



NEWSLETTER #4

October 2016

The Town of Midland held a Community Forum on September 22, 2016 to introduce and discuss the 10 Planning Issue reports. The comments received were included in a What We Heard report and are summarized below. A series of stakeholder meetings were also held prior to the Community Forum. The Community Forum was organized around 6 discussion tables which reflected the various themes from the Planning Issue reports. A member of the project team or Town staff was available at each table. Participants were free to visit various tables to ask questions, discuss and provide feedback.

The feedback from this second round of public consultation will inform the project team as they begin to draft the Official Plan policies. The Planning Issue reports will be reflected within the sections of the new Official Plan and all comments received will be reviewed and considered. Draft 1 and 2 of the new Official Plan will be completed over the 2016-2017 winter months, with the Statutory Public Open House and a Developers' Focus Group planned for March 2017. These events will provide the public with the opportunity to review the new Official Plan policies and provide feedback to the project team, to be considered for the next draft.

The Community Forum feedback is summarized below. A full copy of the report from the Community Forum titled "What We Heard - October 24", is available on the Town's website on the Official Plan Review page.

Table 1

NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Further refinement of the Natural Heritage System will review concerns with respect to its delineation on individual properties
- Support for the Natural Heritage System as well as concern over loss of property rights

Table 2

GROWTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Interest in accommodating stronger tools for affordable housing
- Opportunities for economic development may be supported by improved internet access

Table 3

NEIGHBOURHOODS & HOUSING

- Traffic calming required on east-west running streets
- Significant stock of existing buildings on King Street to be redeveloped

Table 4

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT & DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

- Midland Bay Landing principles should be used across the waterfront - public access and ownership are key
- The downtown should be enhanced as a hub, with special attention to streetscaping and ensuring intensification is appropriate
- Consider strategies for attracting and retaining young people

Table 5

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- The Town should be planned to strengthen social cohesion and wellbeing, including providing appropriate access to greenspace and urban food production opportunities
- Built form and urban design should integrate sustainability features/systems and create a more functional and inviting streetscape

Table 6

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION, COMPLETE STREETS & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Midland's road network and trail system must improve accessibility for all modes of transportation and for residents of all abilities, both through the quality of infrastructure and through ease of access to key destinations (such as the waterfront)
- Special attention should be paid to reducing environmental impacts

Visit the Town of Midland Official Plan Review website to learn what has been completed to date. Get on our mailing list by sending us your email to receive updates.

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Key Messages from the Second Round of Public Consultation

1. Need more affordable and affordable-accessible housing
2. Streets and public spaces should enhance accessibility for all
3. Public spaces must be equitably distributed across Town, including more public space downtown
4. It is important to balance progress with protecting Midland's heritage; recent initiatives demonstrate that heritage is important to the Town's character
5. Attracting newcomers to Midland should leverage and build on existing assets: successful downtown, natural environment, waterfront, heritage building stock, trails – quality of life is an important selling point
6. It is important to promote food security policies and initiatives
7. Planning for active transportation and developing the supportive policy tools should be done more proactively and include: connecting/integrating the network, rebalancing the right-of-way to encourage other modes, ensuring that roadways are designed to be context sensitive, enhancing routes to key destinations
8. More attention should be paid to plantings in the public realm, and their potential for environmental control, food production, streetscape enhancement, reduced water needs and habitat creation
9. Traffic calming and complete streets policies should be considered
10. Need to pursue the new economy for the downtown and waterfront, involving educational opportunities, internet provision and existing building stock
11. Policies should be added that better address the built form of new development: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles, urban design, use of roof space, Winter City initiatives
12. Increase public access to the waterfront as opportunities arise
13. Midland must facilitate and encourage a wide range of sustainable design initiatives
14. The Natural Heritage System mapping will continue to be reviewed and refined as the process of Official Plan preparation continues

Work Plan

