SHAPE LINCOLN 2051

OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

Public Information Centre

June 13, 2024

Town of Lincoln

AGENDA

1. The Process. Where are we?
2. What is an Official Plan?
3. Why update the Official Plan?
4. Policy Context for Updates
5. Community Survey Results and Further Policy Refinements
6. Stay Involved

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Project Timeline

PHASE 1: Priorities and Policy Direction (Winter 2023)

- Confirm priorities and policy direction
- Draft Policy amendments
- Opportunity for community feedback

Phase 2: Refining the Plan (Winter/Spring 2024)

- Review and incorporate feedback received
- Assess Draft Policy for further amendments

Phase 3: Finalizing the Plan (Spring/Summer 2024)



- Share the revised Draft Policy for final review and feedback
- Share final draft consolidated Official Plan
- Recommendation to Council

Phase 4: Official Plan Comes into Effect (TBD 2024)

- Adoption of Plan by Council
- Approval of Plan by Region of Niagara

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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 over the planning horizon as determined by the Growth Plan (i.e. to 2051)
- An Official Plan is subject to updates and amendments over time.
- The Official Plan policies must conform to the Niagara Region's Official Plan and Provincial Policy.
- The Official Plan addresses such issues as:



The Official Plan is:

- Not prescriptive, but rather a high-level set of policies.
- Not typically specific to any one parcel of land.
- Not intended to be a static regulatory documents. Utilizes flexibility as land use and associated policies continue to shift and evolve.
- Does not prevent future amendments to the plan. Anyone can apply for an amendments 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 (Planning Act, new Growth Plan (2020), Provincial Policy Statement (2020))
- To ensure it conforms to Niagara Region's Official Plan, recently approved in November 2022 – updated Growth Targets, Employment Area policies, Environmental policies
- 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.).

Official Plan Policies Being Reviewed

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

Official Plan Policies Being Reviewed

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

Online Community Survey - Respondents

143 survey responses



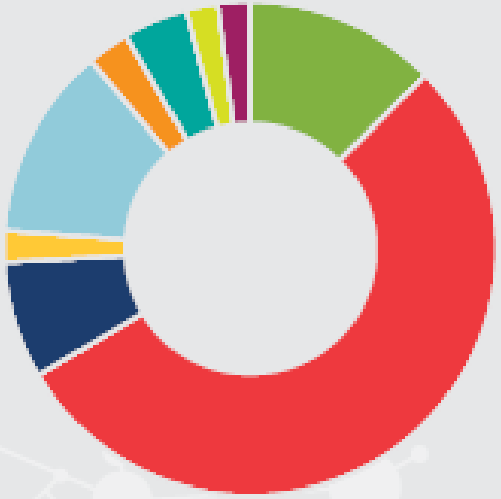
Age Breakdown

- 18-24
- 25-40
- 41-55
- 55-64
- 65+



Duration of Living in Lincoln (years)

- <2
- 2-10
- 11-20
- 20+
- Do not live in Lincoln



Location

- Rural area
- Beamsville
- Campden
- Tintern
- Vineland
- Jordan
- Jordan Station
- Prefer not to answer
- Other

Community Survey Results - Priorities

PRIORITIES
(in order of importance)

1. **Preservation of Agricultural Land**
   Average Rank: 3.63
2. **Growth Management**
   Average Rank: 4.26
3. **Infrastructure & Public Service Facilities**
   Average Rank: 4.49
4. **Greenspace & Parkland**
   Average Rank: 4.67
5. **Land Use & Active Transportation**
   Average Rank: 5.36
6. **Environmental & Water Management**
   Average Rank: 6.00
7. **Economic Growth & Tourism**
   Average Rank: 6.41
8. **Cultural Heritage Conservation**
   Average Rank: 6.49
9. **Creating a Sense of Place**
   Average Rank: 6.61
10. **Promotion & Support for a Mix of Housing**
    Average Rank: 7.08

Community Survey Results - Agriculture

Comments:

- Support and protection for agricultural uses within Agricultural lands; limited On-Farm Diversified Land Uses.
- Concerns that greenhouses are inappropriately located in rural areas and should be outside Specialty Crop Areas.

Changes to OP Policies to Address Feedback:

- Protection of Agricultural Uses remains a priority
- Refined the policies for Agriculture, Agriculture-Related and On-Farm Diversified Uses in conformity with PPS and OMAFRA Guidelines
- Enhanced the policies for Additional Residential Units (ARU) in the Rural Area – restrictions on location to maintain agricultural viability
- Discourage greenhouses on properties characterized with sandy loam soils

Community Survey Results – Growth Management

Comments:

- Identify areas for planned growth.
- Development should match existing neighbourhoods and land uses.

Changes to OP Policies to Address Feedback:

- Introduction of a Strategic Growth Area (Beamsville GO Protected Major Transit Station Area) and updated intensification targets.
- Enhanced policies to direct growth to settlement areas to support the achievement of complete communities.
- Updated Urban Area in accordance with Niagara Official Plan – i.e. Albright and United Church lands south of Hillside Drive as an Urban Area under NEC Development Control

Community Survey Results – Infrastructure & Public Services

Comments:

- Concerns about infrastructure meeting growth targets.
- Desire for more community recreational facilities.
- Need for more schools and churches to support growth.
- Need for public transit due to anticipated growth.

Changes to OP Policies to Address Feedback:

- Policy amendments to emphasize the importance of infrastructure planning to support population and employment allocations.
- New policies to require development applications for medium/high density/mixed-use residential to demonstrate that adequate parks and recreational amenities are available and/or proposed to ensure that the residents have access to a well-planned, connected and accessible system of parkland and open space.
- Public comments have been shared with internal departments to inform future planning and updates to the Park, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.

Community Survey Results – Economic Growth & Tourism

Comments:

- Attract and retain tourists in Lincoln.
- Improve tourism and partnerships.

Changes to OP Policies to Address Feedback:

- Agricultural excellence and innovation remains a strong priority - Niagara Benchlands is recognized as a destination brand to support and diversify the local tourism economy.
- Updated Economic Strategy goals to facilitate a strong, diverse and resilient economy in Lincoln and to create a business-friendly environment, for businesses of all sizes
- Updated Employment land policies that introduce stronger protections for employment areas and considers job creation – new minimum employment density requirement.

Community Survey Results – Promotion and Support for a Mix of Housing

Comments:

- Need for more affordable and attainable housing stock in Lincoln.
- Mixed opinions on housing types; some prefer diverse options, others single-detached.

Changes to OP Policies to Address Feedback:

- Enhanced policies to support the development of affordable and attainable housing:
- Support for Regional affordability targets and ongoing monitoring of supply of affordable housing
- Promote housing affordability through policies that support a mix and range of housing types.
- Updated Additional Residential Units policies.

Community Survey Results – Climate Change & Resiliency

Comments:

- Support for environmental protection and wildlife.
- Encourage green energy and low-impact development.

Changes to OP Policies to Address Feedback:

- Emphasis on energy conservation and climate change:
- Climate change considerations for Parks and Open Space planning.
- Support for energy efficiency and the protection of migratory birds.
- Updated policies for the protection and enhancement of the Town's urban forest and environmental areas, green energy infrastructure, and potential impact of climate change on infrastructure planning

Community Survey Results – Active Transportation

Comments:

- Desire for the expansion of active transportation connections to promote safe walking and biking opportunities.

Changes to OP Policies to Address Feedback:

- Policy support for Complete Streets design approach to transportation planning – consider all potential users of the transportation network
- Updates have been made to policies and schedules in reference to the Town's *Transportation Master Plan* and *Active Transportation Strategy* and the Region's *Complete Streets Design Manual and Guidelines*

Community Survey Results – Cultural Heritage Conservation

Comments:

- Important to preserve and protect remaining heritage assets.
- Heritage resources should be protected and prioritized and integrated into new development where possible.

Changes to OP Policies to Address Feedback:

- Policies contained in the OP encourage the conservation of built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes.
- Additional policies included to support the adaptive re-use of historical structures.

Community Survey Results – Town Character & Creating a Sense of Place

Comments:

- Concerns about losing the Town's sense of place due to growth.
- Concerns that Agriculture as a characteristic of Lincoln will be lost due to growth.
- Preserve the Town's design standards and heritage resources.

Changes to OP Policies to Address Feedback:

- Enhanced policies to direct growth to settlement areas to support the achievement of complete communities.
- Enhanced the Rural Area land use policies to manage and protect the existing specialty agricultural and prime agricultural areas.
- Refined Community Design Guidelines to enhance the public realm and natural heritage, ensure appropriate transitions to existing neighbourhoods including: separation distances, sensitive building siting, and landscape buffers
- Policy additions to foster a sense of place in the conservation of significant heritage resources and landscapes

Thank you for attending!

Questions?

Please submit any written comments to planningpublicmeetings@lincoln.ca by July 31st

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