



Community Engagement in Phase 3

In the first two phases of the Municipal Development Plan Update process we asked residents about their core values and priorities for the future. In Phase 3 we began looking at potential policy directions and options, engaging with residents and stakeholders to get their feedback on the following key topics:

- Agriculture
- Commercial Development
- Community Housing
- Rural Residential
- Sustainable Development & Urban Design
- Sustainable Tourism

Participants were also encouraged to provide comments on any 'other' topics they had an interest in.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The County hosted a series of engagement activities to hear from stakeholders and community members:

- **Stakeholder Sessions:** Held October 7th, 2015 (10 a.m. – noon and 6 – 8 p.m.) at the County Community Centre. Stakeholder representatives from a range of local organizations and groups were invited to participate in discussions on the key topics. A total of 23 people attended these sessions including members from the Chamber of Commerce, Museum, Beaver Hills Initiative, County Committees, community groups and developers.
- **Public Open House:** Held October 8th, 2015 (drop-in 6 – 8 p.m.) at the Gibson Room in Millennium Place. Participants at this drop-in event reviewed the potential policy directions and options, talked to County staff and the consultant team, and provided feedback through questionnaires. Approximately 60 people attended this event.
- **Questionnaire:** Available from September 28th to October 23rd, 2015. The questionnaire was available online and paper copies were available at the Stakeholders Sessions and Public Open House.. A total of 78 responses were received.

To read the Phase 3 Engagement Summary, please visit:
www.strathcona.ca/MDP

Shaping Our Future

Strathcona County is updating its **Municipal Development Plan (MDP)** which is the County's plan for the future. It sets out a clear vision for how Strathcona will grow and develop over the next 20 years or more, and guides decisions on key issues like conservation of the natural environment and investment in infrastructure and services.

Over a 14 month period, we are asking residents, business owners, and community stakeholder groups to share what they value most about Strathcona County and to weigh in on how the County can build on our strengths while planning for the future.

Stay Up to Date

Stay up to date on the project by signing up to our project mailing list at www.strathcona.ca/MDP.

You can also visit this website and the online engagement hub to learn more about the MDP update, view the results of our recent youth photo contest, find out about upcoming engagement activities, and view input as it is gathered.

Youth Engagement

In addition to the policy-related engagement activities in Phase 3, the planning team also reached out to County youth to get them involved in planning for the future. This involved a Youth Photo Contest and a series of youth workshops at a local high school:

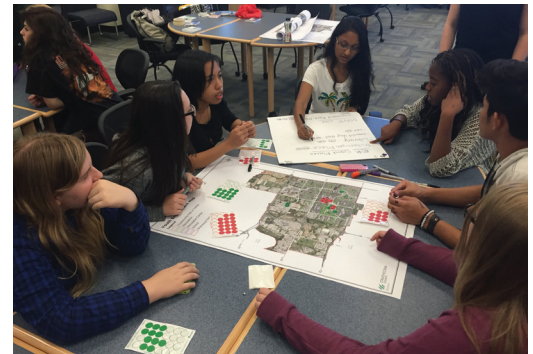
- **Youth Photo Contest:** Over the summer we asked Strathcona County youth to send us photos of their favourite places in the County. We received over 50 entries that are displayed on the online HUB and in the Community Centre from September 14th to November 1st, 2015. Some of these photos will be featured in the updated MDP.

A random prize draw selected 5 winners who were announced at the premiere of the Strathcona County Youth Documentary (developed by Family & Community Services).

- **High School Youth Workshops:** The planning team hosted a series of youth workshops between October 8th and October 29th, 2015 with a number of leadership classes at Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School. A total of 5 workshop sessions engaged over 165 students and included a visit from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

These workshops included an introduction to the MDP, the purpose of public engagement, and activities to increase students' understanding of urban design and planning. This was also an opportunity to enable youth to share their experiences of spaces and places in Strathcona County and their ideas for the future.

Overall, feedback from students reflected what we've heard from community members throughout the project. While youth input focused more on places and activities rather than larger topics like housing or agriculture, their ideas clearly show a desire for a more livable, sustainable community. Students emphasized a need for more attractive and walkable places, more interesting streets with a greater variety of shops and venues, more natural spaces and parks/green spaces in urban areas, more public spaces for people to get together, more opportunities for recreation, and better connections for transit, pedestrians and cyclists.



What's Next?

Over the winter the planning team will develop policies for the key topic areas informed by the feedback received from public input in Phase 3 as well as information from other County plans and background research. The completed draft plan will be brought back to the public for review and comment early in the new year. Stay tuned for details!

