

## CHAPTER 8: IMPLEMENTATION

### **Plan Implementation**

A town plan is only useful if the town government and townspeople put it into action. This plan includes a number of recommendations and ideas to consider. Among these are several central themes that should be the focus for putting the plan into action:

#### **1. Organization**

The Mayor and Town Council should appoint a permanent Planning Commission in conformance with the state's town planning statutes. As a successor to the ad hoc planning and zoning committee, a Planning Commission can help keep the town focused on implementing the plan.

The Mayor and Town Council should appoint a person to administer the land use and development code and other town codes that are not strictly police or building code matters. This administrator would be responsible for improving compliance with the town codes on land use, weeds, mobile homes, and junk vehicles.

The Town should seek out expert assistance whenever it is reviewing developments. Assistance may be available from the Big Horn County planning office and from consulting planners and engineers.

#### **2. Town Beautification**

The Town should make a concerted effort to improve Main Street. A key in this regard will working with the Wyoming Department of Transportation. Other communities in the area have achieved dramatic improvements to main streets, such as completing sidewalks, installing decorative "period" street lights, dressing up medians, planting street trees and installing benches and other street furniture.

Improving Main Street will also require the Town and Main Street land owners and businesses to work together. Some businesses could do more to improve the appearance of their properties, appearances that reflect on the entire town. The Town should meet with these businesses and property owners to find out if there are ways the Town can help in this effort. Other communities have come up with innovative solutions to help improve their main streets; some have sought grants to help improve storefronts while others have helped with the marketing of vacant buildings. Some communities have benefited from creating and supporting downtown business organizations that work together on promotion and beautification of their business districts.

#### **3. School Feasibility Study**

The future use of the Byron school is a major issue for the future of the town. The school has been a significant employer and resource for the town. The town needs to prepare for the closing of the school in about two years. The study is intended to answer the questions of what can the school be used for in the future, what is the best outcome for the Town and its people, and should the Town government be involved in the transition to reuse.

#### **4. Improving the Housing Stock**

The Town should specifically focus on getting substandard housing upgraded, replaced or removed. This would include phasing out mobile homes that do not comply with health and safety standards. Manufactured home courts should also adhere to the current town ordinances pertaining to manufactured home courts. Enforcement of the current codes is needed.

Other substandard housing, besides mobile homes, should also be addressed. The Town needs to enforce its ordinance on dangerous buildings (Section 11-7-6 of the Town Code).

The Town should also participate in and actively promote the housing rehabilitation programs available through Wyoming Community Development Authority.

#### **5. Land Use and Development Code**

Byron's town code sections pertaining to land use and development need to be updated to reflect the recommendations of this plan, particularly with regard to future land use. As a companion to this plan, a series of amendments to the land use and development code have been developed. The Town Council should consider adopting the amendments along with or soon after approving this town plan.

#### **6. Infrastructure Planning**

The Town's sewer and water systems are in good shape and have capacity for growth. The Town can facilitate economical growth by investing in engineering plans for eventual extension of water and sewer service to potential development sites in town. Such plans would identify the locations and specifications of sewer and water line extensions. By having such plans, developers know what is required and the Town can new facilities are built for the future not just for the immediate need.