Interconnected**
- Meaningful partnership
- Collaborative
- Muti-generational
- HUB

**Innovative**
- Keep up with growth
- Adaptive
- Responsive
- Dynamic

# What are the main challenges that Cochrane faces?

Activity 1-2-4-8: individual writing, discuss in pairs, discuss in foursome, discuss and summarize in group of eight

**Theme: The need for community-wide communication, information (Community Hub)**

*Communication with community*
- Penetration

*Information distribution*
- Let people know what services are available

*Community Hub*
- Integrated services together
- Library and recreation and support and arts
- Simple to access
- Needs $

*Communication*
- How to get information to our community
- Accuracy ?
- Resources, programs, events, places
- e.g. disaster preparedness

*Communication hub*
- Intergenerational
- Knowledge re: volunteer opportunities
- Intergovernmental relationships
- Nonprofit sector education and communication
- Support systems
- Awareness of services across nonprofit business and private
- Marketing of services
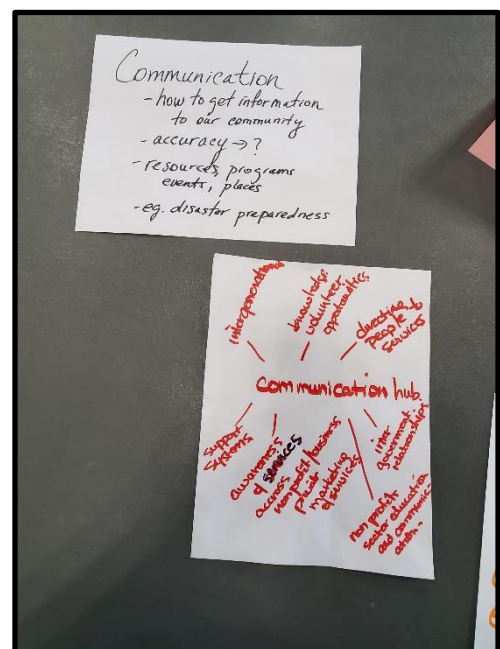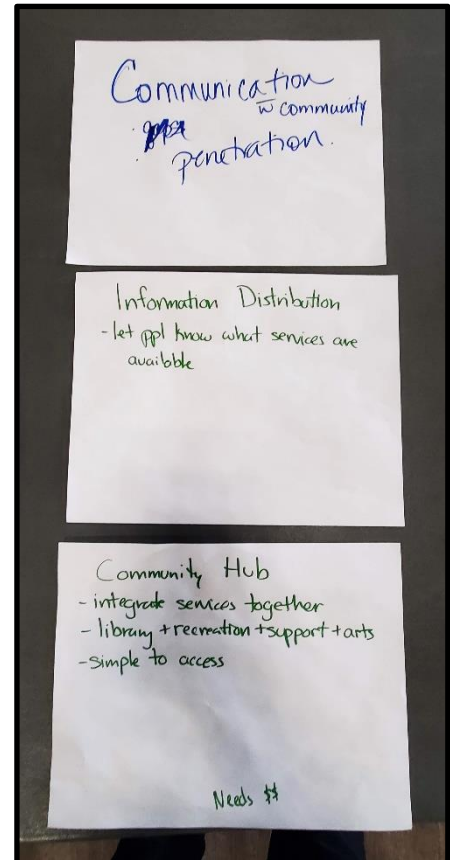
**Theme: The struggle to cope with growth**

*Focused planning*

*Balancing growth and nature*
- Green spaces
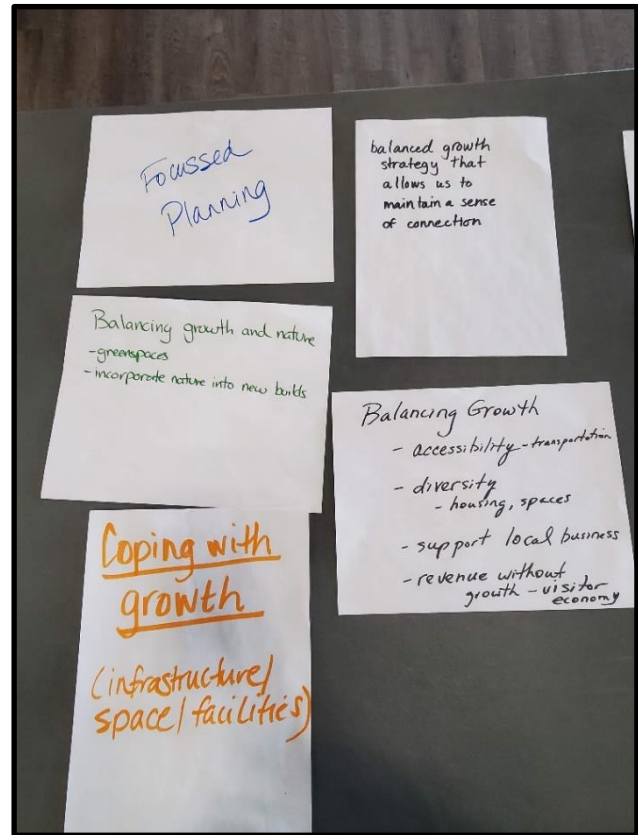- Incorporate nature into new builds

*Coping with growth*
- Infrastructure, space, facility

*Balanced growth strategy that allows us to maintain a sense of connection*

*Balancing growth*
- Accessibility – transportation
- Diversity – housing, spaces
- Support local business
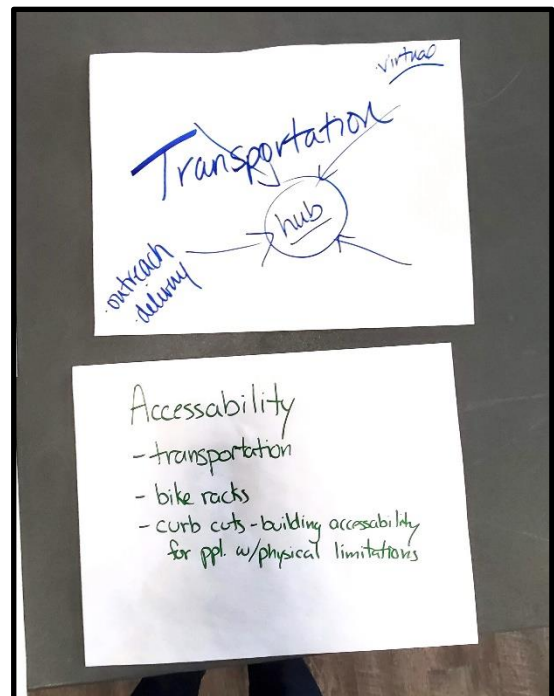- Revenue with growth – visitor economy



**Theme: Limited transportation and accessibility**
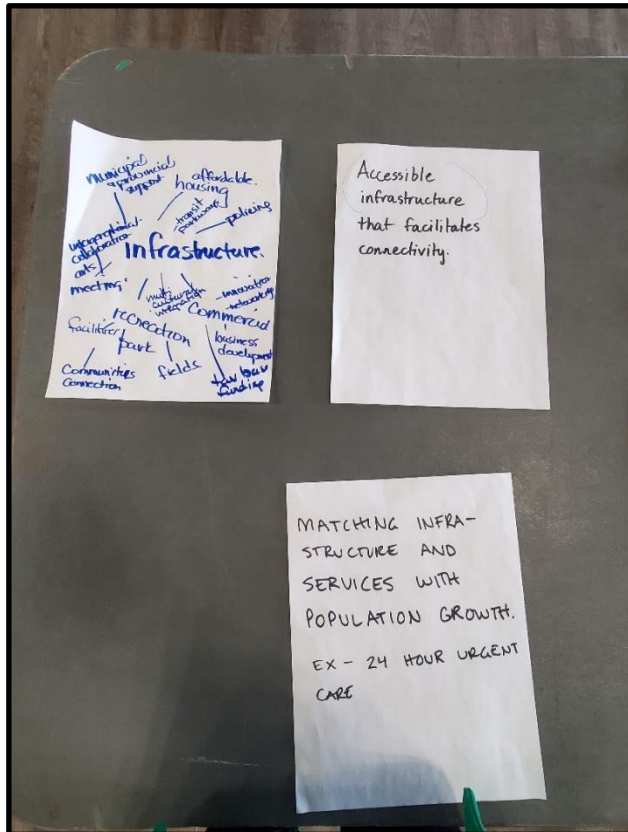
*Transportation*
- Outreach
- Delivery
- Hub
- Virtual

*Accessibility*
- Transportation
- Bike racks
- Curb cut – building accessibility for people with physical limitations

**Theme: Infrastructure issues**



*Infrastructure*
- Municipal and provincial support
- Affordable housing
- Transit
- Parkways
- Policing
- Innovation
- Networking
- Commercial: Business development, tax based funding
- Recreation: facilities, parks, field
- Community connections
- Multicultural integration

*Accessible infrastructure that facilitates connectivity*

*Matching infrastructure and services with population growth*
e.g. 24 hour urgent care

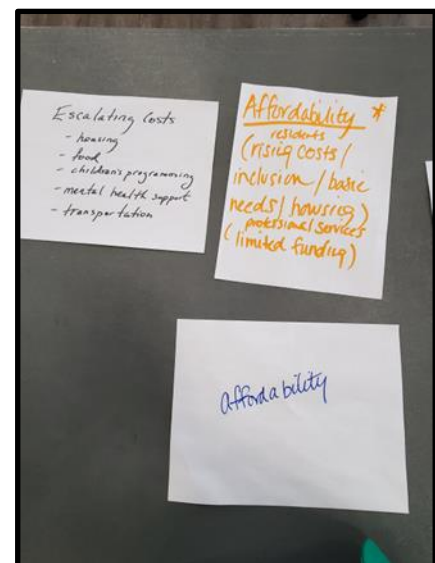**Theme: Affordability issues for residents**

*Affordability*

*Escalating costs*
- Housing, food, children's programming, mental health support, transportation
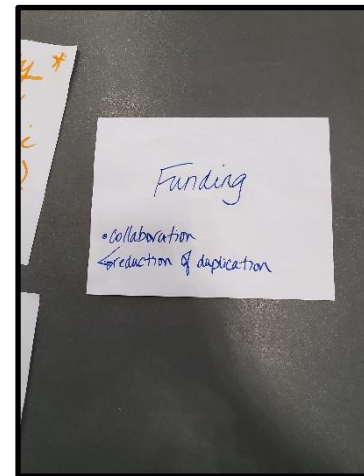
*Affordability*
- Residents face rising costs, inclusion, basic needs, housing, professional services, limited funding

**Theme: Funding concerns**
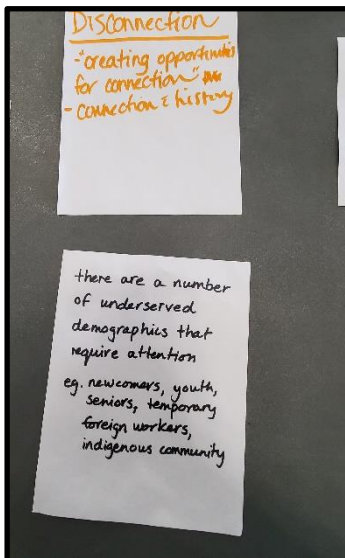- Collaboration
- Reduction of duplication

**Theme: Disconnection**

***Disconnection***
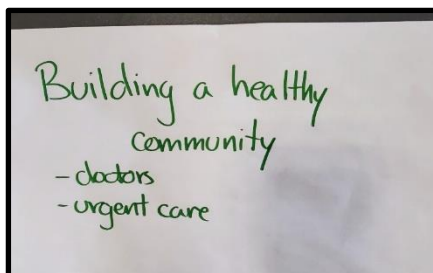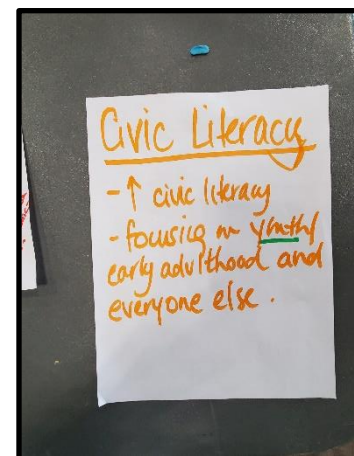- "Creating opportunities for connection"; Connection and history

***There are a number of underserved demographics that require attention***

**Theme: Civic Literacy is needed**

***Civic literacy***
- Increased civic literacy
- Focusing on youth and early adulthood and everyone else

**Theme: More health services are needed in the community**

***Building a healthy community***
- Doctors
- Urgent care

# How could the public library address the challenges and achieve your vision for Cochrane?

Activity: Each table group prepared a response on a flipchart page; then presented it to another table group to receive feedback about what they liked and what could be improved. The group then revised their response.
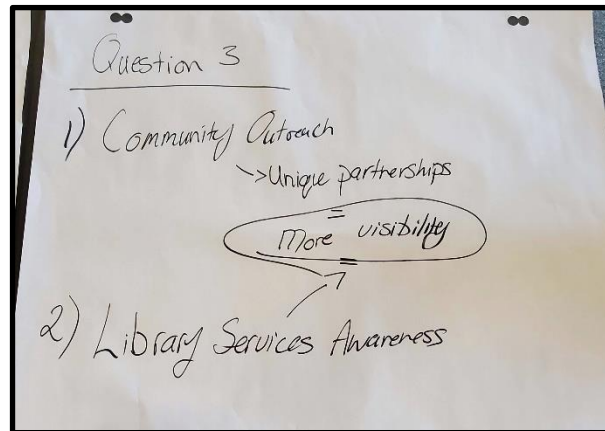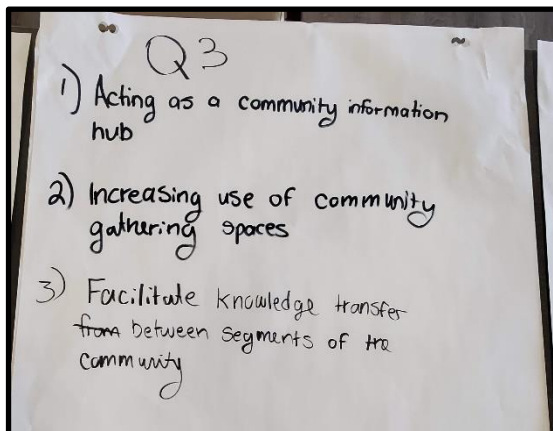
**Group 1**
**Community outreach**
- Unique partnerships

    More visibility

**Library services awareness**



**Group 2**



**Acting as a community information hub**

**Increased use of community gathering spaces in the library**

**Facilitate knowledge transfer between segments of the community**

## Group 3

**Expansion of space and hours**

**Private business (coffee shop) to support revenue/or social enterprise**

**HUB**
- Need more staff
- Maintain small town "feel" when growing

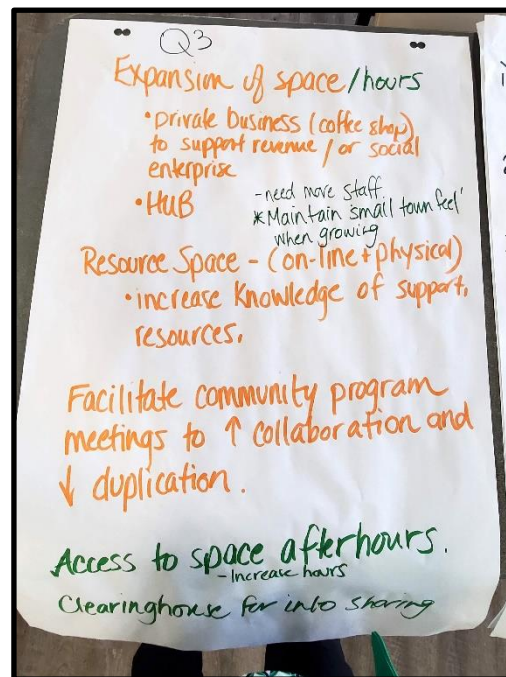**Resource space (online and physical)**
- Increase knowledge of support, resources

**Facilitate community program meetings to increase collaboration and decrease duplication**
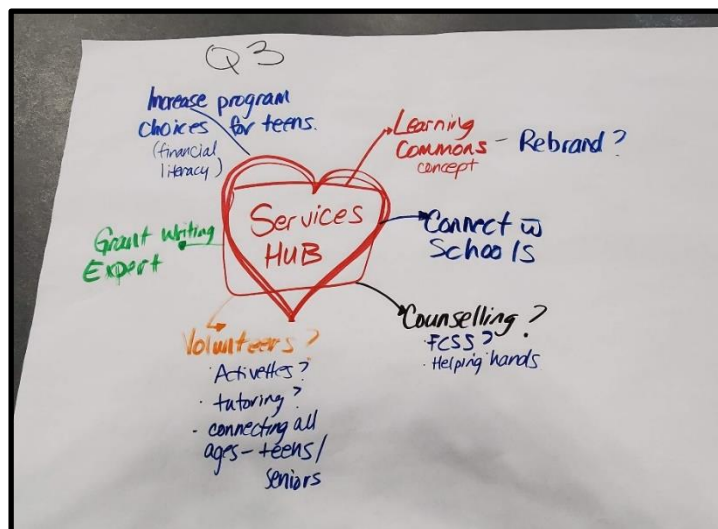
**Access to afterhours spaces**
- Increase hours

**Clearinghouse for information sharing**



## Group 4

**Service Hub**
- Increase program choices for teens (financial literacy)
- Grant writing expert
- Volunteers (Activettes? Tutoring? Connecting all ages – teens, seniors)
- Counselling? FCSS? Helping hands
- Connect with schools
- Learning Commons concept – Rebrand?

## Group 5

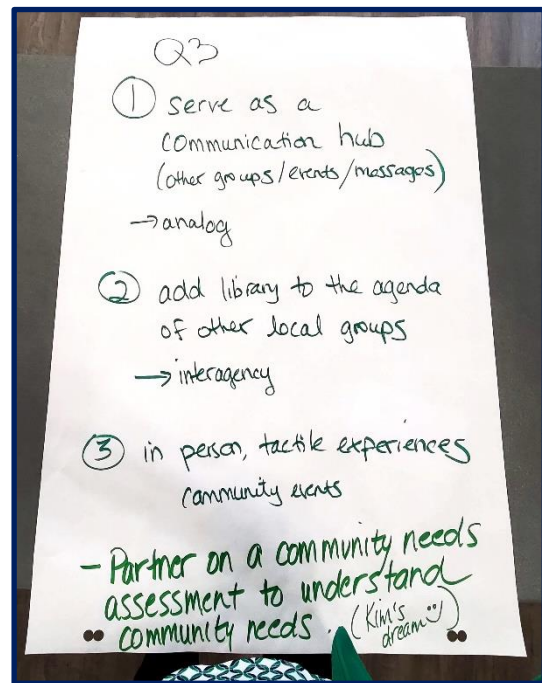**Serve as a Communication Hub (other groups, events, messages)**
- Analog

**Add library to the agenda of other local groups**
- Interagency

**In person tactile experiences**
- Community events

**Partner on a community needs assessment to understand community needs**



## Group 6

**Communication Hub**
- Connection point
  - Centralized point where community groups come together (spoke and hub)
  - Ongoing lists of groups, volunteering, and nonprofits (data hub)
- Collaboration

**Early childhood development**

**Diversity and inclusion**
- What is our identity?
- Openness, welcoming

**Space, Space, Space, Space**
- Growth
  - Idea management
  - Town halls, active and passive
  - Programming

**Collaboration**