

# Official Plan Community Consultation Workshop

## Tuesday, May 14, 2019: Libro Community Hall (Clinton)

# of attendees: 87

## DOWNTOWNS

### What does success look like?

- No empty store fronts
- Place for all ages
- Pedestrian only areas that are walkable and safe
- Inviting environment; vibrant and beautiful
- On-going marketing
- Community spaces
- The restoration of historical buildings
- Partnerships with local colleges
- Having both the front and back entrances of stores accessible to the public
- Incentives for young entrepreneurs
- Consistent signage
- Public art
- Lit crosswalks
- Farmers markets
- Adequate parking
- Second floors of businesses which are repurposed for housing
- Proper snow removal
- Places to sit
- Vibrant nightlife
- Access to healthy food within the downtown core
- Garbage cans
- Good websites promoting downtowns

### Applicable OP sections

- 7.3.6
- 7.2
- 7.1
- 6.1
- 7.1
- 7.3.7, 3.2, 3.3, 4.3
- 3.2
- 4.1, 4.3
- 3.2
- 4.3

## What works well?

No 'no vacancy' tax  
Diversity of Blyth's downtown  
"Win this space"  
Special community events (i.e. farmers' markets)  
Revitalization of main streets  
Respect for heritage & culture (such as murals)  
Local businesses' online presences  
Accessibility of local trails from downtowns  
Mix of industry  
Parking availability

3.2, 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3. s. 9

3.2,

3.2, 3.3. s. 8

4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3. s. 9

## Areas for improvement?

Pedestrian only areas  
Attracting and retaining a work force  
Separated bike lanes  
Accessible stores and restaurants  
Green space  
Incentive to shop local  
BIA collaboration  
Availability of housing near downtowns/services  
Space availability for new businesses  
Protection of heritage areas & buildings  
Store hours  
Further marketing of a 'shop local' campaign  
County & municipality investment into local businesses  
Support for small, local retailers  
Improving signage & traffic flow

7.2, 7.3.9. s. 1

4.3. s. 9

3.2, 3.3. s. 8, 7.3.9. s. 1

7.3.8, 3.2, 3.3. s. 11

7.1

2.2, 4.3. s. 11

7.3.2. s. 5, 7.3.2. s. 1, 7.2

7.3.2. s. 6, 3.3. para. 4, 4.3. para. 2,

4.3. s. 2, 4.3.s. 4, 4.3.s. 8

4.3. para. 2

## Top identified priorities

Addressing empty storefronts  
Re purposing the second floors of businesses for housing & other mixed uses  
CIPs for downtown retail spaces  
County-wide campaigns to promote local businesses  
Adequate parking, and waste disposal  
Accessibility & safety  
Encouraging beautification  
Attracting businesses and workers  
Tourism  
Solving the issue of absent landlords

7.2

7.3.8, 3.2, 3.3. s. 11

4.3. s. 7

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## What does success look like?

Adaptation & preparedness for events such as extreme weather and erosion  
 Biodiversity  
 Increased electric vehicle infrastructure  
 Innovative technologies  
 Continual measurement of climate change and its effects  
 Viable renewable energy projects  
 Improved stormwater management (i.e. the yellow fish program)  
 Recognition and awareness  
 Waste reduction policies  
 Widespread composting  
 Erosion control  
 Reduced packaging  
 Improved built form: low impact development

## Applicable OP sections

6.1, 6.2  
 6.3. para. 6, 6.3. para. 9  
 2.3. para. 15, 3.2, 3.3. s. 13  
 8  
 6.3. s. 12, 8  
 3.3. s. 5, 6.3. s. 12

## What works well?

Huron Clean Water Project  
 Lake Huron Coastal Centre  
 Hullett Wildlife  
 Huron Soil & Crop projects  
 Bayfield's ban of single-use plastic  
 Local conservation authorities' watershed pilot project  
 Wind energy  
 Cover crops  
 Huron County's position on climate change  
 Emergency preparedness  
 Emerging awareness of climate change and increased urgency on the need to take action  
 Water stations

2.3. sec. 15  
 6.2  
 6.3. sec. 12, 6.2, 8

## Areas for improvement?

Attracting new & emerging climate changed-related industries

Behaviour changes (i.e. reduced reliance on plastic)

Better monitoring of climate changes in air, water, etc.

Preparedness

More strict policies pertaining to building on flood plains and within erosion hazard areas

Increased funding for conservation authorities to promote stewardship practices

Increased tree planting

Improved landfill maintenance and management

8

6.1, 6.2

6.3. sec. 12

6.1, 6.3. sec. 9

## Top identified priorities

Public education

Climate Change Action Plan

Emergency Preparedness Plan

Development of highly efficient homes

Improved storm water management

Compensating farmers for creating & maintaining carbon sinks

Greening cover crops on municipal lands

6.3. sec. 12

6.2

6.2

7.2, 7.3.9. sec. 1

# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

## What does success look like?

Biodiversity  
 Clean ditches  
 Minimal erosion & successful soil conservation  
 Dealing with invasive species properly  
 County partnerships with environmental agencies; similar to the Huron Clean Water Project  
 Corridors dedicated to preserving wildlife  
 Forest management  
 Funding available for creek buffers  
 Rehabilitation of pits  
 Waste management  
 Centralized recycling  
 Clean water  
 More parks  
 Support for County Forester and Stewardship Coordinator

## Applicable OP sections

6.3. sec. 6, 6.3. sec. 9  
 6.3. sec. 9  
 6.3. s. 16, 8, 5.3. s. 6, 6.3. s. 17  
  
 6.3. sec. 14, 8  
  
 6.3. sec. 9  
 6.3. sec. 4, 6.3. sec. 11, 6.3. sec. 17  
  
 5, 5.2, 5.3. sec. 5, sec. 6, & sec. 8  
 3.3. sec. 5  
 3.3. sec. 5  
 2.3. sec. 13, 4.1, 7.1, 7.3.9  
 3.2  
 6.3. sec. 17, 7.2

## What works well?

Funding for the Huron Clean Water Project  
 Resourceful Conservation Authorities & Coastal Centre  
 Good understanding of the importance of stewardship practices among local farmers  
 Environmental Farm Plans  
 Public Awareness (ex: beach clean up)  
 Volunteerism (ex: tree planting)  
 Grassroots movements re: recycling  
 Paved shoulders for cycling  
 EV plug-ins  
 Good regulations re: the extraction of gravel  
 Less pits being dug into the water table  
 Improved mapping  
 Wind generation  
 Education re: plastic usage and littering

2.3. s. 12 & 13, 6.1, 6.3. s. 12, 7.2  
  
  
 3.3. sec. 8 & 9, 7.3.9. sec. 1  
  
 3.3. sec. 11, 5.2, 5.3. sec. 3  
  
 3.3. sec. 13, 2.3. sec. 15

## Areas for improvement?

Education on the importance of not littering  
Reduced plastic reliance  
More water stations  
Keeping farms economically viable while protecting natural areas  
Soil health resiliency  
Shoreline gully restoration  
Rehabilitating old pits  
Lake clean up  
Cleaner industrial processes  
Improved communication re: Natural Heritage Plan  
Sharing of best management practices  
Celebrating farmers as stewards of the land  
More incentives & penalties re: polluting  
Green programs & improved recycling servicing  
Reduction of the illegal use of pesticides  
Sewage by-pass/septic systems  
Streamlined nutrient management processes  
Improved biosecurity to prevent the spread of disease

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2.3. s. 12, 3.3. s. 4, 4.3. s. 10, 6.3. s. 6  
5.3. s. 6, 6.3. s. 17, 7.3.9  
5  
6.3. s. 12, 7.2, 7.3.9. s. 6  
7.3.6. s. 3  
6.3. s. 2  
2.3. sec. 13, 6.3. sec. 12  
2.3. sec. 12, & 13, 6.1, 6.3. s. 12, 7.2  
3.3. sec. 5

## Top identified priorities

Protection of water  
Increase in forests  
Roadside tree planting  
Private property  
Improved opportunities to cycle between towns  
Creative use of exhausted pits (i.e. winery)  
Agritourism  
New boat launch in Bayfield  
Access to the Goderich pier to fish  
Education on how to care for the natural environment  
Shoreline gully restoration

6.3. para. 12  
6.2, 6.3. sec. 11  
6.3. sec. 1  
3.2, 3.3. sec. 8, 7.3.9. sec. 1  
5.2  
4, 2.3 sec. 5, 4.3 sec. 11

# HOUSING

## What does success look like?

- More housing available for the workforce
- Permitted small farm severances to preserve housing stock
- Shovel-ready land
- Availability of mixed housing types; including seasonal
- Ability to age-in-place: assisted living
- Reduced rates of homelessness
- Accessible and affordable housing opportunities
- Increased availability of rental housing
- Enhanced community feel
- Common spaces that are inter-generational
- Garden suites/tiny homes
- More shelters
- Development-friendly attitude at the county level
- Development of energy-efficient and green housing using innovative technologies
- Continued use of existing housing stock
- Adaptive reuse of existing building stock for residential purposes (i.e. churches)
- Infill & intensification
- Adequate housing for seasonal farm workers
- More opportunities for vacation rentals
- Programs available to help first-time home buyers
- Incentives for affordable housing initiatives
- Multi-generational farm housing

## Applicable OP sections

- 6.3. para. 12
- 2.3 sec. 8 & 10
- 4.3. sec. 3, 7.2, 7.3.3
- 4.3. sec. 3, 7.3.2. sec. 1
- 3.3. sec. 12, 7.3.8
  
- 7.3.2. sec. 2 & 4
- 7.3.2
- 1.1, 7.1, 7.2, 8
- 3, 7.2
- 7.3.2
  
- 7.2
  
- 7.3, 7.3.1. para. 1, 7.3.2 para. 5
- 7.3, 2.3
- 7.2

## What works well?

- Conversation re: housing needs
- Awareness of homelessness within the county
- Working with developers
- Researching infrastructure alternatives
- Repurposing unused building stock
- "Out Of The Cold" initiative
- Traditional, single detached housing
- Housing developments south of Goderich
- Apartment building with affordable units in Goderich
- Garden suites being permitted in some municipalities
- Programs offered by the county housing dept. - e.g. housing allowances

- 7.2
  
- 7.3.2
  
- 7.3.2. sec. 2
- 7.3.2. sec. 2

## Areas for improvement?

More garden suites and tiny homes  
More affordable housing units in the 'big 5' towns  
Increased density via refurbishing older homes and loosening regulations  
Housing units for students, immigrants, and employees  
Addressing over housing / creating more opportunities for families  
Creative regulations and zoning to address housing opportunities  
Converting vacant buildings like old schools and the Bluewater Centre in small units  
Enhancing the sense of community via improved community facilities  
Housing policies (ex: allowing two homes on one lot)  
Encouraging passive housing design  
Protecting landlords  
Increase in shelter and support for mental health  
More attainable housing and temporary housing  
Housing for the Mennonite and Amish communities  
Exploring best practices for building tiny homes

7.3.2 sec. 2  
7.3.2. sec. 1

7.3.2. sec. 2

7.2

## Top identified priorities

Diversifying housing mix  
Increased density  
More community education on local housing shortage  
Incentivizing development on designated lands  
Small severances  
Making it easier to build  
County-funded home ownership programs  
County-funded affordable housing incentives  
Protecting landlords and tenants

7.3.2 sec. 1  
7.3.2. sec. 1

2.3. sec. 8



# AGRICULTURE

## What does success look like?

Viable family farms  
 Sustainable farm practices that promote long-term soil health, such as good drainage practices, water protection, and cover crops  
 Local food security  
 Shared knowledge of normal farm practices throughout the community  
 Continued multi-generational farming  
 Reliable agricultural infrastructure such as roads, bridges, elevators, and processing plants  
 Integrated agricultural business networks  
 Clear agricultural policies  
 Promotion of urban agriculture  
 Utilizing the "rural lens"  
 Equitable property taxation  
 Support for farmers' mental health  
 Less regulatory burden  
 Room to farm  
 Passing on knowledge to young farmers  
 Science-based farming guidelines and principles

## Applicable OP sections

2.2  
 2.2, 6.2, 6.3. sec. 13 & 15  
  
  
 2.3 sec. 7  
  
 4  
 4  
 4

## What works well?

Exporting farm products  
 Finding niche/non-traditional markets  
 Growing nutritious, high quality food  
 Production of a wide range of commodities  
 Farmers' Markets  
 Port of Goderich/local rail/trucking  
 Protecting our soil and viable agricultural land  
 Creating opportunities via agricultural employment  
 The wide range of ages in agriculture and mentoring between generations  
 Protecting farm land from development  
 Voluntary reforestation  
 Nutrient management plans

4, 4.3  
  
 2.1  
 4.3  
  
 2.2, 2.3  
 4.2  
  
 2.2, 7.3  
 6.2, 6.3 sec. 11

## Areas for improvement?

Educating the public on normal farm practices  
Attracting and retaining farm employees  
Retaining young farmers  
Sharing our story of agriculture here in Huron County  
Providing benefits and housing to potential workers in order to compete with other industries  
Less agricultural regulations  
Maintain and expand farm forests  
Maintain stewardship practices & pay more attention to climate change/environmental stressors  
Increasing value-added ag. business  
Resiliency  
Fostering women in agriculture  
Building more networks for farmers  
Increasing supports for mental health  
Increasing rural areas' access to high speed internet  
Loosened regulations to allow for small-scale farming  
Use of new technology in farming practices  
Support for "outside the box" farming  
Agritourism opportunities  
Shared facilities  
Communication and marketing  
Education re: permaculture/alternative farming methods  
Leadership training for farm heads, as well as volunteers

4.3

4.3

3.3

4.2

6.2, 6.3. sec. 11

6.3. sec. 12, 6.1, 7.2

4.2, 4.3

4.3. sec. 7

3.2

## Top identified priorities

Public education on agriculture  
Small farm lots  
Retaining young farmers  
Rural housing stock  
Removing AG4 nutrient limits  
Protecting forest cover and water courses  
Promoting all farm sizes  
Promoting 2-degree processing of agricultural products  
Maintenance of transportation methods for farm commodities  
More community linkages between farmers and the surrounding communities  
Education on sustainable agricultural practices  
Promotion of agritourism  
Allowing land that is not aerable on farms to be severed

2.3

4.3 sec. 9

7.3.1

6.2, 6.3. sec. 10 & 17, 6.1

2.3 sec. 7 & 8

3.2, 3.3. sec. 8 & 9, 7.2

4.3. sec. 7

2.3

# HERITAGE AND CULTURE

## What does success look like?

- Viable theater companies
- More music festivals
- Music entertainment at community events
- Diverse demographics
- Easy access to local history within town halls and other organizations
- Awareness of Indigenous history
- Community value of the libraries
- Better media coverage of the arts
- Viable local fairs
- Youth cultural exchanges
- Communication about cultural events
- Expansion of the Alice Munro Festival

## Applicable OP sections

4, 4.3

4.3

## What works well?

- Support of athletics
- REACH Centre
- Community centres & facilities (particularly Kingsbridge)
- Access to local swimming pools
- Work done by local heritage buildings
- Designation of heritage buildings/local heritage tours
- Trails network (e.g G2G, Maitland, etc.)
- Local tourism
- HCDs
- Preservation of the waterfront and beaches
- Huron's volunteer culture
- Utilization of local halls
- Connection to local history
- Local markets, museums, theaters, and libraries
- Strong faith communities
- Craft breweries, wineries, and cideries
- Strong community groups (i.e. Lions)

4, 4.3

4.3

## Areas for improvement?

Increased preservation and upkeep of heritage buildings  
More lending through libraries  
Improved cemetery maintenance  
Coordination of community activities via calendars/improved communications  
Improved performance of local schools  
Increased knowledge of Indigenous heritage  
Public art  
Multicultural festivals  
More welcoming environment for newcomers  
More opportunities for youth to be involved in art & music  
Local journalism  
Ensuring heritage is accessible  
Showing off our military history  
Restoration of old homes  
Preventing the deterioration of churches  
Showcasing century farms

3.2, 3.3. s. 4, 4.3. s. 2, 7.3.2 s. 6

## Top identified priorities

Support groups: for leadership development, coordination, and financial self-sufficiency  
Aviation heritage  
Tourism  
Interactive marine museum  
Utilization of county internet to support heritage and culture

# SPECIAL AGE GROUPS

## What does success look like?

Youth engagement  
 Youth retention  
 Adequate childcare services  
 Local educational opportunities  
 Plethora of available seniors' activities  
 Available housing for seniors that is affordable  
 Affordable housing for all age groups  
 Networking beyond the county to encourage newcomers

## Applicable OP sections

7.2  
 4.3 s. 5 & 9  
 3  
 3  
 3.3 s. 12  
 7.3.2  
 7.3.2

## What works well?

Huron County is the only rural county in Canada with a geriatrication  
 Good healthcare available for seniors  
 Wonderful place to retire  
 Strong sense of community  
 Safe communities  
 Good transitions in place for seniors moving from apartments to nursing homes  
 The health unit standards are good for in-home daycare  
 Good number of long term care facilities  
 Lots of jobs available for millennials

3.2  
 7.1, 7.2  
 3.2  
 3.3 s. 12, 7  
 3.2  
 4, 4.3 s. 2

## Areas for improvement?

Availability of beds in nursing homes  
Increase in county-supported homes  
Attracting people fo all ages  
Finding places for the next generation to farm  
Availability of good childcare centres for working families - perhaps an opportunity for cost assistance  
Better living wage  
More supports for people with mental health challenges & kids with developmenetal challenges  
More supports beyond hospitals for those in need of mental health supports  
Supports for the male population re: mental health and domestic support  
Public transit opportunities  
Better addiction and assault supports

4.2, 4.3 s. 5  
2.2?

7.3.2

3.2, 3.3

## Top identified priorities

Transportation  
Aging in place  
Post-secondary education  
Improved access to day-care  
High speed internet

3.2, 3.3  
3.3 s. 12, 7

4.3 s. 1

# ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & RECREATION

## What does success look like?

Walking & hiking paths providing connectivity between communities

Physically and mentally healthy community members

Recreation opportunities for diverse groups & interests

Guides and booklets that promote recreation

Promotion of the G2G Trail

Public transit routes between larger communities and beyond Huron County

Education and awareness about recreational activities, such as safe hiking and hunting

Subsidized recreational activities

Snowmobile trails

Conservation areas

Freedom to move without barriers

Conservation areas

Awareness and understanding of accessibility

Bike rental program at the Goderich Airport

Promotion of guides and resources online

Morris Trail partnership with the library: having books along the trail

Knowledge sharing with local schools

A community calendar which advertises community events

Road improvements

Bike paths along both sides of the road/dedicated bike paths in general

Promotion of agriculture via farm activities, experiences, and agri-tourism

Requirement for developers for include active transportation routes and walking networks in new developments

Using unopened road allowances as walking trails

Reduction of minimum parking requirements to encourage walking

Mixed-use development

Utilization of school buses for alternative transportation outside of school hours

Increased signage

Infrastructure to reduce speeding, such as round-a-bouts

## Applicable OP sections

3.2, 3.3 s. 8, 7.2, 7.3.9 s.1

3.2,

3.2, 3.3 s. 8

3.2

3.2, 3.3 s. 8

3.2, 3.3 s. 8

3.2, 3.3 s. 11, 7.3.8

3.2, 3.3 s. 8, 7.3.9 s. 1

4.3 s. 7

3.3 s. 9, 7.2

4.3 s. 3d, 7.3.2. s. 1a

## What works well?

Recent improvements to bike lanes and signage  
Bike racks on main streets, at parks and arenas, etc.  
Trails which allow horseback riding  
Walking trails in general  
Bingo  
County infrastructure plan and cycling strategy  
Community walks and fundraisers  
County tourism and recreation guide  
Availability of tennis and squash courts  
Ice rinks  
G2G trail  
Trail accessibility  
Free yoga  
Great Lakes Waterfront Trail  
Rumble strips

3.2, 3.3 s. 8

3.2

3.2, 3.3 s. 8

3.2, 7.3.8

## Areas for improvement?

Keeping funding promises  
Dedicated cycling lanes; particularly along major routes and highways  
Communication regarding available resources  
Access to transportation, such as ride shares, ubers, taxis, etc.  
Considering active transportation during the development process  
Canoe inputs on the Maitland  
Closing the accessibility gap  
Dedicated pedestrian areas  
Washrooms near recreation ares and trails

3.2, 3.3 s. 8, 7.3.9 s. 1

3.2, 3.3 s. 8 & 9

3.3 s. 9, 7.3.9 s. 1

7.3.8

## Top identified priorities

Safe cycling  
Coordination of recreation between municipalities  
Active transportation infrastructure (i.e. sidewalks, paved shoulders)  
Subsidized recreation activities  
Marketing of recreation activities  
Walkable, connected communities  
Strategies to create safe and accessible routes for walking and cycling  
Central info database containing apps, and maps & GIS layers showing active transportation routes  
Education regarding active transportation

3.2, 3.3 s. 8 & 9, 7.1

3.3 s. 9, 7.3.9

3.2, 3.3 s. 8, 7.3.9