



NEWSLETTER #3

August 2016

The Town of Midland is mid-way through its Official Plan Review process, with the 10 Planning Issue Reports now released for public review. The Planning Issue Reports will be presented at a Community Forum on September 22, 2016 at 6:30pm at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre.

The 10 Planning Issue Reports outline the Provincial, County and municipal policy background for a range of topics and provide a summary of the public input received through the Public Workshop held in November 2015. The reports also discuss the key issues under consideration and provide the consultant policy recommendations for updating the Town's Official Plan. These reports will form the basis for drafting the Official Plan Amendment. **The reports may be found on the Town's Official Plan Review website at: <http://www.midland.ca/official-plan-review> or may be viewed as hard copies at the Town Hall, Planning and Building Services counter.**

10 Planning Issue Reports:

1 NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Confirms the need to establish a Natural Heritage System within the Town of Midland, as required by Provincial policy
- Includes identifying and protecting significant natural heritage features and associated corridors from negative impacts associated with development
- Discusses the requirements to update the existing cultural heritage Official Plan policies

2 GROWTH MANAGEMENT

- Outlines that one of the primary purposes of the Official Plan is to manage the projected growth within the Town, as determined by the Province and County
- Lays out an urban structure which can accommodate Midland's projected employment and population growth and which provides guidance for where growth should be directed to meet planning goals

3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Encourages economic development within the Town
- Identifies that economic development must broaden its focus to include the new economy, which often locates outside of traditional employment lands

4 NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Outlines the Provincial intensification requirements for new residential development
- Includes policies that may be required to ensure compatibility with existing neighbourhoods
- Identifies the importance of the proximity and accessibility of community facilities to where people live

5 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES & AFFORDABILITY

- Confirms the need to continue to provide a range of housing options and in particular, the need to meet the County's affordable housing target

You're Invited to our Community Forum

6:30 pm
September 22, 2016
Community Hall A and B
North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre

Get involved with Midland's Official Plan Review by coming to the Community Forum. At this event you'll have a chance to:

- Get a status update
- Learn about the Planning Issue Reports
- Ask questions of the Project Team and/or Town Staff
- Add your voice and tell us what you think

6 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & COMPLETE STREETS

- Identifies opportunities to promote the use of alternative modes of transportation
- Identifies the policies required to ensure that future road works provide the necessary infrastructure for all users

7 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Confirms the need for the Town to address climate change adaptation in its Official Plan
- Outlines policies that should be applied to reduce the environmental impacts of future development

8 WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

- Emphasizes the importance of promoting increased public access to Midland's waterfront
- Discusses how the future use and development of waterfront lands should promote an active and vibrant community

9 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

- Recognizes the importance of Downtown Midland to the Town's character and function
- Explores how to protect its viability, including the implementation of the recent Downtown Master Plan recommendations

10 SUSTAINABLE DESIGN & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- Draws together themes from several of the other reports contributing to the development of healthy communities and the integration of sustainable building and development practices

Next Steps

The next step of the Official Plan Review process is the preparation of the Draft Official Plan Amendment in the fall and winter. This draft will build on the Planning Issue Reports, ongoing discussions with Simcoe County, consultation with Metis and First Nations and public feedback, including what is received during the September Community Forum.

The new Official Plan is anticipated to be adopted by Council by November 2017. A Statutory Open House is planned for May 2017.

STAY CONNECTED

Visit the Town of Midland Official Plan Review website to learn what has been completed to date. Download a copy of the Planning Issue Reports. Download the Vision Statement Report. Share your thoughts. Get on our mailing list by sending us your email to receive updates.

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