

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: David Aston & Liam Murphy, MHBC Planning
Meeting Date: March 15, 2021
Report Code: CS-21-027
Subject: Official Plan Update – Technical Report

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-21-027 respecting the Official Plan Update – Technical Report, City Council:

1. Receives the Technical Report that has been completed as input to the Official Plan Review process for information purposes; and
2. Directs staff to move forward with the final draft of the new Official Plan consistent with the suggested modifications outlined in this report.

Highlights:

- In 2006, the City of Owen Sound adopted a new Official Plan, which was approved by the County of Grey on August 10, 2006. In accordance with the Planning Act, the Official Plan was updated in 2012 as part of a five-year review.
- The Planning Act requires that municipalities conduct a review of their Official Plan every 10 years, and the City of Owen Sound has initiated the current review in order to meet this requirement. City Council approved the Official Plan review through its 2019 budgetary review.
- The Official Plan is a long-range planning policy document that manages land use, growth and development over a 20-year time horizon identifying where like and compatible uses may collocate or locate in proximity to one another.

- The Official Plan contains goals, objectives and policies to manage and direct physical development within the context of social, economic, built and natural environmental matters in the City.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The review of the City’s Official Plan is a legislated review process. The draft contents of the new Official Plan are proposed to function as the foundation policy and support the City’s strategic planning work across all strategic planning pillars: economy, society and culture, finances, and environment.

Background:

The City of Owen Sound is reviewing and updating its Official Plan (OP). The City’s OP establishes the policies for implementing provincial direction, guiding long-term land use planning decisions and setting the framework to shape the physical, economic, and social development of the City.

The OP review is being undertaken in four phases. The four project phases, including the current phase of the project, are identified below:



The OP update process to date has included numerous consultation sessions, the preparation of Discussion Papers, and the release of the draft updated OP. The draft updated OP reflects the input received from the various consultation sessions, the direction of the four Discussion Papers, and the inclusion of policy recommendations from other key studies and plans, including the Retail and Commercial Policy Review and the Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan.

Land use and design are the foundation of the City. These elements identify where the City will grow, how it will grow and how it will look. Land Use designations and associated design policies form the fabric of the community and direct interactions between the built environment and residents. OP

Schedule A outlines the land use designations for all lands within the City. The land use designations (shown in distinct colours) set out the permitted uses and policies that apply to each land use category. The Draft OP provided to Council includes Schedule A and the site-specific amendments that have been approved over the life of the OP. Council will notice the grouping of colours (i.e., designations) in Schedule A. This grouping is very strategic and indicates where like and compatible uses may collocate or locate in proximity to one another. This grouping also ensures the separation of incompatible land uses. Again, the designations are not proposed to be altered through this OP review. The OP review instead focuses on assessing the underlying policies that have been recommended to ensure consistency with the PPS and conformity with all upper-tier and local policies.

This Technical Report provides a review of the community, County and Agency comments received to date following the release of the draft updated OP. This report categorizes comments received and identifies how these comments can be incorporated into the final draft OP. The report includes a brief overview of how policy changes will be included into existing policies or involve the development of new policies.

Consultation Process:

Consultation is a major component of the OP update. The following provides a timeline of the consultation events that have occurred throughout the four phases of the OP update process to date.

Phase 1: Kick-off & Visioning

- Online Survey opens (January 13, 2020)
- Council Visioning Session (January 27, 2020)

Phase 2: Research & Analysis

- Community Visioning Session (March 2, 2020)
- Online Survey closes (March 31, 2020)

Phase 3: Prepare Draft Official Plan

- Discussion Paper release (November 5, 2020)
- CSC Discussion Paper Summary/Presentation (November 18, 2020)
- Draft Official Plan release (December 24, 2020)

Phase 4: Finalize Official Plan

- Open House (January 20, 2021)
- Public Meeting (February 8, 2021)

- AAC Presentation (February 23, 2021)
- Special Meeting of Council (March 15, 2021)

Incorporating community, Agency and County Staff input has been a primary focus in order to create a plan that reflects the goals, values and objectives of the City’s residents, Council and Staff.

Summary of Comments:

Throughout the OP update process, we have received hundreds of comments from various community members, Agencies and County Staff. These comments included a range of items from specific policy wording changes to broad policy goals and objectives.

The following synthesizes and organizes comments received since the release of the draft updated OP into the following categories:

Comment Theme	Comment Detail
<u>Climate Change & Sustainability</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify objectives to provide a clear objective related to sustainability and climate change • Introduce new Climate Change Section in Official Plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy support for the development of a Climate Action Plan (CAP) ○ Strengthen and incorporate further policies with a climate change focus for the City
<u>Waste Management</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update policy language to include specific direction and terms for waste management and waste reduction items • Include policy to support the undertaking of a Waste Management Study
<u>Tree Protection</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm policy basis for completion of tree management plans and a City tree by-law
<u>Housing</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include policy to support affordable accessory dwelling units on residential properties • Clarify Accessory Dwelling Unit wording

Comment Theme	Comment Detail
<u>Culture and Heritage</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm policies support the retention of heritage buildings • Include Indigenous land acknowledgement • Need to increase commitment to diversity and equity in all six areas of diversity
<u>Urban Design</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm urban design policy supports quality architectural style throughout the City and specifically at City gateways and entrances
<u>Accessibility</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce additional policy criteria for the location of new or improve transit stops

The attached schedules, Schedule 'A' - County and Agency Comments, Schedule 'B' - County and Agency Comment Response Tables, and Schedule 'C' -Community Comments, provide all County, Agency and Community comments received to date. Schedule 'B' includes a brief response to the comments received from the County and other Agencies.

Preliminary Response to Public Comments and Potential Modifications to Draft Official Plan

Based on the comments received through public consultation, consideration has been given to modifications to certain policies as well as the introduction of new policies. Further assessment of the comments received from the public and agencies may lead to additional modifications in preparation of the final draft OP.

Potential policy changes are identified below:

Climate Change

Revise Section 2.2.1 regarding 'Sustainability Goals and Objectives' and introduce new goals and objectives dedicated to 'Climate Change':

2.2.1 Climate Change

Goal:

To respond and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate by acknowledging and acting on the City's responsibility to provide

mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resiliency to a changing climate.

Objectives:

- a. To establish policy tools and operational practices that address both, climate change mitigation efforts to lower or remove greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation efforts to build the City's capacity to withstand the impacts of a changing climate.*
- b. To capitalize on partnership opportunities with the Province, County, adjoining municipalities and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority in the interest of supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.*
- c. To be progressive in adopting new methods and technologies for waste management and diversion, water and energy conservation, sustainable transportation, and green infrastructure.*
- d. To encourage the remediation and reuse of brownfield sites under the Environmental Protection Act through the Community Improvement Plan and transparent and efficient City approvals processes.*
- e. To consistently apply a climate lens to City asset management, infrastructure projects, and policy development that guides our approach to long-term growth and development planning.*

Insert a new section in Section 6.0 regarding Environment as Section 6.1.8, as follows:

- 6.1.8.1 The City will complete a Climate Action Plan to establish targets for, plan for, implement and monitor improvements in energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions associated with municipal assets. This may be done independently or in partnership with the County of Grey.*
- 6.1.8.2 The City will partner and work with other levels of governments, other municipalities, community members, and local industries to implement a Climate Action Plan.*
- 6.1.8.3 The City will consider the potential impacts of climate change that may increase the risk associated with natural hazards*

when evaluating development applications and infrastructure projects.

- 6.1.8.4 The City will implement urban design and development standards to reduce climate change impacts on public works and infrastructure including roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems and energy distribution systems.*
- 6.1.8.5 The City will investigate tools and incentives to encourage the retrofit of existing buildings to improve energy efficiency.*
- 6.1.8.6 The City will encourage individuals, residents, homeowners, businesses and industries to implement actions to address a changing climate.*

Natural Heritage

Revise Section 2.2.1 regarding 'Sustainability Goals and Objectives' and introduce new goals and objectives dedicated to 'Natural Heritage':

2.2.2 Natural Heritage

Goal:

To protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment through a planning framework that maintains and improves the diversity and connectivity of the natural forms, features and functions of the City's natural heritage, that also mitigates the impacts of development on these features.

Objectives:

- a. To conserve and enhance the City's natural environment and its linkages through clear policies that support an environmentally-focused land use policy framework and through partnerships with adjoining municipalities and partner agencies.*
- b. To facilitate the responsible use and enjoyment of the City's natural heritage system, through the development of naturalized trails, protection of vistas and escarpment landscapes, and the protection of the City's rivers and shoreline.*
- c. To increase the coverage and resiliency of the urban forest by facilitating increased planting initiatives using diverse, native species selection.*

- d. *To improve and restore stormwater quality and quantity by utilizing stormwater management best practices to minimize stormwater volumes and contaminant loads through low impact development and maintaining pervious surfaces wherever possible.*
- e. *To engage in source water protection through watershed-based planning by managing development within the City's Intake Protection Zones to prevent threats to the quality or quantity of the City's drinking water source.*
- f. *To protect human life and property through managing development in proximity to hazards due to slopes and flooding.*

Waste Management

Updates to the policies in the Waste Management section based on feedback received through public consultation:

6.1.10.2 The City will implement ~~encourage~~ residential composting and methods to reduce, reuse and recycle.

6.1.10.4 The City will investigate implementing ~~support~~ new waste management technologies to deal with waste management including the reduction of non-compostable waste and all non-recycle and single-use plastics, ~~increased reduction of waste,~~ reuse of waste, recycling of waste, ~~including Styrofoam,~~ green box programs for composting or biodegrading of organic waste, and handling sludge. ~~, and recycling film plastics.~~

6.1.10.6 Through a Waste Management Strategy or Study, the City will outline ways to invest in progressive waste management programs and technologies.

Tree Protection

Modify policies to strengthen support for tree retention/planting:

6.1.2.5 The City will create a baseline and monitor the tree cover on private and public lands using GIS in support of maintaining and increasing the City's urban forest.

8.2.1.6 Where new development is proposed, locations of existing mature trees will ~~should~~ be considered in the preparation of a site plan. Through the implementation of the Tree

Preservation Policy, the City will work to maximize tree protection in maintaining healthy trees where possible, while acknowledging the importance of maximizing the use of existing infrastructure.

8.2.1.7 The City will require the planting of street trees in new development areas and municipal infrastructure projects through a tree planting plan.

The potential modifications above are not inclusive of all the changes that will be incorporated into the final Official Plan, however, it aims to provide context of how the comments received will be incorporated into existing policies and help to introduce new policies.

City Staff, County Staff & Agency Comments

The Draft OP has been circulated internally to the City's Departments, County of Grey, Niagara Escarpment Commission, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and the Historic Saugeen Metis. Schedule 'A' includes all comments received from the County of Grey, Niagara Escarpment Commission, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and Historic Saugeen Metis. A response to each comment is provided in Schedule 'B' and will be considered as input to the final version of the OP. The final draft OP will be circulated to the County and other Agencies for review.

Timing and Next Steps:

Although the COVID-19 global pandemic has resulted in a modified project timeline, the OP is to be completed by May 2021. The next step in the OP Review process is to prepare a final draft OP. The final draft OP will incorporate input received from the community, City Staff, County Staff, Council, and various agencies.

The City will notify the public of the release of the final draft OP through the website, media release, and notice on the City banner in the Sun Times newspaper. Upon OP adoption by City Council, the OP will be sent to the approval authority (County of Grey) for final approval. Unless otherwise warranted or requested by Council, the March 15 Special Meeting represents the final public consultation meeting. A recommendation report is anticipated to come forward for Council's consideration in May 2021.

Financial Implications:

The OP Review process was allocated a budget of \$80,000. The review is projected to remain on budget.

Consultation/Communication Strategy:

The first draft of the OP, Discussion papers, Open House and Public Meeting Presentations, along with all other reports, notices and supporting materials for the Official Plan review are posted on the dedicated [webpage](#). Staff continue to endeavour to share information regularly through social media.

In addition to the March 15 Special Meeting being posted to the City's Website (Committee/Council Calendar), an email with hyperlink to the Agenda and documents for the Special Meeting was sent to all parties that have submitted correspondence related to the Official Plan review.

The Official Plan Review process is being completed in accordance with the legislative process and notice requirements as outlined in the Planning Act.

Attachments:

- Schedule 'A': County and Agency Comments
- Schedule 'B': County and Agency Comment Response Tables
- Schedule 'C': Community Comments

Prepared by:

David Aston, MCIP, RPP, MHBC Planning

Reviewed by:

Amy Cann, M. PL., MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning & Heritage

Reviewed by:

Pam Coulter, BA, RPP, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Amy Cann, Manager of Planning & Heritage at acann@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1232.



**AGENCY COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR OPA 10 PUBLIC MEETING
February 8, 2021**

- 1) Comments from Chris Hachey, Historic Saugeen Metis
- 2) Comments from Mac Plewes, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
- 3) Comments from John Stuart, Niagara Escarpment Commission
- 4) Comments from Cassandra Cesco, City of Owen Sound, Environmental Services
- 5) Comments from Scott Taylor, Grey County Planning and Development

From: [Chris Hachey](#)
To: [Robart, Sabine](#)
Subject: Request for Comments - Owen Sound - Draft Owen Sound Official Plan Update
Date: January 14, 2021 9:32:09 AM

Your File: OPA 10
Our File: Owen Sound Municipality

Dear Ms. Robart,

The Historic Saugeen Métis (HSM) Lands, Resources and Consultation Department has taken the time to review the Draft Owen Sound Official Plan Update. We appreciate the opportunity to review the draft documents and offer the following comments for consideration.

7.1.6 Archaeological Resources

- **Comment** - The Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists 2011 encourages consultation and participation with local indigenous communities. A statement under item 7.1.6 should be considered that encourages officials and consulting archaeologists to engage with local indigenous communities in areas identified as significant archaeological potential both before and during the archaeological assessment process.

Reference - *The Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists 2011*

Stage 4: Mitigation of development impacts

Engaging Aboriginal communities in archaeology

Archaeology in Ontario is particularly relevant to Aboriginal communities because it can help to document Aboriginal histories and peoples and to identify sacred sites and ancestral remains. Engaging Aboriginal communities in archaeology adds to the understanding of a project and enriches the archaeological record. The process demonstrates respect for Aboriginal heritage, recognizes Aboriginal peoples' connection to the land, and allows everyone to benefit from their knowledge.

4.5.1 Our Culture Heritage

2) Archaeological Resources

First Nations and Metis groups significant archaeological resources are to be preserved on site, the proponent and the consultant archaeologist must consult with the appropriate First Nation to identify approaches to commemorate the site.

- **Comment** - Consider changing the words in the later part of the sentence from "First Nations" to "Indigenous Communities" which is inclusive to all.

9.5.2 Indigenous Consultation

9.5.2.1 The City will endeavour to consult with First Nations on development applications where there are aboriginal treaty rights and aboriginal interests or in accordance with any

established consultation protocol.

- **Comment** - Consider changing the words “First Nations” to “Indigenous Communities” which is inclusive to all. On a side note, the Historic Saugeen Métis greatly appreciates the opportunity to be consulted on development applications and the development / updating of supporting policy documents.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review this matter

Regards,

Chris Hachey

Coordinator, Lands, Resources & Consultation
Historic Saugeen Métis
email: hsmlrcc@bmts.com
phone: 519-483-4000
site: saugeenmetis.com
address: 204 High Street Southampton, ON



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January 20, 2021

Sent Via Email: planning@owensound.ca

Attn: Amy Cann, Manager of Planning & Heritage

Dear Amy Cann

Re: City of Owen Sound Official Plan Update

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) planning staff have reviewed the proposed Owen Sound Official Plan update (1st Draft, dated December 24, 2020). Staff have reviewed as per our delegated responsibility from the Province to represent provincial interests regarding natural hazards identified in Section 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS, 2020) and as a regulatory authority under Ontario Regulation 151/06. GSCA has also provided comments as per our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the City of Owen Sound representing their interests regarding natural heritage and water identified in Sections 2.1 and 2.2, respectively, of the PPS. We offer the following comments:

Comment No.	OP Section	Comments
1.	Page 4, Section 2.2.1	Suggest adding a sustainability objective that states: To protect life and property by directing development away from natural hazard features and areas.
2.	Page 57, Section 3.14.2.2	This policy appears to be a carry over from the previous OP and we are not aware of any issues with this policy, but it could be revised. We suggest changing the wording of the policy to be more general and with wording more consistent with the PPS. We suggest: "The Hazard Lands designation is intended to be consistent with guidance developed by the Province as amended from time to time. Where Hazard Lands are under private ownership, it shall not be construed as implying that the Hazard Land areas are free and open to the general public nor will they be purchased by the City or other government agency. An application for the redesignation of hazard lands for other purposes may be given due consideration by the City, in consultation with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and in accordance with Provincial planning policies and technical guidelines."

Member Municipalities

Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, Town of the Blue Mountains, Township of Chatsworth, Township of Georgian Bluffs, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Municipality of Meaford, City of Owen Sound, Town of South Bruce Peninsula

2.	Page 58, Section 3.14.2.3	<p>Recommend the first two paragraphs as one policy. The paragraph referring to the types of development not permitted in hazard lands associated with the flood plain should be a separate policy.</p> <p>Additionally, PPS policy 3.1.5 refers to the noted uses as not being permitted in <i>hazardous lands</i> and <i>hazardous sites</i>, not just flood plains. The OP should be revised to reflect this.</p>
3.	General comment	Some inconsistencies in flood plain being one or two words throughout the OP. The PPS has flood plain as two words.
4.	Page 68, Section 4.2.4.3	Policy refers to requiring an EIS. It isn't clear within the context of the policy if this requirement is to confirm the hazard boundary or if it is required for natural heritage purposes. We note, the EIS is typically only required to address natural heritage concerns. An engineered flood plain study is required to assess flood plain boundaries.
5.	Page 99, Section 5.2.4.6	The paragraphs could be split into two separate policies.
6.	Page 102, Section 6.1.3.1	Recommend changing the first sentence referring to significant woodlands as a development constraint to "Significant woodlands are a natural heritage feature identified in the County of Grey Official Plan."
7.	Page 104, Section 6.1.41	Generally, we are of the opinion this section should apply to all hazard lands within the City, not just hazard lands associated with steep slopes. This may require more work to address the wording. GSCA can be available to discuss this further if necessary.
8.	Page 105, Section 6.1.5.2	We note, GSCA is in the process of producing a comprehensive EIS guidelines document. We recommend including a provision related to consulting with GSCA on EIS requirements. We can be available to discuss this further if necessary and we will be circulating City Planning staff on the new document once it is ready.
9.	Page 107, Section 6.1.6.1	<p>Recommend the policy state "Lake filling projects are generally discouraged but may be supported only where...."</p> <p>Additionally, c. should include Transport Canada as one of the approval authorities.</p>

GSCA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed City of Owen Sound Official Plan. Staff are available for further discussion or to clarify any of the above comments.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mac Plewes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mac Plewes

Watershed Planner, Environmental Planning & Regulations

cc via email Marion Koepke, GSCA Director, City of Owen Sound
 Scott Greig, GSCA Director, City of Owen Sound

**Niagara Escarpment
Commission**

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Niagara Escarpment Commission
An agency of the Government of Ontario

January 20, 2021

Ms. Amy Cann, MCIP, RPP.
Manager of Planning and Heritage
City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Avenue
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4

Dear Ms. Cann:

Re: City of Owen Sound Official Plan Amendment 10 (OPA 10).

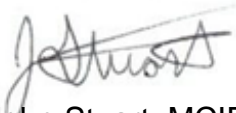
Thank you for circulating the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) with a request for comments regarding the City's Official Plan update under OPA 10. NEC Staff had previously provided preliminary comments to City Staff on September 23, 2020. NEC Staff have now had the opportunity to review the proposed draft of the City's updated OP and provide the following comments for consideration.

1. NEC Staff suggested edits to the City's OP that would clarify policy changes to the NEP realized through the 2017 Provincial Coordinated Review and to address inconsistent terminology as it appeared in the OP. It is now NEC Staff's understanding that the City is proposing to simplify references to the NEP within the OP, largely by referring readers to the NEP (2017) itself. Although a departure from the previous version of the City's OP, this direction is one that is and has been accepted by the NEC in conformity reviews.
 2. NEC Staff would suggest that, in order to realize all efficiencies associated with this new direction, Schedule 'A' to the City's Official Plan also be updated to remove reference to individual NEP land use designations and instead identify lands within the NEP as simply "NEP area".
 3. In relation to item 2, Section 3.15 of the OP should be revised to remove reference to the individual land used designations as "shown on Schedule-A Land Use" and instead reference NEP Map 8.
 4. References to the land use designations of the NEP should be denoted as follows:
 - Escarpment Natural Area
 - Escarpment Protection Area
 - Escarpment Rural Area
 - Urban Area (Escarpment)
-

5. The majority of sections of the OP referring to requirements found within the NEP have been removed. However, Section 3.14.2.7 does still maintain reference to the Escarpment in relation to hazard lands. It is suggested that this reference also be removed as the NEP has specific development criteria related to hazard lands and slopes.
6. NEC Staff support the inclusion of Section 6.1.11.3 as it relates to the consideration of alternative/renewable energy systems supporting development.

NEC Staff appreciate the opportunity to review the first draft of the City's updated Official Plan under OPA 10 and would request to be circulated with the final proposed version or any interim drafts prior to approval.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Stuart", with a horizontal line drawn through it.

John Stuart, MCIP, RPP
Senior Strategic Advisor (a)

From: [Cesco, Cassandra](#)
To: [Cann, Amy](#)
Cc: [Webb, Chris](#)
Subject: RE: OPA 10 - Official Plan Update Request for Comments
Date: January 22, 2021 12:17:02 PM

Hi Amy,

My comments regarding the Public Transportation, Waste Management and Environmental sections are as follows;

Waste Management

- Could there be a section in the policy indicating that the City may want to undertake a waste management study, similar to the public transit study?
- Section 5.2.5.4 – could we have this reworded that that the City may opt to revise the program as desired within the scope of MECP regulations?

Environment

- Section 6.1.10.4 – Reword to reflect legislative changes coming to the blue box program, effective to the City in 2023. Something along the lines of “The City will support and comply with changes in legislative requirements including the reduction, reuse and recycling of blue box materials that will be encompassed under the blue box regulations”
- Another bullet stipulating other legislative waste management changes, I think this one can be more broad as there are a number of documents the Province has kept live in the past few years that may come down the line. Something similar to “The City will comply with upcoming modifications to the Provincial waste management system to meet applicable legislation.”

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Cassandra Cesco, BET

Supervisor of Environmental Services

City of Owen Sound, Engineering Services

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Planning and Development

595 9th Avenue East, Owen Sound Ontario N4K 3E3
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February 7th, 2021

Ms. Briana Bloomfield
City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Ave. E
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 2H4
Sent via E-mail

RE: Comments on Owen Sound Official Plan Amendment # 10 (5 Year Review)

Dear Ms. Bloomfield,

County staff would like to commend the City of Owen Sound for all the work that has gone into the proposed City Official Plan Amendment (OPA) # 10. It is clear that a lot of thought and effort has gone into this project, and County staff appreciate the ability to provide comments. What follows are some comments related to the provisions of the *Planning Act*, the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) 2020, and the County Official Plan. Additional general comments have also been included with respect to overall clarity and understanding of the Plan.

The County's comments include those from not just the Planning department, but also Transportation Services, Economic Development, and Community Transportation. Many of the below comments are very minor in nature, but there are some that may require some further discussion. County staff would welcome the opportunity to discuss any comments further, once City staff have had the time to review these comments.

In making the below comments, County staff have focused on those areas where some clarification or change may be required. The below comments should not detract from the fact that there are countless policies that provide excellent direction for the City moving forward. Although staff have not commented on all the 'well done' policy areas, we did wish to make it clear that the absence of these comments was only for brevity, and not because the policy efforts went unnoticed.

ID	Section or Schedule	Comments
1	General	The County is currently undertaking an updated Growth Management Strategy (GMS). The County hopes to have a draft GMS to share with municipalities for their review and comment very shortly. In the draft results to date, the GMS appears to be projecting higher growth than currently

		projected in the County's Official Plan. Shortly after the GMS is finalized, the County will be preparing a housekeeping amendment to the County Plan to implement the new growth projections, and to extend the growth horizon to 25 years as per the PPS 2020. Owen Sound may wish defer adoption of OPA 10 until after the GMS is finalized and the County Plan has been updated. In doing so this would allow OPA 10 to (a) consider the new growth projections, and (b) extend the horizon of the City's Official Plan to 25 years.
2	General	There are a number of sections in the City Plan which appear to have been updated from the current City Plan, which do not appear to correspond to the draft land use schedules. County staff understand that in many cases the City is simply updating the Plan based on previously approved background studies such as the River Precinct Plan and others. The County is supportive of a number of these changes, but recommends some general updates to improve readability and aid in understanding for the user. For example, schedule A includes 'Downtown Commercial', but that term (or designation) does not appear within the text of the Plan. To aid in understanding it may be useful to label 'Downtown Commercial' as 'River District Commercial' on schedule A, if that is the intent of the policy and mapping. Clarification with respect to schedule B1 should also be considered here, i.e. section 3.4 refers to various 'river districts' (central, south, east, and north), whereas the schedule shows only one river district but various 'downtowns' (central, south, east, and north).
3	General	It would appear there are some approved City OPAs that have not been incorporated into the new draft Official Plan (e.g. some of the approved OPAs on Schedule A2). County staff had the same issue when the County adopted Recolour Grey, and just wanted to flag it so as not to inadvertently exclude some of those recently approved OPAs.
4	General	It may also be worth reviewing the mapping with respect to (a) infrastructure that has already been constructed (e.g. the trunk sanitary sewer in Phase 1 of Sydenham Heights), and (b) newly approved road networks that are under construction. Some of the mapping still shows either proposed or conceptual layouts of these features. Where said features are still conceptual or only draft approved, then it is certainly fine to leave them as such. However, where those locations have now been determined (i.e. constructed or developments registered), then it may be prudent to reflect that in the mapping.
5	General	County staff would note changes to the <i>Planning Act</i> , PPS, and County Plan with respect to including Official Plan policies on climate change. It appears this is not only a provincial requirement, but that there is significant local public interest in seeing such policies in the City Plan. County staff would support any further initiatives, beyond what is already included in OPA 10, to address mitigation and adaptation to climate change. County staff also understand how difficult this can be at the Official Plan level, especially when moving from goals and objectives to actionable policy items (e.g. reviewing development through a climate lens). We would be happy to assist the City in looking at any further policy direction on this matter building off the work

		that the City has been completing in their Adaptation Plan, as well as the County's work on the 'Climate Change Action Plan'. Rather than including a series of comments on this matter throughout this document (e.g. sections 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9), County staff will raise it here as a general comment and defer the detailed comments and discussion to later in the process.
6	General	The County supports any further policy direction on affordable and attainable housing. Being the largest centre in Grey County, the City contains a significant portion of the housing, including affordable and attainable housing. County staff realize that in order to support additional affordable and attainable housing work is needed at all levels of government, including both the County and City levels. County staff applaud the City for the work that has been completed to date, including some recent housing developments in the City. As the City continues to review OPA 10, the County would encourage any further housing policy in this direction that could aid in achieving more affordable and attainable housing (e.g. affordable housing targets in section 3.1.4.5). Rather than including a series of comments on this matter throughout this document, County staff will raise it here as a general comment and defer the detailed comments and discussion to later in the process.
7	General	Any references to Provincial Ministries should be reviewed to ensure the proper Ministry name and/or acronym is being used throughout the Plan. There are a few Ministries that have changed since the previous City Plan was approved.
8	1.1.1	See comment ID # 1 above. The Province has informed the County that until the County Plan is updated to a 25-year horizon in accordance with PPS 2020, that municipal Official Plans are limited to the County's current horizon of 2038.
9	3.1	The City may wish to include land or life lease housing in the permitted housing types in the Residential designation.
10	3.1.1(d) and 3.1.7.1	<p>These sections may need to be reworded based on changes to the <i>Planning Act</i> that now read as follows:</p> <p><i>(3) An official plan shall contain policies that authorize the use of additional residential units by authorizing,</i></p> <p><i>(a) the use of two residential units in a detached house, semi-detached house or rowhouse; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) the use of a residential unit in a building or structure ancillary to a detached house, semi-detached house or rowhouse. 2019, c. 9, Sched. 12, s. 2 (1).</i></p> <p>While previous versions of the Act allowed for an accessory dwelling unit in the home or in an accessory building, the current legislation has removed the 'or' and replaced it with an 'and'.</p>
11	3.1.1.1(h)	The reference to 'crisis car facilities' should likely refer to 'crisis care facilities'.

12	3.1.2.1	County staff would flag changes in the County Official Plan to section 3.5(5) with respect to density, which went from an average density to a minimum development density. Furthermore, the table at the beginning of this section and clause (a) is slightly confusing. Perhaps the table could allow for 61 to 125 units for high density residential, and clause (a) would simply be applicable to all high-density residential developments.
13	3.1.2.1(b)	It may be worth clarifying that this is a density per 'net' hectare, and that the density is a minimum and not a maximum target (i.e. new planning areas can exceed the 25 units per net hectare).
14	3.1.3.3(d)	Could the 200 m ² size cap be removed from the requirements for neighbourhood commercial, and simply left at 'limited in size' to provide greater flexibility for new neighbourhood commercial uses? The other requirements of this section with respect to traffic, parking, noise would appear to already have the effect of limiting uses that may conflict with neighbouring residential uses.
15	3.1.4.3	The County generally supports this policy, but wonders if it belongs elsewhere in the Plan, and if it should be broadened out to include not just residential development similar to section 1.1.2 of the PPS.
16	3.1.7.1 and 3.1.7.2	Further to comment # 10, County staff are not entirely clear on what the difference is between an 'accessory dwelling unit', an 'accessory apartment', and a 'secondary unit'. Staff are not sure if there is a notable difference here, or if some of the terms are being used interchangeably. There also appears to be some conflicting statements within the policies. For example, under 3.1.7.1 the opening clause appears to permit an 'accessory dwelling unit' in the main dwelling or an ancillary structure. However, the final clause of this section appears to require the 'accessory apartment' to be within the 'existing main building'. Perhaps some of these terms could either be consolidated if meant to be used interchangeably, or explicitly defined if they are meant to be distinct, so as to avoid any confusion.
17	3.1.9.1	In order to support home businesses and business growth, could the ability to permit employees not residing in the home be extended to all residential areas, not just those dwelling units within the River District? There could be maximum number employees permitted, or parking requirements, which could ensure minimal impacts on neighbours or infrastructure.
18	General and 3.2 – 3.8	Given the changes in the commercial sector with prevalence of online shopping, and the current conditions under the global pandemic, many businesses are under significant hardship. Any ability to allow for flexibility in use or growth could be particularly useful to this sector in the coming years. While staff do not want to over-design for current conditions (i.e. not every business may need a pick-up window going forward), there is a desire to support the business community in a manner that still has regard for planning, design, and land use incompatibility. Further to the above, staff question the need for retail market analysis studies in many instances. While such studies may be necessary if a proponent

		<p>were looking to establish brand new commercial area within the City, they may not be needed where a proponent is looking to develop within an existing commercial designation. These types of studies may have the effect of discouraging new commercial development within the City's existing designated commercial land base.</p> <p>Additional policy may also be considered for the evolution of commercial spaces over the lifespan of this Plan. In other jurisdictions, malls or other space extensive commercial uses are adapting to the new commercial realities. In some of these larger spaces, it may be prudent to allow for greater flexibility for new mixed-use or residential uses to be added to these sites where criteria can be met (e.g. traffic, servicing, parking, etc.). For example, if someone wanted to redevelop a portion of the Region Shopping Centre lands to add higher-density residential uses, then maybe such uses should be considered, without the need for an OPA (i.e. contrary to section 3.5.1.3 but with criteria similar to 3.6.2.6). This is just one example, but other types of future adaptations should be considered, given the planning horizon of the City's Plan.</p>
19	3.2.3.2	<p>County staff understand the desire to foster a pedestrian friendly environment within the River District. Staff are supportive of this goal. That said, a strict reading of this section would appear to prohibit both drive-throughs and curbside pick-ups in the River District. Given not only the current pandemic environment, but also the need for businesses to compete with on-line retailers, this prohibition may put downtown businesses at a significant disadvantage. County staff are certainly not advocating for new drive-throughs in parts of the River District (e.g. on portions of 2nd Avenue East), which would be incompatible with the existing pedestrian environment and traffic patterns. However, there may be a need to 'soften' this wording slightly to give additional flexibility for businesses. Criteria could still be included in this Plan or in the City's zoning by-law which further guides the development or redevelopment of such uses.</p> <p>Further to comment ID # 2 above, County staff are unclear as to whether these policies are meant to apply to all of schedule B1 lands, or just the lands in the labelled 'river district' i.e. 1st and 2nd Avenue West between 10th and 8th Streets.</p>
20	3.2.3.12(d) and 3.3.3.1	The City may also wish to identify patios or outdoor eating areas as being promoted in this strong and diverse commercial sector.
21	3.3.1.1(b)	Would bars or nightclubs also be considered as a permitted use under this section?
22	3.3.1.1(4)	Should emergency shelters also be flagged as a permitted use here?
23	3.3.3.2 and 3.3.5.1	Could these sections be amended to clarify that residential uses could be permitted in behind the retail frontage (i.e. an apartment could be permitted on the ground floor, provided the façade remains commercial)?
24	3.3.5.1(d)	Could this section be clarified by using the term housing for 'special needs' as defined in the PPS?

25	3.3.6, 5.1.4, and General	In both this section, and throughout other areas of the Plan, is there an ability to relax parking requirements in favour of some types of new development (e.g. affordable housing), and in favour of creating more pedestrian oriented facilities? This 'relaxed parking requirement' could start through direction in the Official Plan and carry forward to zoning provisions, in a future update to the City's Zoning By-law. While the County is not suggesting the City eliminate all parking requirements, there are other municipalities that have significantly reduced the required parking minimums in certain areas of the municipality or for certain forms of development.
26	3.3.8.1	When referencing documents outside of the Official Plan such as the Harbour and River District Urban Design/Master Servicing Strategy, it may be useful to provide a hyperlink to said documents.
27	3.4.2.2(b) and 3.4.3.2(c)	Subsection 3.4.2.2(b) is confusing and appears to conflict with itself and 3.4.3.2(c). The development and redevelopment being 'limited and discouraged' would appear to be at odds with some of the further statements in this subsection and 3.4.3.2(c) such as having 'restaurants, patios and entertainment uses which create active and lively spaces'. Should this section instead reference that development or redevelopment is encouraged to open to provide restaurants, patios and entertainment uses which create active and lively spaces?
28	3.4.5.3	Should mixed commercial and live-work opportunities also be listed and promoted within other areas of the River District as well?
29	3.6 (Heading)	Should the heading to this section read '16 th Street East from 9 th Avenue East to 28 th Avenue East', as opposed to 26 th Avenue East?
30	3.6.1.1	Could the permitted uses in this section also allow for hotels?
31	3.6.2.1	This section speaks to a 'high quality vehicle-oriented retail environment'. Although this statement may generally describe 16 th Street East currently in this section of the City, County staff wonder whether this could be changed to a more aspirational statement to also include pedestrians (or a mix of vehicles and pedestrians)? In doing so, it may help further focus development in this area of the City to better consider pedestrian environments, instead of just being vehicle-oriented. Given that these lands also permit high-density residential uses, this would appear to be prudent. Wording could be used similar to section 3.7.2.1.
32	3.6.2.5(c)	Could the safe access be clarified to include both vehicles and pedestrians?
33	3.8.1.1	Should the permitted uses in this section be expanded to include some of the additional uses already in this area such as funeral homes, gyms, etc. or is this already captured by the wording 'examples would include, but are not limited to'?
34	3.8.2.1	Does this size limitation of 1,500 m ² apply to all the permitted uses in 3.8.1.1 (e.g. hotels)? If so, that may appear to limit such uses to the point of not being feasible.
35	3.8.4	The heading in this section refers to 17 th Avenue East as being a boundary for the Health and Education District. The boundary is difficult to practically determine as 17 th Avenue East is not labelled on any of the schedules.

36	3.9.4.1, 3.9.4.2, and 3.9.4.3	The design of new harbour uses including visiting boater facilities, should have regard for the working harbour and not provide a conflict with the docking or shipping of bulk freighters. Such facilities and uses should align with both the City and Transport Canada's vision for this area. If there is any policy wording that can reflect that dual vision, it would be encouraged.
37	3.9.8.2 and 5.2.2.2	In the review of the County Official Plan, the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) recommended new policy wording for development in proximity to wastewater treatment facilities. The City may wish to review the wording at section 8.9.1(16) of the County Plan in this regard. In section 3.9.8.2, should the term 'limited commercial uses' be further clarified or defined in the context of other commercial uses and designations listed within the Plan?
38	3.9.9.2	In section 3.9.9.2, should the term 'substantive redevelopment' be further clarified or defined in the context of the Plan?
39	3.10.1.1(j)	The County has generally tried to limit any new residential construction in employment areas. Wording has been considered to allow for uses such as security or maintenance employee sleeping quarters (e.g. for a security guard working a night shift), but typically a residence has not been included as a permitted use.
40	3.10.2.4	This section could be interpreted in a manner that could restrict a significant number of employment uses (e.g. noise extending beyond a lot-line). County staff question whether further 'leeway' could be considered here, possibly using criteria similar to the MECP D-6 Guidelines?
41	3.12.4.1	Could this clause be expanded to further recognize the importance of the protection of the Sydenham River for natural heritage reasons?
42	3.13.1.1(a)	In past discussions with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), their staff have noted that it is not appropriate for municipalities to limit the intensity of agriculture. Municipalities can choose to permit agriculture, or prohibit it, but should not be placing restrictions on intensity beyond the requirements of Nutrient Management Act and Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) guidelines. The City may or may not wish to restrict new or expanding livestock facilities here, but should stay away from terminology such as 'non-intensive agriculture'.
43	3.13.2.6	The entirety of the City of Owen Sound is designated as a 'Primary Settlement Area' under the County Official Plan. MDS is not applied within settlement areas in the County Plan. County staff would recommend removing this clause so as to avoid any confusion in that regard.
44	3.14.2.2	The City may wish to include a policy exemption to note that minor refinements to the 'Hazard Lands' boundaries may not trigger the need for an OPA and can be addressed via zoning amendment, or through a future Plan update.
45	4.1.1.6 and schedule A1	With the land and unit totals in this section, how does this align with the density provisions at 3.1.2.1 of the City Plan? Being an arterial road, should additional medium density lands be designated along 9 th Avenue East, in areas that are not already developed in low density

		residential uses? Could mixed use development also be considered in some of these areas?
46	4.1.1.8 and schedules A1 / A	The polices and mapping in this section are slightly confusing. On schedule A1 there is a Neighbourhood Commercial designation mapped at the corner of 9 th Avenue East and 26 th Street East. On schedule A this same corner appears to be mapped as Arterial Commercial. If the intent is for Neighbourhood Commercial, County staff question if this mapping / designation is even needed, or should the lands just be residential, where Neighbourhood Commercial uses are a permitted use.
47	4.2.3.1 and schedule A2	Should the lands in between the Phase 1 Institutional lands and the East City Commercial lands (on the 18 th Avenue East extension out to the proposed 20 th Avenue East) be designated for medium density or medium/high density residential instead of the current low density residential?
48	4.1.5.1 and 4.2.8.2	It may help to either defer to the County's Significant Woodlands mapping, or to define what a 'significant tree community' is for the purpose of this section. With respect to the identification of species at risk, the City may wish just to use the term 'qualified individual' rather than to specify an arborist.
49	4.2.4.1, 5.1.1.7, 5.1.9, 7.4.7.2, and 7.4.7.3	County staff would flag the policies of section 8.8 of the County Plan as it applies to these sections, as well as other areas of the City where the County's CP Rail Trail passes through. While the lands are being maintained as a trail and infrastructure corridor, there may or may not be a possibility of rail returning to these lands in the future.
50	4.2.5.3	Could the last sentence of this section be amended to note that; 'The City or County may request a traffic study to determine the alignment'?
51	4.2.7.2 and 4.2.7.3	Some of the unit totals and time horizons in this section may need to be adjusted.
52	4.3.2.3, 7.1.2.8(f), 7.4.2.4, and 9.1.5	The provisions of these sections of the Plan may need to be updated based on the provincial changes to section 37 of the <i>Planning Act</i> regarding bonusing.
53	4.4.1.3	Perhaps the phrase "however the mixed land use designation is not primarily intended for commercial development" could be clarified. In the context of the preceding clauses of this section, it is not entirely clear what this means.
54	4.4.4.2	Could the County be added in the first sentence of this section to note that the City or County may require traffic improvements?
55	4.4.5.2	Could patios also be included in this list?
56	5.1.1.4	The County does not typically see policies in a municipal official plan which place requirements on a neighbouring municipality or developer, except where shared infrastructure is being utilized (e.g. a shared boundary road). The County Official Plan has requirements for traffic studies, as do most municipal official plans, which require the costs of completing those studies to be paid by the proponent. That said, if this section is being interpreted to mean the that a developer in a neighbouring municipality could be required to upgrade roads in the City, there may need to be some further discussions.
57	5.1.1.10	Could additional policy wording be included here, or elsewhere in the Plan to (a) rationalize the importance of transit, walking, and cycling, from a public

		health and environmental perspective, and (b) further incentivize these forms of transportation.
58	5.1.3.15(b)	Could this section be amended to simply read ‘Sidewalks shall generally be required on one side of local roads’? County staff realize that this would change the intent of this section, but from a walkability perspective this would improve local roads for pedestrians regardless of whether the road leads directly to a school or park.
59	5.1	Following the section on local roads, should any policy guidance be provided on condominium road standards?
60	5.1.4.9	Could guidance be provided here encouraging parking to be located in a manner such that the relationship between the building, the sidewalk and the street are prioritized? In some cases, this may mean parking in behind commercial buildings such that the building can better frame the street versus parking lots framing the street. Section 3.8.3.5 provides some useful policy guidance in this regard.
61	5.1.5.5	County staff support the intent of this policy. That said, perhaps it could be further clarified as it applies to existing and proposed roadways. On many local roads, cycling would be perfectly safe on the road, and if there were sidewalks on at least one side of the road, then a further ‘separated trail’ would not appear necessary. Perhaps this section, in conjunction with comment ID # 51 above, could be clarified. Separated trails may be necessary on some higher traffic arterial roads.
62	5.1.6	County staff wonder whether additional criteria could be added to this section to guide the location of new or improved transit stops as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that potential transit locations have an accessible sidewalk, • ensuring that sidewalks continue directly to the transit stop, and • ensuring that new transit stops consider the safe unloading and loading of passengers.
63	5.1.8.1	Policies requesting or compelling other levels of government to funding are not typically included in an official plan.
64	5.1.8.2	Typically, a municipal official plan does not provide direction on development in neighbouring municipalities. Policies with respect to an airport industrial park may be better suited in the Niagara Escarpment Plan or the Municipality of Meaford Official Plan, if that land use would be desirable there.
65	5.1.4.13	Could these ‘encouragements’ for charging stations become ‘requirements’?
66	5.2.1.3	The word ‘in’ appears to be missing between the words ‘maintained’ and ‘accordance’.
67	5.2.2.5	County staff recognize that there are existing scenarios where City services are extended outside of City boundaries, which are covered by existing agreements. The County would encourage the City and neighbouring municipalities to collaborate on any future agreements or servicing extensions in a manner that is beneficial to both municipalities and the County as a whole.
68	5.2.4.2	This policy would appear to allow for Low Impact Design (LID) stormwater management solutions, which an important sustainable option.

69	5.2.4.6	Should this section also note that oil and grit interceptors may also be required as a condition of site plan approval for commercial, industrial, or institutional developments as well?
70	5.2.5, 6.1.10, and Appendix A	<p>The City may wish to review the County's Historic Landfills Study at the below link: https://www.grey.ca/planning-development/planning-and-development-studies</p> <p>A review of section 8.10.1 and Appendix A to the County Plan may also be worth reviewing here as it relates to the City's policies and mapping.</p> <p>Could these two policy sections be consolidated as they are similarly named and appear to have some overlap in subject matter?</p>
71	5.2.5.3	The word 'levels' appears to be missing between the words 'other' and 'of'.
72	5.2.5.7 and 6.1.10.5	County staff would note that this matter has been discussed at County Council recently and further discussion are pending on this topic.
73	6.1.1.3	County staff would note that schedule C to the County Plan does include Linkages within the City's boundaries. The City Plan's mapping and policies should consider this mapping and section 7.1 of the County Plan in this regard.
74	6.1.2.3	Should reference be made in this section to any City or County tree-cutting or forest management by-laws?
75	6.1.3.1	Items (a) – (c) of this section should be deleted as the identification of Significant Woodlands in the City only applies to lands 4 hectares in size or greater.
76	3.14 and 6.1.4	Could these two policy sections be consolidated as they are similarly named and appear to have some overlap in subject matter?
77	6.1.4.1(b) (iv)	Typically, Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) are required as part of a complete application for development, rather than as a condition of approval.
78	6.1.5.6	The City may also wish to include mapping and an adjacent lands width for Other Wetlands as per section 7 of the County Plan.
79	6.1.6	<p>In approving the County Official Plan, the Province required the following provisions to be added, which may be appropriate to consider in this section of the City Plan as well:</p> <p><i>"The County shall, prior to approving planning applications or infrastructure projects impacting areas at or below the high-water mark of any body of water, require a marine archaeological assessment to be conducted by a licensed marine archaeologist, pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act. Any marine archaeological resource that is identified shall be reported to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport."</i></p>
80	6.1.11.3	The City may wish to consider amending this section with the repeal of the <i>Green Energy Act</i> .
81	6.1.13	The City may wish to review section 8.11 of the County Plan with respect to the policies that were recommended for inclusion by the MECP on this topic. Additional detail may be needed in the City Plan in this regard.
82	7.1.3.6	Please note that the County Official Plan defines the adjacent lands width to a protected heritage property to be 50 metres under section 9.18 of the Plan.

		County staff are unclear as to what (f) of this section means. The reference to the City Official Plan does not appear to make sense in this context, perhaps this clause can be reworded.
83	7.1.6.3	The City may wish to provide further detail on when Archaeological Assessments are required.
84	7.2.3.4	Could the word 'secondary' be deleted here to make this criteria applicable to all schools?
85	7.4.2.2	The measure of distance is missing from the second last sentence of this section, presumably it should read '0.5 kilometres'. The City may wish to consider deleting the reference to specific age demographics from the park criteria (i.e. young children, teenage children, parents, etc.) in an effort to strive for age-friendly public spaces.
86	9.1.3	While not required, the City may wish to include policies on Garden Suites as defined by the <i>Planning Act</i> .
87	9.2.1.2	The City may wish to add Archaeological Assessments to the list of possible reports needed in the preparation of a secondary plan.
88	9.2.2	The City may wish to highlight affordable or attainable housing as a goal or objective of a Community Improvement Area. Additional wording may also be added to promote retrofits for energy efficiency or reduction of environmental impacts and a community improvement objective.
89	9.3.2.6	The City may wish to include road widening as a possible condition of consent.
90	9.4.2.1	Should the reference to 'Plan of Vacant Land Condominium' be revised to read 'Plan of Condominium', to be clear that these provisions apply to all plans of condominium?
91	9.4.2.2	Should the cross reference here instead be referring to 'policy 9.4.1.1'?
92	9.9.1.1	As per section 26(1.1) of the <i>Planning Act</i> , an official plan shall be reviewed within 10 years after it comes into effect, and every 5 years thereafter.
93	Schedule A and A1	The Hazard Land boundaries shown on schedule A1 in the northeast section of this schedule are significantly different than the Hazard Land boundaries on schedule A.
94	Schedule C	Should local roads also be shown in the legend on this schedule? In some cases, proposed roads are being shown here with no indication that they are only proposed and not actual roadways (i.e. proposed local roads show with no differentiation from actual local roads).
95	Schedule D	There are some markings on this schedule that are not shown in the legend, which are also not clear what they are intended to denote (e.g. little red lines north of 8 th Street East between 16 th Avenue East and the CP Rail Trail). Are these intended to be local trails, or something else? The City may also wish to note that trails shown on this schedule, such as snowmobile trails, are subject to change.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns with respect to the above.

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February 7, 2021

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Taylor", is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

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Schedule 'B' - County and Agency Comment Response Tables

Historic Saugeen Métis (HSM) – Comment Response Table

#	Comment	Response
	7.1.6	
1	<p>The Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists 2011 encourages consultation and participation with local indigenous communities. A statement under item 7.1.6 should be considered that encourages officials and consulting archaeologists to engage with local indigenous communities in areas identified as significant archaeological potential both before and during the archaeological assessment process.</p> <p>Reference - The Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists 2011 Stage 4: Mitigation of development impacts Engaging Aboriginal communities in archaeology. Archaeology in Ontario is particularly relevant to Aboriginal communities because it can help to document Aboriginal histories and peoples and to identify sacred sites and ancestral remains. Engaging Aboriginal communities in archaeology adds to the understanding of a project and enriches the archaeological record. The process demonstrates respect for Aboriginal heritage, recognizes Aboriginal peoples' connection to the land, and allows everyone to benefit from their knowledge.</p>	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated to reference the required guidelines.
	4.5.1	
2	<p>Archaeological Resources First Nations and Metis group's significant archaeological resources are to be preserved on site, the proponent and the consultant archaeologist must consult with the appropriate First Nation to identify approaches to commemorate the site. Comment - Consider changing the words in the later part of the sentence from "First Nations" to "Indigenous Communities" which is inclusive to all.</p>	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated to 'Indigenous Communities'.
	9.5.2.1	
3	<p>The City will endeavour to consult with First Nations on development applications where there are aboriginal treaty rights and aboriginal interests or in accordance with any established consultation protocol.</p> <p>Comment - Consider changing the words "First Nations" to "Indigenous Communities" which is inclusive to all. On a side note, the Historic Saugeen Métis greatly appreciates the opportunity to be consulted on development applications and the development / updating of supporting policy documents.</p>	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated to 'Indigenous Communities'.

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) – Comment Response Table

#	Comment	Response
	2.2.1	
1	Suggest adding a sustainability objective that states: To protect life and property by directing development away from natural hazard features and areas.	Acknowledged. Additional objective to be included.
	3.14.2.2	
2	<p>This policy appears to be a carryover from the previous OP and we are not aware of any issues with this policy, but it could be revised. We suggest changing the wording of the policy to be more general and with wording more consistent with the PPS. We suggest: "The Hazard Lands designation is intended to be consistent with guidance developed by the Province as amended from time to time.</p> <p>Where Hazard Lands are under private ownership, it shall not be construed as implying that the Hazard Land areas are free and open to the general public nor will they be purchased by the City or other government agency. An application for the redesignation of hazard lands for other purposes may be given due consideration by the City, in consultation with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and in accordance with Provincial planning policies and technical guidelines."</p>	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	3.14.2.3	
2	<p>Recommend the first two paragraphs as one policy. The paragraph referring to the types of development not permitted in hazard lands associated with the flood plain should be a separate policy.</p> <p>Additionally, PPS policy 3.1.5 refers to the noted uses as not being permitted in <i>hazardous lands</i> and <i>hazardous sites</i>, not just flood plains. The OP should be revised to reflect this.</p>	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	General comment	
3	Some inconsistencies in flood plain being one or two words throughout the OP. The PPS has flood plain as two words.	Acknowledged. Flood plain wording to be updated.

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) – Comment Response Table

	4.2.4.3	
4	Policy refers to requiring an EIS. It isn't clear within the context of the policy if this requirement is to confirm the hazard boundary or if it is required for natural heritage purposes. We note, the EIS is typically only required to address natural heritage concerns. An engineered flood plain study is required to assess flood plain boundaries	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	5.2.4.6	
5	The paragraphs could be split into two separate policies	Acknowledged.
	6.1.3.1	
6	Recommend changing the first sentence referring to significant woodlands as a development constraint to "Significant woodlands are a natural heritage feature identified in the County of Grey Official Plan.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated.
	6.1.41	
7	Generally, we are of the opinion this section should apply to all hazard lands within the City, not just hazard lands associated with steep slopes. This may require more work to address the wording. GSCA can be available to discuss this further if necessary.	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.
	6.1.5.2	
8	We note, GSCA is in the process of producing a comprehensive EIS guidelines document. We recommend including a provision related to consulting with GSCA on EIS requirements. We can be available to discuss this further if necessary and we will be circulating City Planning staff on the new document once it is ready.	Acknowledged. Policy to be included that references GSCA consultation regarding EIS guidelines.
	6.1.6.1	
9	Recommend the policy state "Lake filling projects are generally discouraged but may be supported only where...." Additionally, c. should include Transport Canada as one of the approval authorities	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.

Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) – Comment Response Table

#	Comment	Response
	NEP References	
1	NEC Staff suggested edits to the City's OP that would clarify policy changes to the NEP realized through the 2017 Provincial Coordinated Review and to address inconsistent terminology as it appeared in the OP. It is now NEC Staff's understanding that the City is proposing to simplify references to the NEP within the OP, largely by referring readers to the NEP (2017) itself. Although a departure from the previous version of the City's OP, this direction is one that is and has been accepted by the NEC in conformity reviews.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be clarified.
	Schedule A	
2	NEC Staff would suggest that, in order to realize all efficiencies associated with this new direction, Schedule A to the City's Official Plan also be updated to remove reference to individual NEP land use designations and instead identify lands within the NEP as simply NEP area	Acknowledged. Schedule A to be updated.
	3.15	
3	In relation to item 2, Section 3.15 of the OP should be revised to remove reference to the individual land used designations as shown on Schedule A Land Use and instead reference NEP Map 8.	Acknowledged. Reference to NEP Map 8 to be included.
	NEP References	
4	References to land use designations of the NEP should be denoted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Escarpment Natural Area - Escarpment Protection Area - Escarpment Rural Area - Urban Area (Escarpment) 	Acknowledged. NEP land use designations to be reviewed and updated.
5	The majority of sections of the OP referring to requirements found within the NEP have been removed. However, Section 3.14.2.7 does still maintain reference to the Escarpment in relation to hazard lands. It is suggested that this reference also be removed as the NEP has specific development criteria related to hazard lands and slopes.	Acknowledged. Hazard lands policy to be removed.
6	NEC Staff support the inclusion of Section 6.1.11.3 as it relates to the consideration of alternative/renewable energy systems supporting development.	Acknowledged.

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

#	Comment	Response
	General	
1	The County is currently undertaking an updated Growth Management Strategy (GMS). The County hopes to have a draft GMS to share with municipalities for their review and comment very shortly. In the draft results to date, the GMS appears to be projecting higher growth than currently projected in the County's Official Plan. Shortly after the GMS is finalized, the County will be preparing a housekeeping amendment to the County Plan to implement the new growth projections, and to extend the growth horizon to 25 years as per the PPS 2020. Owen Sound may wish defer adoption of OPA 10 until after the GMS is finalized and the County Plan has been updated. In doing so this would allow OPA 10 to (a) consider the new growth projections, and (b) extend the horizon of the City's Official Plan to 25 years.	Acknowledged.
2	There are a number of sections in the City Plan which appear to have been updated from the current City Plan, which do not appear to correspond to the draft land use schedules. County staff understand that in many cases the City is simply updating the Plan based on previously approved background studies such as the River Precinct Plan and others. The County is supportive of a number of these changes, but recommends some general updates to improve readability and aid in understanding for the user. For example, schedule A includes 'Downtown Commercial', but that term (or designation) does not appear within the text of the Plan. To aid in understanding it may be useful to label 'Downtown Commercial' as 'River District Commercial' on schedule A, if that is the intent of the policy and mapping. Clarification with respect to schedule B1 should also be considered here, i.e. section 3.4 refers to various 'river districts' (central, south, east, and north), whereas the schedule shows only one river district but various 'downtowns' (central, south, east, and north).	Acknowledged. Land Use Schedules to correspond to updated OP language.
3	It would appear there are some approved City OPAs that have not been incorporated into the new draft Official Plan (e.g. some of the approved OPAs on Schedule A2). County staff had the same issue when the County adopted Recolour Grey, and just wanted to flag it so as not to inadvertently exclude some of those recently approved OPAs.	Acknowledged.
4	It may also be worth reviewing the mapping with respect to (a) infrastructure that has already been constructed (e.g. the trunk sanitary sewer in Phase 1 of	Acknowledged.

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

	<p>Sydenham Heights), and (b) newly approved road networks that are under construction. Some of the mapping still shows either proposed or conceptual layouts of these features. Where said features are still conceptual or only draft approved, then it is certainly fine to leave them as such. However, where those locations have now been determined (i.e. constructed or developments registered), then it may be prudent to reflect that in the mapping.</p>	
5	<p>County staff would note changes to the Planning Act, PPS, and County Plan with respect to including Official Plan policies on climate change. It appears this is not only a provincial requirement, but that there is significant local public interest in seeing such policies in the City Plan. County staff would support any further initiatives, beyond what is already included in OPA 10, to address mitigation and adaptation to climate change. County staff also understand how difficult this can be at the Official Plan level, especially when moving from goals and objectives to actionable policy items (e.g. reviewing development through a climate lens). We would be happy to assist the City in looking at any further policy direction on this matter building off the work that the City has been completing in their Adaptation Plan, as well as the County’s work on the ‘Climate Change Action Plan’. Rather than including a series of comments on this matter throughout this document (e.g. sections 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9), County staff will raise it here as a general comment and defer the detailed comments and discussion to later in the process.</p>	<p>Acknowledged. The City will continue to collaborate with County Staff.</p>
6	<p>The County supports any further policy direction on affordable and attainable housing. Being the largest centre in Grey County, the City contains a significant portion of the housing, including affordable and attainable housing. County staff realize that in order to support additional affordable and attainable housing work is needed at all levels of government, including both the County and City levels. County staff applaud the City for the work that has been completed to date, including some recent housing developments in the City. As the City continues to review OPA 10, the County would encourage any further housing policy in this direction that could aid in achieving more affordable and attainable housing (e.g. affordable housing targets in section 3.1.4.5). Rather than including a series of comments on this matter throughout this document, County staff will raise it here as a general comment and defer the detailed comments and discussion to later in the process.</p>	<p>Acknowledged.</p>

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

7	Any references to Provincial Ministries should be reviewed to ensure the proper Ministry name and/or acronym is being used throughout the Plan. There are a few Ministries that have changed since the previous City Plan was approved.	Acknowledged. Provincial Ministries to be reviewed for accuracy.
	1.1.1	
8	See comment ID # 1 above. The Province has informed the County that until the County Plan is updated to a 25-year horizon in accordance with PPS 2020, that municipal Official Plans are limited to the County's current horizon of 2038.	Acknowledged.
	3.1	
9	The City may wish to include land or life lease housing in the permitted housing types in the Residential designation.	Acknowledged. Life lease housing to be included in Residential designation.
	3.1.1(d) and 3.1.7.1	
10	These sections may need to be reworded based on changes to the Planning Act that now read as follows: (3) An official plan shall contain policies that authorize the use of additional residential units by authorizing, (a) the use of two residential units in a detached house, semi-detached house or rowhouse; and (b) the use of a residential unit in a building or structure ancillary to a detached house, semi-detached house or rowhouse. 2019, c. 9, Sched. 12, s. 2 (1). While previous versions of the Act allowed for an accessory dwelling unit in the home or in an accessory building, the current legislation has removed the 'or' and replaced it with an 'and'.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated to reflect Planning Act.
	3.1.1.1(h)	
11	The reference to 'crisis car facilities' should likely refer to 'crisis care facilities'.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated.
	3.1.2.1	
12	County staff would flag changes in the County Official Plan to section 3.5(5) with respect to density, which went from an average density to a minimum development density. Furthermore, the table at the beginning of this section and clause (a) is slightly confusing. Perhaps the table could allow for 61 to 125 units for high density residential, and clause (a) would simply be applicable to all high-density residential developments.	Acknowledged. The City will review the densities.
	3.1.2.1 (b)	

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

13	It may be worth clarifying that this is a density per 'net' hectare, and that the density is a minimum and not a maximum target (i.e. new planning areas can exceed the 25 units per net hectare).	Acknowledged.
	3.1.3.3 (d)	
14	Could the 200 m2 size cap be removed from the requirements for neighbourhood commercial, and simply left at 'limited in size' to provide greater flexibility for new neighbourhood commercial uses? The other requirements of this section with respect to traffic, parking, noise would appear to already have the effect of limiting uses that may conflict with neighbouring residential uses.	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.
	3.1.4.3	
15	The County generally supports this policy, but wonders if it belongs elsewhere in the Plan, and if it should be broadened out to include not just residential development similar to section 1.1.2 of the PPS.	Acknowledged.
	3.1.7.1 and 3.1.7.2	
16	Further to comment # 10, County staff are not entirely clear on what the difference is between an 'accessory dwelling unit', an 'accessory apartment', and a 'secondary unit'. Staff are not sure if there is a notable difference here, or if some of the terms are being used interchangeably. There also appears to be some conflicting statements within the policies. For example, under 3.1.7.1 the opening clause appears to permit an 'accessory dwelling unit' in the main dwelling or an ancillary structure. However, the final clause of this section appears to require the 'accessory apartment' to be within the 'existing main building'. Perhaps some of these terms could either be consolidated if meant to be used interchangeably, or explicitly defined if they are meant to be distinct, so as to avoid any confusion.	Acknowledged. Additional Dwelling Unit policies to be reviewed.
	3.1.9.1	
17	In order to support home businesses and business growth, could the ability to permit employees not residing in the home be extended to all residential areas, not just those dwelling units within the River District? There could be maximum number employees permitted, or parking requirements, which could ensure minimal impacts on neighbours or infrastructure.	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.
	General and 3.2 – 3.8	
18	Given the changes in the commercial sector with prevalence of online shopping, and the current conditions under the global pandemic, many businesses are	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

	<p>under significant hardship. Any ability to allow for flexibility in use or growth could be particularly useful to this sector in the coming years. While staff do not want to over-design for current conditions (i.e. not every business may need a pick-up window going forward), there is a desire to support the business community in a manner that still has regard for planning, design, and land use incompatibility.</p> <p>Further to the above, staff question the need for retail market analysis studies in many instances. While such studies may be necessary if a proponent were looking to establish brand new commercial area within the City, they may not be needed where a proponent is looking to develop within an existing commercial designation. These types of studies may have the effect of discouraging new commercial development within the City's existing designated commercial land base.</p> <p>Additional policy may also be considered for the evolution of commercial spaces over the lifespan of this Plan. In other jurisdictions, malls or other space extensive commercial uses are adapting to the new commercial realities. In some of these larger spaces, it may be prudent to allow for greater flexibility for new mixed-use or residential uses to be added to these sites where criteria can be met (e.g. traffic, servicing, parking, etc.). For example, if someone wanted to redevelop a portion of the Region Shopping Centre lands to add higher-density residential uses, then maybe such uses should be considered, without the need for an OPA (i.e. contrary to section 3.5.1.3 but with criteria similar to 3.6.2.6). This is just one example, but other types of future adaptations should be considered, given the planning horizon of the City's Plan.</p>	
	3.2.3.2	
19	<p>County staff understand the desire to foster a pedestrian friendly environment within the River District. Staff are supportive of this goal. That said, a strict reading of this section would appear to prohibit both drive-throughs and curbside pick-ups in the River District. Given not only the current pandemic environment, but also the need for businesses to compete with on-line retailers, this prohibition may put downtown businesses at a significant disadvantage. County staff are certainly not advocating for new drive-throughs in parts of the River District (e.g.</p>	<p>Acknowledged. Further discussion or permission required for curbside pick-up in the River District. River District boundary to be confirmed.</p>

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

	<p>on portions of 2nd Avenue East), which would be incompatible with the existing pedestrian environment and traffic patterns. However, there may be a need to 'soften' this wording slightly to give additional flexibility for businesses. Criteria could still be included in this Plan or in the City's zoning by-law which further guides the development or redevelopment of such uses.</p> <p>Further to comment ID # 2 above, County staff are unclear as to whether these policies are meant to apply to all of schedule B1 lands, or just the lands in the labelled 'river district' i.e. 1st and 2nd Avenue West between 10th and 8th Streets.</p>	
	3.2.3.12(d) and 3.3.3.1	
20	<p>The City may also wish to identify patios or outdoor eating areas as being promoted in this strong and diverse commercial sector.</p>	Acknowledged. Patios and/or outdoor eating areas to be included.
	3.3.1.1(b)	
21	<p>Would bars or nightclubs also be considered as a permitted use under this section?</p>	To be reviewed.
	3.3.1.1(4)	
22	<p>Should emergency shelters also be flagged as a permitted use here?</p>	To be reviewed.
	3.3.3.2 and 3.3.5.1	
23	<p>Could these sections be amended to clarify that residential uses could be permitted in behind the retail frontage (i.e. an apartment could be permitted on the ground floor, provided the façade remains commercial)?</p>	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.
	3.3.5.1(d)	
24	<p>Could this section be clarified by using the term housing for 'special needs' as defined in the PPS?</p>	Acknowledged. 'Special needs' PPS definition to be used.
	3.3.6, 5.1.4, and General	
25	<p>In both this section, and throughout other areas of the Plan, is there an ability to relax parking requirements in favour of some types of new development (e.g. affordable housing), and in favour of creating more pedestrian oriented facilities? This 'relaxed parking requirement' could start through direction in the Official Plan and carry forward to zoning provisions, in a future update to the City's Zoning By-law. While the County is not suggesting the City eliminate all parking requirements, there are other municipalities that have significantly reduced the required parking minimums in certain areas of the municipality or for certain forms of development.</p>	Acknowledged. Further Discussion required. City Zoning By-law parking provisions to be reviewed following the Official Plan update process.

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

	3.3.8.2	
26	When referencing documents outside of the Official Plan such as the Harbour and River District Urban Design/Master Servicing Strategy, it may be useful to provide a hyperlink to said documents.	Acknowledged.
	3.4.2.2(b) and 3.4.3.2(c)	
27	Subsection 3.4.2.2(b) is confusing and appears to conflict with itself and 3.4.3.2(c). The development and redevelopment being 'limited and discouraged' would appear to be at odds with some of the further statements in this subsection and 3.4.3.2(c) such as having 'restaurants, patios and entertainment uses which create active and lively spaces'. Should this section instead reference that development or redevelopment is encouraged to open to provide restaurants, patios and entertainment uses which create active and lively spaces?	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated for consistency.
	3.4.5.3	
28	Should mixed commercial and live-work opportunities also be listed and promoted within other areas of the River District as well?	To be reviewed.
	3.6 (Heading)	
29	Should the heading to this section read '16th Street East from 9th Avenue East to 28th Avenue East', as opposed to 26th Avenue East?	Acknowledged. Heading to be updated.
	3.6.1.1	
30	Could the permitted uses in this section also allow for hotels?	To be reviewed.
	3.6.2.1	
31	This section speaks to a 'high quality vehicle-oriented retail environment'. Although this statement may generally describe 16th Street East currently in this section of the City, County staff wonder whether this could be changed to a more aspirational statement to also include pedestrians (or a mix of vehicles and pedestrians)? In doing so, it may help further focus development in this area of the City to better consider pedestrian environments, instead of just being vehicle-oriented. Given that these lands also permit high-density residential uses, this would appear to be prudent. Wording could be used similar to section 3.7.2.1.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated to reflect a more 'diverse' mix of transportation options.
	3.6.2.5(c)	
32	Could the safe access be clarified to include both vehicles and pedestrians?	Acknowledged. Safe access for vehicles and pedestrians to be included.
	3.8.1.1	

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

33	Should the permitted uses in this section be expanded to include some of the additional uses already in this area such as funeral homes, gyms, etc. or is this already captured by the wording 'examples would include, but are not limited to'?	To be reviewed.
	3.8.2.1	
34	Does this size limitation of 1,500 m2 apply to all the permitted uses in 3.8.1.1 (e.g. hotels)? If so, that may appear to limit such uses to the point of not being feasible.	To be reviewed.
	3.8.4	
35	The heading in this section refers to 17th Avenue East as being a boundary for the Health and Education District. The boundary is difficult to practically determine as 17th Avenue East is not labelled on any of the schedules.	Acknowledged. 17 th Avenue East to be labeled on schedule.
	3.9.4.1, 3.9.4.2 and 3.9.4.3	
36	The design of new harbour uses including visiting boater facilities, should have regard for the working harbour and not provide a conflict with the docking or shipping of bulk freighters. Such facilities and uses should align with both the City and Transport Canada's vision for this area. If there is any policy wording that can reflect that dual vision, it would be encouraged.	Acknowledged.
	3.9.8.2 and 5.2.2.2	
37	In the review of the County Official Plan, the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) recommended new policy wording for development in proximity to wastewater treatment facilities. The City may wish to review the wording at section 8.9.1(16) of the County Plan in this regard. In section 3.9.8.2, should the term 'limited commercial uses' be further clarified or defined in the context of other commercial uses and designations listed within the Plan?	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated to reflect MECP policy language. 'Limited commercial uses' policy language to be clarified.
	3.9.9.2	
38	In section 3.9.9.2, should the term 'substantive redevelopment' be further clarified or defined in the context of the Plan?	To be reviewed.
	3.10.1.1(j)	
39	The County has generally tried to limit any new residential construction in employment areas. Wording has been considered to allow for uses such as security or maintenance employee sleeping quarters (e.g. for a security guard working a night shift), but typically a residence has not been included as a permitted use.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be clarified.

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

	3.10.2.4	
40	This section could be interpreted in a manner that could restrict a significant number of employment uses (e.g. noise extending beyond a lot-line). County staff question whether further 'leeway' could be considered here, possibly using criteria similar to the MECP D-6 Guidelines?	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.
	3.12.4.1	
41	Could this clause be expanded to further recognize the importance of the protection of the Sydenham River for natural heritage reasons?	Acknowledged.
	3.13.1.1(a)	
42	In past discussions with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), their staff have noted that it is not appropriate for municipalities to limit the intensity of agriculture. Municipalities can choose to permit agriculture, or prohibit it, but should not be placing restrictions on intensity beyond the requirements of Nutrient Management Act and Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) guidelines. The City may or may not wish to restrict new or expanding livestock facilities here, but should stay away from terminology such as 'non-intensive agriculture'.	To be reviewed.
	3.13.2.6	
43	The entirety of the City of Owen Sound is designated as a 'Primary Settlement Area' under the County Official Plan. MDS is not applied within settlement areas in the County Plan. County staff would recommend removing this clause so as to avoid any confusion in that regard.	Acknowledged. Clause to be removed.
	3.14.2.2	
44	The City may wish to include a policy exemption to note that minor refinements to the 'Hazard Lands' boundaries may not trigger the need for an OPA and can be addressed via zoning amendment, or through a future Plan update.	Acknowledged. Additional hazard lands policy exemption to be included.
	4.1.1.6 and schedule A1	
45	With the land and unit totals in this section, how does this align with the density provisions at 3.1.2.1 of the City Plan? Being an arterial road, should additional medium density lands be designated along 9th Avenue East, in areas that are not already developed in low density residential uses? Could mixed use development also be considered in some of these areas?	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.
	4.1.1.8 and schedule A1/A	

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

46	The polices and mapping in this section are slightly confusing. On schedule A1 there is a Neighbourhood Commercial designation mapped at the corner of 9th Avenue East and 26th Street East. On schedule A this same corner appears to be mapped as Arterial Commercial. If the intent is for Neighbourhood Commercial, County staff question if this mapping / designation is even needed, or should the lands just be residential, where Neighbourhood Commercial uses are a permitted use.	Acknowledged. Schedules to be reviewed and clarified.
	4.2.3.1 and schedule A2	
47	Should the lands in between the Phase 1 Institutional lands and the East City Commercial lands (on the 18th Avenue East extension out to the proposed 20th Avenue East) be designated for medium density or medium/high density residential instead of the current low density residential?	Acknowledged. Schedules to be reviewed and clarified. Further discussion required.
	4.1.5.1 and 4.3.8.2	
48	It may help to either defer to the County's Significant Woodlands mapping, or to define what a 'significant tree community' is for the purpose of this section. With respect to the identification of species at risk, the City may wish just to use the term 'qualified individual' rather than to specify an arborist.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated.
	4.2.4.1, 5.1.1.7, 5.1.9, 7.4.7.2, and 7.4.7.3	
49	County staff would flag the policies of section 8.8 of the County Plan as it applies to these sections, as well as other areas of the City where the County's CP Rail Trail passes through. While the lands are being maintained as a trail and infrastructure corridor, there may or may not be a possibly of rail returning to these lands in the future.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated to reflect section 8.8 of the County Plan.
	4.2.5.3	
50	Could the last sentence of this section be amended to note that; 'The City or County may request a traffic study to determine the alignment'?	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated.
	4.2.7.2 and 4.2.7.3	
51	Some of the unit totals and time horizons in this section may need to be adjusted.	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.
	4.3.2.3, 7.1.2.8(f), 7.4.2.4, and 9.1.5	
52	The provisions of these sections of the Plan may need to be updated based on the provincial changes to section 37 of the Planning Act regarding bonusing.	Acknowledged. Policies to be reviewed and updated in accordance with section 37 of the Planning Act as required at this time.
	4.4.1.3	

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

53	Perhaps the phrase “however the mixed land use designation is not primarily intended for commercial development” could be clarified. In the context of the preceding clauses of this section, it is not entirely clear what this means.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and clarified.
	4.4.4.2	
54	Could the County be added in the first sentence of this section to note that the City or County may require traffic improvements?	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated.
	4.4.5.2	
55	Could patios also be included in this list?	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated to include design standards for patios.
	5.1.1.4	
56	The County does not typically see policies in a municipal official plan which place requirements on a neighbouring municipality or developer, except where shared infrastructure is being utilized (e.g. a shared boundary road). The County Official Plan has requirements for traffic studies, as do most municipal official plans, which require the costs of completing those studies to be paid by the proponent. That said, if this section is being interpreted to mean the that a developer in a neighbouring municipality could be required to upgrade roads in the City, there may need to be some further discussions.	Further discussion required.
	5.1.1.10	
57	Could additional policy wording be included here, or elsewhere in the Plan to (a) rationalize the importance of transit, walking, and cycling, from a public health and environmental perspective, and (b) further incentivize these forms of transportation.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated and included in Climate Change section of City OP.
	5.1.3.15(b)	
58	Could this section be amended to simply read ‘Sidewalks shall generally be required on one side of local roads’? County staff realize that this would change the intent of this section, but from a walkability perspective this would improve local roads for pedestrians regardless of whether the road leads directly to a school or park.	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.
	5.1	
59	Following the section on local roads, should any policy guidance be provided on condominium road standards?	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.
	5.1.4.9	

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

60	<p>Could guidance be provided here encouraging parking to be located in a manner such that the relationship between the building, the sidewalk and the street are prioritized? In some cases, this may mean parking in behind commercial buildings such that the building can better frame the street versus parking lots framing the street. Section 3.8.3.5 provides some useful policy guidance in this regard.</p>	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
5.1.5.5		
61	<p>County staff support the intent of this policy. That said, perhaps it could be further clarified as it applies to existing and proposed roadways. On many local roads, cycling would be perfectly safe on the road, and if there were sidewalks on at least one side of the road, then a further 'separated trail' would not appear necessary. Perhaps this section, in conjunction with comment ID # 51 above, could be clarified. Separated trails may be necessary on some higher traffic arterial roads.</p>	Acknowledged. Further discussion required. Policy language to be updated and clarified.
5.1.6		
62	<p>County staff wonder whether additional criteria could be added to this section to guide the location of new or improved transit stops as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that potential transit locations have an accessible sidewalk, • ensuring that sidewalks continue directly to the transit stop, and • ensuring that new transit stops consider the safe unloading and loading of passengers. 	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated.
5.1.8.1		
63	<p>Policies requesting or compelling other levels of government to funding are not typically included in an official plan.</p>	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.
5.1.8.2		
64	<p>Typically, a municipal official plan does not provide direction on development in neighbouring municipalities. Policies with respect to an airport industrial park may be better suited in the Niagara Escarpment Plan or the Municipality of Meaford Official Plan, if that land use would be desirable there.</p>	To be reviewed.
5.1.4.13		
65	<p>Could these 'encouragements' for charging stations become 'requirements'?</p>	To be reviewed.
5.2.1.3		
66	<p>The word 'in' appears to be missing between the words 'maintained' and 'accordance'.</p>	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated.
5.2.2.5		

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

67	County staff recognize that there are existing scenarios where City services are extended outside of City boundaries, which are covered by existing agreements. The County would encourage the City and neighbouring municipalities to collaborate on any future agreements or servicing extensions in a manner that is beneficial to both municipalities and the County as a whole.	Acknowledged.
	5.2.4.2	
68	This policy would appear to allow for Low Impact Design (LID) stormwater management solutions, which an important sustainable option.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	5.2.4.6	
69	Should this section also note that oil and grit interceptors may also be required as a condition of site plan approval for commercial, industrial, or institutional developments as well?	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	5.2.5, 6.1.10, and Appendix A	
70	The City may wish to review the County's Historic Landfills Study at the below link: https://www.grey.ca/planning-development/planning-and-development-studies A review of section 8.10.1 and Appendix A to the County Plan may also be worth reviewing here as it relates to the City's policies and mapping. Could these two policy sections be consolidated as they are similarly named and appear to have some overlap in subject matter?	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated and simplified.
	5.2.5.3	
71	The word 'levels' appears to be missing between the words 'other' and 'of'.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated.
	5.2.5.7 and 6.1.10.5	
72	County staff would note that this matter has been discussed at County Council recently and further discussion are pending on this topic.	Acknowledged. Further discussion required.
	6.1.1.3	
73	County staff would note that schedule C to the County Plan does include Linkages within the City's boundaries. The City Plan's mapping and policies should consider this mapping and section 7.1 of the County Plan in this regard.	Acknowledged. County Plan Linkages to be reviewed.
	6.1.2.3	
74	Should reference be made in this section to any City or County tree-cutting or forest management by-laws?	Acknowledged.
	6.1.3.1	

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

75	Items (a) – (c) of this section should be deleted as the identification of Significant Woodlands in the City only applies to lands 4 hectares in size or greater.	Acknowledged. Policy to be deleted.
	3.14 and 6.14	
76	Could these two policy sections be consolidated as they are similarly named and appear to have some overlap in subject matter?	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	6.1.4.1(b)(iv)	
77	Typically, Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) are required as part of a complete application for development, rather than as a condition of approval.	Acknowledged.
	6.1.5.6	
78	The City may also wish to include mapping and an adjacent lands width for Other Wetlands as per section 7 of the County Plan.	To be reviewed.
	6.1.6	
79	In approving the County Official Plan, the Province required the following provisions to be added, which may be appropriate to consider in this section of the City Plan as well: “The County shall, prior to approving planning applications or infrastructure projects impacting areas at or below the high-water mark of any body of water, require a marine archaeological assessment to be conducted by a licensed marine archaeologist, pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act. Any marine archaeological resource that is identified shall be reported to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.”	Acknowledged. Provincial provision to be included.
	6.1.11.3	
80	The City may wish to consider amending this section with the repeal of the Green Energy Act.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	6.1.13	
81	The City may wish to review section 8.11 of the County Plan with respect to the policies that were recommended for inclusion by the MECP on this topic. Additional detail may be needed in the City Plan in this regard.	Acknowledged. County Plan policy to be reviewed and considered.
	7.1.3.6	
82	Please note that the County Official Plan defines the adjacent lands width to a protected heritage property to be 50 metres under section 9.18 of the Plan. County staff are unclear as to what (f) of this section means. The reference to the City Official Plan does not appear to make sense in this context, perhaps this clause can be reworded.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed.

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

	7.1.6.3	
83	The City may wish to provide further detail on when Archaeological Assessments are required.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed.
	7.2.3.4	
84	Could the word 'secondary' be deleted here to make this criteria applicable to all schools?	Acknowledged. 'Secondary' word to be deleted.
	7.4.2.2	
85	The measure of distance is missing from the second last sentence of this section, presumably it should read '0.5 kilometres'. The City may wish to consider deleting the reference to specific age demographics from the park criteria (i.e. young children, teenage children, parents, etc.) in an effort to strive for age-friendly public spaces.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	9.1.3	
86	While not required, the City may wish to include policies on Garden Suites as defined by the Planning Act.	Acknowledged.
	9.2.1.2	
87	The City may wish to add Archaeological Assessments to the list of possible reports needed in the preparation of a secondary plan.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	9.2.2	
88	The City may wish to highlight affordable or attainable housing as a goal or objective of a Community Improvement Area. Additional wording may also be added to promote retrofits for energy efficiency or reduction of environmental impacts and a community improvement objective.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	9.3.2.6	
89	The City may wish to include road widening as a possible condition of consent.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	9.4.2.1	
90	Should the reference to 'Plan of Vacant Land Condominium' be revised to read 'Plan of Condominium', to be clear that these provisions apply to all plans of condominium?	Acknowledged. Policy language to be reviewed and updated.
	9.4.2.2	
91	Should the cross reference here instead be referring to 'policy 9.4.1.1'?	Acknowledged. Cross reference to be updated.
	9.9.1.1	

County of Grey – Comment Response Table

92	As per section 26(1.1) of the Planning Act, an official plan shall be reviewed within 10 years after it comes into effect, and every 5 years thereafter.	Acknowledged. Policy language to be updated.
	Schedule A and A1	
93	The Hazard Land boundaries shown on schedule A1 in the northeast section of this schedule are significantly different than the Hazard Land boundaries on schedule A.	Acknowledged. Hazard Land boundaries to be confirmed and updated.
	Schedule C	
94	Should local roads also be shown in the legend on this schedule? In some cases, proposed roads are being shown here with no indication that they are only proposed and not actual roadways (i.e. proposed local roads show with no differentiation from actual local roads).	Road network to be reviewed.
	Schedule D	
95	There are some markings on this schedule that are not shown in the legend, which are also not clear what they are intended to denote (e.g. little red lines north of 8th Street East between 16th Avenue East and the CP Rail Trail). Are these intended to be local trails, or something else? The City may also wish to note that trails shown on this schedule, such as snowmobile trails, are subject to change.	Acknowledged. Schedule D to be reviewed and updated.



**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR OPA 10 PUBLIC MEETING
February 8, 2021**

- 1) Comments from John Anderson
- 2) Comments from Liz Zetlin
- 3) Comments from Dave Alexander
- 4) Comments from David Walton
- 5) Comments from Andrii (Logan) Zvorygin
- 6) Comments from Joachim Ostertag
- 7) Comments from Andrii Zvorygin
- 8) Comments from Liz Zetlin
- 9) Comments from Michael Craig
- 10) Comments from Vivian McCaffrey
- 11) Comments from Deborah Barker
- 12) Comments from Lloyd Lewis, Gord Edwards and Shawna Macivor, a Sub-Committee of NeighbourWoods North and the Owen Sound Field Naturalists
- 13) Comments from Robert Hope
- 14) Comments from Tom and Edna Burri
- 15) Comments from Kerry Lee and Bob Nadon
- 16) Comments from Ariel Barkley
- 17) Comments from David Walton
- 18) Comments from Phil Howard
- 19) Comments from Lauren Best
- 20) Comments from Ruth Scheel
- 21) Comments from Kelsey Carriere on behalf of the Glassworks Cooperative Board of Directors
- 22) Comments from James Harris
- 23) Comments from David Chevalier
- 24) Comments from Joachim Ostertag on behalf of Climate Action Team Owen Sound
- 25) Comments from Lloyd Lewis, NeighbourWoods North

- 26) Comments from Michael Craig
- 27) Comments from Chelsea Morlock
- 28) Comments from Frances Lemon
- 29) Comments from Margaret Gaviller
- 30) Comments from Noelle Rancourt
- 31) Comments from Barry Randall
- 32) Comments from Peter and Jan Middleton
- 33) Comments from Eloise Love Farla and Lucas Ostertag
- 34) Comments from Simon Farla
- 35) Comments from Rethna O'Brien
- 36) Comments from Andrii (Logan) Zvorygin
- 37) Comments from Diane Ferguson
- 38) Comments from Laura Wood on behalf of the Owen Sound Waste Watchers Planning Committee
- 39) Comments from Tyler Purdon
- 40) Comments from Alyse Boltman
- 41) Comments from Shawna Macivor
- 42) Comments from Andrew Payne on behalf of Masonry Works
- 43) Comments from David McLeish
- 44) Comments from Patrik Eichelberger

Cann, Amy

From: Dave Aston <daston@mhbcplan.com>
Sent: February 8, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Coulter, Pam; Ritchie, Wayne; Cann, Amy
Subject: FW: Official Plan Owen Sound

From: John Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: January 30, 2020 11:21 AM
To: Dave Aston
Cc: Elizabeth Zetlin
Subject: Official Plan Owen Sound

Dear Mr. Aston,

Hi, I attended your presentation and information gathering session in Owen Sound at City Hall Monday, 4-6 PM, January 27, 2020 as a member of the public. I enjoyed your presentation and was impressed with how easily you managed a diverse set of municipal councilors and staff through an initial visioning exercise.

I am a member of the local citizen group Climate Action Team - Bruce Grey Owen Sound (CAT - BGOS). I am also a retired scientist who has been very active in recent years on the "climate file" in our area, giving public lectures, teaching at the Georgian College, co-producing a local film on climate change and serving as scientific advisor to both a non-profit environmental First Nations group and the Niagara Adapts program launched last autumn.

I have cc'd this message to Liz Zetlin, Chair of the CAT - BGOS Communications sub-committee. Liz is a poet, a filmmaker and our leading local environmental and social activist with a long list of credentials.

I have three questions that greatly interest me and our group.

First, to what extent do you and your company embrace climate change planning into your work, especially as a lens for decision making across silos? Many believe without a climate action plan in place that current and future attempts to develop Official Plans and Strategic Plans will fundamentally fail to build a safe, productive and resilient future in our communities.

Second, to what extent might our group be able to participate in the Official Plan process now underway for the City of Owen Sound? I noted in your address Monday evening that you emphasized public engagement and input. I know from following climate action planning in other Ontario municipalities that public engagement was extremely important in developing comprehensive, far-reaching climate action plans. It is my understanding that previous planning processes by the City of Owen Sound have only engaged public input through surveys and Town Hall style events where individuals and organizations have been limited to oral statements. CAT - BGOS is seeking an involvement that is more engaged than previous planning exercises. Is this possible?

Third, will you and your company be involved in the Strategic Plan process to be initiated by the City of Owen Sound later this year?

Thank you for your considerations to my questions. I am sure you are very busy.

Sincerely,
John Anderson

Cann, Amy

From: Elizabeth Zetlin [REDACTED]
Sent: February 17, 2020 9:30 AM
To: OS Planning
Subject: query re March 4th meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning,

Would you please let me know the venue and time of the community engagement meeting for the Official Plan?

thank you,

Liz Zetlin
[Climate Action Team \(CAT\) BGOS](#)
[Together We Can Make A Difference](#)
[Resilience: Transforming Our Community](#)
[Owen Sound Water Watchers](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Owen Sound, ON
[REDACTED]

Cann, Amy

From: Dave Alexander [REDACTED]
Sent: March 6, 2020 1:33 PM
To: OS Planning; Coulter, Pam
Subject: Official Plan Review

Hello Amy and Pam,

Given the current review of Owen Sound's Official Plan (OP) I was hoping to clarify a few points and share some thoughts.

1. I assume that Section 7.2 Cultural Heritage under the heading of General Policies will be maintained in the updated version of the Official Plan.

2. Specifically will item "7.2.6 Heritage Records and Artifacts" continue to be listed in the new plan.

3. Some Thoughts: Our cultural-heritage infrastructure certainly supports the goals and objectives of the OP including Economic Vitality, Quality of Life, Equity, Diversity and Accessibility and others. Should the city's cultural-heritage facilities be listed in the OP (the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre, Grey Roots, Billy Bishop Home, Museum and Archives: A National Historic Site, the Owen Sound and North Grey Public Library and the Roxy Theatre (forgive me if I forgot to list an organization))? Given our ageing demographic and the importance of tourism to our local economy it is essential to maintain and grow our cultural-heritage sector in Owen Sound. These institutions should not be viewed as a costly frill for a cultural elite but as an integral component to the future growth of a vibrant and prosperous community. All of our citizens and those beyond can benefit from these institutions!

Can we better collaborate and co-ordinate in how we market these institutions? If more coherent policies and strategies were developed, there would be a resulting positive economic benefit for the City of Owen Sound.

Amy, for full disclosure, I sit as the Vice Chair for the Billy Bishop Home, Museum and Archives: A National Historic Site. The City of Owen Sound owns the house and property and financially supports us as a non-profit organization. We have been very grateful of the City's support including the most recent upgrades to the Bishop home.

Best regards,

Dave Alexander.

Cann, Amy

From: David Walton (via Google Docs) [REDACTED]
Sent: April 12, 2020 12:24 PM
To: OS Planning
Subject: Input to the official plan
Attachments: Untitled document.pdf

[REDACTED] has attached the following document:



Untitled document



I am very concerned about Climate Change and how it will affect the future. We need to make the right decisions now so I believe that every decision needs to be made through an environmental lens. I have attached a proposal that outlines how municipalities in Sweden are using this approach successfully. The book "The Natural Step for Communities" gives many practical examples of what they have done. Thank you.

Sincerely
David Walton

[REDACTED]
Owen Sound, Ont. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because [REDACTED] shared a document with you from Google Docs.



The official plan is an important document that sets out the city's direction for the next 20 years. With the climate crisis/emergency that we are facing, the environment needs to be the top priority not just one of the considerations. This means that Climate cannot be just another pillar. It means we need a "Climate/Environment Lens" which will guide all of the city council's decision making for our uncertain future, eg. building codes, housing, roads, energy, water, use of green spaces, parks, etc.

There is a movement that started in the town of Overtornea, Sweden in the mid 1980's called "eco municipalities". "Overtornea residents and town officials sought a win-win-win relationship between humans, society and nature. Residents and officials were coming to understand that investing in ecological approaches to meet community needs could also bring about an economically positive future". (page xxi, The Natural Step for Communities -Sarah James & Torbjorn Lahti).

The book "The Natural Step for Communities" outlines the four principles developed by Dr. Karl-Henrik Robert, Karl-Erik Erikson and John Holmberg.

"The Four System Conditions for Sustainability"

In the sustainable society,

-Nature is not subject to systematically increasing concentrations of substances extracted from the earth's crust.

- Nature is not subject to systematically increasing concentrations of substances produced by society.

- Nature is not subject to systematically increasing degradation by physical means.

- People are not subject to conditions that systematically undermine their capacity to meet their needs.

(4 system conditions have been taken from pages 6-8 of The Natural Step for Communities)

The four principles become four guiding objectives.

1. “Eliminate our community’s contribution to fossil fuel dependence and to wasteful use of scarce metals and minerals”
2. “Eliminate our community’s contribution to dependence upon persistent chemicals and wasteful use of synthetic substances”.
3. “Eliminate our community’s contribution to encroachment on nature(e.g., land,water,wildlife,forests,soil,ecosystems).”
4. “Meet human needs fairly and efficiently.”
(guiding objectives taken from page 9, The Natural Step for Communities)

The eco municipalities in Sweden use these objectives to guide their decision making. By using these objectives , the environment becomes the top priority as it needs to be if we are going to tackle the climate change crisis.The book goes on to give many examples of initiatives that have been successful, have created jobs and slowed the out migration from small communities.

I would like to see Owen Sound become an “eco municipality” by including these principles into the Official Plan.

Cann, Amy

From: Simmonds, Tim
Sent: November 20, 2020 3:29 PM
To: Coulter, Pam; Cann, Amy
Cc: Edwards, Sharon
Subject: Fwd: Very Disturbing Owen Sound Draft Plan

OP Related

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Website Feedback <feedback@owensound.ca>
Date: November 20, 2020 at 2:56:00 PM EST
To: "Simmonds, Tim" <tsimmonds@owensound.ca>
Subject: FW: Very Disturbing Owen Sound Draft Plan

Hi Tim,

I wasn't sure who to forward this to for a response.

Thanks,
Sharon

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrii Zvorygin [REDACTED]
Sent: November 20, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Website Feedback <feedback@owensound.ca>
Subject: Very Disturbing Owen Sound Draft Plan

Hi,

I recently read the draft plan update and was extremely disturbed by the fact that it mentions urban intensification a total of 19 times, when Owen Sound is already more than double or possibly quadruple over long-term carrying capacity. Historically such situations often end in collapse of civilizations.

Currently the only reason it is possible to live at such high densities is fossil fuels. There are no viable alternatives which can replace them, not enough lithium for batteries in the world, nor enough rare earth metals for everyone to have photovoltaic panels to sustain growing energy demand.

Current price of fossil fuels are being kept artificially low through government subsidies. Eventually either the subsidies will end, and fuel prices will go up, increasing food prices.

Historically when a population exceeds long term carrying capacity, and there is a sudden dip in carrying capacity (higher food prices), it ends as protests, and if unresolved civil war, which if may further lead to the collapse of the civilization. This has happened time and time again

throughout human history.

I wrote an article citing many sources in regards to this here:

<https://1being.org/2020/11/19/excessive-urban-intensification-collapses-civilizations/>

There is every reason to believe that the effects of a global fossil fuel reduction may precipitate mass rioting and civil wars which would disrupt the global supply chain, and thus exacerbating the problem until we're left with just local resources. As you may know there is no fossil fuel sources in Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound which can be used to refuel cars or trucks.

Our local transportation methods not dependent on fossil fuels are horses and human powered vehicles. A horse drawn carriage loaded with goods can sustainably travel 30-60km a day. With current population of Owen Sound, at current ecological footprint of 8 hectares per person, we'd need about 1840km² to meet the food needs of Owen Sounders.

This can be accomplished within a radius of 30km from Owen Sound.

However current agricultural methods are also fossil fuel dependent, and the only reason they are able to make such large surpluses. Each North American has the equivalent of 100 slaves working for them via fossil fuel expenditures. Of course we also have migrant workers being paid less than the minimum wage -- which isn't far off from slavery -- to keep food prices artificially low.

In order for people to meet their own food needs, and minimized their burden on society, they need to have enough land to do. In fact Canada has signed and ratified Human Rights Treaties to that effect:

<https://joylifecoop.wordpress.com/2020/10/16/right-to-land-in-canada/>

Considering the current unsustainable levels of population density in Owen Sound proper it is simply impossible to continue intensifying and expect any good outcome. If anything we need to annex Georgian Bluffs or one of the other neighbouring municipalities so that we can grow sustainably by making lots which are a minimum of 1 hectare in size, so there is at least a chance for people living sustainably by meeting their own basic needs.

1 hectare of land is enough for someone on a 98% plant based diet to meet their food needs, and have a little lumber for cooking left over, assuming they have a subterranean or small passive solar home which doesn't require heating to prevent hypothermia in the winter.

I have heard there was talk about joining with one of the nearby municipalities and am strongly in favour of doing so, if Owen Sound wants to be sustainable in future. The alternative would be to have de-intensification, where lots aren't allowed to have severances less than 1 hectare in size. To increase number of housing options, can also disallow merging lots larger than 10 hectares (10 hectares would be enough to feed 1 human carnivore).

In theory the absolute minimum for a vegan is 1/4 hectare size, that is covered in a food forest, and any buildings are underneath the canopy, or preferably below the root level. However this would imply that any and firewood would have to imported, and a low harvest year would yield a famine situation.

I'm happy to provide lots more sources, of books, studies, videos, or whatever format you like, have a phone conversation or meeting to discuss further. And would like to be kept abreast any

further community consultations.

Thanks,

--

Andrii (Logan) Zvorygin,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wen Sound, ON, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

You can use encrypted email with me from protonmail.

Cann, Amy

Subject: RE: Official Plan

-----Original Message-----

From: Joachim Ostertag [REDACTED]
Sent: December 4, 2020 10:37 AM
To: Coulter, Pam <pcoulter@owensound.ca>
Subject: Official Plan

Hi Pam,

I hope you are doing well with your very busy schedules.

At Climate Action Owen Sound we are wondering about council meeting on Dec 14. In the Staff Report for the Official Plan draft it states under 3.Directs staff to provide Notice of Open House and Public Meeting for the Council meeting on December 14, 2020. Does that mean that the community could / is encouraged to respond on that day, or do we wait till Jan 20? And if we can respond on Dec 14, in what form, letters etc?

Thank you so much and have a great weekend with some outdoor time joachim

Official Plan Update Comment Form

If you wish to provide comments or feedback on the Official Plan Update, please complete this form.

Please note all submissions will form part of the public record.

Enter your First Name: *

Enter your Last Name: *

Enter your Street Address: *

Enter your City: *

Enter your Postal Code: *

Email Address *

Comments/Feedback: *

There are many mentions of intensification, which historically leads to poverty, economic decline, and the collapse of civilizations.
In order to have a sustainable community at this latitude and ecoregion the maximum density is about 1 hectare per person.
In order to lower the density appropriately it is best to merge with Georgian Bluffs, as they have the most proximity.

I'm willing to make a public statement to this effect, cite many books and articles.
I wrote an article about it here:
<https://1being.org/2020/11/19/excessive-urban-intensification-collapses-civilizations/>

If we wish to sustain Owen Sound for 7+ generations and have decent quality of life, we need to plan sustainably.
Our density is already too high, and it is causing things like homelessness, joblessness, and other unpleasantness.
International Human Rights Treaties Canada has signed require that each citizen have enough land to meet their basic needs.
Intensification is going in the opposite direction.
<https://joylifecoop.wordpress.com/2020/10/16/right-to-land-in-canada/>

Personal Information:

Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the *Planning Act* and the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, C.25, as amended. The information collected will be used to complete the Official Plan Amendment process and will form part of the public record.

Questions about this collection should be directed to the City Clerk:

Briana Bloomfield
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4
Phone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1247
Email: bbloomfield@owensound.ca

Thank You

Your comments/feedback have been submitted to the City of Owen Sound.

Letter Written to the Owen Sound Hub, January 13, 2021

The City of Owen Sound has completed a draft Official Plan that is available [on the city website](#) and will be presented at a virtual Open House on Wednesday January 20 at 4 p.m.

The Owen Sound Official Plan is Council's contract with city residents, guiding land use development and growth within the context of social, economic, built and environmental matters in Owen Sound, over a 20-year time horizon.

Official Plans are a big deal, and in 2021, Official Plans are a really big deal. In the midst of a pandemic that exposes many cracks in our systems, the climate crisis continues to grow. Now more than ever, Official Plans need to require Climate Action Plans that include a climate lens with clear mitigation and adaptation goals.

Over the past year and a half, The Climate Action Team Owen Sound (CATOS) has been actively involved in community engagement, public education, municipal collaboration and local projects. CATOS has provided input to the discussion papers prepared by the city hired consultant, who has guided the Official Planning process. The consultant's report to city staff states: "sustainability and climate change were prominent topics that were mentioned during all forms of consultation and engagement." The city consultant further stated: "The new Official Plan must embrace the notion of climate change and assess its implications upon the community's social, environmental and economic activities." None of these recommendations are reflected in the draft Official Plan. The city has not followed its own process and did not incorporate community input into the draft Official plan.

The city also has not complied with the Ontario Planning Act RSO 1990 which states: "An Official Plan shall contain policies that identify goals, objectives, and action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to provide for adaptation to a changing climate through increasing resiliency."

The [Owen Sound draft Official Plan](#) is out of step with other municipalities and all three levels of government. Similar municipalities in the province, some of which the consultant included in the recommendations, address climate change throughout their Official Plans. Grey County started developing a [Climate Action Plan](#) in 2019. Ontario has Green House Gas emissions targets of reducing emissions to 30% below 2005 levels by 2030 and nationally of net 0 emissions by 2050. Owen Sound's Official Plan draft has no emissions targets, which is a glaring problem when time is running out on reversing climate change.

Without an Official Plan that includes climate action, Owen Sound will not be in line to receive funding from any level of government. That money will go to municipalities that have Climate Action Plans that include both adaptation and mitigation goals, objectives and actions.

Climate Action Team Owen Sound urges the community to join us in expressing their plea to Owen Sound City Council for an Official Plan that ensures that a climate lens is applied in all land use development and growth plans.

Participate in the Virtual Open House Wed Jan 20 @ 4:00 p.m. If you wish to speak, register with slandry@owensound.ca by Mon Jan 18. If you wish to submit written comments, send to slandry@owensound.ca by Wed Jan 20 @ 2:00 p.m.

Liz Zetlin

Owen Sound

From: Michael Craig [REDACTED]
Sent: January 14, 2021 2:38 PM
To: OS Planning <osplanning@owensound.ca>
Subject: Where is the draft plan?

Ms. Cann, I have reviewed the OS web site but have not been able to find a copy of a draft of the revised official plan. I did find, in the 2017 official plan, a section on the Environment, which is my primary interest. However, has there been an update to this section? Has the need to address the impacts of climate change been addressed in the 2020-21 draft? Can you send me a copy of the full revised draft plan?

Michael Craig
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Vivian McCaffrey, [REDACTED] Owen Sound, ON [REDACTED]

January 15, 2021

Briana Broomfield
City Clerk
City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4

Re: City of Owen Sound Official Plan

I am writing to express concern regarding the failure of the City's draft Official Plan (OP) to address climate change and reflect the community support for this issue to be regarded as a City priority. This community support was well-documented by the consultant hired by the City to guide the development of the updated OP. Furthermore, while the second paragraph of the OP refers to a vision "that offers high quality amenities surrounded by unique natural heritage features," the OP utterly fails to support that vision.

Where are the policies that identify goals, objectives, and actions to mitigate greenhouse gas omissions and assist the community to adapt to climate change, as required by the provincial *Planning Act*?

While the federal and provincial governments both hold major responsibility for addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas omissions, municipalities also have a vital role to play. Other municipalities have stepped up to respond to these issues; there is no excuse for the City of Owen Sound not to do the same.

The OP does include a Preservation Tree Policy, but absent are measures that support a significant expansion of the City's tree canopy. Expanding the tree canopy and taking bolder action against developers that remove trees without permission would be simple and cost-effective ways to remove carbon from the air, reduce the risk of flooding, and enhance the attractiveness of livability of the City.

My husband and I moved to the Owen Sound area less than two years ago, attracted by the natural beauty of the area. Even during that short period of time, our property has experienced severe damage caused by what locals tell us are storms worse than they have ever seen. We are concerned about the immediate dangers climate change pose for our property, but we have even greater concerns for what the changing climate will mean for the viability of the planet. So much has been written about how little time is left to address climate change. Why is the City failing to act?

The Official Plan is an important document that will have a huge impact on the City's quality of life and its viability as a destination that people want to move to. An increased and more diverse population is key to economic viability. It is imperative that the OP be amended to ensure that policies that address climate change are applied to all City land use development and growth plans.

Sincerely,



Vivian McCaffrey

Copy: Owen Sound Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors

On Jan 16, 2021, at 10:18 AM, Deborah Barker [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Carol. I hope all is well with you!

I am writing regarding the OS draft official plan. I have read that the plan does not include a Climate Action Plan with specific Greenhouse gas emission mitigation goals and also does not plan for adaptations that will be necessary for a changing climate. I understand this is a draft plan and trust that this crucial issue will be addressed in future drafts and certainly in the final plan.

Thank you for your continued work on council.

Deborah

Origin:

<https://www.owensound.ca/Modules/contact/search.aspx?s=IX5gXDTyLH1cm6hWbDEAUgeQuAleQuAl>

This email was sent to you by Deborah Barker [REDACTED] through

<https://www.owensound.ca>.

On Jan 16, 2021, at 3:25 PM, Shawna Macivor [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello John and Carol,

Thank you so much for giving us your time and advice yesterday. We are grateful for your insight into the process here - and your willingness to talk with others about our Tree Cities of the World proposal. We think (hope) this is a positive concrete proposal that will appeal to a wide variety of folks.

As you requested, John, we are attaching a two page memo (everything squeezed in 😊) on the standards that must be met by applicant cities.

Please use as you see fit in talking with other councillors, or officials like Pam and Dennis. I'll also attach separately the Application Checklist that is part of the online package for applying - as it provides a little more detail.

Carol, you asked about evidence for lower crime and higher reported well-being in settings with more trees and greenery. There is a lot of research on this. We will send some links separately (so as not to confuse matters).

We would love to hear any additional comments or advice after you've had time to review the attached and chat with a few others. Meantime, thanks very much again,

with gratitude from 'tree volunteers'

Lloyd, Gord and Shawna

PS - We included an image of the City's Coat of Arms in the memo. It's fascinating to see that it places a tree at the centre top. The Latin motto "Arbor virga fuit" translates to 'as the twig is bent so grows the tree'. We take this to mean, roughly, "start as you mean to go on". A good omen?

Proposal for the City of Owen Sound to become a 'Tree City of the World'

From:

Lloyd Lewis, Gord Edwards and Shawna Macivor
A sub-committee of NeighbourWoods North and the Owen Sound Field Naturalists

<https://www.neighbourwoodsnorth.com/>

<https://owensoundfielddnaturalists.ca/>



Overall Purpose:

To increase our Nature-scape and tree coverage in the City of Owen Sound by becoming a Tree City of the World.

Rationale:

Owen Sound is amending its Official Plan for the next decade. Its current draft pays attention to the need for more natural planting and management within the city. This direction seems to reflect what most citizens want. The city faces increasing pressure to lower CO2 emissions in compliance with provincial and federal directives to deal with climate change. Tree planting is the easiest and cheapest tool we have to extract carbon from the air. Trees also help cool summer temperatures, reduce the risk of flooding and severe storms, and keep soils moist to counteract drought. They are also associated with human health and well-being.

Method:

Owen Sound can apply for recognition as a Tree City of the World.

<https://treecitiesoftheworld.org/>

If successful Owen Sound would join five other Ontario cities (Guelph, Whitby, Mississauga, Thunder Bay and Toronto) with this designation.

The advantages of such recognition by an international body are:

- a) Ability to market Owen Sound to residents, tourists, businesses and potential entrepreneurs as a 'Tree City of the World' (TCW)
- b) Ability to use the TCW designation as support in requests for funding from Federal and provincial budgets (and TD bank) for tree planting in the Urban Forest.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/12/minister-oregan-launches-canadas-plan-to-plant-two-billion-trees.html>

<https://forestsontario.ca/en/program/50-million-tree-program>

- c) An opportunity for a collaborative City/Community liaison committee to guide and monitor progress – and bring recommendations to Council. This would be led by the City with membership comprised of representatives from the County, the Conservation Authority, Georgian Bluffs and 'nature' volunteers such as Neighbourwoods North.

What is Required for a Municipality to Apply to be a Tree City of the World?

There are five standards or expectations to apply for this recognition.

These are listed here: <https://treecitiesoftheworld.org/standards.cfm>

a) **Standard One – Responsibility for Tree Cities**

a. *“For the city tree canopy to meet local goals for sustainability and resilience, there must be a person, department, or group of citizens with the responsibility for tree planting, care and planning. The application will ask you to identify who is responsible for city trees.”*

COMMENT – negligible cost as the City already has designated responsibility for tree planting and care (staff in parks & recreation, and newly hired tree arborist?)

b) **Standard Two - City Tree Policies**

a. *“Rules for tree planting, care, and removal that are accessible to city staff and residents set the stage for quality tree coverage, on city-owned lands or private property. The application will ask you to describe the laws or policies that govern the care of city trees.”*

COMMENT – negligible cost as OS already has some tree policies and by-laws

c) **Standard Three - Tree and Forest Assessments**

a. *“To devise an effective plan for managing city trees and forests, it is essential to understand the tree and forest resource. Applicants will have access to a recent inventory survey, or canopy assessment, and the summary data and report detailing the extent, character and condition of trees and forests. The application will ask for at least one of the types of assessment [listed in the Application Checklist] and the method used to calculate it.”*

COMMENT – In 2019 Grey County undertook an air to ground survey using LIDAR technology. There would be a cost to extract the municipal data from the county findings, and turn them into a report

d) **Standard Four – Annual Budget**

a. *“Management of the urban forest depends on budgeted funding and donated resources that are allocated each year for tree planting, care and other management activities.”*

COMMENT – probable admin cost to separate out tree funding from various departments

e) **Standard Five – Celebrating Achievements**

a. *“Celebrations of trees – and the city staff and volunteers who*

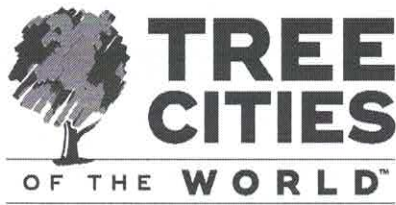
work to keep them healthy – are central to communicating the importance of trees to the public. How did your community celebrate city trees and forests during the year.”

COMMENT – low cost; probably already being done, if in a minor way

Why Support this Project?

- a) With its (still draft) amended Official Plan, Owen Sound is on the cusp of taking a new ‘greener’ approach to city management. Applying for Tree City of the World recognition would help the city coordinate efforts to move in this direction – and bring in more funding. Could the intention to apply for such recognition be incorporated into the Official Plan?

2



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

TREE CITIES OF THE WORLD™ is an annual international recognition programme celebrating cities and towns committed to planting, maintaining, and celebrating urban trees and forests. This checklist is designed for you to collect the information and documentation required to apply for recognition, it is not an application for recognition. Applications will be submitted online at TreeCitiesoftheWorld.org and the application deadline each year is December 31.

CITY INFORMATION

Content to include on application: To apply for recognition as a Tree City, you will be asked to provide some basic information about your city:

- City name and country
- Current population
- Applicant contact information

Type of Local Government (check one)

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City | <input type="checkbox"/> Town/ship | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Village | <input type="checkbox"/> Borough | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

STANDARD 1: RESPONSIBILITY FOR CITY TREES

For the city tree canopy to meet local goals for sustainability and resilience, there must be a person, a department, or a group of citizens — often called a Tree Board — with the responsibility for tree planting, care, and planning. The application will ask you to identify who is responsible for city trees:

Our city has a (*check any that apply*): City Tree Manager Department/Office Tree Board

Content to include on application: Names, qualifications, and contact information for responsible parties; schedule for tree board or department meetings; key issues addressed during the year.

STANDARD 2: CITY TREE POLICIES

Rules for tree planting, care, and removal that are accessible to city staff and residents set the stage for quality tree coverage, on city owned lands or private property. The application will ask you to describe the laws or policies that govern the care of city trees:

- Our city has a law or an official policy that governs the management of forests and trees. These rules describe how tree planting, tree care, and tree removal work will be performed by city staff, contractors, or residents.

Content to include on application: Links to current laws or policies for tree care.

STANDARD 3: TREE AND FOREST ASSESSMENTS

To devise an effective plan for managing city trees and forests, it is essential to understand the tree and forest resource. Applicants will have access to a recent inventory, survey, or canopy assessment and the summary data and report detailing the extent, character, and condition of trees and forests. The application will ask for at least one of the following and the method used to calculate it:

- Count/number of street trees (within 5 years)
- Count/number of park trees (within 5 years)
- Percent tree canopy coverage (within 10 years)

Methods Used for Counts (check all that apply)

- Complete census
- i-Tree Canopy
- Sample inventory
- Hi-res canopy study

Content to include on application: Links to current assessment and inventory reports. For inventories, list year completed, number of public trees, tree diversity chart, tree size chart, and if sample or complete census. For canopy assessments list year of assessment, canopy extent, percent coverage, and how estimate was derived.

STANDARD 4: ANNUAL BUDGET

Management of the urban forest depends on budgeted funding and donated resources that are allocated each year for tree planting, care, and other management activities. The application will ask for documentation of:

- City budget for tree planting, maintenance, and removal

Content to include on application: Numbers of trees planted, maintained, and removed during the year, with associated staff time, purchases, and in-kind contributions.

STANDARD 5: CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Celebrations of trees — and the city staff and volunteers who work to keep them healthy — are central to communicating the importance of trees to the public. How did your community celebrate city trees and forests during the year? For dates when different countries celebrate trees and tree planting, see arborday.org/celebrate/world-dates.

- Our city held one or more public events celebrating city trees and the workers who plant and maintain them.

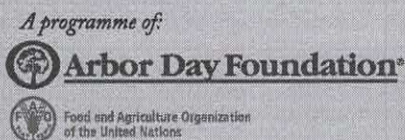
Content to include on application: Name and date of event(s); programme of activities and/or city proclamation; estimate(s) of attendance; media coverage and photos.

CERTIFICATION

Content to include on application: The application for recognition through Tree Cities of the World™ requires an official digital signature from the appropriate chief executive (e.g. mayor, city administrator).

For more information, go to TreeCitiesoftheWorld.org

Page 2 of 2



On Jan 17, 2021, at 3:07 PM, Robert Hope [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Carol, hope all is well in your world.

The new Official Plan must contain a strong consideration for Climate Change, including actions. We are surrounded by excellent examples of actions that can be taken with little regard from the City. This needs to change.

Origin: <https://www.owensound.ca/en/city-hall/mayor-and-council.aspx>

This email was sent to you by Robert Hope [REDACTED] through <https://www.owensound.ca>.

From: Tom Burri [REDACTED]

Date: January 17, 2021 at 9:51:52 PM EST

To: "Boddy, Ian", "O'Leary, Brian", "Dodd, Travis", "Greig, Scott", "Hamley, Brock", "Koepeke, Marion", "Merton, Carol", "Tamming, John A.", "Thomas, Richard", "Simmonds, Tim"

Subject: Owen Sound Official Plan

About 15 years ago, Edna and I had a vision to design a home which we could retire to and live out the rest of our lives. We built the house just for the 2 of us with the provision for live in care if it became necessary. We designed the house with extra soy based insulation, triple pane windows, an open profile driveway, a large rainwater reservoir for our landscape watering, all heating requirements by natural gas, one 10KW solar panel microfit, an additional 10KW solar panel net metering, one all electric car and one hybrid car.

So...Why are we telling you all of this? The answer is that we saw a need to address the subject of climate change years ago and, in our small way, we are trying to help. To our dismay, it appears the Draft of the City's Official Plan is lacking in addressing the issue of climate change. Why has our City and council become so reactionary instead of progressive as many other communities have. It is great to be conservative but better if you are also progressive.

There is an interesting article in the Saturday Sun Times titled "PM tells Freeland to spend on temporary relief measures". The part that particularly caught my eye was the letter to each of the ministers that make repeated references to greening the Canadian economy. The one for Freeland includes an order that she work on a border carbon adjustment that would essentially impose duties on goods from countries that don't have a price on pollution. Like it or not, climate change considerations are becoming a necessary part of the way we will be conducting our lives and doing business. Councillors and City, please make the right move and include climate change considerations in the Official Plan.

Respectfully,

Tom and Edna Burri

From: Kerry Lee [REDACTED]
Sent: January 17, 2021 12:10 PM
To: OS Planning <osplanning@owensound.ca>
Subject: Draft Official Plan

To the Honourable Mayor Ian Boddy and to all City Councillors,

We are writing to urge you to address climate change clearly and strongly in the new Official Plan. Climate change is real as headlines this week declared “2020 rivals hottest year on record”. If we want a world that is safe and comfortable for us, our children, and grandchildren, every individual and every level of government needs to do what we can to change our ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It is extremely concerning that the city has ignored the recommendations of the consultant who stated “The new Official Plan must embrace the notion of climate change and assess its implications upon the community...” The consultant was reflecting all the community input received during the engagement processes, stressing that there needed to be a climate lens and mitigation goals.

The "Sustainability" Goal does briefly mention the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and changing climate, but there is no mention of climate change in "Quality of Life", "Urban Design", or "Infrastructure". Climate change is such an urgent issue, it needs to be a priority consideration.

We understand that many other municipalities have adopted Climate Action Plans and have put climate mitigation at the forefront, where it should be.

We plead with you to provide this community with an Official Plan that ensures a climate lens is applied in all land use development and growth plans.

Thank you,
Kerry Lee, retired Owen Sound lawyer, and Bob Nadon, owner of the Owen Sound business, Upper Canada Stretchers

Official Plan Update Comment Form

If you wish to provide comments or feedback on the Official Plan Update, please complete this form.

Please note all submissions will form part of the public record.

Enter your First Name: *

Enter your Last Name: *

Enter your Street Address: *

Enter your City: *

Enter your Postal Code: *

Email Address *

Comments/Feedback: *

January 18, 2021
 Respected Members of City Council:

The matter of Climate Change is before us all. You will be putting plans in place to bring our community forward into the next critical years. Please put the consultation regarding a Climate Action Plan high on your priority list. I am a grand parent now and feel an urgent responsibility to address and act on this topic. There is no doubt that many people are aware of the dire consequences of leaving this subject of climate action unattended in 2021. There are many people, as well, who are willing to help out and to work on the process of planning and change. We can all affect the well-being of our planet, on behalf of the generations yet to come. Your strong leadership and guidance on this topic of climate change are sincerely, greatly needed now!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Ariel Barkley

Personal Information:

Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the *Planning Act* and the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, C.25, as amended. The information collected will be used to complete the Official Plan Amendment process and will form part of the public record.

Questions about this collection should be directed to the City Clerk:

Briana Bloomfield
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4
Phone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1247
Email: bbloomfield@owensound.ca

Thank You

Your comments/feedback have been submitted to the City of Owen Sound.

**Comments on the draft Official Plan for Owen Sound
Jan. 16, 2021**

I am very disappointed in this draft Official Plan. Initial public consultation and the consultant's report indicated that Climate Change should rank prominently in the plan . There should be a strong statement at the beginning of the document stating that all decisions would be made with the environment, climate change and mitigation as the top priorities.

This official plan in contrast to other communities' plans basically ignores climate change and sustainability.

The plan is very weakly worded using "may require" in many many places that should be "must require" or "will require".

The City has not complied with the Ontario Planning Act RSO 1990 Section III – Official Plans, item 16(1) Contents of Official Plans, Climate Change Policies

(14): "An official plan shall contain policies that identify goals, objectives, and action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to provide for adaptation to a changing climate through increasing resiliency. 2017 c.23, s.5(2)

There is no evidence that the draft Owen Sound Official Plan complies with requirements of the Planning Act or reflects a key issue identified by the consultant "The new OP must embrace the notion of climate change and assess its implications upon our community's social, environmental and economic activities."

This OP is out of step with other municipalities and Grey County as it doesn't set any goals for emission reductions. This will eliminate funding possibilities from upper levels of government that would help to achieve emission reduction goals.

Sincerely
David Walton

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Landry, Staci](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: draft Official Plan for the City of Owen Sound.
Date: January 18, 2021 10:07:38 AM

Dear Council Members and Staff of the City of Owen Sound:

I am writing you to express my concern, even distress, upon reading the draft Official Plan released in December of 2020 to note the lack of prominence given to the planning regarding mitigation of the effects of Climate change. In light of the reality that we live in the largest municipality in Grey-Bruce, with the densest population and considerable infrastructure, we could most certainly make a significant contribution to the effort if we focused our planning in that direction. Also we could provide some leadership along with the surrounding municipalities that are undertaking planning in their jurisdictions – we don't need to invent the wheel as our neighbours are already moving on this issue.

The effects of Climate change are already with us and will continue to exacerbate the challenges of dealing with erratic weather and flooding. As a senior, my life will not be impacted to the same degree as those of my children and grandchildren. For them I must speak and act as if this is MY/OUR problem to deal with now. I would implore you to rethink your Official Plan adding a climate lens and remember the youth who stood in front of you a year ago when you pledged to act on their behalf. There is a community that would support your efforts as needed or permitted.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Howard

[REDACTED]

Owen Sound.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Landry, Staci](#)
Subject: Comments regarding Official Plan to be read at open house
Date: January 18, 2021 11:11:35 AM

Hello,

Please find my comments below:

It is with great disappointment and concern that I learned about the lack of climate action in the city's official plan draft. It is unconscionable that with current knowledge of science and our moral obligation to act to prevent human suffering and environmental devastation, that our beloved city would be without a strong plan to adapt to our changing climate and mitigate greenhouse gases. I am one of many city residents who believe that it is essential to follow the Ontario Planning Act RSO 1990 which states: "An Official Plan shall contain policies that identify goals, objectives, and action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to provide for adaptation to a changing climate through increasing resiliency."

Please consider my perspective as the kind of resident that the city repeatedly states would want to live in Owen Sound, and indeed the kind of resident Owen Sound wishes to attract: I'm a 30 year old mother of a young child with another baby on the way, an entrepreneur, recognized as a contributor to arts culture locally, a homeowner, and I generally tell people how much I love living in Owen Sound. However, actions by the city government such as this leave me feeling betrayed and frustrated, and I sincerely hope that the city can uphold its obligation to follow its own process and incorporate community input into the city's official plan. Please listen to the pleas of your citizens, as reflected by the consultant's report to city staff.

Thank you,
Lauren Best

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Landry, Staci](#)
Subject: Owen Sound Waste Management-public input on official plan
Date: January 18, 2021 3:13:13 PM

Greetings

I feel that a Green Bin Collection should be added to the biweekly garbage and recycling schedule.

I am shocked that this city does not collect compost as part of this service.

As much as 50 -60% of a households garbage is compostable and it is negligent that we are not using green bins to collect compost.

This is one small thing that every household could do to reduce the amount of garbage that goes into the landfill sites and incorporated into a Climate Action Plan

Ruth Scheel



Glassworks Cooperative

www.glassworks.coop

January 18, 2021

To the Officials of the City of Owen Sound

Re: Draft Official Plan Review

This letter is in response to the draft Official Plan which will guide the next 20 years of growth in our community. With congratulations on the monumental task of completing the draft, and on the content of the four wonderful discussion papers. With this letter we urgently call upon the City to incorporate the excellent recommendations of the discussion papers into the Official Plan itself, as this document will govern all land use and development into 2040. The City has expressed its commitment to growing to 30,000 while reducing emissions by 45% by 2030. Let us meet these challenges as opportunities.

SUPPORTING MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

Mixed use development supports the development of complete communities and more sustainable living and we would like to see an acknowledgement of this is the City's Official Plan to permit mixed use on sites where we might meet our desperate need for affordable housing by permitting mixed-used residential development on currently zoned employment lands which included compatible employment opportunities like food production, office and teaching facilities. Compatibility of mixed uses can be regulated through the control of noxious uses as opposed to through strict zoning definitions and we must recognize too that employment trends are less and less geared towards incompatible uses like industrial manufacturing, and more towards compact, high-tech, or small scale manufacturing.

The 2006 Official Plan Background Study conducted by The Biglieri Group Planners clearly recommends that the Official Plan "move towards the re-designation of this area for future residential and commercial mixed-use purposes" as they found that in Owen Sound "there are current over-designations of industrial lands that may have locational advantages for alternative uses, such as residential, commercial or re-defined industrial."

In the [Land Use Discussion Paper](#) it is also recommended that in relation to Employment Lands, that the City should support policies that "support creative and technology focused industries" and best practices highlighted that "facilitate growth in the 'new economy' and support and/or consider creative partnerships toward the creation of innovative work spaces," and "consider opportunities for creative industries, home occupations and live-work units" and we would like to see these acknowledged in the Official Plan.

SUPPORTING BROAD RANGE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS

As noted in the [Land Use Discussion Paper](#), “a greater range of types and housing densities will support housing choice and availability in the City” and it highlights best practices including “review housing policies to include a range of housing types” and to “support a full range of housing types and tenures to meet the needs of all residents in various land use designations.

The Provincial Policy Statement as well as the Grey County Official Plan both support the development of more compact living quarters or “tiny homes” with a minimum square footage of 188 sq ft defined by the province while the minimum square footage defined in Owen Sound’s zoning by-law is 968 sq ft.

Tiny homes and innovative co-housing facilities fill a gap in attainable housing provision, especially in community-type settings where shared amenities are provided on site. [The Housing and Affordability Discussion Paper](#) recommends that the City strengthen policies that “encourage a diverse range of housing by type, size, tenure and affordability” and provide policy direction for “consideration of alternative housing forms, for example tiny homes and Additional Residential Units” and we would like to see a provision acknowledging the value of encouraging a greater range of housing options, as a means of supporting affordable, sustainable living, in the Official Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

Throughout the four discussion papers prepared to guide the Official Plan update, and in particular the [Sustainability and Climate Discussion Paper](#), a climate lens is incorporated into land use development, housing development and all aspects of City Planning. It is essential that we be accountable to these commitments by incorporating measurable targets and regulations to ensure that every decision we make as Owen Sound continues to grow will ensure a viable future for our community and our planet. This essential sustainability and climate lens needs to be reflected throughout our Official Plan to ensure that we are not only encouraging, but requiring sustainable action in every stage of our development.

The Glassworks Cooperative is in the process of purchasing 46 acres abutting the Upper Bayshore Study Area and the East Bluffs Planning Area between 26th and 23rd Street East, and we look forward to your support in working together to meet our shared goals of building strong, resilient, complete communities through climate commitment and thoughtful, affordable housing and mixed use development.

With kindest regards,



Kelsey Carriere, MScPI

On behalf of the Glassworks Cooperative Board of Directors

Official Plan Update Comment Form

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Please note all submissions will form part of the public record.

Enter your First Name: *

Enter your Last Name: *

Enter your Street Address: *

Enter your City: *

Enter your Postal Code: *

Email Address *

Comments/Feedback: *

I'm concerned as per the reporting of local news media that the 20 year plan lacks adequate reference to addressing climate change in its plan which might have a negative effect on our ability as a municipality to participate in future provincial and federal funding strategies based around fighting climate change.

It seems clear that Climate Change is not going away on its own and if we don't plan for it now we're bound to be caught unaware and underprepared.

Please consider a pause for review, more public conversation, consultation, and the addition of measures and metrics that address climate change within our own community.

thank you

Personal Information:

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Briana Bloomfield
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4
Phone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1247
Email: bbloomfield@owensound.ca

Thank You

Your comments/feedback have been submitted to the City of Owen Sound.

From: [Eckenswiller, Jamie](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Coulter, Pam](#); [Cann, Amy](#); [Landry, Staci](#)
Subject: RE: Questions for Budget Public Meeting
Date: January 20, 2021 1:59:43 PM

Good afternoon Mr. Chevalier,

Your comments were read at the January 18, 2021 Public Budget meeting and it was determined that your comments would be best addressed at the Official Plan Open House that is taking place this afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Your comments have been forwarded to the appropriate staff for them to be addressed at the Open House.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Best,

Jamie Eckenswiller, AMP
Deputy City Clerk
City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Avenue East
OWEN SOUND ON N4K 2H4
519-376-4440 ext. 1235
jeckenswiller@owensound.ca

From: Bloomfield, Briana <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>
Sent: January 18, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Mayor & Council <Council@owensound.ca>
Cc: Directors <Directors@owensound.ca>; Eckenswiller, Jamie <jeckenswiller@owensound.ca>
Subject: Questions for Budget Public Meeting

Good afternoon,

I received the questions below for tonight's public meeting. I will be reading them out, but wanted to give you a heads up. When we re-publish the agenda tomorrow, they will be attached to the agenda as an addendum.

Sincerely,

Briana Bloomfield
City Clerk
808 2nd Avenue East
OWEN SOUND ON N4K 2H4
519.376.4440 ext. 1247

On January 18, 2021 at 11:58:52 AM, Mail Delivery System (mailer-daemon@smtpgrave03.hostedemail.com) wrote:

Hi Brianna,

Following are my questions to be read to the Council for the Public Meeting and and to pass a by-law to adopt the 2021 Budget.

1. What training or new expertise is being brought in to measure emissions to reach climate goals and ensure sustainability for the City of Owen Sound? Without measurement goals cannot be achieved.
2. Is there budget allocated for these important items?
3. Does the City of Owen Sound have the capacity and manpower to address increasing demand on the planning department?
4. If the City of Owen Sound is spending money on recommendations for planning purposes why are the recommendations of these experts not being implemented?
5. In the draft plan why has Owen Sound City Council chosen to ignore the Ontario Planning Act RSO 1990?

Thanks,

David Chevalier, Founder
Wiretone Records



Subject: Comments – Owen Sound Official Plan Draft December 24, 2020
To: S. Landry, Community Services Administrative Assistant
From: Climate Action Team – Owen Sound (CATOS)
Date: January 20, 2021

Executive Summary

CATOS attached response to the draft Owen Sound Official Plan includes:

Background on the review process of the Official Plan

- In-house council and staff consultation and review, public input process, consultant generated discussion papers in four key areas
- Review process by three City departments prior to release of first draft on Dec 24, 2020 for public review and comment

Highlights of CATOS comments on what is missing in draft Official Plan

- Evidence of community input in Official Plan
- Compliance with Ontario planning laws and guidelines
- Alignment with climate action at all three levels of government

Due Process & Planning requirements not followed

- Owen Sound’s vision statement is not reflected in the draft Official Plan
- The draft Official Plan does not specify any goals, objectives or actions to address climate change and create a complete community

Comparisons of Owen Sound and other municipalities’ Official Plans

- Owen Sound’s draft Official Plan is business-as-usual and doesn’t reflect our current and future reality
- Other municipalities include references to specific and measurable targets and adaptation and mitigation strategies which are all absent in the draft OS Official Plan

Conclusion and requests for significant modifications

- CATOS will continue to seek opportunities to work in sincere partnership with the City to support the development and implementation of an Official Plan that must:
 - Include community input
 - Comply with Ontario planning laws and guidelines

- Be in step with all three levels of government
- Incorporate goals, objective and actions
- Include anticipated greenhouse gas emissions and other impacts on climate change to position the city to be eligible to receive Infrastructure Canada funding and other climate related sources
- Adopt a climate lens that factors climate risks and opportunities into every decision, action and investment
- Demonstrate that Owen Sound is providing climate action leadership as the regional anchor municipality
- Explore and develop with our Indigenous Neighbours a Land Acknowledgment which is included in the Official Plan, as part of Truth and Reconciliation

Background

The City of Owen Sound initiated a major review and update of their Official Plan in January 2020. The review was led by MHBC Planning from Waterloo, Ontario and involved extensive City Staff and Council input as well as public input, including local business and residents. The review process included:

- In-house consultation and review with Council and Staff
- Community engagement session – March 2, 2020
- On-line survey for public input January 13 – March 31, 2020

The review process resulted in discussion papers prepared by the consultant covering four major topics:

- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Housing and Affordability
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Land Use and Design

The discussion papers resulting from the review process included review by three of the City's departments:

- Community Services Department
- Corporate Services Department
- Public Works and Engineering Department

The City of Owen Sound released their first draft of an amended Official Plan on December 24, 2020 for public review and comment.

Comments

Members of CAT-OS have reviewed the Staff Report submitted to Council on November 18, 2020 based on the four discussion papers prepared by MHBC Planning and the draft of the amended Official Plan. We find there are significant differences between what was recommended from the review process and what has been released as an amended Official Plan. These include:

1. The City has not followed their own process and did not incorporate community input to the draft Official Plan.
2. The City has not complied with Ontario planning laws and guidelines.
3. The draft Official Plan does not reflect our current or future reality, and is out of step with plans and policies of other municipalities, Grey County, Ontario and Canada.

It is our opinion that the draft Official Plan requires significant modifications to meet the terms and conditions required by the review process and provincial legislation and to meet climate action strategies required by provincial, national and international policies and commitments.

Due Process

The Vision statement of the City of Owen Sound states:

*“The City of Owen Sound is where you want to live. A **complete community** that values the natural environment, cultural diversity, historic streetscapes, vibrant waterfront and provides a sense of belonging. The City will plan to evolve as a centre for growth, opportunity and innovation while ensuring that **sustainability, resiliency, and quality of life** are considered in every decision.”*

This is a bold new vision for the City that is not reflected in the amended Official Plan. A complete community is an important planning goal as we look forward over the next twenty years to the year 2040. A complete community strives “...to lower emissions and increase sustainability by providing a community with the things they need without having to travel excessive distances”, as outlined in the discussion papers. Becoming a complete community is an important new planning concept that emphasizes such things as: sustainability; climate change; resilience; and wellbeing.

The review process reported there were no specific policies within the previous Official Plan that addressed climate change and there was little language and acknowledgement of the impact that climate change has and will have on our community. The discussion papers suggested this was now a great opportunity to explore “...new policy directions in relation to the environment, sustainability and climate change”. Further, it states the new Official Plan “...must embrace the notion of climate change and assess its implications upon our community’s social, environmental and economic activities.” It is our opinion there are no new policy directions and there has

been no assessment of the implications of climate change on our community – it is business-as-usual for Owen Sound.

Becoming a complete community requires a new way of thinking and planning compared to what was acceptable in the past. Climate change is already impacting us in many ways and these impacts will accelerate in the years and decades to come. Without comprehensively and sincerely planning for these changes the Official Plan is a disservice to the community and is unacceptable.

Part of the review process was reviewing and comparing recently amended Official Plans from other municipalities in the context of the City's review process and vision statement. In the Sustainability and Climate Change discussion paper, the consultant referenced two Official Plans they thought were relevant: Guelph and Thunder Bay. Comparing these plans to the draft Official Plan for Owen Sound reveals significant differences in the concepts of sustainability, climate change, and resilience. One simple metric to reference this is the number of times the concepts of sustainability, climate change and resilience occur in the documents. Guelph and Thunder Bay mention the concept of sustainability 50 times and 28 times, respectively, compared to Owen Sound's 18 times. Climate change is mentioned 17 times and 46 times, respectively, compared to Owen Sound's 5 times. Resilience is mentioned 4 times and 14 times, respectively, compared to Owen Sound not mentioning the concept beyond the vision statement. But it is more than simple metrics. Comparing Official Plans from Guelph and Thunder Bay to Owen Sound's is like comparing apples to oranges.

Planning Requirements

The discussion papers included an update of provincial legislation and policy frameworks pertaining specifically to climate change and land use planning. In relation to sustainability and climate change, The **Ontario Planning Act RSO 1990**, specifically states that planning goals and policies must specify the mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adaptation to climate change. Specifically,

“An official plan shall contain policies that identify goals, objectives and actions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to provide for adaptation to a changing climate, including through increasing resiliency”. (Section III, 16(1))

The City's Official Plan simply restates this condition from the Planning Act without specifying what these goals, objectives and actions will be. The City states they will *“...prepare for the impacts of a changing climate to minimize negative impacts to air quality and climate change”*. While also completely ignoring climate mitigation, this is in complete contrast to other recently amended Official Plans. For example, Guelph's mitigation goals include a reduction of GHG emissions of 60% relative to 2007 levels by the year 2031. Guelph's adaptation goals include partnerships to prepare a comprehensive climate change adaptation strategy. Thunder Bay's goals include

reducing the potential for public cost and risk by protecting ecological functions and directing development away from areas where there is a risk to public health, safety, and well-being, or property damage. Such goals and actions do not occur in the draft Owen Sound Official Plan.

The **Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan (2018)** provincial initiative aims to preserve and protect our land, air, and water, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing GHG emissions by 30% relative to 2005 levels by 2030. There is no such commitment by the City of Owen Sound. There is no mention of clean energy, renewable energy or building resilience through local grid distributions.

The **Complete Streets Policy and Implementation Guide for Grey Bruce (2015)** commissioned by the Grey Bruce Health Unit outlines the planning concepts of nodes and corridors as a key development strategy to encourage investment, improve intensification strategies and promote active transportation. Nothing like this appears in the draft Official Plan.

The **Provincial Policy Statement (2020)** regulates how land and resources will be managed to create complete communities. The discussion papers define what a complete community encompasses but there are no goals, objectives or actions to address this in the draft Official Plan.

The failure to address provincial legislation and guidelines for an Official Plan update and amendment renders this draft version non-compliant.

Comparing Plans

Many communities in Ontario have updated and amended their Official Plans in recent years to reflect the climate change impacts already happening. Beyond the plan comparisons pointed out in the discussion papers reported by MHBC Planning, there are numerous examples also relevant to Owen Sound. One is the Town of Midland. Both Owen Sound and Midland are urban centres situated on southern Georgian Bay where tourism is important to the local economies and fabric of life. Both are regional economic and cultural hubs for surrounding rural townships and both are lower tier municipalities. The Town of Midland updated and amended their Official Plan in 2019 and it is very different than the draft Official Plan released by the City of Owen Sound, December 24, 2020. Comparisons between the two plans can be very insightful, emphasizing the progressive, forward looking plan adopted by Midland compared to the very traditional, business-as-usual plan proposed by Owen Sound.

Here are a couple of written comparisons taken from the two plans:

MANAGING GROWTH

Owen Sound

“To promote and encourage the growth and development of the City through a planning framework that addresses a variety of uses and service activities for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities”.

Midland

“Utilize best practices and building techniques to mitigate the impacts of climate change in all public realms and building construction activities”.

The goal in the Owen Sound draft Official Plan is fundamentally the same as in the old Official Plan that it seeks to replace. In that version in managing growth it stated:

“To create a planning framework that promotes and encourages the growth and development of the City...”.

DEVELOPMENT

Owen Sound

2.2.1 Sustainability

“To protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment through a planning framework that maintains and improves the diversity and connectivity of the natural forms, features and functions of the City’s natural heritage, surface water and groundwater resources and that minimizes and mitigates the impacts of development on these features”.

Midland

iv. Sustainable

“A sustainable community is environmentally, financially and socially healthy and resilient. It meets the challenges of climate change, and other environmental issues through integrated solutions rather than through fragmented, incremental approaches that meet one objective at the expense of the others. A sustainable community manages its human, natural and financial resources equitably and takes a long-term view – one that is focused on both present and future generations. Sustainability success relies upon having specific and measurable targets for indicators related to energy, water, carbon and waste”.

Planning Through a Climate Lens

The draft Official Plan gives the impression that Council and City Staff have limited knowledge or interest in what climate change entails, the human impact on climate, the risks that it poses and the vulnerabilities that it exposes. The failure of the plan to address the recommendations from the review process to plan through the lens of sustainability and the lens of climate change is unacceptable.

What does planning through a climate lens mean? It means factoring climate risks into every action and investment. It means identifying climate vulnerabilities and taking action to minimize these. It means taking a longer-term view in our planning. It means adopting the triple-bottom-line approach to our economic thinking. It means clean growth. None of this exists in the draft Official Plan.

Infrastructure Canada has made climate lens planning very clear – it means that all infrastructure funding will depend on a formal planning process that must account for the anticipated impact of greenhouse gas emissions and other impacts on climate e.g. agricultural, land use, building practices and must employ risk management to “...*anticipate, prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover and adapt from climate change related disruptions or impacts*”. We are setting ourselves up to not qualify for funding investments from the federal government for development and redevelopment of our infrastructures. This is not acceptable to us. This is not giving service to our community.

Conclusion

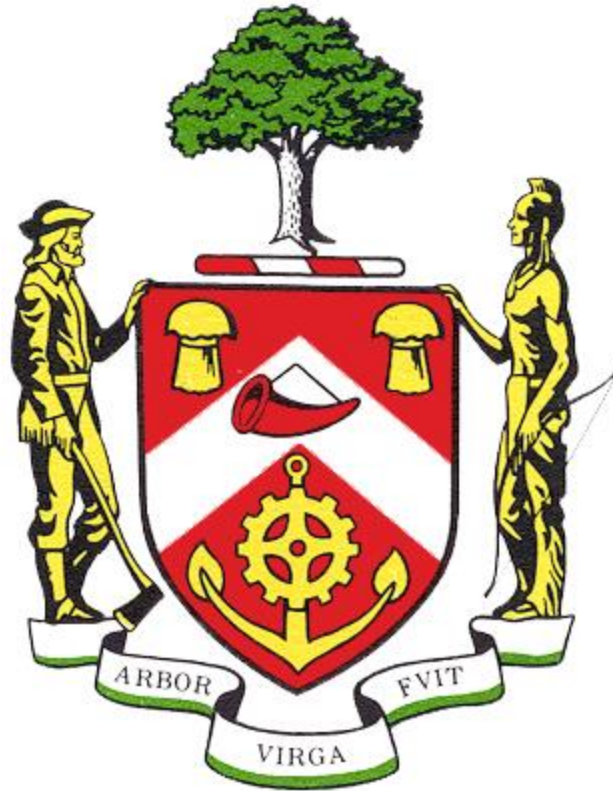
Climate change is not some far-off future problem we will have to face in a few decades. It is here. It is now.

CATOS is ready, willing and able to work with the City of Owen Sound to support an Official Plan that seriously addresses climate change. It is our hope that the City of Owen Sound will capitalize on that opportunity.

In May 2019, over 400 people packed Owen Sound’s Roxy Theatre for the premiere of “Resilience: Transforming our Community”. The local film that was designed to inspire action, has done just that. “Resilience” is a hopeful climate change film that has been a catalyst for community based conversations across the region and indeed across the country.

Climate Action Team Owen Sound (CATOS) has continued these conversations through building public engagement, providing public education, supporting municipal collaboration and partnerships and developing outcome-focused projects. This group of diverse, respected and dedicated community leaders, has taken every opportunity to work in partnership with the city and provide input through the channels provided.

CATOS and many Owen Sound citizens were disappointed that despite unanimous council support to approve the budget to hire a Climate Mitigation Co-ordinator, a subsequent motion on Feb 10, 2020 nixed that position. CATOS was frustrated when the Operations Committee turned down our suggestion of a Climate Action Team Working Group that would include community members, city staff and council members. Now CATOS is shocked and dismayed that the city has not only ignored the consultant’s discussion paper recommendations to put a climate lens on all decisions, but that our science-based input requesting the same focus was dismissed and ignored.



“As the twig is bent, so grows the tree”

The Owen Sound Coat of Arms has a tree at the top centre of the image. The Latin motto that accompanies this image begins with the word ‘tree’. In Latin, the motto reads, “Arbor virga fuit” translated as “as the twig is bent, so grows the tree”.

This motto urges us to start as we mean to go on. We have an opportunity to honour this motto and put tree planting and management at the centre of our city’s land use plans.

General Policies

To achieve the environmental goals and objectives of this Plan the City shall where possible:

6.1.1.1 Protect, restore and enhance the health of the natural ecosystem and support biodiversity in the City,

6.1.1.2 Plan and manage the natural heritage system as a connected natural heritage system both within Owen Sound and in cooperation with adjoining communities,

6.1.1.3 Enhance and expand the natural heritage system outlined on Schedule ‘A’ – Land Use by designating and protecting significant components and natural linkages with other green spaces. Urban Forest To develop and protect the Urban Forest, the City shall where possible:

Update the current tree inventory, and identify % tree coverage, while setting goals that are based on the best practices

The % tree coverage data will likely reflect us in a very positive light and help in our City promotions, while allowing us to set realistic future targets

Create a committee of active citizens, working together with City representatives to identify our tree needs for the enhancement and protection of our urban forestry

Cooperating together has a positive image, while getting more accomplished and targeting areas for improvement

Promote the celebration of our tree landscape by establishing ourselves as a ‘Tree City of the World’ and use the established organization guidelines to foster our environmental goals.

This can be used as a marketing tool to promote our City and be seen as forward thinking

Urban Forests

6.1.2.1 Preserve and enhance a healthy urban forest through naturalization and tree planting programs, while providing for meadow habitat at appropriate locations to support biodiversity

Creating meadows, reduce grass cutting costs, and carbon footprints, while enhancing healthier environments

6.1.2.2 Implement a tree-planting program and separate budget to ensure suitable native trees are continuously planted to improve streetscapes throughout the City, both in residential and commercial areas.

6.1.2.3 No trees shall be unnecessarily removed, and should consider replacement of trees that must be removed as a result of any public work. The City will may (must) consider incorporate a treeplanting component to street reconstruction wherever possible

6.1.2.4 Where new development is proposed, consideration shall be given to locations of existing trees in the preparation of the site plan, and to the retention of as many existing trees as possible, subject to other appropriate design considerations.

Any development proposal on a site which includes a woodlot, hedgerow or trees may be required to prepare a Tree Preservation Plan. Tree Preservation Plans shall be submitted at the consent to sever and/or the draft plan of subdivision application stage, or at the site plan application stage, or as otherwise required by the City.

A Tree Preservation Plan shall be prepared by a Certified Arborist or Registered Professional Forester and shall be approved by the Town. A Tree Preservation Plan shall identify the present conditions of the site and shall make recommendations on tree preservation in conjunction with the developers.

Where new parking lots are proposed or redeveloped, consideration must be given to building in natural spaces that represent a minimum of 8% of the area, thus reducing the heat island effect of large tarmac surfaces, while enhancing the aesthetics.

Important in the mitigation of climate change, plus enhances the community aesthetic

If space is suitable in front of all residences, the City shall provide an appropriate shade tree, if requested by the home owners.

Place the tree ownership in the hands of the home owners and the community tree organizations

Implement a by-law that prohibits private landowners from cutting down multiple healthy trees over 10cm dbh without first getting official City approval.

To prevent private land owners from removing large stands of trees and unnecessarily reducing our % tree coverage

Trees or other plantings should be located throughout the City to provide shading for sidewalks, parks and open spaces and other publicly accessible areas. In addition, the community should be planned to achieve a mature forest cover of 40 percent of the total land area of the City. To this end, the City should consider:

40% tree Cover is an achievable goal and a standard set by many progressive Cities

- i. Implementing a Tree Protection By-law, which will include a tree replacement ratio where tree removal is unavoidable;
 - ii. Implementing street tree and naturalization programs to increase the urban tree canopy cover; and,
 - iii. Requiring the planting of trees in all public works projects.
- b) The urban forest shall include the same variety of species of trees as identified in the Cities Approved Landscape Species List, as amended.
- c) The City may encourage:
- i. Aided succession or reforestation through the planting of any cleared lands which are not proposed for development and which are not used for agricultural purposes;
 - ii. Reforestation and maintenance along the waterfronts and watercourses to reduce flooding and soil erosion, and to provide fish and wildlife habitat; and,
 - iii. Protection of mature trees of aesthetic and heritage value.
- d) In all public works, trees should not be removed unnecessarily, and trees that must be removed will be replaced as soon as possible to enhance the appearance of these installations.

Woodlands

6.1.3.1 Significant Woodlands are a development constraint identified in the County Official Plan. The criteria for the identification of Significant Woodlands were developed by the County of Grey with assistance from the MNR. The identification was primarily a desk-top based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) exercise and the County acknowledges that inaccuracies or omissions in the mapping may be present. As a result site visits by qualified individuals may be required at the application stage to scope any potential studies. In order to be considered 'significant' a woodland must be greater than or equal to four (4) hectares in size. If a woodland fails to meet this size criteria, the City may deem the woodland significant if it meets the following criteria: a. Proximity to other woodlands (e.g., if a woodland was within 30 metres of another significant woodland), or b. Overlap with other natural heritage features (e.g., if a woodland overlapped the boundaries of a Provincially Significant Wetland or an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest), or c. Interior habitat of greater than or equal to eight (8) hectares, with a 100 metre interior buffer on all sides.

6.1.3.2 No development or site alteration may occur within Significant Woodlands or their adjacent lands unless it has been demonstrated through an Environmental Impact Study, that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions. Notwithstanding, projects undertaken by a Municipality or Conservation Authority may be exempt from the Environmental Impact Study requirements, provided said project is a public work or conservation project.

6.1.3.3 Notwithstanding 6.1.3.2, where it can be proven that a woodland identified as significant has ceased to exist, or ceased to exhibit characteristics of significance, prior to November 1, 2006, an Environmental Impact Study will not be required. Site photographs or a site visit by a qualified individual may be necessary to determine that a woodland no longer exists.

6.1.3.4 Notwithstanding 6.1.3.2, woodlot management, tree cutting and forestry will be permitted in accordance with any applicable Bylaws.

6.1.3.5 Notwithstanding 6.1.3.2 and 6.1.3.4, fragmentation of significant woodlands shall generally be avoided and connectivity between significant woodlands and other natural features and areas shall generally be maintained and restored, wherever possible.

From: [REDACTED]
 To: [Boddy, Ian](#); [O'Leary, Brian](#); [Dodd, Travis](#); [Greig, Scott](#); [Hamley, Brock](#); [Koepke, Marion](#); [Merton, Carol](#); [Tamming, John A.](#); [Thomas, Richard](#)
 Cc: [Simmonds, Tim](#); [Coulter, Pam](#); [OS Planning](#); [Landry, Staci](#); [Bloomfield, Briana](#); lmurphy@mhbcpplan.com
 Subject: Climate Change and the Official Plan
 Date: January 19, 2021 2:25:53 PM

TO: Mayor Ian Boddy and City Council, Owen Sound
 FR: Michael Craig
 RE: Climate Change and the Official Plan

The draft official plan is a great disappointment because it glosses over the issue of the climate crisis that impacts Owen Sound and the world.

Ironically, my first reaction as I read the preliminary materials was very positive starting with the words sustainability, resiliency and quality of life in the city's vision statement. The discussion Paper by David Aston, MCIP, RPP of MHBC Planning advocated forcefully that "The City Official Plan will build from provincial and regional sustainability and climate change policies to become a useable document that guides planning decisions through a lens that considers sustainability and climate change in every decision".

Great, I thought: an acknowledgement that climate change is a global crisis that is already causing floods, mammoth fires and freaky, destructive weather. The analysis pointed out that "the current Official Plan does not does not contain specific policies regarding climate change and possible adaptation and mitigation measures." But that, I figured, was about to change. I cheered the consultant's recommendation #1: to "Review and revise policies to allow and support climate change adaptation and mitigation". The report's other twelve recommendations also addressed climate change as the central issue facing this planet.

Given that I started with these progressive proposals in the consultant's report, you can imagine my surprise when I read the Draft Official Plan. It does identify the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but it avoids suggesting that all City activities and policies should be constantly evaluated via a climate change lens. I found myself wondering why the consultant's recommendations were watered down.

That brings me to a related question: Who in the City administration will be tasked with implementing the Official Plan, especially as it pertains to climate change? Late in 2019 Council took the enlightened step of planning to hire a climate change adaptation coordinator, and even specified a budget; but a month or so later the position and the budget were eliminated. Council got cold feet!

If this City, led by its Council, is serious about its responsibility to do everything in its power to adapt and mitigate to climate change, it is obvious that a senior climate change adaptation coordinator must be hired. Otherwise, who has the time, knowledge and focus to evaluate City policies and decisions through that all-important climate lens?

My recommendations are very simple. Put climate change mitigation and adaptation at the centre of everything the City does. And hire someone at a senior level who will consult with all City departments and scrutinize, from a climate change perspective, all Owen Sound policies and decisions. If you accept these recommendations, Owen Sound can become a climate change leader rather than leaving it up to other organizations and levels of

government.

I thank you for your attention to this important issue and look forward to a revised, improved Official Plan.

Sincerely,

Michael Craig

[REDACTED]

Owen Sound ON [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Landry, Staci](#)
Subject: Official City Plan
Date: January 19, 2021 3:16:43 PM

Please include more about climate change in your Official City Plan.

Thanks,
Chelsea Morlock.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Landry, Staci](#)
Subject: Comment re: Climate Change in the draft Owen Sound Official Plan
Date: January 19, 2021 7:44:07 PM

Dear Ms Landry

I would be grateful if you could include the following written comment in the submissions to be read by city staff at the virtual open house tomorrow, January 20.

Many thanks
Frances Lemon

Dear Owen Sound City Council

Like other concerned citizens of Owen Sound and the surrounding area, I am writing to express my concerns about the lack of priority given to climate change in the draft Official Plan released by the City on December 24, 2020. The only mentions of "climate" in that draft report refer to preparing for the impact of a changing climate – there is no mention of any intention to address climate change itself by working to reduce emissions, for example, nor has the draft included any community input. This is an extraordinary omission given the intended 20-year framework of the plan. As a parent of young children growing up in this region, it is crucial to me that climate change be fully and appropriately addressed in the Official Plan of our city.

I am further dismayed that the commitments made following the petition presented to Council by the youth delegation in late 2019 – which included hiring a climate change adaptation and mitigation coordinator – appear to have been dropped entirely by Council, following the disappointing vote in February 2020 to delay appointing such a specialist. I urge the City to now move ahead with the hiring of a climate change coordinator, and to rework the Official Plan to address its shortfalls regarding climate change and bring it in line with the plans prepared by other surrounding municipalities and with government on all levels.

Sincerely
Frances Lemon

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Landry, Staci](#)
Subject: Regarding the Owen Sound Official Plan
Date: January 19, 2021 9:46:16 PM

Dear City Council,

I am writing as an expecting mother of a toddler - someone who looks ahead to the next generation and those beyond, to their right to live and thrive in a healthy environment, with clean air, water and a hospitable climate. We have moved beyond the era where it is acceptable to refute climate science. We are left with difficult decisions, but not nearly as difficult as those that await future generations if we shirk our responsibilities now.

In 2021, a municipality that lacks climate literacy and the political will to act is not fit to meet the challenges of the present era. A council that fails, in the face of irrefutable evidence and citizen demand, to table a transparent, science-based and ambitious climate plan as part of its overall strategic planning is living in willful denial of its obligations for the welfare of the citizens it represent and to the water, land and climate it stewards.

From the start of 2020, the remaining global carbon budget to limit warming to [1.5°C with a 66% probability was reduced to 235 Gt CO₂](#). For comparison, in 2018 the IPCC estimated that carbon budget to stay within this range was 420 Gt. Our global carbon budget is rapidly dwindling, and yet we are failing to see the required courageous political leadership to reckon with these facts and the terrifying implications of our cumulative emissions.

A non-existent or weak response to climate change that leaves the real action to the global, federal or provincial levels only damages our own resilience. If we learn anything from this pandemic, we ought to learn that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

I urge the Owen Sound local council to take charge of our present circumstances and to demonstrate independent, brave and visionary leadership in adopting the strongest targets and milestones and comprehensive climate mitigation and adaptation strategies as part of its Official Plan, in fullsome collaboration with the full diversity of its residents. We can live in fear and denial, or we can rise together to meet this challenge with hope and inspiration. This is where you choose your legacy.

Yours Sincerely,

Noelle Rancourt

From: GBSusNet [REDACTED]
Sent: January 19, 2021 4:50 PM
To: OS Planning <osplanning@owensound.ca>
Subject: Official Plan comments

Hi Stacy - Below are some comments I have about the current City of Owen Sound OP draft.

As a former government employee (Ministry of Energy, County of Bruce (waste management master plan co-ord; City of Owen Sound Tourism and Culture) as well as a private sector consultant on issue such as "green jobs", Community Energy Planning, Integrated Community Sustainability Planning (ICSP) and Partners for Climate Protection with FCM, I have some of experience with plan development and public consultation.

Having never worked specifically on an Official Plan, I have been alongside plan development and the public engagement process required to demonstrate the community has been "consulted".

What I've observed over the years, is that often, community input does not necessarily align with the current political or senior staff view on the need to CHANGE the approach that has been taken for the last 20 years or more. In the case of the current OP development, it seems that the current draft does not reflect the community input that was received, specifically around the climate change issue, and the plan seems to be a "status quo" i.e., stay the same document rather than one that acknowledges and demonstrates the need for change.

My current work, specifically in the area of green energy development, renewable energy, energy efficiency, green infrastructure and nature based solutions all contribute to CO2 emission reduction as well as more stable and resilient landscapes (urban and rural) in the face of extreme weather events, the future reality. A strong statement that supports climate action now, can also be aligned with progressive land use policies and sustainable economic development.....JOBS!!!! Cities that have trees and parks, are walkable, bike friendly, good transit systems, low risk of flood, sensible housing developments and an engaged citizenship are more sustainable into the future and attractive to new residents. Oh yes, hockey teams are important!!!!

Finally, as a relatively new resident of Owen Sound (2 years) but as a long time resident of Grey Bruce and youthful visitor to the beaches and escarpments and lakes, what we have to offer here is worth more than words or \$\$\$ can measure. Official Plans have a role to play in clearly stating what our community values and sees as our future.

Please ensure that the community voices you have heard and continue to hear are included in this important document. You must.

Thanks
Barry Randall
[REDACTED]
Owen Sound
[REDACTED]

PETER AND JAN MIDDLETON

January 19, 2021

Re: City of Owen Sound Official Plan, First Draft December 2020

response and comment

In reviewing the proposed guidelines that will influence Owen Sound's planning procedures for the foreseeable future, we are concerned that there is minimal recognition that the natural environment plays a critical role in determining our city's future. The greatest challenge that we face today is the threat posed by global climate change; it impacts the natural heritage, infrastructure and the liveability of our community.

Natural environments have a tangible, measurable economic value as well as a social capital value. Modification and mitigation of extreme events (flooding, heat waves, drought) and the safeguarding of healthy human environments must be amplified in the proposed Official Plan, The latter has become increasingly obvious during the Covid19 pandemic, as people have increasingly found refuge and mental health benefits in natural settings. The city will profit from an enhancement of its natural environment and and should emphasize its importance in the Official Plan. Great cities of the world (London, Paris, New York) are defined as much by their parks and open spaces as by their history and architecture.

We offer the following suggestions to strengthen the current Official Plan Draft.

1. Sec 3.1.3 Land use: General Policies

Adjust development guidelines to include ecocentric planning:

- place a high value on preservation of trees and open natural areas within the city
- promote development proposals assessing economic value of trees and natural sites (i.e. carbon sequestration, air cooling, water conservation)
- exempt development fees for green alternatives built into proposals (e.g. green roof technologies, shaded parking lots, run-off mitigation strategies)
- require developers to retain mature trees as integral components in planning proposals (with appropriate incentives to do so)

(cont'd).

PETER AND JAN MIDDLETON

2. Section 3.12 Open spaces

Enrich quality of community spaces to support mental and physical health of citizens

- expand, enrich and connect open spaces, parks, riversides, and vacant lands
- maintain and restore biological diversity, thus enhancing the natural heritage values of natural environments
- expand open space accessibility - pathways, benches, playgrounds -to provide greater social engagement, thus providing outlets for mental health and physical fitness

In conclusion, the Owen Sound Official Plan Draft December 2020 represents a diminution, not a strengthening, of the importance of the natural environment as the basic element in building sustainable and adaptable communities. There is minimal recognition of the reality of advancing climate change and its increasing environmental impacts upon our future. This is an egregious oversight and is out of keeping with provincial *Planning Act RSO 1990: Section III - Official Plans*.

The tabling of the proposed new Official Plan offers a remarkable opportunity for the city to show courage, ingenuity and foresight in building a better community for its citizens. The investment will reap rewards that truly will Make Owen Sound a place "*Where You Want to Live*".

Sincerely,

Peter and Jan Middleton.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Landry, Staci](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Written comments re: Official Plan
Date: January 20, 2021 11:00:58 AM

Good morning Staci,

Please see the comments from my two children, below. Please include them in the Virtual Open House today.

Message #1:

My name is Eloise Love Farla and I'm ten years old. I live in Owen Sound. I would rather be playing my violin right now, with my step-mother, for example, instead of dealing with this mess: CLIMATE CHANGE! I worked really hard the last time, when I spoke with you; I felt like I changed the world! But when I found out you didn't include climate action in the official plan it felt like you lied to me, and other youth! I felt frustrated. PLEASE!! Help me have a good future life. Thank you! Ellie :)

Message #2:

My name is Lucas Ostertag and I'm almost five years old. I live in Owen Sound. I want everything with motors to be electric. I also would like more places to ride my bike, for when I'm crossing the street, I need to look (well, you always do), but everyone is passing the speed limit! And, I would like more people riding their bikes. Also, I would like people to stop cutting as much trees! I don't like wars. Stop the wars!

Thank you,

Sonja

--

Sonja Ostertag, PhD

Post Doctoral Fellow
School of Public Health and Health Systems
University of Waterloo
Phone: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Landry, Staci](#)
Subject: written comments - re: Official Plan
Date: January 20, 2021 11:28:10 AM

Good morning Staci,

Please include my comment in the Virtual Open House today. Thank you.

My name is Simon Farla. My family lives in Owen Sound.

My children are growing up under the shadow of climate change. We are doing what we can within our household, but it can only take us so far. We have repeatedly tried to encourage council to act on this issue. So far nothing has been done.

The creation of the new official plan presents us with the chance to understand and address our city's climate impact. Let us not waste this excellent opportunity. We need you to join us in solving this problem. We need your intelligence, your leadership and your conviction. Will this be your time to shine?

From: [REDACTED]
To: [OS Planning; Landry, Staci](#)
Subject: Owen Sound Official Plan - Climate Change
Date: January 20, 2021 11:54:48 AM

Dear City of Owen Sound,

Upon reading the Draft Official Plan for Owen Sound I am disappointed in its lack of vision for our youth in regards to climate change.

Page 10 of the Draft Official Plan makes a mere mention of "**the need to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate to minimize negative impacts to air quality and climate change**". This is nothing short of an empty promise that sets the stage for lack of action.

Our youth deserve better, WE deserve better. Now is a chance for Owen Sound to create a plan that our community can be proud of. A plan that shows we care about the future of our environment and how it will impact our area. As a city we may be small but we have the ability to set an example for which others can learn.

I respectfully request that the City of Owen Sound include in its Official Plan a clear plan that will address climate change. A plan that states clear goals, actions and a timeline for completion, all of which will hold both the City Of Owen Sound and its community accountable and will enable our youth (our future) to continue to enjoy our unique and beautiful space.

Thank you for your time,

Rethna

From: Andrii Zvorygin [REDACTED]
Date: January 20, 2021 at 11:34:45 AM EST
To: "O'Leary, Brian" <boleary@owensound.ca>
Subject: Motion to remove intensification of residential areas since Urban Intensification Collapses Civilizations
Reply-To: Andrii Zvorygin [REDACTED]

Hello Deputy Mayor Brian O'Leary,

Regarding the planning meeting today I have attempted to submit a comment but have received no confirmation so am reaching out to you personally.

There are some highly alarming statements in the official plan, namely 27 references to "intensification" which as many a historian can tell you is a process that if taken to excess of carrying capacity leads to increasing wealth-disparity, poverty, disease, hunger, homelessness, conflict and eventual collapse of all known historic civilizations. Including but not limited to Babylon, Roman Empire, Constantinople, Mayans, Easter Islanders and Angkor Wat. (article with citations here: "Excessive Urban Intensification Collapses Civilizations"
<https://1being.org/2020/11/19/excessive-urban-intensification-collapses-civilizations/>

Carrying capacity in our eco-region is 1 person per hectare or 100 people per km². Owen Sound is currently in excess of 800 people per km², a feat which is only possible due to fossil fuels, which are on the way out. There are no viable alternatives that can replace all fossil fuel cars/trucks/tractors fertilizers/pesticides/plastics necessary to sustain, much less expand our current rates of consumption. The main reason being that there isn't enough economically viable lithium and rare earth metals on the planet -- which is a hard limit, like a brick wall.

I motion that all mention of intensification in regards to residential zoning be taken out. Also that there be some plan for merging with Georgian Bluffs or another nearby landed municipality so that people could live with dignity having enough land to meet their own basic needs without resorting to wage slavery or government hand outs.

As the lockdown/pandemic has made plenty clear, a large number of "jobs" are of a non-essential nature, and do nothing for the planet other than burn finite fuel resources. Thus increasing the number of people in poverty due to reliance on government hand-outs.

If new residential lots are put at a minimum size of 1 hectare, then at least one person will be able to provide for their basic needs of food/water/shelter with dignity on their homestead such as via permaculture food forests. A sustainable family of 4 would correspondingly need 4 hectares.

As the global economy is winding down, it is important for us to develop local resilience, and with people having enough land to meet their own needs, they will also be able to have workshops, local places where they can manufacture goods and provide services for participating in the local economy.

Thanks,
Logan

--

Andrii (Logan) Zvorygin,

[REDACTED]

from Owen Sound, Ontario.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

You can use encrypted email with me from protonmail.

or thunderbird: <https://emailselfdefense.fsf.org/en/>

key fingerprint:

6719 0E17 BEE5 026A 01CF BABA 36D9 8956 A9EA 0C5E

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Landry, Staci](#)
Subject: Official Plan
Date: January 20, 2021 3:54:58 PM

Open Letter to Owen Sound City Council

In December 2019, I attended a council meeting with my daughters to support a local group of students as they made their deputation to council, along with a petition of 674 names, asking council to implement a response to climate change.

And what better time than now, they argued, before the city takes on updating their official and strategic plan. The room was full and the energy was high as we came to support their efforts, came to support our future and our children's future.

Our kids were stepping up to make change in a world that worries them, a future that is in question. They brought concerns to council, being supported by other residents, offering to volunteer on any task force dealing with climate change. This was such a positive experience in so many ways, it's hard to believe how sour it turned.

In January of last year a motion was brought forward to hire a climate change co-ordinator to address the issues raised at the December meeting. It was passed. As a planner, this made a lot of sense to me, getting someone on board before undertaking a long-term plan. Obviously, climate change would need to be addressed as it is already happening and affecting us.

But then on January 27th Councillor Marion Koepke presented a motion to delay that hiring. She had received many phone calls. (Apparently more than the number of people who attended the December meeting, and signed petitions in favour of taking action. She must've been on the phone for days.)

Sadly, her motion passed and the city backed down, preferring the comfort of the status quo to taking action. We were snowed. Worse than that, the kids were snowed.

And now the draft plan is out with nary a mention of climate change. How can any municipality in 2021 do a long-term plan without considering climate change? It is a great dereliction of duty and requires a wilful blindness to pull off.

At that December 2019 meeting Councillor. Richard Thomas introduced a motion passed unanimously, directing staff to prepare a report detailing actions the city might take to deal with climate change, including a suggested course of action detailing how to meet United Nations emissions targets of 45 per cent by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.

Where is that plan? How does Owen Sound intend to meet its emission targets? You promised us, you promised our children.

Diane Ferguson, CPA, CA

Williamsford, Ontario



Owen Sound Draft Official Plan
 Community Feedback
 Owen Sound Waste Watchers' Statement

January 20, 2021, 4PM (Online Session)

On behalf of Owen Sound Waste Watchers, I want to thank you for this opportunity to share feedback about the draft Owen Sound Official Plan, issued Dec 24, 2020.

The focus of our community group is *waste*, so we will speak specifically to the "Waste Management" sections of the both the previous and new draft Official Plans.

Previous Plan Sections 6.2.5 and 7.1.9 and Draft Plan Section 5.2.5 and 6.1.10.

Language

This document will guide all of the City's planning decisions, so it's important it provides clear direction for the work undertaken in the days ahead.

Upon review, we found the language contained in these sections unclear. For example, what do words like "support", "encourage" and "discussions around opportunities" really mean in terms of measurable waste management practices?

We urge the team to update the wording to include language that provides clearer communication of measurable action by using words like "reduce" or "improve".

In other places, the wording is oddly specific. In Section 6.1.10.4, the words "Styrofoam" and "film plastic" are included, not as examples but items specifically named.

6.1.10.4 The City will support new waste management technologies to deal with waste management including increased reduction of waste, reuse of waste, recycling of waste, including Styrofoam, green box programs for composting or biodegrading of organic waste, handling sludge, and recycling film plastics.

While we understand both materials are a challenge to manage, industry is already moving quickly to use more sustainable options. For example, IKEA, the world's largest furniture distributor, introduced mushroom-based, biodegradable shipping material to replace Styrofoam in 2019. Change is happening quickly, so naming specific objects here may result in focus on items that are no longer an issue in a few short years.

As the Plan is intended to govern action for many years, **we would suggest broader wording be used in this section like "reducing non-compostable waste and all non-recyclable and single-use plastic".**

Third Party Waste Reporting Transparency

Secondly, the Miller Waste Contract expires in 2023, so we believe it is important that third party contracts be addressed within the new Plan. In the past, we've been advised that we, the City and the ratepayers, are not privy to what happens to waste when acquired by a third-party contractor (as it becomes their property). Today, it is common knowledge that less than 10% of what is put into recycling bins is actually recycled.

We know third parties wish to guard proprietary business information. We are simply asking for access to the facts about where our garbage ends up and how much of our recycling is repurposed into useful products. Armed with this information, residents can make choices that better support their desire to recycle and reduce waste.

We ask that third party transparency be built into the Plan, specifically in the area of waste disposal services.

Green/Organic Curbside Pick-Up Program

Lastly, the topic of curbside collection of green or organic waste has generated the most calls for change from our members. Today in Canada, 23% of household waste is food scraps. When that material is buried in landfill, it produces methane, an extremely harmful greenhouse gas.

A plan that encourages Owen Sounders to personally compost will not have a meaningful impact on reducing garbage. Yes, some of us do compost but more DO NOT. And, encouragement is not a realistic strategy for the 39.8% of local people who live in apartment buildings and condos.

Thank you for including a commitment to support new waste management technologies, including green box programs in section 6.1.10.4. **We would like to see wording added that ensures the new programs will be available for all who wish to participate. For green recycling, we believe the curbside pick-up option is the best way to do this.**

The last section added (6.1.10.5) speaks to engaging in discussions around regional waste management opportunities.

6.1.10.5 The City will engage in discussions around opportunities to participate in a regional waste management strategy with the County of Grey.

Economy of scale may make costs slightly lower **but implementation of the new efforts named may be significantly delayed if the regional approach is the only option considered. Can we afford to wait?**

Thank you again for allowing us to participate today. We truly appreciate this opportunity to provide our feedback as you plan for our City's future.

Laura Wood, Planning Team
On behalf of the OSWW Planning Committee
OWEN SOUND WASTE WATCHERS

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Landry, Staci](#)
Subject: Owen Sound's Climate Change Response...?
Date: January 20, 2021 7:42:50 PM

To whom it may concern,

What is Owen Sound's plan for our ongoing and rapidly worsening climate change crisis?

Is there any sort of plan? Or are we just going to wait until it's too late and we've made the Earth inhabitable for our children and their children?

All the best,
TP

Official Plan Update Comment Form

If you wish to provide comments or feedback on the Official Plan Update, please complete this form.

Please note all submissions will form part of the public record.

Enter your First Name: *

Enter your Last Name: *

Enter your Street Address: *

Enter your City: *

Enter your Postal Code: *

Email Address *

Comments/Feedback: *

I would like to express my support for more affordable housing options with less red tape, desperately needed in a low-income housing crises and an overall financial crisis exacerbated by COVID-19. Tiny houses, granny suites (without the need for their own separate thermostat/heating source), more congregate living options, more affordable housing units required by the City in every new development approved.

Every dollar waived by the City for development fees over the past few years should also be extended in future to any project that includes affordable housing, to reduce the cost of bringing services to lots where affordable housing can be built, to reduce other fees, etc.

I would also like to express my support for an enhanced "green" vision for Owen Sound. For all of the times that council has listened to deputations from the Water Watcher, climate action team, our youth, I see very little changed reflected in this document. This should be a priority for our City and the official plan sets the tone for all development and community decisions. The time for lip service has passed. It's time for action. If we really want Owen Sound to be "where we want to live", we need to have a more contemporary, comprehensive vision for our city that includes climate as a key focus, for survival if nothing else.

Lastly, I'd like to ask for more support to retain heritage structures within the City of Owen Sound. What happened to Legate's is a perfect example. By "modernizing" it, and removing original heritage features, they have come no closer to finding a tenant for the space, and it looks terrible. Why is it that every single time a heritage assessment is required, completed, and in favour of no demolition, the building comes down anyway? Is there nothing the City can do through its primary document to ensure that when a building has been deemed favourable to maintain, it's actually saved through retrofitting rather than demolition?

Thank you.

Personal Information:

Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the *Planning Act* and the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, C.25, as amended. The information collected will be used to complete the Official Plan Amendment process and will form part of the public record.

Questions about this collection should be directed to the City Clerk:

Briana Bloomfield
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4
Phone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1247
Email: bbloomfield@owensound.ca

Thank You

Your comments/feedback have been submitted to the City of Owen Sound.

SHAWNA MACIVOR

January 25, 2021

Re: **Response to City of Owen Sound Official Plan – draft dated December 2020**

I was unable to attend the Open House on January 20th, but listened to the recorded version of the presentation from the consultant and the follow-up questions and comments from those able to attend.

There is much that is good in this draft plan and I thank the Consulting Firm on their efforts to date. However, I agreed with the comments from most attendees at this virtual meeting. We are in a crisis, and the Official Plan needs to recognize this and be more direct in addressing the climate emergency.

The plan should also be deliberately aligned with County, Provincial and Federal direction on CO2 reduction.

Some of the attendees at the Open House mentioned the general lack of specific actions and measurable steps to be taken in support of goals. In response, the consultant suggested that ‘specificity’ belongs in accompanying strategic and action plans. I agree but this is a question of degree. A policy document that is vague and (as someone said) “aspirational” does not do the job.

Rather than giving up in the face of such a troubling future, I have chosen to focus my energy on one small component of where we need to act, and where it is both possible and feasible to make a difference: tree planting and management. It is interesting to note that the Owen Sound Coat of Arms features a tree top and centre, overarching the rest of the symbols. A good omen?

A few of us have been inspired by the City of Guelph and the tree planting strategy they have developed for their city, based on a detailed Urban Forest Study done by a consulting firm. Guelph now has a baseline from which they can determine, specifically, what actions to take.

I am working with others from the NeighbourWoods North group to investigate the opportunity for Owen Sound to join Guelph, Toronto, Whitby, Mississauga and Thunder Bay, as a ***Tree City of the World***. We hope to present this proposal to the Council in April.

In this context, I would like to see the next draft of the official plan revised to include specific goals and objectives with regard to:

1. Collaborating with the County and Conservation Authority to undertake a baseline study of tree coverage within the municipality to ensure future action is based on evidence.
2. Greening the entrances to Owen Sound (leading off Highways 10, 26 and 21) so that the city’s “unique natural heritage features” shine out as a first impression for visitors, not ugly commercial strips.
3. Reducing the heat build-up (and pollution) on large asphalt parking lots on mall sites on both the east and west hills by planting on city-owned land, and giving private owners incentives to plant tree clusters.
4. Tree planting on city land to screen the eye-sore brownfields on prominent city land (such as the former Black-Claussen Kennedy site), and requesting the brownfields, on changing hands, to be planted for

██████████, Owen Sound, ON ██████████

'phytoremediation' (ie the use of specific green plants to draw waste and poisons from soil).

5. Tree planting, care and replacement on city-owned land bordering sidewalks for pedestrians
6. Tree planting for shade at the bus terminal (or any other public transportation facility) and beside every bus stop.
7. Preventing developers from clear-cutting and setting out effective penalties for non-compliance.
8. Protecting rivers, streams and creeks within the city by promoting naturalization on the banks, including extra planting of native trees and shrubs.
9. Consulting with knowledgeable partners (such as the Conservation Authority and Neighbourhoods North) on the types of trees and best locations for planting in sensitive areas to reduce the chances of sapling loss as happened along the roadway at Kelso Beach.

Thank you for considering these suggestions, and those of the attendees at the first Open House. We all want the city of Owen Sound to thrive in way that is positive for the next generation. We look forward to reviewing the second version of this important document.

Sincerely, Shawna Macivor



Good day,

Please find attached the following comments on Owen Sound's Draft Official Plan. The recommendations contained herein are intended to provide advice on means of raising the bar on urban design for intensification projects through a focus on a high quality of architectural design and exterior materiality.

Many progressive municipalities support Official and Secondary Plans by using Design Guidelines to delineate preferred primary and secondary materials, supporting them through Official Plan language making clear that there is an expectation for design guidelines to be adhered to. Masonry Works emphasizes these policies and notes that appeals to panels such as LPAT consistently demonstrate that Council-approved design guidelines, backed by enabling policies in the Official Plan, have the force of policy behind them. Masonry Works broadly recommends that such Guidelines call for clear, unambiguous policies in terms of materiality. In particular these guidelines should call for the use of brick, stone and architectural block as the primary materials, with other materials, such as stucco and siding, used as accents in concert with the primary materials.

In its current form, the Planning Act, through policies delineated in Section 41, gives municipalities the authority to have input into the exterior character of virtually any building constructed within the community. Exercising these powers at the infill level is vital in maintaining a cohesive, unified community character which respects and enhances the built character of the community.

The Bruce Peninsula in general is a source of high-quality architectural stone, quarried within a short drive of Owen Sound by companies such as Shouldice Stone of Shallow Lake. This natural industry gives Owen Sound the opportunity to strengthen a local area industry and hold up the community as a leading example of a showcase city of local stone. Through strong planning policy and a focus on materiality, Owen Sound can make natural, durable building materials such as stone and brick key elements of the neighbourhoods of tomorrow.

We encourage all parties to continue to pursue progressive planning policies, particularly the use of brick, block and stone masonry as primary building materials.

We hope to continue to engage with you as the OP process moves forward.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Payne", written in a cursive style.

Andrew Payne, Executive Director
Masonry Works

RECOMMENDATIONS

Section	Existing Text	Recommended Changes
2.2.6	Goal: To facilitate ‘experiencing the City’ by enhancing the exceptional natural setting and built heritage of the City by ensuring quality urban design and protecting significant features.	Amend: Goal: To facilitate ‘experiencing the City’ by enhancing the exceptional natural setting and built heritage of the City by ensuring quality urban design, establishing a high degree of architectural excellence, promoting a strong sense of place and protecting significant features.
2.2.6 (d)	To ensure that new development and redevelopment employs high quality architectural and landscape design, is progressive, aesthetically appropriate, and compatible with the City’s built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, and surrounding neighbourhood character.	Amend: To ensure that new development and redevelopment employs high quality architectural, material and landscape design, is progressive, aesthetically appropriate, consistent with all applicable Urban Design Guidelines and policies and compatible with the City’s built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, and surrounding neighbourhood character.
3.2.3.1	All commercial development shall be consistent with the City’s urban design objectives and policies as set out in this Plan and any supporting implementation studies or documents.	Amend: All commercial development shall demonstrate compliance with the City’s urban design objectives and policies as set out in this Plan and any supporting implementation studies or documents such as council-approved Urban Design Guidelines.
3.3.8		Add a bullet: Preferred building materials for the River District shall be natural, durable materials consistent with the architectural heritage of the area. In particular, stone and brick shall be the primary building materials, with other materials utilized as secondary or accent materials in combination with the primary materials. Materials which deteriorate quickly, such as stucco and vinyl siding, are strongly discouraged.
3.11.2		Add a bullet: New institutional development shall be constructed to the highest possible standard of architectural design and demonstrate compliance with all applicable urban design policies, utilizing durable and natural building materials such as stone and brick masonry. Materials which deteriorate quickly, such as stucco and vinyl siding, are strongly discouraged.

Section	Existing Text	Recommended Changes
4.3.4.3 4.4.5.2	Design standards shall include sidewalk improvements, benches, banners, waste receptacles, light standards, landscaping and similar features intended to support and encourage pedestrian traffic in the area and tourism activities.	Amend: Design standards shall include standards for building articulation and massing, preferred and discouraged exterior building materials , sidewalk improvements, benches, banners, waste receptacles, light standards, landscaping and similar features intended to support and encourage pedestrian traffic in the area and tourism activities.
4.4.5.8	The City may request an urban design study to accompany a development application within this area.	Amend: The City shall require the submission of an urban design study to accompany a development application within this area.
8.1.1.5	Design guidelines may, among other matters, deal with issues such as building siting, heights, architectural features and points of access; location and design of site features such as parking areas, service uses, pedestrian walkways and landscaping; and elements of street furniture, signage, fencing and lighting.	Amend: Design guidelines shall , among other matters, deal with issues such as building siting, heights, articulation and massing, preferred exterior cladding materials and points of access; location and design of site features such as parking areas, service uses, pedestrian walkways and landscaping; and elements of street furniture, signage, fencing and lighting.
8.3.2		Add a bullet: The City shall require a very high standard of exterior architectural design for all Gateway and Node developments. Articulation, massing and exterior building materials shall be consistent with all Council-approved design policies.
8.6.8		Add a bullet: New residential development shall meet architectural standards consistent with all Council-approved urban design policies and demonstrate a high quality of architectural design.
9.3.4.2	Where development consists of single detached, semi-detached, duplexes and converted dwellings, or where the only form of development proposed is an addition of less than 30 square meters to an existing building, site plan control shall be in accordance with the Site Plan Control By-law.	Amend: Consistent with the policies s. 41 (5) of the Planning Act, all areas of the City of Owen Sound are designated as an area where the City shall require the provision of drawings for residential developments with one or more dwelling units, with the exception of an addition of less than 30 square metres to an existing building.

Section	Existing Text	Recommended Changes
9.3.4.4	<p>The City may apply conditions as provided for in the Planning Act to the approval of the of a site plan and may require that certain standards of design be applied. Where the City deems necessary to ensure the fulfillment of such conditions and implementation of the City's policies through a site plan agreement the provision of appropriate security and documentation can be required of the applicant. The site plan agreement may contain provisions relating to the timing of a project, future obligations of the owner and the City, security deposits and road widenings.</p> <p>The City has completed the Site Plan Submission and Approval Guidelines to assist in the standardization and criteria requirements as needed for this process.</p>	<p>Amend: The City shall apply conditions as provided for in the Planning Act to the approval of the of a site plan and shall require that certain standards of design be applied, including consistency with all applicable Council-approved urban design guidelines. Where the City deems necessary to ensure the fulfillment of such conditions and implementation of the City's policies through a site plan agreement the provision of appropriate security and documentation can be required of the applicant. The site plan agreement may contain provisions relating to the timing of a project, future obligations of the owner and the City, security deposits and road widenings.</p> <p>The City has completed the Site Plan Submission and Approval Guidelines to assist in the standardization and criteria requirements as needed for this process.</p>

From: DAVID MCLEISH [REDACTED]
Sent: January 25, 2021 3:48 PM
To: OS Planning <osplanning@owensound.ca>
Subject: Official Plan Amendment

Hello:

Do you have or will you be publishing a summary of the draft plan?

Thanks,

David McLeish
[REDACTED]

Official Plan Update Comment Form

If you wish to provide comments or feedback on the Official Plan Update, please complete this form.

Please note all submissions will form part of the public record.

Enter your First Name: *

Enter your Last Name: *

Enter your Street Address: *

Enter your City: *

Enter your Postal Code: *

Email Address *

Comments/Feedback: *

Given the housing shortage here in Owen Sound, there has been a significant interest in the allowance of accessory dwelling units on a residential property. There have been several other cities that have approved them into their by-law including the likes of Barrie, and Guelph.
I am wondering if the City of Owen Sound will pursue this in the new official plan?

Personal Information:

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Briana Bloomfield
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4
Phone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1247
Email: bbloomfield@owensound.ca

Thank You

Your comments/feedback have been submitted to the City of Owen Sound.



**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR OPA 10 SPECIAL MEETING
March 15, 2021**

- 1) Comments from Peter Middleton
- 2) Comments from Edward Stuart, Hydrogen Optimized
- 3) Comments from Joan Beecroft, PFLAG Canada, in Owen Sound
- 4) Comments from Linda Alexander, YMCA Owen Sound Grey Bruce;
Grey Bruce Settlement and Language Services
- 5) Comments from the Inclusive Communities Committee of Grey and
Bruce
- 6) Comments from Grey-Bruce Pride
- 7) Comments from Tasha Schmidt
- 8) Comments from Colleen Purdon, Secretary, Welcoming Communities
Grey Bruce
- 9) Comments from Renee Abram, Executive Director, M'Wikwedong
Indigenous Friendship Centre

Public Meeting for Official Plan Amendment No.10, Monday, February 8, 2021: 7:00 p.m.

My comments will focus on two interlinked areas of crucial concern that are glossed over in the Owen Sound Official Plan, 1st Draft, December 24, 2020.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

The most immediate and lethal threat faced by human society.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:

Critical touchstone and source in creating adaptable, sustainable and healthy communities.

We ignore these at our peril.

Yes, Climate Change and Natural environment ARE mentioned in the Owen Sound Official Plan, 1st Draft, December 24, 2020.

However, references are in non-specific terms and pleasant platitudes -platitudes too easily taken for granted and dismissed.

There is lack of a credible vision in the plan to recognize and address the increasing importance of Climate Change and Natural Environment as major concern.

As a species, we are dependent upon a narrow set of meteorological and biological conditions for survival. We can no longer ignore our connections to the living, dynamic and now deeply damaged planet that is our home.

Climate Change and the Natural Environment are crucial players in the future of Owen Sound, and must be integral and vital components of any forward focussing planning process!

Where in the draft plan is there any recognition of the importance of Climate Change and the Environment as real and increasingly challenging realities for Owen Sound?

Where in the draft plan are there goals and objectives, proposed actions, measures of accountability and success regarding Climate Change and the Natural Environment?

Previous City Plans (2004 / 2015) set out explicit goals for GREENING our city - with success (downtown beautification / tree planting / solar panel installation.

GREENING is not simply an expedient fantasy. It is a driving concept that requires specific and targeted actions. It requires vision and commitment.

The draft Official Plan is recklessly deficient in recognizing the role Climate Change and the Natural Environment play in affecting our future and that of our children and grandchildren.

Although they are dealt with separately, Climate Change and Natural Environment are inextricably linked, each affecting the other.

Public Meeting for Official Plan Amendment No.10, Monday, February 8, 2021: 7:00 p.m.

Climate Change realities

- manifests a progressive and intensifying reality - more lethal than current pandemic
- affects social quotient of communities, and the physical and mental health of citizens
- affects the aesthetics of a liveable community
- affects the comfort of living conditions -indoor/outdoor -
- impacts sustainability of current urban design - heat waves, droughts, floods, seasonal unpredictability

Natural Environment

- natural habitats and the species are valuable community assets.
- biodiversity provides a range of adaptations that modify micro-climates in urban areas
- open spaces - diverse in form and scale provide a wide scope of opportunity for community activities and interests, promotion of mental health
- provides critical mitigation services - carbon sequestration / water conservation / atmospheric moderation / soil retention
- low cost benefits and longterm sustainability

Actions

- retain natural species and rehabilitate natural communities
- expand and diversify parklands and natural areas with pathways, wooded areas, benches
- rehabilitate wasteland /brown fields to create new parks
- prevent speculative clearing of wooded spaces for development (inducements/fines)
- embark on an aggressive native tree planting program

Initiatives upon which to build: possible source for members of a Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee

NeighbourwoodsNorth
Tree Cities of the World
Owen Sound Climate Action Group
Owen Sound Field Naturalists

Owen Sound has a golden opportunity for leadership and vision in developing an Official Plan that focusses on the critical importance of Climate Change and the Natural Environment in shaping all of our lives over the next decades.

Peter Middleton



From: Edward Stuart [REDACTED]
Sent: February 25, 2021 10:56 AM
To: OS Planning <osplanning@owensound.ca>
Subject: Comments for March15th's Special Meeting

Hello,

I work at Hydrogen Optimized, New to the community working out of the former Tenneco building.

My comments are as follows:

In insure existing industrial land stays industrial, so industrial land remains affordable and available for new companies coming to the region, and companies who may locate near us have ability to do so in your business park.

Additionally allow large 30 acre properties to be for sale for the industrial market at all times. We have recently done a location hunt for such land to build out a space into the 100s of square feet in the area, and there is a large deficit for such available properties, and when companies are doing location searches they may require it to be on the market as apposed to held by a developer they do not want to work with.

Continued commitment for business retention and growth of industrial companies in the region.

I would be happy to speak to the meeting if possible,

Kind Regards,

Edward D.B. Stuart
VP of Product Strategy, Co-Founder
Hydrogen Optimized

Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Web: www.HydrogenOptimized.com

1800 17th St E, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5Z9



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From: Joan Beecroft [REDACTED]
Sent: March 3, 2021 3:27 PM
To: OS Planning <osplanning@owensound.ca>
Subject: Official Plan feedback

To whom it may concern:

In rereading the motion passed by Owen Sound Council on July 27 2020, I can't help but notice that neither it nor its intent are reflected in the draft Official Plan:

"be it resolved that the City of Owen Sound will actively work towards anti-racism and anti-oppression at every opportunity including but not limited to information sharing, ongoing education and training for Council, Committee members, City employees including summer students regarding anti-racism, anti-oppression, diversity and inclusion."

As a teacher, then as an AIDS educator, and now as a volunteer leader with PFLAG Canada, I can tell you how important it is for the City to be visibly inclusive. This needs to be more than a slight show of rainbow stickers and flags. People who identify as LGBTQ2S need to know without doubt that they are a welcome and valid part of everyday life here.

My suggestions include the following:

- install a rainbow sidewalk or crosswalk downtown
- provide City of Owen Sound rainbow stickers to stores,
- reach out to LGBTQ2S groups to ask how the City can show support
- invite people from such groups to join a City committee or advisory group which would support the City in designing an Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity policy

Thank you for your consideration.

Joan Beecroft

[REDACTED]
Owen Sound ON

[REDACTED]

--

PFLAG Canada, in Owen Sound, ON

<https://pflagcanada.ca/>

Phone: 1-888-530-6777 ext 570 (toll-free)

<https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGCanadaOwenSound/>

Official Plan Update Comment Form

If you wish to provide comments or feedback on the Official Plan Update, please complete this form.

Please note all submissions will form part of the public record.

Enter your First Name: *

Linda

Enter your Last Name: *

Alexander

Enter your Street Address: *

945 3rd Avenue E Suite 23

Enter your City: *

Owen Sound ON

Enter your Postal Code: *

N4K 2K8

Email Address *

linda.alexander@osgb.ymca.ca

Comments/Feedback: *

Good Afternoon,

While the Official Plan is about land use it would be helpful if the Vision in section 2.1 and Quality of Life Goal 2.2.4 included a stronger statement on equity, inclusion and diversity.

2.1 Vision The City of Owen Sound is where you want to live. A city where everyone is fully accepted and respected as a valued member of the community. A complete community that values the natural environment, cultural diversity, historic streetscapes, vibrant waterfront and provides a sense of belonging. The City will plan to evolve as a centre for growth, opportunity and innovation while ensuring that equity, inclusion, diversity, sustainability, resiliency, and quality of life are considered in every decision.

2.2.4 Quality of Life Goal: To be a community that celebrates its cultural heritage, cultural diversity and offers an exceptionally supportive and healthy environment, providing leadership as the social, cultural, and recreational focus for City residents and visitors.

Linda Alexander
Grey Bruce Settlement and Language Services - YMCA Owen Sound Grey Bruce

Personal Information:

Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the *Planning Act* and the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, C.25, as amended. The information collected will be used to complete the Official Plan Amendment process and will form part of the public record.

Questions about this collection should be directed to the City Clerk:

Briana Bloomfield
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4
Phone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1247
Email: bbloomfield@owensound.ca

Thank You

Your comments/feedback have been submitted to the City of Owen Sound.



March 8, 2021

Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
City of Owen Sound

Please accept our written comments regarding Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Owen Sound Official Draft Plan.

The members of the Inclusive Communities Committee of Grey and Bruce (ICC) — organizers of the annual Grey Bruce One World Festival — were heartened by the July 2020 resolution of Owen Sound City Council to “actively work toward anti-racism and anti-oppression at every opportunity” and also by the October 2020 decision to name the new 10th Street bridge Gitche Namewikwedong bridge, in recognition and appreciation of the historical lands, lives and current contributions of Indigenous peoples in what is now known as the City of Owen Sound.

To further the council’s work to toward achieving its July resolution, the ICC is writing in support of the amendments proposed by Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce to the city’s Draft Official Plan.

Not only will these amendments provide a framework for the City of Owen Sound — and its mayor, council and staff — to live up to the commitments made by Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, these proposed actions will enable the city’s government to take a strong lead, ensuring that city policies, planning and services provide accessible and equitable outcomes for each person in our community — whatever that person’s cultural heritage, race, ethnicity, Indigenous ancestry, language, marital status, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, newness to Canada, income level, age and/or physical or mental ability or identity.

This leadership in setting the standard for true inclusivity throughout our diverse and growing community will reflect the city’s motto and branding as “Owen Sound where you *want* to live.”

With thanks for your consideration of our comments,

— *the Inclusive Communities Committee of Grey and Bruce*

Mayor Ian Boddy and Council
City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON. N4K 2H4
council@owensound.ca

March 9, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Input for Draft Official Plan

We would first like to acknowledge that Owen Sound is on the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation – including Neyaashiinigiing and Saugeen First Nation. This territory includes over 2 million acres. Spanning from the Northern point of the Bruce Peninsula, south to the Maitland River near Collingwood. Both the lake bed and the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula are subject to an \$80 billion land claim that initially went to court in the spring of 2019 (Treaty 72 – 1854 - Land Claim). While claims haven't been settled, encroachment of development on Sauble Beach and in other areas of Saugeen territory continues. This is echoed in so many communities across Turtle Island. From Wet'suwet'en territory, to Mi'kmaw'ki fishing rights, to Six Nations - We couldn't properly recognize the territory we're on without acknowledging the global call to action to defend and protect it.

Grey Bruce Pride represents a diverse collective of people of different gender identities and expressions, sexual identities and orientations, races, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, and abilities. Our local 2S-LGBTQQIAA+ folks (hereby referred to as "the queer community") are business owners, healthcare workers, social service sector workers, principals, teachers, supporters of local businesses, taxpayers, and even former city mayors. As a collective we would like to address the fact that we do not see ourselves, nor any person of diversity, nor our safety and wellbeing reflected within your Official 25 Year City Plan despite its purpose to, "Promote the health, safety and quality of life for the residents of Owen Sound." This document shows no commitment to diversity, nor equity in any of its 202 pages. We are grateful for the expansive time, resources and effort that went into this plan; however, its general feel is that of being perfunctory and non-committal and we cannot see any reflection of our city, its heart, or the care of its people within its pages.

We as a city have seen the horrors of local racism loudly in the past several years, from vandalism of our mosque and synagogue, to the Neo-Nazi stickers covering our downtown core. What you may not see is the intangible harm from discrimination that comes to us within the queer community as we attempt to live our lives.

In a community where as a queer couple, showing public affection to your partner leads to a variety of dangerous acts from sexual harassment, to verbal and physical assaults, we ask you keep our safety and that of future generations in mind in your revision of this plan and all future city policies.

When so many of us as queer individuals are just in our late adulthood finally coming into ourselves, as we spent our formative and young adult years hiding due to an oppressive society, afraid to proudly be out, afraid to acknowledge our true selves and self worth; we ask that you think of our safety. Particularly as so many youth and adults still do not feel safe to be out privately or publicly and many of our queer youth are trapped in mentally damaging homophobic family situations during this ongoing pandemic. Their safety and future safety, as well that of all those that this 202 page 25-year plan fails to acknowledge or prioritize needs to be acknowledged and addressed.

You cannot speak of diversity without reflecting on the 6 Key Areas of Diversity:

- ❖ Culture, Race, Ethnicity
- ❖ Abilities
- ❖ Religious/ Spiritual Beliefs
- ❖ Gender Identity/Expression
- ❖ Sexual Identity/Orientation
- ❖ Generational Diversity (Ageism)

Your plan addresses two; Abilities and Ageism, and grossly overlooks four. When talking about community services and the demographic needs of the community, the plan refers vaguely in a blanket statement to, “The needs of people of all ages, abilities and interests shall be considered...” Race, Ethnicity, Spirituality, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, these are not interests, these are people and you have overlooked their core-existence by dismissing them as items of interest.

Accordingly, we stand alongside Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce and ask that their suggested Equity and Diversity Policy recommendation be amended to include an ongoing Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from local Indigenous Communities, Spiritual Communities, Service Agencies, Non-Profits, Committees and the likes.

We have attached Appendix A outlining our Recommendations for the Owen Sound Draft Official Plan. In addition to our amendments to those outlined by Welcoming Communities, we have made additional recommendations on addressing the following:

- ❖ Truth and Reconciliation and the Calls to Action,
- ❖ Poverty and equity in accessing amenities as well as affordable housing, and Indigenous-centred housing.
- ❖ Include diverse peoples’ and their perspectives more in cultural celebrations within our city, especially celebrations of diverse populations such as Black History Month and Pride Month
- ❖ The following trainings for City Council and Staff:
 - ❖ Indigenous Cultural Safety
 - ❖ Anti-Racism
 - ❖ Anti-Oppression
 - ❖ Diversity Training on 2SLGBTQIA+

We are conscious of the need for civic leadership and desire to assist the City of Owen Sound towards the creation of a policy and a city plan that truly encompass equity, inclusion and diversity through all levels of their planning and decision-making systems.

We thank you for your time and for hearing our collective voices.
On behalf of Grey-Bruce Pride, Miigwetch.

2.1 Vision The City of Owen Sound is where you want to live. A complete community that values the natural environment, cultural diversity, historic streetscapes, vibrant waterfront and provides a sense of belonging. The City will plan to evolve as a centre for growth, opportunity and innovation while ensuring that sustainability, resiliency, and quality of life are considered in every decision.

2.2 Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives establish the City’s commitment to being a complete community and focuses on opportunities to support: Sustainability; Economic Vitality; Managing Growth; Quality of Life; Equity, Diversity and Accessibility; Urban Design; and, Infrastructure.

2.2.4 Quality of Life Goal: To be a community that celebrates its cultural heritage and offers an exceptionally supportive and healthy environment, providing leadership as the social, cultural, and recreational focus for City residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- a. To encourage the provision of an appropriate range and distribution of health and wellness, safety, educational, cultural and recreational facilities and services throughout the community.
- b. To identify, protect, enhance and celebrate the cultural City’s heritage resources through historical recordkeeping and interpretation, archaeological assessment, artifact preservation, and built heritage conservation.
- c. To achieve a highly integrated system of educational, cultural and

2.1 Vision The City of Owen Sound is where you want to live. *A city where everyone is fully accepted and respected as a valued member of the community.* A complete community that values the natural environment, cultural diversity, historic streetscapes, vibrant waterfront and provides a sense of belonging. The City will plan to evolve as a centre for growth, opportunity and innovation while ensuring that *equity, inclusion, diversity*, sustainability, resiliency, and quality of life are considered in every decision.

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2.2.4 Quality of Life Goal: To be a community that celebrates its cultural heritage, *cultural diversity* and offers an exceptionally supportive and healthy environment, providing leadership as the social, cultural, and recreational focus for City residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- a. To encourage the provision of an appropriate range and distribution of health and wellness, safety, educational, cultural and recreational facilities and services throughout the community.
- b. To identify, protect, enhance and celebrate the City’s cultural heritage resources through historical recordkeeping and interpretation, archaeological assessment, artifact preservation, and built heritage conservation. *This cultural heritage is to include the history of diverse groups within Owen Sound and the wide Grey Bruce area, especially in relation to our First Nations and Metis history, 2SLGBTQQIA+ history, disability rights history, civil rights history, and our history as the northernmost terminus of the underground railroad.*
- c. To achieve a highly integrated system of educational, cultural and

recreational areas, trails, programs and facilities, and demonstrate leadership in cultural initiatives and events throughout the City, particularly within the River District and Harbour Area and Escarpment parks.

d. To demonstrate leadership in being an interactive, transparent local government through an open system of consultation, collaboration and partnerships with members of the public, indigenous communities, other levels of government, and external agencies.

2.2.5 Equity, Diversity and Accessibility Goal: To be a welcoming, safe and supportive community that provides for the diverse needs of residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

Objectives:

a. To provide a safe and accessible urban environment with a mix of uses, activities, experiences and opportunities, for persons of all ages and abilities in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarian's with Disabilities Act and the City's Multi-year Accessibility Plan.

b. To recognize and respond to the demographic changes in the community, including the needs of an aging population, and develop strategies to encourage all residents to maintain their residency and employment within the City.

c. To recognize and respond to demographic changes in the community, including the needs of an aging population, students and youth, through the development of strategies and relevant policy.

recreational areas, trails, programs and facilities, and demonstrate leadership in cultural initiatives and events throughout the City, particularly within the River District and Harbour Area and Escarpment parks.

d. To demonstrate leadership in being an interactive, transparent local government through an open system of on-going consultation, collaboration and partnerships with members of the public, indigenous communities, cultural communities, other levels of government, and external agencies.

e. To work towards Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous communities and Urban Indigenous Centres through on-going consultation and collaboration in the Implementation of the Calls to Action.

f. To celebrate its diverse peoples and their perspectives more in celebrations within the community, especially celebrations of diverse populations such as Black History Month and LGBTQ Pride.

2.2.5 Equity, Diversity and Accessibility Goal: To be a welcoming, safe and supportive community that equitably provides for the diverse needs of all its residents and visitors

Objectives:

a. To provide a safe and accessible urban environment with a mix of uses, activities, experiences and opportunities, for persons of all ages and abilities in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarian's with Disabilities Act and the City's Multi-year Accessibility Plan.

b. To recognize and respond to the demographic changes in the community, including the needs of an aging population, and develop strategies to encourage all residents to maintain their residency and employment within the City.

c. To recognize and respond to demographic changes in the community, including the needs of an aging population, students and youth, through the development of strategies and relevant policy.

d. To recognize and respond to the increasing racial and cultural diversity in the community through the development and implementation of a comprehensive Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Policy such that the lenses of equity, inclusion, diversity and public engagement are applied to all City of Owen Sound’s processes, policies, practices, programs, services, opportunities, actions, corporate strategic plans and departmental goals in ensuring beneficial outcomes and improved quality of life for all of the City’s internal and external stakeholders.

e. To recognize and respond to the increasing racial and cultural diversity in the community through the development and implementation of a comprehensive Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Committee such that the lenses of equity, inclusion, diversity and public engagement are continuously applied and evaluate to all City of Owen Sound’s processes, policies, practices, programs, services, opportunities, actions, corporate strategic plans and departmental goals in ensuring beneficial outcomes and improved quality of life for all of the City’s internal and external stakeholders. This committee should consist of representatives from local Indigenous Communities, Spiritual Communities, Service Agencies, Non-Profits, Committees and the likes, and monitor the continued evolving diversity needs for inclusivity and equity for the City’s residents.

i) It should be noted that the commitment for multiple diverse members of historically marginalized communities, such as 2SLGBTQQIA+, Indigenous Peoples, refugees, low-income, people with disabilities (visible and invisible), and racially diverse groups, must be consulted on what “safety,” “inclusivity” and “accessibility” mean for them and how the City can seek to achieve that.

f. To work towards a community based upon upholding the values of anti-racism and anti-discrimination, ensuring community safety by upholding zero-tolerance for racism and discrimination.

****Please note this is intended for those at risk of human-trafficking and those needing to call crisis lines or 911 in case of emergency including overdoses which are prevalent in the downtown core. The majority of individuals living in this corridor of wi-fi access phones as they cannot afford phone plans or pre-paid cards. With the drastic increase of rental costs, low-income families cannot pay for the internet forcing children to attend schooling instead of working remotely despite potential health risks.**

****Please note, the newly implemented “by-names list” should demonstrate trends in Urban Indigenous Homelessness within our specific community. We are accompanying Appendix B an infographic on the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in our Canadian Homeless Communities due to long stand systemic discrimination and its generational trauma**

d. To apply an equity lens to all decisions and work to capture all opportunities to address homelessness and combat inequity in the City’s built environment and planning policy framework.

g. To reinstate free wi-fi access in the downtown core for the safety and accessibility to resources for at-risk low-income individuals who do not have access to proper telecommunication networks due to their economic status. This wi-fi will help provide their children with access to educational resources as well as allow for communication in case of emergency.

h. To continue the City’s pledge to account a portion of its annual tax levies to allocate towards the construction and maintenance of affordable housing stock, a portion of which are to be allocated as Indigenous-centred as current Provincial County Housing Regulations do not permit Traditional Indigenous multi-generational accommodations and create systemic barriers to housing.

i. Upon election and upon hiring, City Council and City Staff will participate in the following trainings. Trainings will occur regularly as recommended by registered facilitators.

- Indigenous Cultural Safety
- Anti-Racism
- Anti-Oppression
- Diversity Training on 2SLGBTQQA+

j. To apply an equity lens to all decisions and work to capture all opportunities to address homelessness and combat inequity in the City’s built environment, planning policy framework, [workplaces and delivery of services](#).

For the purposes of the Official Plan, the City has adopted the following definitions of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity:

Equity: Treating everyone fairly by acknowledging their unique situation and addressing systemic barriers. The aim of equity is to ensure that everyone has access to equal results and benefits. (Equity and Inclusion Lens Handbook)

Inclusion: Everyone has access to the resources of their community and the opportunity to participate in all areas, regardless of their race,

7.3 Culture and Arts

7.3.1 Facilities and Programs

7.3.1.1 Recognizing the leading role cultural and arts activities play in maintaining the exceptional quality of life in this community and in providing an attraction and focus for visitors, the City will support cultural activities and events within the community by encouraging and facilitating the provision and operation of museums, art galleries, libraries, theatres, arenas, concert halls, community centres and other suitable facilities within the City.

7.3.1.2 The City will promote and support festivals, shows and other events reflecting the cultural richness and history of Owen Sound. The City will support the planning of locations for such events by promoting the inclusion of spaces for cultural activities and events in public spaces, parks and public buildings, particularly in the River District area.

7.3.1.3 In order to provide guidance in the promotion and support of cultural initiatives, the City has developed a Cultural Master Plan that establishes City's strategy for achieving mutual cultural goals and establishes the City's role in the expression of culture in the community.

For the purposes of the Cultural Master Plan, the City has adopted the following definition of culture: Culture is a sharing of ideas and learning through individual and community expression in the visual, literary and performing arts and heritage.

gender, social class, religion, sexual identity or other dimension of diversity. (Ontario Human Rights Commission)

Diversity: The City and all its residents benefit when different communities, groups and individuals with a variety of cultures, ethnicities, philosophical differences, sexual orientations, gender expressions, sexual and gender identities, abilities, ages and experience participate in and contribute to, the City's workforce and to its socio-economic environments. It is understood that diversity encompasses acceptance and respect for all peoples.

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7.3.1.3 In order to provide guidance in the promotion and support of cultural initiatives, the City has developed a Cultural Master Plan that establishes City's strategy for achieving mutual cultural goals and establishes the City's role in the expression of culture in the community.

<p>8.7.2 Community Wellbeing & Inclusion</p> <p>8.7.2.1 The City will continuously work to design public spaces that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote physical and social mobility, b. Reject social and racial segregation, and c. Contribute to physical and mental health. <p>8.7.2.2 The City will work continuously to execute civic engagement that is inclusive and reaches all citizens, regardless of circumstance or identity.</p>	<p>For the purposes of the Cultural Master Plan, the City has adopted the following definition of culture: Culture is a sharing of ideas and learning through individual and community expression in the visual, literary and performing arts and heritage.</p> <p>8.7.2 Community Wellbeing & Inclusion</p> <p>8.7.2.1 The City will have a comprehensive Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Policy and procedures and will continuously work to design public spaces and services that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote physical and social mobility, b. Reject social and racial exclusion, harassment and discrimination, and c. Promote anti-discrimination and anti-racism d. Contribute to physical and mental health. <p>8.7.2.2 The City will work continuously to execute civic engagement that is equitable and inclusive and reaches all citizens, regardless of circumstances, race, ethnicity, Indigeneity, language, marital status, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation/sexual identity, newness to Canada, income level, age, physical or mental ability, culture or identity in order to plan and implement initiatives that will achieve mutually beneficial and equitable outcomes.</p> <p>8.7.2.3 The City will work continuously with diverse and marginalized communities and groups to address racism, discrimination and harassment as barriers to inclusion and wellbeing for all citizens. In the spirit of reconciliation, when possible, these groups will be Indigenous-lead to both promote cultural awareness, and ensure that voices are heard equally around the Talking Circle in a holistic way.</p> <p>8.7.2.4 The City of Owen Sound will work with Owen Sound Police Services and diverse community stakeholders in the thoughtful development and implementation of the Grey Bruce Community Safety and Well Being Plan; which will include considerations for our local MMIW2S and those at risk in our local Indigenous Communities.</p>
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Grey Bruce Pride's Submission:

Appendix B

URBAN ABORIGINAL HOMELESSNESS IN CANADA



1 IN 15 Aboriginal people in urban centres experience homelessness, compared to **1 IN 128** for the general population.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN MAJOR URBAN CENTRES ARE **8 TIMES** MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS.



0 25% 50% 75% 100%

Source: Belanger, Y. et al. (2013). Homelessness, Urban Aboriginal People, and the Need for a National Enumeration. *Aboriginal Policy Studies*, 2(2), 4-33.


www.homelesshub.ca

Grey Bruce Pride's Submission:

Appendix C

Diversity, Inclusivity and Equity Words not Included within

Owen Sound's Official 25 Year Draft City Plan

- Racism ("racial" once)
- Anti-Racism
- Ethnicity
- Reconciliation
- 2SLGBTQQIA+, gender, sexuality, or any other word related to our communities
- Black
- Discrimination
- Anti-Discrimination
- Person of Colour
- Immigrant
- Newcomer
- Refugee
- Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women/Two-Spirit (MMIW-2S)
- Urban Indigenous
- Treaty (mention it ONCE)
- Religion
- Spirituality
- Low-Income
- Poverty

Perhaps the oversight in failing to address the 6 Key Areas of Diversity in this plan was fear of inappropriate use of language, in which case education and dialogue around acceptable language about these areas is needed; as well as detailed objectives ensuring the specific inclusivity, safety, and equity of each key area.

**Review of the First Draft of the Owen Sound
Official Plan Amendment # 10 (OPA 10) dated December 24, 2020**

Comments Submitted by Tasha Schmidt, [REDACTED] Owen Sound ON [REDACTED]

Submitted on: March 10, 2021

Re: Climate Change

Dear City Councilors,

I recently became a mother. This gives me a vested interest in ensuring that the city will be a welcoming place to be in the coming decades.

As acknowledged in the *Planning Act* and the Provincial Policy Statement, the climate is changing. We will likely get more extreme rainfall / snowfall and other weather events, and as such we may need to plan for erosion, flooding, rising lake levels, and additional freeze/thaw events. It is projected that we will get more very hot days each year. This will make city streets and parking areas that lack shade increasingly unbearable, and will require access to public places where people can cool down when it is too hot to be indoors.

I would like to draw city council's attention to subsection 16(14) of the *Planning Act*, which requires that the OPA must contain policies that identify actions (in addition to goals and objectives) that both mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and provide for adaptation to a changing climate.

I have reviewed the first draft of the Owen Sound Official Plan Amendment # 10 (OPA 10) dated December 24, 2020. My review gives me reason to believe that in order to comply with section 16(14) of the *Planning Act*, the creation of a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, a Climate Mitigation Action Plan, and a Climate Adaptation Action Plan is required. How can you know if you are decreasing greenhouse gas emissions without knowing first what you are currently emitting? A greenhouse gas emissions inventory is essential to know your starting point. And the *Planning Act* requires concrete actions to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

If we are going to conserve energy, prepare for a future with electric vehicles, create shaded public spaces, and plan our stormwater and sewage systems and our infrastructure for extreme weather events, we need to start now.

I also hope that the City of Owen Sound will work with Grey County as they finalize their Climate Change Action Plan to integrate some of the actions suggested therein.

Below is a list of concrete actions that could be included in OPA 10. I would be happy to discuss anything in this letter with city staff or city council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tasha Schmidt

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Waste Management
 - o Three stream waste collection, including in all multi-unit residential buildings. Organic waste in landfills generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. By composting wasted food and other organics, methane emissions are significantly reduced.
- Urban Forest
 - o Develop an active urban street tree planting program to create shaded streets.
 - o Achieve a mature forest cover of 40% of the total land area of the Town.
 - o Create a Tree Protection By-law (prevent tree removal, protect mature trees, require tree replacement / planting in new builds, require a tree preservation plan in new developments, etc.)
 - o Reforest any cleared lands and along waterfronts and watercourses to reduce flooding and erosion.
- Erosion / Flooding, etc.
 - o When reviewing an application for development, consider the potential impacts of climate change that may increase the risk associated with natural hazards (flooding, erosion, etc.).
- Active Transportation
 - o Design and encourage roads that plan for pedestrians and cyclists (barrier free, safe, no long streets without pedestrian pathways, trees for shade, signage, bicycle racks, lighting, etc.)
 - o Require that new development include parking for bicycles.
 - o Only approve those plans of subdivision that will not adversely impact the transportation system and that will support public transit, cycling and walkability.
- Sustainable Energy
 - o Be a willing host for green energy facilities of a modest scale, including wind and solar.
- Reduce demand for Energy
 - o Objective: Demonstrate leadership in green building design and technology, including the use of renewable and alternative energy sources
 - o Encourage construction that is solar ready.
 - o All new development should be of the highest design and environmental standards, including shoreline condition and rehabilitation plans. E.g. Require a minimum standard as established by LEED, the Model National Energy Code for Buildings, or Energy Star.

- Provide direction on opportunities for energy efficiency and alternative energy strategies in new development, such as: a) direct energy generation, b) renewable/alternative energy systems and distribution and demand management plans, c) land use patterns and urban design standards to support energy conservation objectives.
- Heat Island
 - Mitigate heat island effects in new development by requiring green or white roofs, by incorporating shade (trees, etc.), and requiring light-coloured paving materials, etc.
 - Plant trees in commercial and industrial areas, and create a residential tree replanting strategy.
- Reduce demand for Water and Wastewater systems
 - Achieve 10% greater water efficiency than the Building Code in municipal buildings and/or new builds.
 - Require installation of permeable driveway and parking lot surfaces.
 - Require the use of water efficient, drought resistant plant materials in parks, along streetscapes and in public and private landscaping.
 - Develop all parks and open spaces with native, water efficient, drought resistant planting materials. Hard surface materials in parks should be permeable.
 - All sanitary sewers should be separate from any storm drainage facilities. Require any existing storm drainage to be progressively separated from sanitary sewers.
- Climate Change
 - Prepare a Climate Adaptation Action Plan, a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, and a Climate Mitigation Action Plan.
 - Establish a greenhouse gas reduction target.
 - Incorporate Grey County's Climate Change Action Plan.
- Preserve green / agricultural land
 - Reduce parking requirements for new development where the development supports alternative modes of transportation, especially public transit.
 - Allow for intensification of housing development
- Protect ecosystems by identifying key natural heritage features that have ecological and hydrologic functions.
 - Protect significant wetlands, woodlands, valleylands, wildlife habitat, areas of natural and scientific interest, coastal wetlands fish habitat and the habitat of endangered species and threatened species. Only approve those plans of subdivision that do not adversely impact the aforementioned.
- Local Food Production
 - Provide for (allow) community gardens and edible landscapes.
- Electric Vehicles
 - All new development should include charging capability for green vehicles.

From: Colleen Purdon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: March 10, 2021 12:47 PM
To: OS Planning <osplanning@owensound.ca>
Cc: Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>; mokless Hassan <[REDACTED]>; Azar Azad <[REDACTED]>; David Morris <[REDACTED]>; Nicholas Forrester <[REDACTED]>; Waleed Aslam <[REDACTED]>; Muna Shrestha <[REDACTED]>; Donald Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Purdon, Colleen-Internet <[REDACTED]>; Manpreet Kaur Sangha <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Submission from Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce for draft Official Plan

Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce (WCGB) is a not for profit organization incorporated in 2019. It is led by diverse and passionate community volunteers. Our mission is to build an inclusive and welcoming Grey Bruce where differences are celebrated and no one is left behind. We focus on: supporting newcomers, addressing systemic barriers to inclusion such as racism, cultural biases and inequities, and building collaborative partnerships. Welcoming Communities carries out research, pilot projects, education, training, skill development and mentoring to overcome barriers to inclusion and to celebrate diversity in our region. You can find local tools and resources on our website: welcominggreybruce.ca

The Board of Directors of WCGB approved by motion the submission of recommendations to the City of Owen Sound for changes and additions to the draft Official Plan that will be reviewed on March 15th, 2021.

As the Board Secretary of Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce, I am submitting the documents below and hope that these suggestions and recommendations will be included for Council's review at the special meeting on March 15th. I have registered to speak to these recommendations at the March 15th Special Meeting, and several of our board members plan to attend.

WCGB appreciates the opportunity to submit the attached recommendations as part of the review of Owen Sound's Official Plan, and the opportunity to take part is the review of the Official Plan. We are a grass roots organization that has been working in Owen Sound and area for the past 10 years as a community committee, and are now a formal not for profit. We see how our community is changing, and how much work needs to be done to truly make Owen Sound a welcoming and inclusive city for all. We look forward to ongoing work with the city to support inclusion, to address racism and discrimination in all its forms, and to support City elected officials and staff in building on our successes and addressing the needs of all citizens.

This submission includes:

- a letter sent to the Mayor and Council from David Morris, the chair of WCGB on behalf of the board, that sets out an overview of the submission from WCGB

- a document with suggestions for changes in language and content for the new Official Plan. The document has the current language in the draft Official Plan compared to suggested language as proposed by WCGB.
- an example from the City of Cobourg of a Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy that Cobourg has approved and is moving forward with that WCGB hopes will be helpful to the City of Owen Sound.
- an example of a policy from the City of Hamilton that
- a recommendation that COS to become a member of the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (<https://en.ccunesco.ca/networks/coalition-of-inclusive-municipalities>)

On behalf of the Board of Welcoming Communities, we thank you for including our submission for consideration by Council at the Special Meeting on March 15,2021.

All the best,

Colleen Purdon
Secretary,
Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce

██████████
Owen Sound, ON ██████████

Cell: ██████████
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info@welcominggreybruce.ca

Mayor Ian Boddy and Council
City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON. N4K 2H4
council@owensound.ca

March 9, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Input for Draft Official Plan

On February 11, 2021, Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce (WCGB) wrote to Owen Sound City Council seeking an update on the actions taken by Owen Sound arising from the anti-racism, anti-oppression motion passed in July. In response to our letter, WCGB was contacted by a member of Council who requested that we recommend specific actions that Council should undertake toward fulfilling the intent of the July motion.

WCGB believes that the following are the minimum actions that Council should take at this time:

- 1) Amend the draft Official Plan to incorporate goals and objectives within Sections 2, 7 and 8 of the draft Official Plan that specifically commit The City of Owen Sound to an Equity, Inclusion and Diversity strategy that addresses issues of racism and other forms of discrimination. In particular, The City of Owen Sound must commit to working toward Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous communities through on-going consultation and collaboration. Our recommendations for such amendments are attached as Appendix 1. This document is formatted so as to facilitate comparison of our recommendations with the December 2020 draft.
- 2) Work with WCGB and other community groups on an Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Group to assist Council and Staff in preparing an Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Policy for the City of Owen Sound. The composition of this Advisory Group should be reflective of the residents of Owen Sound who are vulnerable to exclusion on the basis of race, ethnicity, Indigenous ancestry, language, marital status, gender

identity/gender expression, sexual expression, newness to Canada, income level, age and/or physical or mental ability.

The Equity and Inclusion Policy of the City of Hamilton is one example that could serve as a model for Owen Sound (Appendix 3). However, we believe that to be effective the Policy must be developed locally and suggest that the approach used by the City of Cobourg would be suitable here. (Attached as Appendix 2).

We would further encourage the City of Owen Sound to commit to becoming a member of the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities. (<https://en.ccunesco.ca/networks/coalition-of-inclusive-municipalities>)

Our Board of Directors will submit the above recommendations for inclusion in the ongoing review of the Official Plan and we will participate in the Special Meeting on March 15th to table these recommendations formally.

Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce, other organizations that serve Owen Sound and area, and many individual citizens in our community recognize the need for civic leadership and a policy framework to ensure that the lenses of equity, inclusion and diversity are applied throughout all planning and decision-making processes of the City of Owen Sound. We are more than willing to work with the City toward this end.

Sincerely,



David Morris
Chair
Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce

c.c. Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce Board Members: Muna Shrestha, Waleed Aslam, Manpreet Kaur Sangha, Donald Anderson, Mokless Hassan, Colleen Purdon, Nicholas Forrester, Azar Azad.

Owen Sound draft Official Plan Dec 2020

2.1 Vision The City of Owen Sound is where you want to live. A complete community that values the natural environment, cultural diversity, historic streetscapes, vibrant waterfront and provides a sense of belonging. The City will plan to evolve as a centre for growth, opportunity and innovation while ensuring that sustainability, resiliency, and quality of life are considered in every decision.

2.2 Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives establish the City's commitment to being a complete community and focuses on opportunities to support: Sustainability; Economic Vitality; Managing Growth; Quality of Life; Equity, Diversity and Accessibility; Urban Design; and, Infrastructure.

2.2.4 Quality of Life Goal: To be a community that celebrates its cultural heritage and offers an exceptionally supportive and healthy environment, providing leadership as the social, cultural, and recreational focus for City residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- a. To encourage the provision of an appropriate range and distribution of health and wellness, safety, educational, cultural and recreational facilities and services throughout the community.
- b. To identify, protect, enhance and celebrate the cultural City's heritage resources through historical recordkeeping and interpretation, archaeological assessment, artifact preservation, and built heritage conservation.
- c. To achieve a highly integrated system of educational, cultural and recreational areas, trails, programs and facilities, and demonstrate leadership in cultural initiatives and events throughout the City, particularly within the River District and Harbour Area and Escarpment parks.

WCGB recommended amendments

2.1 Vision The City of Owen Sound is where you want to live. *A city where everyone is fully accepted and respected as a valued member of the community.* A complete community that values the natural environment, cultural diversity, historic streetscapes, vibrant waterfront and provides a sense of belonging. The City will plan to evolve as a centre for growth, opportunity and innovation while ensuring that *equity, inclusion, diversity*, sustainability, resiliency, and quality of life are considered in every decision.

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2.2.4 Quality of Life Goal: To be a community that celebrates its cultural heritage, *cultural diversity* and offers an exceptionally supportive and healthy environment, providing leadership as the social, cultural, and recreational focus for City residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- a. To encourage the provision of an appropriate range and distribution of health and wellness, safety, educational, cultural and recreational facilities and services throughout the community.
- b. To identify, protect, enhance and celebrate the City's cultural heritage resources through historical recordkeeping and interpretation, archaeological assessment, artifact preservation, and built heritage conservation.
- c. To achieve a highly integrated system of educational, cultural and recreational areas, trails, programs and facilities, and demonstrate leadership in cultural initiatives and events throughout the City, particularly within the River District and Harbour Area and Escarpment parks.

d. To demonstrate leadership in being an interactive, transparent local government through an open system of consultation, collaboration and partnerships with members of the public, Indigenous communities, other levels of government, and external agencies.

2.2.5 Equity, Diversity and Accessibility Goal: To be a welcoming, safe and supportive community that provides for the diverse needs of residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

Objectives:

a. To provide a safe and accessible urban environment with a mix of uses, activities, experiences and opportunities, for persons of all ages and abilities in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarian's with Disabilities Act and the City's Multi-year Accessibility Plan.

b. To recognize and respond to the demographic changes in the community, including the needs of an aging population, and develop strategies to encourage all residents to maintain their residency and employment within the City.

c. To recognize and respond to demographic changes in the community, including the needs of an aging population, students and youth, through the development of strategies and relevant policy.

d. To demonstrate leadership in being an interactive, transparent local government through an open system of on-going consultation, collaboration and partnerships with members of the public, Indigenous communities, cultural communities, other levels of government, and external agencies.

e. To work toward Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous communities through on-going consultation and collaboration

2.2.5 Equity, Diversity and Accessibility Goal: To be a welcoming, safe and supportive community that equitably provides for the diverse needs of all its residents and visitors

Objectives:

a. To provide a safe and accessible urban environment with a mix of uses, activities, experiences and opportunities, for persons of all ages and abilities in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarian's with Disabilities Act and the City's Multi-year Accessibility Plan.

b. To recognize and respond to the demographic changes in the community, including the needs of an aging population, and develop strategies to encourage all residents to maintain their residency and employment within the City.

c. To recognize and respond to demographic changes in the community, including the needs of an aging population, students and youth, through the development of strategies and relevant policy.

d. To recognize and respond to the increasing racial and cultural diversity in the community through the development and implementation of a comprehensive Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Policy such that the lenses of equity, inclusion, diversity and public engagement are applied to all City of Owen Sound's processes, policies, practices, programs, services, opportunities, actions, corporate strategic plans and departmental goals in ensuring beneficial outcomes and improved quality of life for all of the City's internal and external stakeholders.

d. To apply an equity lens to all decisions and work to capture all opportunities to address homelessness and combat inequity in the City’s built environment and planning policy framework.

e To apply an equity lens to all decisions and work to capture all opportunities to address homelessness and combat inequity in the City’s built environment, planning policy framework, [workplaces](#) and [delivery of services](#).

For the purposes of the Official Plan, the City has adopted the following definitions of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity:

Equity: Treating everyone fairly by acknowledging their unique situation and addressing systemic barriers. The aim of equity is to ensure that everyone has access to equal results and benefits.

Inclusion: Everyone has access to the resources of their community and the opportunity to participate in all areas, regardless of their race, gender, social class, religion, sexual identity or other dimension of diversity.

Diversity: The City and all its residents benefit when different communities, groups and individuals with a variety of cultures, backgrounds, orientations, expressions, identities, skills and experience participate in and contribute to the City’s workforce and to its socio-economic environments.

7.3 Culture and Arts

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7.3.1 Facilities and Programs

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7.3.1.1 Recognizing the leading role cultural and arts activities play in maintaining the exceptional quality of life in this community and in providing an attraction and focus for visitors, the City will support cultural activities and events within the community by encouraging and facilitating the provision and operation of museums, art galleries, libraries, theatres, arenas, concert halls, community centres and other suitable facilities within the City.

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7.3.1.2 The City will promote and support festivals, shows and other events reflecting the cultural richness and history of Owen Sound. The City will support the planning of locations for such events by promoting the inclusion of spaces for cultural activities and events in public spaces, parks and public buildings, particularly in the River District area.

7.3.1.3 In order to provide guidance in the promotion and support of cultural initiatives, the City has developed a Cultural Master Plan that establishes City's strategy for achieving mutual cultural goals and establishes the City's role in the expression of culture in the community.

For the purposes of the Cultural Master Plan, the City has adopted the following definition of culture: Culture is a sharing of ideas and learning through individual and community expression in the visual, literary and performing arts and heritage.

8.7.2 Community Wellbeing & Inclusion

8.7.2.1 The City will continuously work to design public spaces that:

- a. Promote physical and social mobility,
- b. Reject social and racial segregation, and
- c. Contribute to physical and mental health.

8.7.2.2 The City will work continuously to execute civic engagement that is inclusive and reaches all citizens, regardless of circumstance or identity.

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For the purposes of the Cultural Master Plan, the City has adopted the following definition of culture: Culture is a sharing of ideas and learning through individual and community expression in the visual, literary and performing arts and heritage.

8.7.2 Community Wellbeing & Inclusion

8.7.2.1 The City will have a comprehensive **Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Policy and procedures** and will continuously work to design public spaces and services that:


- a. Promote physical and social mobility,
- b. Reject social and racial **exclusion, harassment and discrimination, and**
- c. Contribute to physical and mental health.

8.7.2.2 The City will work continuously to execute civic engagement that is equitable and inclusive and reaches all citizens, regardless of circumstances, **race, ethnicity, Indigenous ancestry, language, marital status, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, newness to Canada, income level, age and/or physical or mental ability in order to plan and implement initiatives that will achieve mutually beneficial and equitable outcomes.**

8.7.2.3 The City will work continuously with diverse and marginalized communities and groups to address racism,

discrimination and harassment as barriers to inclusion and wellbeing for all citizens.

8.7.2.4 The City of Owen Sound will work with Owen Sound Police Services and community stakeholders in the development and implementation of the Grey Bruce Community Safely and Well Being Plan.

 COBOURG	THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG
	STAFF REPORT
TO:	Mayor and Town Council Members
FROM:	Jamie Kramer, CHRP, CCIP™, Accessibility Coordinator
DATE OF MEETING:	December 7, 2020
TITLE/SUBJECT:	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy
REPORT DATE:	November 23, 2020
FILE #:	

1.0 STRATEGIC PLAN

Pillar - PEOPLE – The Town of Cobourg supports and cares for the Social and Physical Well-Being of its Citizens.

Pillar – PLACES – The Town protects, preserves, and promotes its natural assets, heritage, arts, culture, and tourism.

Pillar – PROGRAMS – The Town provides efficient and effective corporate, community, and business and recreational services for its residents, businesses, and visitors.

Pillar – PARTNERSHIP – The Town engages in strong, sustainable public-private partnerships to improve the quality of life for everyone.

Pillar – PROSPERITY – The Town plans for, markets, and develops assets for economic growth and financial security.

2.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Specific organizations were contacted to provide insight and input into the draft Terms of Reference for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee of Council including:

- Alderville First Nations,
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters Northumberland,
- Canadian Mental Health Association (Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge),

Title/Subject: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy

- Community Living-West,
- Cornerstone Northumberland,
- Horizons of Friendship,
- Multicultural First Aid,
- New Canadians Centre,
- Northumberland Community Legal Centre (Legal Aid Ontario),
- Settlement Services through Northumberland County, and
- Queer Collective.

The public were also provided the opportunity to provide comments and insights not only into the Terms of Reference but the beginning stages of the EDI Strategy as well during this time period.

As a reminder, the public is always encouraged to participate in discussion around equity, diversity, and inclusion at the Town of Cobourg by emailing the Accessibility Coordinator at diversity@cobourg.ca.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive this Memo from the Accessibility Coordinator for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT Council approves the final version of the Terms of Reference for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee of Council; and

FURTHER THAT Council authorize the preparation of a By-law to amend By-Law No. 008-2019 to include the Terms of Reference for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee of Council; and

FURTHER THAT Council appoints two (2) Councillors to sit as Voting Members of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee of Council; and

FURTHER THAT Council directs Staff to begin the application process for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee of Council; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to consult with the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee of Council on matters pertaining to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy for the Town of Cobourg, including public participation; and

FURTHER THAT Council sign the Declaration to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities on January 4, 2021 as a commemoration to World Braille Day; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to bring forward initial budget amounts to be presented at the 2021 Budget review process for Council deliberations; and

FURTHER THAT Council participate in the "Leadership Interviews" as a part of the development of this strategy in the coming months.

4.0 ORIGIN AND LEGISLATION

Council Resolutions

On June 29, 2020, Municipal Council passed the following Resolution:

WHEREAS at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on June 22, 2020 Council considered a Notice of Motion from Councillor Emily Chorley and Councillor Adam Bureau, regarding an Equity and Inclusion Policy for the Town of Cobourg; and

WHEREAS the Black Lives Matter movement has highlighted the need for a reaffirmed commitment to confronting racism and removing systemic barriers to equality; and

WHEREAS fostering an inclusive and welcoming community is a key tenant of the Town of Cobourg's annual 'Pride Month'; and

WHEREAS municipal government can play a leading role in helping to achieve gender equality;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council instruct Staff to draft an Equity and Inclusion Policy; and

FURTHER THAT the policy specifically address the Inclusion of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour, women, people with disabilities, newcomers to Canada, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Two-Spirit, Intersex, and Asexual peoples, as well as those who identify as pansexual, questioning, non-binary, and other gender and sexual minorities (2SLGBTQIAP+) community and other visible minorities; and

FURTHER THAT the policy draws upon resources such as 'Advancing Equity and Inclusion: A Guide for Municipalities' and FCM's 'Diverse Voices Toolkit'; and

FURTHER THAT the policy includes annual commitments to Equity and Inclusion training for Town of Cobourg Staff, volunteers and Members of Council, engagement of citizens and advisory committees, and communications on progress; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to form an Ad Hoc Committee or a suitable alternative with a terms of reference or terms of engagement consisting of citizen members from these diverse minority populations in order to provide input on the development of the Equity and Inclusion Policy, due back to Council on August 24, 2020 Meeting; and

FURTHER THAT the draft policy be presented to Council for consideration by December 7th, 2020.

On September 14, 2020, Municipal Council passed the following Resolution:

WHEREAS at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on September 14, 2020 Council considered a memo from the Municipal Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services regarding Diversity, Inclusion and Equity within the Town of Cobourg; and

FURTHER THAT Municipal Council on June 29, 2020 provided Staff with a direction to draft and present a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy for the Town of Cobourg that will encourage, promote, and insist upon awareness, equality, and acceptance by all residents and Municipal Staff in the Corporation of the Town of Cobourg; and

Title/Subject: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy

FURTHER THAT Staff recommend that the Municipal Council not only provide direction for a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy, but that Council engage and establish a leadership approach in responding to a call for more municipal action on supporting Diversity, Inclusion and Equity across the jurisdiction on the Town of Cobourg Community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct Staff to create supporting governance structures with internal and external stakeholders from the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour, women, people with disabilities, newcomers to Canada, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Two-Spirit, Intersex, and Asexual peoples, as well as those who identify as pansexual, questioning, non-binary, and other gender and sexual minorities (2SLGBTQIAP+) community and other visible minorities; in order to identify and develop priorities, strategies and initiatives to support the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion effort in the Town of Cobourg; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to engage Cobourg's diverse community to help create potential draft terms of reference to advise Council and make recommendations to provide a monitoring and measuring role to help ensure that the Town applies a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens to its policies, services and programs; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to make an application to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (CIM) as a commitment to investing time and resources toward creating a more welcoming and inclusive community in which the CIM network brings together municipalities that want to improve their policies against racism, discrimination, exclusion and intolerance and together, the municipalities undertake initiatives to eliminate all forms of discrimination with a view to building open and inclusive societies; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to bring forward a report to a December Council Meeting or an earlier meeting presenting a status update on the recommendations approved and outlined within the Staff Report.

On November 2, 2020, Municipal Council passed the following Resolution:

THAT Council receive this Memo from the Accessibility Coordinator for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT Council reviews the draft Terms of Reference for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee of Council and provide input, as necessary; and

FURTHER THAT Council directs Staff to begin broad public engagement with the residents of Cobourg on the Terms of Reference for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee of Council; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to bring forward a final version of the Terms of Reference for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee of Council to a future Council meeting prior to the end of 2020; and

FURTHER THAT Council receive the timeline for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy development for information purposes; and

Title/Subject: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy

FURTHER THAT Council participate in the "Initial Benchmarking" step of the development of this strategy.

Canadian and Ontario Legislation

Canada along with its provinces and territories has an exceptional system of human rights laws and ratified international treaties. Nevertheless, as in other parts of the world, racism and discrimination continue to raise barriers against the development of individuals and groups. Racism and discrimination divide communities, pose a serious threat to peaceful coexistence and exchange among and within communities, imperil democratic and participatory citizenship, and entrench and aggravate inequalities within society. Racism and discrimination continue to perpetuate the historical disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal peoples and other diverse groups, many of whom are members of Canada's most economically and socially marginalized communities.

The **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** stipulates: "Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability".

Under the **Canadian Human Rights Act**, "all individuals should have an opportunity equal with other individuals to make for themselves the lives that they are able and wish to have and to have their needs accommodated, consistent with their duties and obligations as members of society, without being hindered in or prevented from doing so by discriminatory practices based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, disability or conviction for an offence for which a pardon has been granted."

The **Citizenship Act** provides that all Canadians, whether by birth or by choice, enjoy equal status, are entitled to the same rights, powers and privileges and are subject to the same obligations, duties, and liabilities.

The **Canadian Multiculturalism Act** provides that the "Government of Canada recognizes the Diversity of Canadians as regards race, national or ethnic origin, colour, and religion as a fundamental characteristic of Canadian society and is committed to a policy of multiculturalism designed to preserve and enhance the multicultural heritage of Canadians while working to achieve the equality of all Canadians in the economic, social, cultural and political life of Canada," (Preamble), affirms that multiculturalism "reflects the cultural and racial Diversity of Canadian society and acknowledges the freedom of all members of Canadian society to preserve, enhance and share their cultural heritage" (section 3(1)(a)) and that it represents "a fundamental characteristic of the Canadian heritage and identity and that it provides an invaluable resource in the shaping of Canada's future" (section 3(1)(b)).

Provincial and territorial human rights codes are premised on the principle that all human beings are equal in worth and dignity, and are entitled to equal protection of the law, as well as that every person has a right to full and equal recognition and exercise of their human rights and freedoms, without distinction, exclusion or preference based on some or all of the following grounds: race, colour, ancestry, ethnic origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, civil, marital or family status, age, religion, political belief,

language, ethnic or national origin, social condition, or disability. Discrimination exists where such a distinction, exclusion or preference has the effect of nullifying or impairing such rights, and human rights codes prohibit discrimination and harassment.

5.0 BACKGROUND

This report responds to part of the above resolutions as requested by Council.

Employers use Diversity and Inclusion initiatives for a variety of reasons including legislative compliance obligations, increasing innovation, and to increase the bottom line with a more diverse workforce. Using Demographic and Labour Market information from the 2016 Canadian Census through Statistics Canada¹, it is clear that there are marginalized, underrepresented, and underserved groups living in the Town of Cobourg.

In 2016, it was reported that almost 4,000 residents of Cobourg moved to the city from cities within the province of Ontario in the last five (5) years with almost 1,500 in the last year.² With the rising cost of housing³ and the COVID-19 pandemic⁴, there are many people moving out of, and away from, Toronto to some of the smaller communities to either commute into the city or retire. As Toronto is one of the most diverse cities in Canada, this could increase the diverse population in Cobourg in the near future. Many persons, including a few from the Legislative Services department, are choosing to move East of Toronto to smaller communities like Cobourg where their money will go further.

The 2016 Census shows us that 4.4% of the population in Cobourg identifies as a Racialized Person (Visible Minority) and 2.3% of the population identifies as an Indigenous Person (Aboriginal).⁵ In Northumberland County, the population is 3.4% and 2.7%, for Racialized Persons (Visible Minorities) and Indigenous Persons (Aboriginals), respectively.

¹ Statistics Canada. 2017. Cobourg, T [Census subdivision], Ontario and Ontario [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed September 28, 2020).

² Ibid.

³ Khoo, Isabelle. "Here's How Much Young People Need To Make To Survive In Toronto." Toronto Storeys, 10 Dec. 2019, <http://www.torontostoreys.com/cost-of-living-toronto-2019/>.

⁴ Peters, Diane. "Why COVID-19 Has City-Dwellers Trying to Get out of Dodge." TVO.org, 18 June 2020, www.tvo.org/article/why-covid-19-has-city-dwellers-trying-to-get-out-of-dodge.

⁵ Statistics Canada. 2017. Cobourg, T [Census subdivision], Ontario and Ontario [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed September 28, 2020).

Even with the seemingly “homogenous” community, it is important to celebrate differences that do occur. The importance to encourage and celebrate diversity in “homogeneous” communities allows for Cobourg to⁶:

1. **Remove Other-ness:** This includes acknowledging and respect the cultures and traditions across the world, not just what we see in our community. To do this, we have to move beyond the symbolic celebrations of awareness months such as Black History Month to create true experiences for citizens.
2. **Challenge Assumptions:** Take what people know, or think they know about the world, and introduce new ideas and opinions which challenge the assumptions they have grown up with and honed over their lives. Most people are adaptable and accepting by nature who may need a little nudge to accept something from their norm.
3. **Look outside the Bubble:** Expand the worldview of Cobourg to be inclusive of outside opinions, worldviews, and information that shapes the world around us. We should be able to present facts and arguments from marginalized, underrepresented, and underserved communities to those who may not hear these viewpoints elsewhere.
4. **Celebrate the Diversity around Us:** Few communities, including Cobourg and the greater Northumberland County, are entirely homogenous. This means that we should be seeking out and celebrating the uniqueness and differences in our communities, especially the “invisible” diversity elements.

By embracing diversity in the community, it means creating an environment that allows people to bring their unique thoughts and identities to enhance the cultural and diversity competence of the Town of Cobourg. The Town of Cobourg would only gain from having a diverse workplace and a welcoming community. The development of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy would provide the building blocks for creating an inclusive and welcoming community.

While there are activities being done within each department, these are uncoordinated which limits the impact and efficiency of them on the Town of Cobourg. As there are no facets in place that have a broad overview of the Town of Cobourg, there is a potential that staff members, and the community as a whole, are under-reporting cases of harassment and discrimination.

Without an EDI Strategy, there is a limited ability to measure the business value or the return on investment for those smaller facets of diversity that are being conducted. This also gives us a lack of reliable insight into employee experience as well as how the citizens understand equity, diversity, and inclusion.

⁶ Peters, Kylie. “Promoting Diversity in Homogeneous Communities.” YALSA Blog, 2016, <http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2016/12/17/promoting-diversity-in-homogeneous-communities/>.

Title/Subject: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy

The EDI Strategy will work to empower our Mayor and Town Council and our Leadership team, to be able to have meaningful discussions around equity, diversity, and inclusion both in the workplace and the boundaries of Cobourg.

6.0 ANALYSIS

Based on the Council Report and Resolution passed by Council, there were three (3) objectives to assist with creating this update and the overall Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Policy and Plan.

1. Start to Listen (Public Engagement),
2. Joining the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, and;
3. The Development of an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy.

Start to Listen (Public Engagement)

The first aspect of the report to Council was to start to listen to the community and key stakeholders and rights holders about how to create an inclusive culture.

There were two (2) steps outlined in the Staff Memo for this option, which included:

1. Create the Terms of Reference for an Advisory Committee for Council, and
2. Community Open Dialogue and Feedback.

Create the Terms of Reference for an Advisory Committee for Council

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 26, 2020, a draft version of the Terms of Reference for an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee of Council. After this meeting, input from Councillors, other community organizations, and citizens on Engage Cobourg.

In addition, further organizations were reached out to based on their scope of mandate as well as the location they provide services to. As many organizations provide services to Cobourg but have head offices in areas outside of Cobourg. These organizations were asked to provide input via email and/or registration on the Engage Cobourg website and are listed in the "Public Engagement" section of this Council Report.

The final version of these Terms of Reference are attached as **Appendix A**. The Engage Cobourg incorporated the Terms of Reference and general dialogue for understanding issues around equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Town of Cobourg. This was visited a total of 172 times with 4 Engaged Visitors, 43 Informed Visitors, and 123 Aware Visitors. Every participant that said they would like to be involved was sent a personalized email inviting them to stay tuned with the final version of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee of Council Terms of Reference and would be sent the information to apply to be a part of the committee.

This Advisory Committee of Council will start receiving applications once the Terms of Reference are approved and Council will appoint the full Committee by the end of February 2021. While the Mandate and information for the Advisory Committee has been outlined, the goal is to have this Advisory Committee provide insight and information to Council, and Staff, to have a diverse and inclusive lens applied to all Town initiatives moving forward.

Title/Subject: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy

To ensure needs of all community members will be met, select Staff members from Northumberland County have been requested to sit as non-voting members (resources) on the Committee to provide context and insight, as well as to combine efforts for specific strategies and projects. The goal of this Committee is to be as collaborative as possible when creating an equitable, diverse, and inclusive Cobourg.

Community Open Dialogue and Feedback

As part of the opportunity to “Start to Listen”, Staff used Engage Cobourg to begin the conversation about any obstacles, challenges, or opportunities to create a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive town. This information was collected at the same time as the Terms of Reference to begin the dialogue for public engagement.

Staff outlined in the initial report to Council on September 14th the option to create an outreach that allowed the community to “express and write their feelings, a quote, or draw/provide an image...through an online portal or physical location.” Due to the rise of COVID-19 cases during the months between September and November this was done completely online to ensure a safe environment. Should cases drop and it is safe to conduct these types of engagement in person again in 2021, this will be incorporated into the public engagement options for the EDI Strategy at that time.

Staff with the assistance of Town Council and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee of Council for the Town of Cobourg will determine a safe location for this, as well as how it will be monitored and issues raised addressed.

Staff will continue to listen to the community. Once the EDI Committee of Council has been formed, a Town Hall/Public Session will be hosted, either in-person, virtually, or hybrid, to encourage citizens to make their voices heard. The way that public participation will take place will depend heavily on COVID-19 restrictions, cases, and advice from Health professionals.

As previously stated in the Council Report, the public is always welcome to address issues, concerns, or opportunities around equity, diversity, and inclusion by emailing the Accessibility Coordinator at diversity@cobourg.ca.

Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities

The Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities is a network through the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). This network brings together municipalities that want to improve their policies against racism, discrimination, exclusion and intolerance. Its strength lies in the shared experiences of its members. Together, the municipalities undertake initiatives to eliminate all forms of discrimination with a view to building open and inclusive societies.

In the guide for [New and Established Members of the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities](#), there is a recommendation for new signatory members to sign the declaration to become a member of the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities on an internationally recognized day. The next of these is January 4th, which is World Braille Day. It is the recommendation of Staff that the Mayor and Town Council not only sign the declaration to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities on this day, but also

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proclaim World Braille Day as a significant day to raise awareness at the Town of Cobourg.

Once becoming a signatory member, the Town of Cobourg is responsible for undertaking actions that address ten (10) Common Commitments. These are the following:

1. Increasing vigilance against systemic and individual discrimination.
2. Monitoring discrimination in the municipality and taking action to address it.
3. Supporting individuals who experience discrimination.
4. Providing police services that are exemplary institutions for fighting discrimination.
5. Providing equal opportunities as a municipal employer, service providers, and contractor.
6. Supporting measures that promote equity in the labour market.
7. Challenging discrimination and promoting diversity and equal opportunities in housing.
8. Involving citizens by giving them a voice in anti-racism initiatives and decision-making.
9. Challenging discrimination and promoting diversity and equal opportunities in education and other forms of learning.
10. Promoting the respect, knowledge, and appreciate of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Indigenous and Racialized communities in the cultural fabric of the municipality.

By signing on, the Town of Cobourg is agreeing to create a Plan of Action for these ten (10) Commitments, which will be our EDI Strategy. It is Staff recommendation that we focus on three (3) of these actions while we develop our EDI Strategy and work to incorporate more as we continue on our journey. The three (3) that are being recommended by Staff are:

1. Increasing vigilance against systemic and individual discrimination.
2. Monitoring discrimination in the municipality and taking action to address it.
3. Involving citizens by giving them a voice in anti-racism initiatives and decision-making.

These initial commitments will begin through further public engagement as well as with the assistance of the newly formed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee of Council. More information will be provided in 2021 on the full scope of engagement with the public to increase Staff's awareness of the types of discrimination faced by members of the public, as well as our Staff members.

Beginning with these three commitments, the Town of Cobourg will be able to lay a greater foundation to incorporate the remaining seven (7) in the future. While all are important and will have a part to play in the EDI Strategy, the amount of resources and ability to address some of the larger systemic issues will only come with time and further resources. The first three (3) that are being recommended will lay the foundation and framework for how to best implement and address the remaining seven (7).

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Once the Town of Cobourg's EDI Strategy is complete, we will be requested on a yearly basis to provide CCUNESCO with updates on how we are meeting our requirements under the ten (10) Common Commitments. This Annual Report will also be shared with the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee of Council as well as Town Council and the public to demonstrate where we are on the journey and what steps are still to be made. This first report will be completed in 2021 along with the start of the implementation of the EDI Strategy.

It should be noted that by focusing on these three (3) commitments, it does not preclude us from having strategies or recommendations for the other seven (7) commitments in our EDI Strategy. As with these types of commitments, they are intertwined and work together to create a holistic approach to the Town of Cobourg's approach to racism and discrimination.

Development of an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy

At the Council meeting on November 4th, the following development process for an EDI Strategy was approved by Council:

1. **Initial Internal Benchmarking:** Using the [Global Diversity and Inclusion Benchmarks \(GDIB\)](#), and the corresponding [GDIB Assessment Checklist](#), determine the Town of Cobourg's current level of diversity and culture of inclusion.
2. **External Benchmarking:** Review other Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategies and Plans from other municipalities, non-profit, and for-profit organizations to see the scope of goals and objectives.
3. **Community Engagement and Feedback:** Conduct community engagement and listening sessions to learn about the important topics that should be addressed for the community in Cobourg.
4. **Leadership Interviews:** Interviews with those in top leadership and management positions should be conducted, including with Council, to determine cultural competence as well as their understanding of topics related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion through their unique experience and lens.
5. **Document Review:** All documents, policies, and processes should be reviewed under an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) lens to provide insights into any unintentional organizational or systemic barriers at the Town of Cobourg.
6. **Census and Engagement Survey:** Survey the current workforce to learn more about the Diversity within the workplace as well as how engaged and included they feel.
7. **Confidential Internal Focus Groups:** Conduct confidential focus groups with employees to learn more about the obstacles and opportunities for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the Town of Cobourg.
8. **Strategy Development:** Work with appropriate stakeholders and rights holders to develop the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy/Plan.
9. **Implementation:** Implementing the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy.

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As noted, this entire process will take approximately eight (8) to ten (10) months, with the hopes of having a completed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy to present to Council by August 2021 with the aim to begin the implementation process in the Fall of 2021. This is assuming there are no delays due to unforeseen circumstances (such as another lockdown due to COVID-19) and appropriate budgetary allotments provided.

The following information is an update on the steps that have been taken already and what is to come in the future for the EDI Strategy to stay within the timeline. This EDI Strategy will meet the requirements under the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities for a Plan of Action.

An aggregate and high level report of all the information collected throughout the entirety of the process will be provided at a later date to Town Council along with some recommended actions for the future. This will allow for all of the steps and information to work together to create a full picture rather than making assumptions or estimations about what will work moving forward based on only pieces of the information.

Initial Internal Benchmarking

Purpose: Using the [Global Diversity and Inclusion Benchmarks \(GDIB\)](#), and the corresponding [GDIB Assessment Checklist](#), determine the Town of Cobourg's current level of diversity and culture of inclusion.

The Global Diversity and Inclusion Benchmarks (GDIB)⁷ helps organizations determine strategy and measure progress in managing Diversity and fostering Inclusion. The GDIB Model uses four (4) broad groups and fourteen (14) categories to cover the important elements that need to be addressed to create a Diversity and Inclusion Initiative.

The GDIB has five (5) levels of assessment which are as follows:

- **Level 5: Best Practice:** Demonstrating current best practices in D&I; exemplary for other organizations globally.
- **Level 4: Progressive:** Implementing D&I systemically; showing improved results and outcomes.
- **Level 3: Proactive:** A clear awareness of the value of D&I; starting the implement D&I systemically.
- **Level 2: Reactive:** A compliance mindset; actions are taken primarily to comply with relevant laws and social pressures.
- **Level 1: Inactive:** No D&I work has begun; Diversity and a culture of Inclusion are not part of organizational goals.

The Town of Cobourg has received permission from the authors to use this as their metric analysis for the EDI Strategy moving forward.

⁷ "From Global Diversity & Inclusion Benchmarks: Standards for Organizations Around the World © 2017 Julie O'Mara and Alan Richter. Used with permission. All Rights Reserved.

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Using the [GDIB Assessment Checklists](#), the Town of Cobourg will assess their initial levels of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace. Using a mixture of Councillors, Directors, Managers, Supervisors, and Individual Contributors, many persons from the Town of Cobourg were able to participate in this activity. This will include the Fire Department, Police Department, the Cobourg Public Library, and Union representatives.

As the goal of this system is to come to a consensus, only a sample of Staff members from all levels were able to participate; however, through the Inclusion Survey and Confidential Internal Focus Groups, all Staff members will be asked on the topics in a multitude of ways. This will allow us to understand the full depth of where the Town of Cobourg is on its journey and how Staff understands Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

We are still working to collect this information and will use it to shape the future direction of the EDI Strategy. It should be noted that the expectation is that the Town of Cobourg will be on the lower end of the spectrum as there hasn't been a collective effort towards EDI at the Town of Cobourg previously. There are many departments that are making efforts towards EDI in their respective area and that will mean some of the categories have higher levels of activity than others but overall there is a lower level of activity.

While completing the Checklist Assessments, it will be requested of the individuals participating to place an asterisk next to the practices that they wanted to see implemented in the future as goals. These will be taken into consideration during the recommendation and action planning phase of the EDI Strategy; however, it may be that we take smaller steps to work towards those larger goals in the future.

External Benchmarking

Purpose: Review other Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategies and Plans from other municipalities, non-profit, and for-profit organizations to see the scope of goals and objectives.

There are different levels of specificity and commitment to Diversity and Inclusion in Diversity and Inclusion Action Plans/Strategies. Municipal government plans generally have an internal focus. The non-profit and for-profit organizations tend to acknowledge the need to have an additional client/customer focus. The Town of Cobourg should aim to do both with their Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy; however, the variety in the level of commitment will come based on the type of resources that are available, including personnel and budgetary commitments.

The hope was to use similar comparators as with the other external comparators that are used; however, it should be noted that based on preliminary research many small municipalities or comparable demographic and size municipalities have not undertaken this type of work. This further proves that Cobourg will be a leader in this space and may mean that larger areas will need to be used as benchmarks. Where it is applicable, a note on the size of the municipality/organization will be factored in to understand the differences in resources.

Many of the EDI plans and strategies for different municipalities have between forty (40) to sixty (60) action items across a multitude of objectives and goals. The municipalities and/or regions that have these strategies have significantly higher populations overall and also higher populations of Racialized Persons. The amount of complexity depends

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on the not only how long the municipality/region has been focusing on diversity but also the size of the personnel working on the project.

While there may be some initiatives that the Town of Cobourg can take based on these other strategies, we are not far enough along on the process to start further along on the journey than we actually are. When that happens, EDI Strategies tend to fail because the expectation is much higher than what can actually be delivered.

Community Engagement and Feedback

Purpose: Conduct community engagement and listening sessions to learn about the important topics that should be addressed for the community in Cobourg.

As noted in the “Public Engagement” section of this document, the public will be engaged on the Terms of Reference for the EDI Committee of Council. There will be a notice that members of the public can email in any barriers, obstacles, complaints, or compliments to the Town at diversity@cobourg.ca.

More strategic public engagement will be undertaken during the next phases of developing the plan. The information gathered during the next few months will help direct the way in which Staff engages the public as well as reviews documents and information internally. The public engagement will use the principles of the International Association for Public Participation’s Engagement Spectrum as well as best practices for engaging marginalized and “hard to reach” communities.

Some of these best practice techniques include:

- Hosting events at community centres,
- Providing information or accommodations for child care,
- Hosting events along a bus route,
- Ensuring that these events do not fall on a religious or cultural holiday or event,
- Having language interpreters, including sign language interpretation, available,
- Ensuring the location is barrier-free and accessible for Persons with Disabilities,
- Pairing up persons who are new to the public engagement process with those who have done it before, and
- Allowing people to participate in multiple ways for the same topic (i.e. in person, online, email, survey, etc.).

All of these ideas will be taken into consideration during the creation and implementation of public engagement for the EDI Strategy. As noted at the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 26, 2020, it is important to provide anonymous and/or confidential ways for people to participate and engage with this topic to allow for safety of the persons who are participating. Measures and steps will be made to ensure this is available and an option during the course of public engagement.

Next Steps on the Timeline

There will be two (2) aspects of the process that will start in the near future simultaneously:

1. **Leadership Interviews:** Interviews with those in top leadership and management positions should be conducted, including with Council, to determine

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cultural competence as well as their understanding of topics related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion through their unique experience and lens.

2. **Document Review:** All documents, policies, and processes should be reviewed under an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) lens to provide insights into any unintentional organizational or systemic barriers at the Town of Cobourg.

The Document Review process will work in tandem with the Corporate Policy Review Protocol process that was discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 16th, 2020.

These next steps will provide insights into what leadership views as the important areas of EDI as well as looking at the documents, policies, and procedures to make sure they are having the intended impact on Staff. These two (2) aspects will help with the future of the EDI Strategy but the direct responses and data captured will remain confidential to protect the privacy of those who are involved in the process.

While we are completing these tasks, we will also be creating the information for:

1. **Census and Engagement Survey:** Survey the current workforce to learn more about the Diversity within the workplace as well as how engaged and included they feel.
2. **Confidential Internal Focus Groups:** Conduct confidential focus groups with employees to learn more about the obstacles and opportunities for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the Town of Cobourg.

The information for these steps will be presented at a future Council date for information and consideration. As a note, the information from the different steps will be presented at one time together to provide the most context and information as these steps are to work together to create a full understanding of the scope of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the Town of Cobourg.

Additional Consideration #1: Intercultural Development Inventory® (IDI®)

As part of the leadership interviews, it would be beneficial to also have leadership receive information about their cultural competency by using the Intercultural Development Inventory® (IDI®). This tool assesses intercultural competence—the capability to shift cultural perspective and appropriately adapt behavior to cultural differences and commonalities. As part of it, leaders take the assessment and then work with a trained facilitator to develop an action plan to encourage cultural competency growth.

There are two (2) options to participating in the IDI®s. The first option is to find a trained facilitator to conduct these, which could cost around \$18,000 to \$20,000 to conduct with just our current leadership and Town Council. This is a good short-term solution; however, will cost more money in the long run, especially if there are changes within the Management team. The second option is to train two (2) facilitators within the Town of Cobourg to conduct the IDI® assessments in-house. After the initial cost for the training, which is approximately \$2,400 CAD per person (\$1,800 USD per person), the

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assessment only costs approximately \$30 CAD per person (\$21 USD per person) which includes receiving the group aggregate assessment information for the IDI®. Please note that these are approximate numbers as the prices are listed in USD and the CAD exchange rate was used on October 30, 2020.

While currently we are proposing to use it for Leadership and Town Council, going through with Option #2 would allow for more insights into the leadership team on an ongoing basis, especially as we continue on the EDI journey. It would also allow all Advisory Committees, Board, and Supervisors/Managers to have the assessment done to understand their cultural competency in the future. The initial costs of using the IDI for Leadership and Town Council would be approximately \$5,500 CAD.

Additional Consideration #2: Training, Education, and Awareness

Another key component of beginning an EDI Strategy and journey is to conduct training with the appropriate groups on appropriate topics. The main goal currently is to raise awareness for Leadership and Town Council in order to abide by a “top down” approach to inclusion, which works best in organizations to ensure that all staff understand the importance of the strategy and information.

Additional training on Indigenous Awareness and Inclusion should also be conducted for Leadership and Town Council to provide them with the tools and resources for cultural competency that cannot be created in-house. This would include training from Indigenous Awareness Canada, which would cost a total of \$4,300 for all Leaders and Town Council, as well as a few select other individuals.

Further, anti-racism training should be conducted as well through a third party. The Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF) provides a half-day anti-racism workshop that aims to develop capacity for equity, offering a safe space for discussion and conversation about equity, race, and human rights, while simultaneously helping participants navigate differences, diversity, power relationships and conflict. The cost for Leadership and Town Council to participate is \$1,350.

Other training will be done in-house through the expertise and knowledge of the Accessibility Coordinator and Human Resources, as required. This will include Diversity and Inclusion Fundamentals, Unconscious Bias, Accessibility, and Human Rights training among others.

More training will be conducted for all staff members on an ongoing basis, throughout the creation of the EDI Strategy as well as the implementation.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/STAFFING/BUDGET IMPACT

As costs may be realized throughout the project, they will be brought on a case by case and project by project basis during the course of developing the EDI Strategy.

Currently, we are requesting a budget of \$12,000 for initial training and professional development for leadership and Town Council. This is to account for the conversion rates from USD to CAD for the IDI® to make sure that we have our bases covered.

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As noted above, EDI Strategies are the most successful when there is stronger cultural competency within the leadership team, which can be developed over time and with assistance. The goal is to conduct the majority of this training for leadership in the first six (6) months of 2021.

The work of this will be done by the Accessibility Coordinator and will not impact the current staffing of the Legislative Services department.

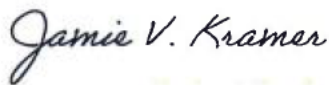
All 2021 budget requests will be brought forward and presented by Staff at the December 8, 2020 Divisional Budget Meetings for Council consideration and deliberation.

8.0 CONCLUSION

Staff has undertaken the first steps in creating an EDI Strategy that will set the Town of Cobourg apart from other smaller municipalities while enhancing the livelihood of those who live here and will live here in the future. It also starts the process of the Town of Cobourg becoming a competitive employer with larger municipalities as more and more persons, especially younger persons, value the corporate social responsibility of an organization when determining where to work.

As the months go on, there will be more data and information collected to provide insights into how the Town of Cobourg can move forward with Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. This information, in combination with joining the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, will start the process of listening to our citizens about their needs related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and work towards being an inclusive employer.

9.0 AUTHORIZATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (SENIOR MANAGEMENT/CAO)



Jamie Kramer

Accessibility Coordinator

Brent Larmer

Municipal Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services



Tracey Vaughan

Chief Administrative Officer

EQUITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

EQUITY AND INCLUSION POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Hamilton commits to ensuring that Council and all levels of corporate management embed the principles of Equity and Inclusion into the way that the City does business delivers services and programs and provides opportunities.

1.0 The Purpose

The Policy's purpose is to enhance and strengthen Council's decisions and to apply the principles of Equity, Inclusion, Diversity and Public engagement to all City of Hamilton's processes, policies, practices, programs, services, opportunities, actions, corporate strategic plans and departmental goals in ensuring beneficial outcomes and improved quality of life for all of the City's internal and external stakeholders.

Terms and Concepts

The principle of **Equity** underpins our inherent belief in the human rights of all persons.

- The City of Hamilton believes that, in Canada's highly differentiated socio-economic society, all stakeholder communities, with the groups and individuals that they include, have the right to barrier free access to resources, decision-making, expertise, experience, connections, information and opportunities through solutions that match their needs.

The principle of **Inclusion** creates a sense of belonging.

- The City of Hamilton believes that respect is due to each and every person. All persons must be valued for whom they are. They must feel a level of supportive energy and commitment from others in order to give of their best, at work and in the society at large.

The principle of **Diversity** validates the sum total of potential found in any group of people.

- The City of Hamilton recognizes the positive power and richness that exists when different communities, groups and individuals with a variety of backgrounds, orientations, expressions, identities, skills and experience participate in and contribute to, the City's workforce and to its socio-economic environments.

The principle of **Public Engagement** ensures an organization's mutually beneficial connections with one or more of its stakeholder communities.

- The City of Hamilton commits to an approach and related processes by which to engage equitably with one or more of its stakeholder communities in order to plan and implement initiatives that will achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

2.0 The Policy's Corporate Alignment

The Policy is in corporate alignment with the City's Vision, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; the Ontario Human Rights Code; and the Employment Standards Act.

The Policy also aligned with the City's Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy.

3.0 Responsibility for Policy Implementation

Mayor and Council members
All levels of City management
All Staff

4.0 Policy Implementation

The Policy's implementation will enhance the City's ability to achieve its current and future business outcomes through processes and outcomes related to the inclusion and public engagement of all its diverse stakeholder communities. City management and staff will plan, monitor and evaluate the impact of implementing the Policy, and report to Council according to a two year schedule.

4.1 **Council members** will implement the Policy when they:

- Review and monitor the City's Strategic Plan.
- Review and approve recommendations related to corporate objectives, policies, programs and performance measures.
- Consider and approve recommendations regarding matters of policy and direction related to the Access and Equity Office.
- Consult with, and are advised by, the Council Advisory Committees.
- Appoint community volunteers to serve on City Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Committees that represent the community.

4.2 **All levels of Management** will implement the Policy in accordance with the City's Corporate Vision, Mission, Strategic Plan when they

- Establish departmental goals and measures and
- Operationalize their plans.

- 4.2.1 **The Senior Management Team (SMT)** includes the City Manager, General Managers and Executive Directors. The SMT will implement the Policy when they:
- Implement the Council decisions.
 - Plan, implement and evaluate the corporate objectives.
- 4.2.2 **Departmental Management** includes the following positions: Director, Senior Director, Manager, Coordinator, Supervisor, and Team Leader. Departmental managers will implement the Policy when they plan, implement and evaluate their departmental measures and outcomes.
- 4.3 **All Staff** will include measures and outcomes derived from the Policy in the performance goals they set with their managers and supervisors.

5.0 The Policy's Guiding Principles and Intended Outcomes

The following principles provide guidelines to achieve the Policy outcomes:

Principles:

- All individuals must be treated with dignity and respect.
- Governance decisions made in the interests of under-served communities enhance the outcomes of all Hamiltonians.
- All members of the City of Hamilton's communities must have equitable access to its services, programs and opportunities.
- Equity and Inclusion principles are imbedded in all City of Hamilton's education, training and professional development opportunities for all staff which is essential to creating a corporation free from racism, discrimination and harassment.
- The principles of Equity and Inclusion are embedded in the City's business processes and opportunities and in the supports that the City provides to businesses, creating a level playing field and benefiting all the City's stakeholders.
- The diversity of Hamilton's communities must be reflected in the diversity of the City's workforce.
- Hamilton's workforce diversity strengthens its competitive business edge for success both in Canada and internationally.
- Public engagement ensures that diverse communities and individuals sit at crucial decision-making tables.
- Public engagement initiatives are most effectively carried out by a highly diverse workforce.
- The City of Hamilton must be committed to finding ways to deal effectively with resistance to organizational change.
- Multi-layered, two-way communication channels are essential for effective organizational change.

- Effective socio-economic opportunities for all Hamiltonians depend on the identification and removal of systemic barriers to equitable and inclusive outcomes.
- Leadership that validates shared and individual accountability enhances the successful implementation of the Policy.

OUTCOMES:

Short-Term:

- Council makes decisions that enhance the implementation of the Equity and Inclusion Policy.
- Councillors make decisions that are informed by the advice of the Advisory Committees and lead to enhance inclusion.
- Councillors approve corporate objectives and performance measures that strengthen public engagement.
- Systemic barriers to inclusion and participation have been identified.
- A barrier-free corporate communication strategy has been established that includes the meaningful participation of representation by under-served communities.
- Procedures to address the violation of the Equity and Inclusion Policy in the workplace have been developed.
- A plan has been developed and implemented to increase Hamilton's ability to nurture and strengthen a competitive business environment within Canada and internationally.
- Agencies, Boards and Committees are reflective of community diversity.
- Staff's knowledge and skills regarding the application of equity and inclusion principles has been increased.
- System-wide training programs in applying and practicing principles of Equity and Inclusion strengthen the City's workforce capacity.
- Bias-free hiring, recruiting, selection, promotion and retention processes have been developed and implemented.
- Departmental managers make special efforts to recruit and hire members from the under-served communities in order to build a workforce that reflects the diversity of the communities served.
- Barrier-free policies, procedures and systems are approved.

Long Term:

- Principles of Equity, Inclusion, Diversity and Public Engagement inform City-wide policies, practices and programs.
- Public engagement partnerships that include members of under-served communities has been achieved.
- Hamilton's thriving business environment reflects the diversity of all its communities.
- Underserved communities are meaningfully included in civic opportunities.

- Equity, inclusion and diversity principles are embedded in all the City's programs and services.
- Employees' performances are reflective of the City of Hamilton's overall Equity and Inclusion objectives.
- Managers ensure the environment is inclusive, safe and welcoming to all members of staff and the diverse communities.
- Staff is reflective of the community we serve.
- The City of Hamilton is a healthy workplace free of discrimination and harassment.

6.0 Monitoring and Evaluation of the Policy:

- 6.1 Senior management will monitor and report on the Policy-related outcomes in accordance with a two-year monitoring and reporting cycle.
- 6.2 The Access and Equity Office will:
- Develop and provide tools and related resources to facilitate and support managers and staff in implementing the Policy;
 - Advise and support managers and staff in monitoring and evaluating related outcomes and impacts;
 - Report to Council every two years on the Policy's implementation measured against observable indicators of organizational change.
- 6.3 The first two year implementation cycle of the Policy will include the following:
- 6.3.1 The Senior Management Team will approve a Communications Strategy for the Policy that will strengthen a system-wide understanding of the need for and relevance of the Policy.
- 6.3.2 The Access and Equity Office will develop the resources and tools needed by management and staff to facilitate planning, implementing and evaluating of programs and services related to the Policy.
- 6.3.3 On completion of the first two year cycle, the Access and Equity Office will report to Council, SMT and departmental management, staff and communities.

7.0 Resources to Support Implementation

- 7.1 **The Access and Equity Office** will support management in implementing the Policy into the way the City plans, implements and evaluates programs, services and opportunities that respond to the needs of all the City's communities.

The Office encourages and supports public engagement when Council is dealing with issues that might relate to race, sex, gender, skin colour, Aboriginal/First

Nations/Metis/Inuit Peoples, disability, age, marital status, socio-economic status, culture, religion, creed, language, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, immigrant status, family status, same sex partnership, gender expression and gender identification. In doing so, the Office works closely with the Council Advisory Committees and Human Resources and meets regularly with leaders, groups and organizations from the under-served communities.

- 7.2 **The Advisory Committees to Council** provide advice and recommendations to City Councillors, management and staff in order to address the specific issues and concerns facing diverse communities. They provide advice for formulating policies, key directions and decisions intended to improve the quality of life for everyone. Council recruits and/or appoints people to these Committees who reflect the diversity of the City's communities in order to enhance public engagement in the City's business.
- 7.3 **The Access and Equity Staff Committee** assists the Access and Equity Office in identifying needs, emerging issues, trends and barriers to access and equity. The Committee also advises on effective strategic directions, opportunities and challenges that relate to the Office's current and future initiatives.
- 7.4 **Assistance, Advice and Tools for the Implementation of the Policy** will be developed and or provided by the Access and Equity Office, in conjunction with appropriate staff, in areas that will include:
- Terms and Definitions intrinsic to the Policy: How to use and apply them, including the Background Glossary related to Access and Equity.
 - How to Implement Effective Public Engagement : Application of Principles; Strategies; Essential Processes; Outcomes and Benefits.
 - The Under-served Communities: Relevant background information specific to each of the underserved communities.
 - Steps to Implement the Policy: Assistance to Management.
 - Effective Responses to Needs of Under-served Communities: Including tools based on Consultations with and feedback from under-served communities.
 - Achieving Strategic Corporate Benefits: through the Policy's Implementation and short and long term impacts.
 - Integrating the Policy in Departmental Planning and Evaluation: Ensuring corporate alignment with other policies.
 - Departmental Goal Setting: That integrates the Policy-related outcomes.
 - Techniques for establishing the Policy-related performance measures, such as the Policy-based Tracking and Monitoring Mechanisms.

- Human Resources Management
 - Equity and Inclusion-Based Processes and Outcomes related to the following: Recruitment; Hiring; Selection Interviewing; Performance Management and Review
 - Strategies for Building a Diverse Team
 - Techniques for Managing Diversity-based Conflict
- Barriers Identification, Analysis and Removal/Reduction: Tools
- Effective Internal and External Communications – Strategies; Processes and Benefits

REVISION LOG

Date	Section	Change
Feb 10, 2016	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression	Inclusion of Gender Expression

M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre



Mayor Ian Boddy and Council
 City of Owen Sound
 808 2nd Avenue East
 Owen Sound, ON. N4K 2H4
 council@owensound.ca

March 10, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Input for Draft Official Plan

We would first like to acknowledge that Owen Sound is on the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation – including Neyaashiinigiing and Saugeen First Nation. This land is sacred and has been cared by from time immemorial by the Indigenous peoples of this area.

M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre strives to serve the Urban Indigenous Community here in Owen Sound. The individuals we serve are over-represented in a variety of areas: homelessness, food insecurity, et al. The Urban Indigenous Community we work with also face systemic issues of racism, dislocation from culture, land and language, discrimination based on gender and sexual diversity, socio-economic backgrounds and opportunities, and abilities.

We stand alongside Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce and ask that their suggested recommendations be incorporated into the city's plan:

- 1) Amend the draft Official Plan to incorporate goals and objectives within Sections 2, 7 and 8 of the draft Official Plan that specifically commit The City of Owen Sound to an Equity, Inclusion and Diversity strategy that addresses issues of racism and other forms of discrimination.
- 2) Work with an inclusive array of community groups on an Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Group to assist Council and Staff in preparing an Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Policy for the City of Owen Sound. The composition of this Advisory Group should be reflective of the residents of Owen Sound who are vulnerable to exclusion on the basis of race, ethnicity, indigenous ancestry, language, marital status, gender identity/gender expression, sexual expression, newness to Canada, income level, age and/or physical or mental ability.
- 3) We would also encourage the City of Owen Sound to commit to becoming a member of the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities. (<https://en.ccunesco.ca/networks/coalition-of-inclusive-municipalities>)

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Additionally, we would ask that council commit to begin the implementation of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Report.

(https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf)

M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre, as well as other organizations that service Owen Sound and area, and many individual citizens in our community recognize the need for civic leadership and a policy framework to ensure that the lenses of equity, inclusion and diversity are applied throughout all planning and decision-making processes of the City of Owen Sound.

We are more than willing to work with the City toward this end.

Sincerely,



Renee Abram

Executive Director

M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre