Community characteristics & orientation

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Instructions

Research the community you are most interested in exploring using links from the UN Sustainable Goals website (https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/) and others. In your exhaustive research, answer the following.

Community characteristics		
Community life-cycle (current state)		
Where is your community in its life-cycle?	**What you need to focus on:**	**Special needs**
☐ **Just forming** Need basic tools to connect, but not sure from there	Research and/or discuss the potential of some basic tools with members, explore what ideas it might give them, and see what they might bring in with them.	
☐ **Self-designing** Information stage, but with a strong sense of what it wants to accomplish	Contribute ideas to the design. Analyze systematically the implications of their community design for technology, infrastructure, and technology skills.	
☒ **Growing & restless** Ready to add new functionality to its tool configuration	Try to make this a community reflection and self-design event. Does their restlessness suggest a major change, such as a transition to a new platform?	A special need for advancing the lawn bowling community's current antiquated technologies with the new current technologies will be to attempt to keep the transition simple while not working through it too quickly.
☐ **Stable and adapting** Just needing some new tools	How much disruption will the community tolerate? How will the new tools be integrated into or affect existing practices?	

Constitution	
Diversity: How diverse is the community?	
Topic	**Your notes**

What are the different types of members and what are their levels of participation?	There are a wide range of members at the Regina Lawn Bowling Club ranging in ages from 8 – 90+. The majority of the volunteer work is done by those over the age of 40. Younger members are generally competitive bowlers while older members are generally social bowlers. Most members attend special social club events.
How spread apart is it in terms of location and time zones?	The community is very compact as it is a single club in a small/medium sized city.
What language(s) do members speak?	The members primarily speak English.
What other cultural or other diversity aspects may affect your technology choices?	With a large portion of the membership being seniors, simplicity and reliability are a must for technology choices.

Openness: How connected to the outside world is your community?

Topic		Your notes
How much do you want to control the boundaries of your community? Does your community need	☐ To be private/secure ☒ Open boundaries ☐ Both private & public spaces	The lawn bowling community is looking to grow it's reach so the boundaries are open. In the sport of lawn bowling, it is not unusual for clubs located around the world to work together and communicate. As an example, during the City of Regina proposed closure of the Regina Lawn Bowling Club, clubs in Australia, England and US all wrote letters of support to City Council to save the club.
How does your community need to interact with other communities? Do you need common tools for sharing and learning with them?		The lawn bowling community is ready to adapt to the modern age with the use of Websites, YouTube, Facebook and other digital tools to promote the sport, spread the word and grow the community. At the same time, care needs to be given to transition to digital forms of communication and promotion so that the aging members are not left behind.

Technology aspirations

Technology savvy, tolerance, & constraints: What are your community's technology interests and skills and patience thereof? What are the constraints imposed by technology factors?

Topic	Your notes
How interested is your community in technology?	Recently, there has been an understanding that adapting the sport and community with the changing times is required in order to grow the sport and community and prosper. Interest in technology is growing and should continue to do so as positive results from these efforts continue.
What is their capacity for learning new tools?	As a large portion of the membership are seniors, the capacity for learning new tools is relatively slow but there is a desire in the community.
What is the range of skills? If their interests and/or skills are diverse, could it cause conflict or distraction?	The members of the RLBC have a diverse set of skills and interests. The diversity in the club is a great benefit to the community as all levels of volunteering, repair work, maintenance, board work, advertising, coaching, etc. are all covered.
How tolerant are members of the adoption of a wide variety of tools?	As long as the variety of tools provides a clear benefit, the community is generally very accepting of them.

How many technological boundaries are they willing to cross, e.g. sign in to more than one web-based tool, learn to use new tools, or give up old favorites? This helps you understand what level of integration you need.	Up until the last 5-6 years, the lawn bowling community has stayed away from digital technology which means that each addition of technology such as an email system or the website or an online draw time booking system is all new territory for the community. While members are generally willing to accept these new systems, care must be given to the planning of how to rollout new systems in an accessibly friendly manner.
What are your members' technology constraints (e.g., bandwidth, operating systems, etc.)?	Technology constraints will be operating systems, bandwidth, old devices and in some cases, a lack of devices.
How much time are members able to be online and from where (office, home, field)? Some people have limited online time, or are able to be online only in specific locations. Others are always on. Very diverse situations can affect participation	There is a large split in the community for availability to be online. Some members have very little time to allocate or little desire to being online while other members (generally those on the board of directors) spend a considerable amount of time online and plugged in. Participation may be affected by the wide range of availability and interest level of members.

Community orientation

Relevance to community: Use the range from 0 (no relevance) to 5 (high relevance) to determine what matters most to the community. Look at these from the perspectives of the different types of members (under "constitution"). Also discuss the "value-added" to each member group

0	1	2	3	4	5	Orientations	Variants	Key activities/your notes
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	**Meetings** Many communities place a great emphasis on regular meetings where members engage in shared activities for a specific time. Meetings, and the visible participation of members, assert the community's existence	☒ Face-to-face/blended ☐ Online synchronous ☐ Online asynchronous	In person activities include lawn bowling, socializing, dinners & lunches, tournaments, events and volunteer work.
☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	**Open-ended conversation** Some communities maintain ongoing conversations as their primary vehicles for learning. Open-ended conversations are common when a community is co-located and people keep the conversation going as they "bump" into each other.	☒ Single-stream discussions ☒ Multi-topic conversations ☐ Distributed conversations	As there is a constantly changing variation of members attending the club at different times. As a result, there are ongoing conversations about many aspects of the club such as; upcoming or recent events, various work to be done, daily life among members, the work and direction of the board of directors, the conditions of the

								greens (playing surface) and how the facility looks.
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	**Projects** In some communities' members want to focus on particular topics, go deep, and collaborate on projects to solve problems or produce useful artifacts. Learning is not just a matter of sharing knowledge or discussing issues. Members need to do things together in order to develop their practice. Projects usually involve a subgroup within the community	☒ Practice groups ☒ Project teams ☒ Instruction	As the RLBC is working towards advancing their present technologies with current technologies, there are many projects taking place at the club such as the creation of a website, sound system, installing TV & internet and setting up social media accounts. In addition, since the RLBC has recently become responsible for more of the operation of the facility, many infrastructure projects are being planned and developed. All of these projects feature collaboration.
☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	**Content** Some communities are primarily interested in creating, sharing, and providing access to documents, tools, and other content. Valuable and well-organized content is a useful resource for members	☐ Library ☒ Structured self-publish ☒ Open self-publish ☐ Content integration	The RLBC is very interested in creating, providing and sharing information. Electronic Newsletters and instructional videos have been created to share information with the members and non-members.
☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	**Access to expertise** Some communities create value by providing focused and timely access to expertise in the community's domain, whether internally or externally. Communities with this orientation focus on answering questions, fulfilling requests for advice, or engaging in collaborative, just-in-time problem solving	☒ Questions & requests ☒ Access to experts ☐ Shared problem solving ☒ Knowledge validation ☒ Apprenticeship & mentoring	The RLBC offers one on one access to coaches for training and introducing new members to the club. Recently, the club created a New Member Orientation Manual to provide a multitude of information to new bowlers/members. The board is always open to receive questions or concerns.
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	**Relationships** Some communities focus on relationship building among members as the basis for both ongoing learning and being available to each other. This orientation emphasizes the interpersonal aspect of learning together. Communities with this orientation place a high value on	☒ Connecting ☒ Knowing about people ☒ Interacting informally	As a sporting club, the RLBC community runs solely on in-person activities and relationships. Once built, these relationships may continue and be further built through the use of phone calls or emails but generally, they all take place in-person at the club.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				knowing each other personally, emphasizing networking, trust building, and mutual discovery		
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	**Individual participation** Learning together happens in the context of a group, but it is realized in the experience of individuals. People bring different backgrounds, communication styles, and aspirations to their participation in a community. People have different levels of commitment, they take on different roles, and they use tools differently	☒ Levels of participation ☒ Personalization ☒ Individual development ☒ Multi-membership	One of the amazing aspects of the lawn bowling community is the difference in age and skill level between members. The community can see grandparents playing the sport with their children and grandchildren at the same time. Additionally, competitive members can practice their skills on an individual basis. Most members take part in social club events.
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	**Community cultivation** Some communities are happy with loose self-organization and unplanned evolution, while others thrive on attention to community cultivation. They have a need to reflect on the effectiveness and health of the community to make things better, joined with a willingness to work on it	☒ Democratic governance ☒ Strong core group ☒ Internal coordination ☐ External facilitation	The RLBC has a strong board of directors who are voted into their positions by the Membership each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Board give of their time to take on the tasks of the running and planning of the club. There is generally little influence from outside the club, other than suggestions and ideas from other lawn bowling clubs.
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	**Service context** In some cases, serving a specific context becomes central to the community's identity and the ways it operates. They may live inside an organization, whose charter their practice needs to serve. They may have a mission to provide learning resources to the world or to recruit members widely. Or they may seek interactions with other communities whose domain complements their own	☒ Organization as context ☒ Cross-organizational ☒ Other related communities ☒ Public mission	The RLBC is very interested in actively recruiting new members through word of mouth, Corporate bookings, school groups and advertising through a variety of methods. Additionally, the RLBC is actively looking for outside partners and sponsors to work with.

Scratchpad (other interesting insights, questions/answers, etc.)