



## Feedback Form Comments

Charrette Input

### Charrette Event, September 23, 2004

Bellingham High School Commons, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

*(Note: The following are transcribed from comment forms submitted by meeting attendees. Further questions or comments may be addressed to Mr. Greg Aucutt, Senior Planner, City of Bellingham, 360-676-6982, e-mail address: [gaucutt@cob.org](mailto:gaucutt@cob.org))*

### Feedback:

- “Doing the drawings themselves was great! It’d be nice if we’d been given some standards for how to draw – a ‘key.’ That way, it’d be easier to read other’s drawings.”
- “I enjoyed the process of creating a possible ‘vision’ for a section of the city. I hope our ideas are taken into considerations. Suggestion: Have each group present their vision to the large group.”
- “The key is local, independent, sustainable communities. Have daily needs met by shops within a 10-minute walk of home. Encourage bike-transit-pedestrian solutions, discourage cars and parking lots. Build community spaces for recreation, kids, and education. No big-box stores, no huge subdivision with arterials and cul-de-sacs. Think small and local.”
- “Birchwood neighborhood has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest crime rate in Bellingham’s 23 neighborhoods. It has the lowest income population (as measured by it’s schools’ subsidized meals) and it is already densely populated with too many apartments. High density + low income = high crime rate! Do not re-zone Birchwood neighborhood! Maintain its deep lot character!”
- “Good job!” *(Signed John Watts, Myron Wlaznak)*
- “Don’t re-zone Birchwood lots. It’s our best asset. Stop the apartments – let’s consider ADU’s.”
- “Not enough use of real-world facts, options, tools. Fun overall.”
- “Great evening. Every neighborhood deserves some quality of life amenities. If you rezone Birchwood, it would take away its greatest amenity. Do not rezone Birchwood. It is already the lowest-income neighborhood and has one of the highest crime rates.”
- “Facilitators did extremely well! Our sincere hope is that some of these suggestions will be used!”
- “I thought it was great, a fun and educational activity. It is so much fun to tear up someone else’s neighborhood and rebuild it *(smiley face drawn here)*. The guiding

questions were very helpful, but some needed explanation of the unfamiliar concepts – which took some time. Only real change would have been more colored markers. Some great ideas came out – how now?”

- “Need a hundred-year plan!”
- “I enjoy this and would like to see it done for every neighborhood, but over time. I’d rather continue this process street-by-street, neighborhood-by-neighborhood. Work towards involving more residents – encourage, encourage.”
- “Great idea and clear directions. Would be better to have some say in what area you were planning, as not all areas were familiar to me.”
- “Looking forward to implementing ideas and stimulating conversations in the community.”
- “Good job! Very interactive.”
- “Really great! Going through the exercise was very educational. The next trick, maybe, is to try it on our own neighborhoods.”
- “It was fun. The table groups were a good size. All the materials were helpful, as was the coordinator.”
- “The charrette was a most productive use of time. If each neighborhood was mentored through this process, the best solutions to infilling could be created with the greatest citizen support and pride. The people who live in the neighborhoods know best.

The people in my group demonstrated the ability to grasp the planning concepts well in a short time. When our group split into two groups and set to devising two plans for the same neighborhood, it was interesting to see that they found two different ways - both viable - to design a more congruent neighborhood.

Please initiate this process in all neighborhoods to design the best for Bellingham!”

- “An interesting exercise.”
- “Great Event! How about a parks/trails map? Each neighborhood should have quality of life amenities.”

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.