

SHAPE LINCOLN 2051

OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

OPEN HOUSE

DECEMBER 5, 2023



AGENDA

1. What is an Official Plan?
2. The process. Why now?
3. Policies Being Reviewed
4. Key Highlights
5. Stay Involved



What is an Official Plan?

- An Official Plan is a comprehensive long term plan created by the municipality to guide growth and development for the Town to 2051 which is subject to updates and amendments over time.
- The Official Plan addresses such issues as housing, the natural environment, heritage preservation, employment needs, agriculture, commercial services, tourism, parkland/recreation, servicing, and transportation.
- The Official Plan policies must conform to the Niagara Region's Official Plan and Provincial Policy.

The Official Plan is:

- Not prescriptive, but rather high level set of policies
- Not typically specific to any one parcel of land
- Not intended to be a static regulatory document. Utilizes flexibility as land use and associated policies continues to shift and evolve
- Does not prevent future amendments to the plan. Anyone can apply for an amendment for consideration on their property at any time.

Why is the Town updating the Official Plan?

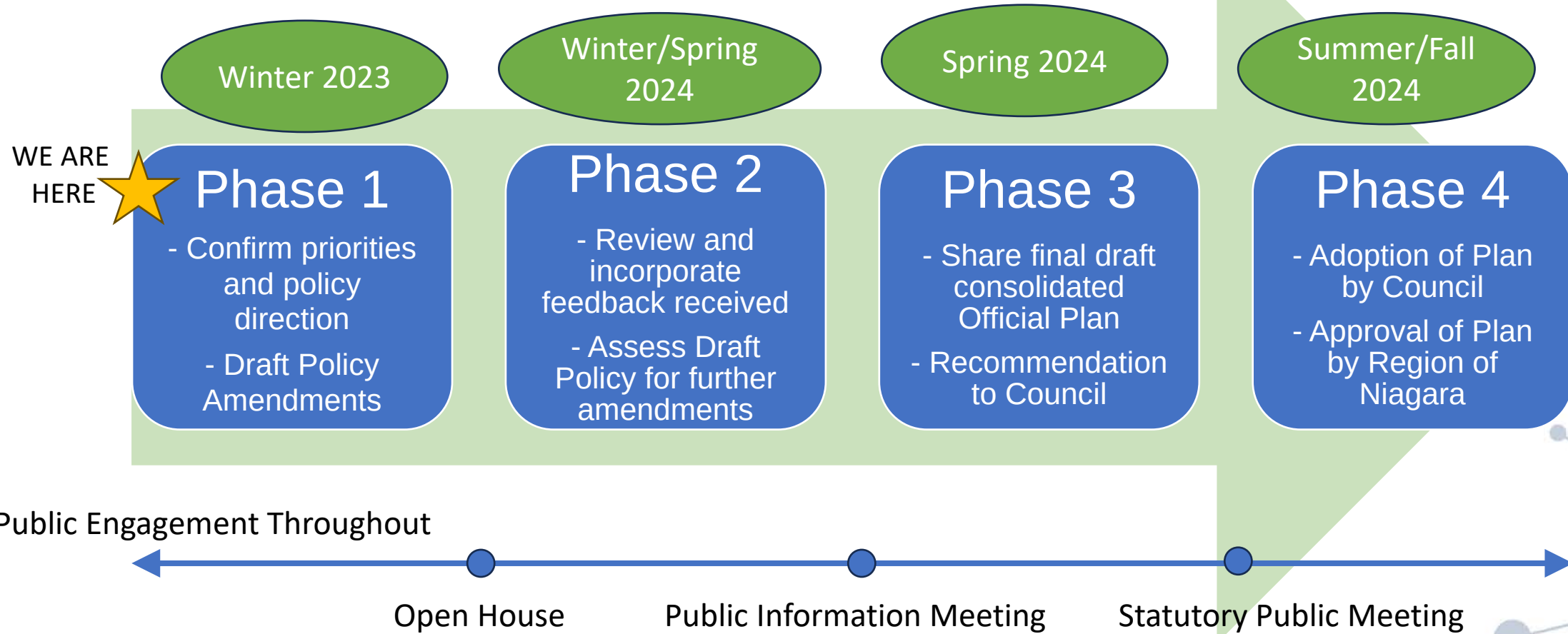
- *The Planning Act* requires that the Town's Official Plan be reviewed every 10 years after the approval of a new Official Plan, and every 5 years after a comprehensive review to reflect changes in our community, the vision for the Region, and to ensure that the Official Plan remains aligned with Provincial and Regional policy.

****Official Plan updates must follow a statutory process under the Planning Act.***

Why is the Town updating the Official Plan?

- To ensure it aligns with current Council and community priorities.
- To ensure it aligns with required updates arising from changes to provincial policies, plans, and other legislative shifts in Ontario's planning landscape.
- To ensure it conforms to Niagara Region's Official Plan, recently approved in November 2022.
- To inform updates that will be required to Town by-laws and policies as part of the implementation of the new Official Plan (i.e. zoning by-law, site plan control by-law, etc.).

Project Timeline



Official Plan Policies Being Reviewed

- Official Plan Community Vision, Goals and Objectives
- Settlement Area Strategy
- Rural Area Policies:
 - o Specialty Agricultural and Prime Agricultural Areas, Rural Settlement, Mineral Aggregate Resource Area, Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- Urban Area Policies:
 - o Residential, Mixed Use, Central Business District, General Commercial, Employment, Parks and Open Space

Official Plan Policies Being Reviewed

- Environmental and Water Management Resource Policies:
 - o Natural Environment Area, Natural Heritage System, Creeks and Streams, Natural Hazards, Valleylands, Water Resource Management, Energy Conservation and Climate Change
- Economic Strategy
- Transportation
- Municipal Servicing
- Community Design Guidelines
- Administration (Planning Applications and Procedures)

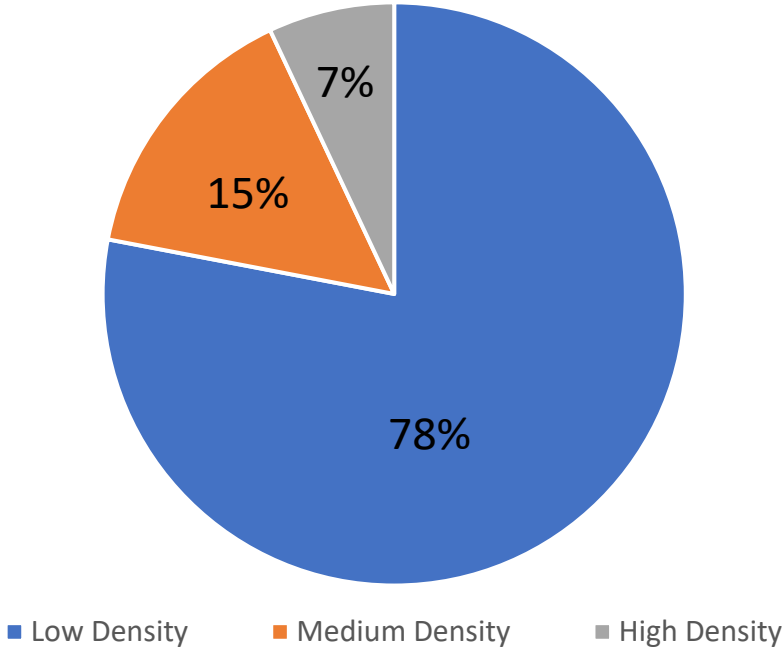
Key Highlights - Managing Growth in Lincoln

Provincial Policy requires that the Town review and evaluate how growth will be managed. As such, the following will be addressed during the Official Plan review:

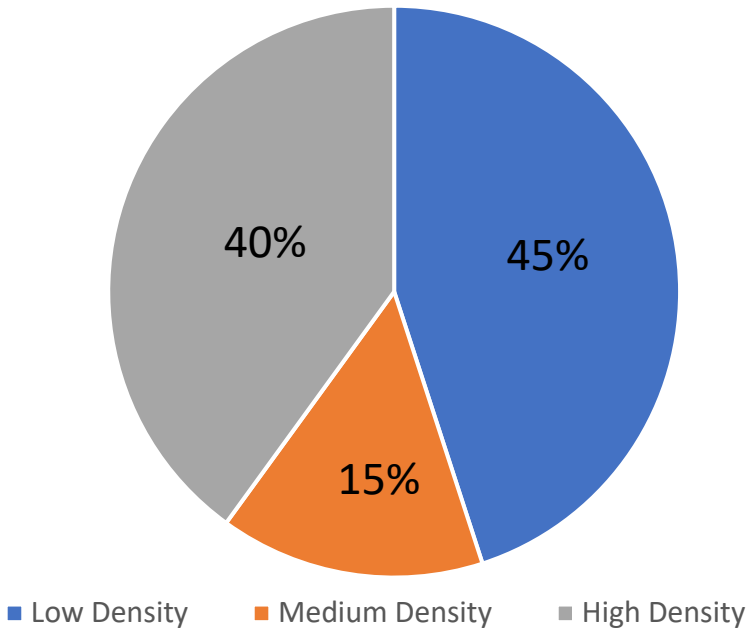
- Inclusion of updated population and employment growth forecasts for Lincoln to 2051, as allocated by the Niagara Official Plan.
- Planning for population growth to satisfy Growth Plan policies. This includes the introduction of a Strategic Growth Area and an updated intensification target for the Town.
- Promoting housing affordability through policies that enable a mix and range of housing types. This includes residential intensification through Additional Residential Units.
- Introduction of a new Protected Major Transit Station Area (PMTSA) designation within the Beamsville GO Secondary Plan area. The Beamsville GO PMTSA is a Strategic Growth Area as defined by the Growth Plan and NOP. The Town is required to delineate the boundaries for this area, prescribe an overall minimum density target, and demonstrate that the area is planned for the established minimum target for residents and jobs.

Key Highlights – Managing Growth in Lincoln

The Town’s Current Housing Split



Housing Growth – 30 Year Forecast According to Regional Growth Allocation



Key Highlights - Economic Prosperity in Lincoln

In order to improve and maintain the Town of Lincoln's economic well-being, the following has been incorporated into the draft Official Plan:

- Updated Employment land policies that introduce stronger protections for employment uses. This includes job density requirements and a new Employment Area Overlay designation in accordance with the Niagara Official Plan mapping and employment policies.
- Updated Economic Strategy goals and objectives to facilitate a strong, diverse and resilient economy in Lincoln. Through these updates, the Niagara Benchlands will be recognizing as a destination brand to support and diversify the local tourism economy.
- Focus on agricultural preservation, but also diversification providing farmers the opportunity to add revenue streams to add to long term sustainability of their operations.

Key Highlights - Sustainability in Lincoln

- Introduction of dedicated climate change section to reflect goals and objectives as an integral component of the Town's vision for growth and development to help mitigate the effects of climate change. The Town is committed to protecting its economy, ecosystems, and community from climate change as we plan within a Climate Crisis, as declared by Council in March 2021.
- Updated environmental, urban forest, and green energy infrastructure policies.
- Updated Natural Environment mapping in accordance with NOP.
- Clarification of uses permitted within the Specialty Agricultural and Prime Agricultural Designations.

Key Highlights - Administration

- Updated public engagement strategy and complete application policies, in recognition of the importance of early public consultation and upfront coordination with applicants and to meet accelerated planning timelines, as legislated by the Province (Bill 23 & Bill 109), i.e site plan control and plan of subdivision processes.
- Delegated Authority policy changes
- Urban design/landscaping focus changes.
- Accessory dwelling unit provision changes.

Other Key Highlights

- Conformity changes as a result of the Town's new Zoning By-law 2022-50, i.e. Prudhommes Area
- Mapping changes corresponding with new Regional Official Plan and Town Zoning By-law

Your feedback is important! To stay involved:

- Review the draft policies, summary of changes and full project details on the Speak Up Lincoln webpage and provide comments to the Manager of Special Projects by email at mshih@lincoln.ca
- Attend the Public Meeting on January 15th 2023 at 6pm in the Council Chambers
- Go to the Speak Up Lincoln webpage for regular updates and to complete the survey



Use this QR code to complete the online survey on the Speak Up Lincoln webpage.

Thank you for attending!

Questions?

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