



# NEWSLETTER #1

## December 2015

The **Town of Midland** is updating its **Official Plan** over the next year. The Official Plan is Midland's long-term planning document. Under Ontario's *Planning Act*, municipalities are required to review their Official Plan every five years. Midland's current Official Plan was approved in 2003.

Through the Official Plan Review process, the Town is providing a forum for community discussion about the future of Midland by talking about growth, affordable housing, urban neighbourhoods design, commercial/employment lands, infrastructure, the waterfront, roads, trails, sidewalks and cycling routes, natural areas and parks.

The first workshop was held on November 16, 2015 at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre. There was a terrific turnout at this Visioning Workshop where a number of questions on key planning issues were tabled. Some of the questions we asked included:

### 1 GROWTH MANAGEMENT

*Should the Downtown and Waterfront be the focus for new, intensified development?*

*Is there enough land in Midland to accommodate economic opportunities – retail commercial uses, business parks and industrial areas?*

### 4 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

*How can the Downtown build on Midland's role as a regional service hub?*

*What types and scales of uses/built form are compatible in the Downtown?*

### 7 NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE

*How should Midland's Cultural Heritage Resources be identified and protected in the new Official Plan?*

*Are there particular cultural or natural heritage resources, features or areas that require specific recognition in the new Official Plan?*

### 10 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

*What policies are needed to start preparing Midland residents and the Town's infrastructure for the climate adaption changes that will be required in future years to deal with major storm events?*

*What stormwater management methods can the Town use? (e.g. bioswales, permeable pavements, green streets, green parking, green roofs, tree canopy etc.)*

### 2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*What role should the rural area play in economic development?*

*How can Midland better attract new business opportunities?*

### 5 NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT

*If intensification is to occur within neighbourhoods, where should it be located, and what criteria should be used to evaluate proposals?*

*What types of neighbourhood improvement strategies would be appropriate in Midland?*

### 8 SUSTAINABLE DESIGN & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

*What policies related to sustainable design and/or healthy communities are necessary in Midland?*

### 11 IMPLEMENTATION

*What phasing policies or other directives are required to ensure that limited financial resources are used wisely to further economic development and growth management objectives?*

### 3 WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

*What policies are needed to encourage additional development along Midland's waterfront?*

*What sites along the waterfront should be the focus for new development?*

### 6 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

*Are there any housing forms/types that the Town needs immediately?*

*How best can the Town encourage housing to be built that will meet the future needs of an aging population?*

### 9 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & COMPLETE STREETS

*What policies related to Active Transportation and Complete Streets are necessary in Midland?*

## STAY CONNECTED

Visit the Town of Midland Official Plan Review website to learn more about the key planning issues and share your thoughts. Get on our mailing list by sending us your email!

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