

## Lower Khandroling Development Survey Results and Update - March 2023

This survey was sent to our Tsegyalgar and Khandroling members on September 22, 2022 and briefly reviewed during our October Community Meeting,

There was a 28% response that is a return rate of 66 out of 234.

Keeping in mind that the survey questions were not optimal and we will need more input from our members to assist in development proposals, please see the following survey results:

### Lower Khandroling:

84% supported building a Gonpa on Lower Khandroling

95% supported a housing development - by sponsoring, renting, owning, investing

Interest in rentals were mostly for events, summer and weekends

75% were interested in being contacted

### Comments:

Interested in having everything concentrated in one area. Consider adding on to or utilizing Rinpoche's house for winter Gompa/community practice space.

Upper Khandroling is only seasonal as is. In a perfect world of a larger more financially secure sangha something could be done to make it 3 seasons. Access in winter would always be a problem. That said, concentration on lower Khandroling, at least in a planning stage, seems more practical, the size of our sangha and its resources notwithstanding.

Yes to new Gonpa or housing, but only after completing upper Khandroling development

### How can we improve Upper Khandroling:

- Improve the water supply (Water supply issue - see last few pages\*\*\*)
- More focused retreats, summer celebration too broad in scope
- Better infrastructure
- Having working bathrooms
- Electric power (solar?) internet
- Accommodations and food
- Have the bath house and camp kitchen in working order
- Provide accommodations for people to stay there.
- Improve the roads
- Install compostable toilets in the retreat cabins
- Paved from the pond to the stupa
- Simple, economically priced accommodations, similar to those available at the school house would help.
- Greater accessibility for mobility issues

- Have a retreat manager address the needs of retreatants by supplying water, wood, porta potties to cabins. Current conditions are alright for younger folks but not for older people

### Land

- Cutting back diseased trees around structures
- By cutting the sick pine trees to 'curtail negative energy' requested by Rinpoche. You can read it directly on: <http://melong.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/61c.pdf>
- Follow the guidelines of the reforested grant received almost 10 years ago, to stimulate wild life through new growth, plant bird boxes etc.,

### Cabins:

- Improve/finish the retreat cabins, making them more comfortable
- Bathrooms or at least toilets in cabins
- The cabins would be easier to stay in if they were set up more like those at Karmê Chöling or other dharma communities which have outhouses, etc.
- Have more convenient toilet facilities throughout. And maybe electricity / heating in the cabins, but that is less important to me overall. The wood heating in the cabins made me very sick the last time I spent time there in the fall. Would be great if we had a different/cleaner heating source.
- Dark retreat cabin
- Dark retreat cabin needs to be animal free and greater access, trained Dark Retreat Manager.

### Vajra Hall

- Finish the Vajra Hall
- Heat the Vajra Hall
- We may need to have a gate or cameras on the Vajra Hall if more people outside the community come when no one is there.
- Covering pavers with another material or making a few access points with a different material to eliminate concrete dust tracking onto the mandala
- Brainstorming about prevention of bird/insect deaths on the mandala. ie: latch opening in window?

\*\*\*Water supply issue - This water flow issue was recently identified :

Water flow at the pond spigot has been erratic in the last few years. Some of this is due to lack of rain at times. And overall there have been symptoms of silt build-up in the tube that runs from the spring to the pond.

### A few things:

- The system depends on continuous flow from the spring - not water pressure at the spring. There have been some comments that the water box at the spring needs to be sealed tight so that it can fill up with water. But the main purpose of the water box is to keep forest life out of the spring - not build up some kind of pressure. We installed a 2-way valve at the spigot so that water is always flowing, even when it is not coming out the spigot. But some volunteers sometimes block the second outlet. Also, in dry times there is not enough flow in the tube under the pond. When flow is stopped, silt can settle in the tube under the pond.
- Even with water flow, the tube under the pond has needed periodic cleaning over the decades. Maybe it has not been cleaned in the last 10 years - and it is time. Maybe it need to be cleaned more often because of drier weather in the last few years
- The concrete blocks that support the spigot have cracked and best be replaced.
- Anyhow - there are some tasks related to the water tube and concrete blocks, and keeping water flowing.
- Flowing water in the tube under the pond means we have water to pump up to the bathhouse and Vajra Hall!