

COMMUNITY VIBRANCY CONTINUUM

(According to the Center for Small Town Development, York, Australia)

HEALTHY VIBRANT COMMUNITY	STAGNANT DYING COMMUNITY
VISUALS	
growing population	static or declining population
attractive main street	deteriorating infrastructure
healthy business district	empty shops
presence of young people	aging population or low level of youth participation
ATTITUDES	
open to change	change resistance
'future in our hands'	'dependence on outside cavalry'
'can do'	victim mentality
positive mindset	negativity, cynicism
community pride and attachment	locals talk down community
openness to new and alternative thinking	low tolerance for controversy and alternative thinking
ECONOMICS	
willingness to invest locally	want someone else to pay the bills'
diversity of employment	limited range of jobs
diversified economic base	dependence on a single employer/industry
strong local ownership	strong outside ownership of resources and activities
strong local development vehicle/agenda	no or weak local development vehicle/agenda
CIVIC PARTNERSHIP	
diversified leadership base	'same faces do everything'
leadership renewal	limited leadership renewal
collaboration	confrontation
'win win'	'win lose'
consensus decision making	polarization
inclusion	exclusion
newcomers welcomed and involved	no effort to welcome or involve newcomers
youth ideas and participation strongly valued	young people are not a priority
regular opportunities for community dialogue, feedback, idea generation	limited community forum opportunities
lifelong learning and relevant skill development opportunities	poor education and training options