

(*note that responses are exactly as submitted)

1. What do you think the Chamber's current strengths and weaknesses are? 13 responses

- Great support and knowledge base from long standing chamber board members
- Greatest strength at time time is the Chambers Leadership and progress of the Chamber in last 2 years in a number of actions
- involved in tourism, new initiatives
- not sure - maybe communication as a strength
- Passionate , but stale Sorry to say that it is not fresh the same old same old coping from other towns
- Strengths: leadership and communication with members, support for tourism, relationship with Town Weaknesses: longterm planning, diversity of business members (trades, industry, etc)
- Strength is that the Chamber has stepped up its game in reaching out and bringing together businesses. It has begun to show a clear voice for the business community which must be maintained until a threshold of has been reached.
- Strengths that the chamber members are great roll models and we expect much more from you to represent our town . Weakness that members have no say in strategy and that the info is everywhere on facebook and spread around by individuals , it should all be on one site , that is no public meeting info so a member can attend . And no follow up info on the meetings. A list of members only on the chamber and a list of non members . I believe that chamber should be held to a higher standard and should behave with codes of conduct .
- Strength...Promoting Nanton and its businesses
- strength - outreach to newcomers and new businesses, weakness - barrel planters are hideous
- Great leadership. Weaknesses are lack of support or willful misunderstanding of the role or limitation of the organisation
- I believe that the board needs to include the members ... and not make decisions with out including members feedback. The boards personal feelings of members should be secondary to the improvement of the town
- Strengths: hard working, caring. Weaknesses: Exchange of information to members in regards to the meetings, roundtable talks,ect. They are listed for the meeting but no feedback to the discussions or conclusion to said meeting. "egs: Small Business", what was the outcome.

2. What opportunities and threats do you see now and for the foreseeable future? 12 responses

- Need to acknowledge chamber members who have been committed for years. Cost savings for business is more important than ever (group purchasing etc). A need for community and inclusion will be more important than ever also.
- Opportunities to increase tourism
- Opportunity - people moving out of the city - aging population
- There is an opportunity to Make nanton fantastic but it needs to have a fresh face not repeating the same old discover new ideas ask outsiders . It is so closed and unavailable to the public , stand offish and cold
- Opportunities: continue to promote Nanton as a day trip destination from Calgary/Lethbridge, continue to promote existing assets and services Threats: splintering of volunteer pool, gossip (best met with public plans and results)
- I think the biggest threat is loss of momentum and leadership due to burnout and no contiguous plan for succession of the board. The opportunities are a new and emergent economy and the scope of what needs to be done in Nanton to create more business opportunities.
- The opportunities are that is is a small town and the quiet is a draw for so many Threats are the bypass of Q2 highway and a lack of fresh drinking water , complaints by customers of the bad water taste . That is most defiantly a threat
- I see an opportunity for more inclusive yet unique branding. We are all over the map with no clear town unity in my opinion. I know we have a big antique following and some great attractions in the bomber museum and the Candy Store ect. We are also very well known for our Nanton Nite rodeoes and our agricultural community. Many of the towns largest businesses employing a lot of people are 2W livestock, Cattlemens Corner, Magnum Trailer Sales, Cowboy Country, UFA is Ag, Napa does a lot of Ag Business. I like the Town Logo depicting a roper ect. and the grain elevators. Our Highway signage and our wow factor is not inviting. You know how you drive through some towns and you just think what a cool little town. Everytime I am gone for a while driving though a bunch of towns across the US and Canada, I think Nanton needs to step up its wow factor. Wicknburg Arizona is the coolest town, as you are driving in from either end you want to stop there. There is a giant silver spur at the round about and even the mcdonalds has wagon wheels and horses. I realize I am a western person but it draws people in.
- The need to have messaging from Town, chamber and volunteer organizations complementary on new strategies. remove the gossip and assumptions
- Lack of money for initiatives. Lack of willing members for execution of tasks. Opportunities maybe the "affordable" nature of Nanton in attracting new business and residents.
- The treat of the town businesses being scatter throughout this small community and not centrally located in the core
- Nanton has a great oppourtunity to become a unique "old Time Town" (coal train robbery), Bomber Museum, Grain Elevators, and the old buildings in town with great shopping. Threats: Keeping the town interesting and vibrant is a challenge. We were known for the art and antique walk, but that has come and gone....there are NEW and exciting businesses through out town and they should be showcased. Everyone has ideas and it should be

presented, shared and discussed. Large Threat is lack of involvement from Chamber and members. We have to find a way to get together and become a strong united Chamber.

3. Being as specific as possible, tell us what the ideal Nanton Chamber of Commerce looks like

for you. 11 responses

- Transparent (in meeting dates, plans and agendas) better communication on decisions and direction chamber is taking and an opportunity to speak to possible decisions. transparency in spending as well.
- Unsure
- a great networking opportunity, social events, regular participation from 90% of businesses. In order to achieve the value needs to be increased to membership
- Fresh welcoming, the chamber the town council and office is not that it is cold and aggressive towards people that disagree with them. Separating the chamber from this is more what should happen . I know 3 businesses that will be selling out due to lack of personal touch and cold aggressive treatment
- Nanton-promoting, forward thinking, tradition respecting, diverse in background and experience, with a continued commitment to hunting down grants and other financial opportunities to improve business life in Nanton What we have now, but more!!
- Ideally the Nanton Chamber is both a support for business and a draw for new business. I think it must fill this role because the town administration seems unable to appropriately attract economic development. I think a balance must be found between industrial and commercial / tourism.
- I believe that the chamber needs to be separate from the town interests and more focused on business owners . Our needs and wants that should be the survey, why do people leave why do business pull the plug .
- having Chamber the go to location for residents and tourists for ongoing events and initiatives (leave policy and enforcement issues to town)
- I think we have it. It's defined by the quality of people behind it. One of the best if seen on my time here.
- A small group of closed minded people and it should not be
- The success of a Chamber and Business owners depends on partnership by both. Keep member information accessible (one spot-like a message board) to members, and use a different format for non members. This would give quick and easy access to dates of meetings, ect. Minutes of previous meetings and an agenda for the following meeting would be a great asset to business owners. They are very busy running their business and cannot look for different information which may be listed here or there.

4. Any other comments? 10 responses

- In my experience the chamber communicates POST decision and not PRE decision... include members in choices and direction
- Just a thought: Chamber, put on a formal dinner event to show case Chamber and the people running it, show that the Chamber is proud to be who they are, I am not referring to a lunch

at a café, make it an event, have a silent auction maybe for a good cause, present some level recognition award, make people want to go to this and may make them want to join and or participate more. An annual event, invite Mayor, Council and people like Roger Reid our MLA, make this event a front page item, all the exposure would not hurt. Sell tickets to do this, lets show the world we are a very progressive active Chamber. Could be done like a black tie event at the hall and there are various groups that could cater-prepare the supper Just a thought....

- The Chamber is doing a great job on social media! new ideas and contests
- It is time to separate from the past and move to a new way of dealing with people . The where to go campaign makes it seem like we a poopy very odd campaign
- Good job
- You folks are doing a great job.
- I hope that these answers above are an opening to change . More than enough people do not get involved because they feel it to be a waste of their time. Please do not waste out time this term. I hope that the answers are shared to the members openly .
- is our vision for Nanton a thriving community with varied interests or are we forever labelling ourselves as a hockey town. That billboard paints us as a sterotype
- Thank you for all you do. It's valued and noticed.
- The Chamber is doing a good job, but lack the support of businesses in town. We have to make the members want to attend meetings, participate, speak, and share ideas. The members should be made aware of discussions at the meetings in regards to any promotions, open houses, etc., before they are confirmed. Advise and Inform the Members of the Chamber. If they choose to become a member of the Chamber they have to feel like they are important and will be heard if attending a meeting.