



TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-  
STOUFFVILLE OFFICIAL  
PLAN REVIEW

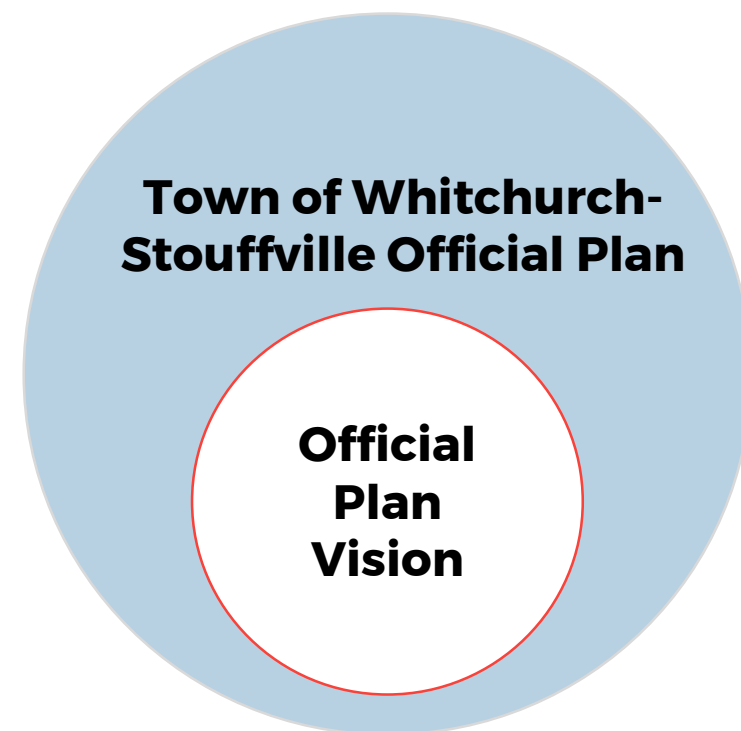
# Council Meeting

November 3, 2020



## Presentation Objectives

- To provide an overview of the Official Plan Review
- To present the findings of the Draft Community Vision Summary Report
- To outline the next steps related to the Official Plan Review
- To answer your questions about the Official Plan Review and receive your comments on the Draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles



# The Official Plan Review

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# What is an Official Plan?

- Outlines the goals, objectives and policies to manage and direct growth
- Manages the social, economic, built and natural environment priorities
- Directs changes in land use (type of land use, built form, character, etc.), which is implemented through the Town's Zoning By-law

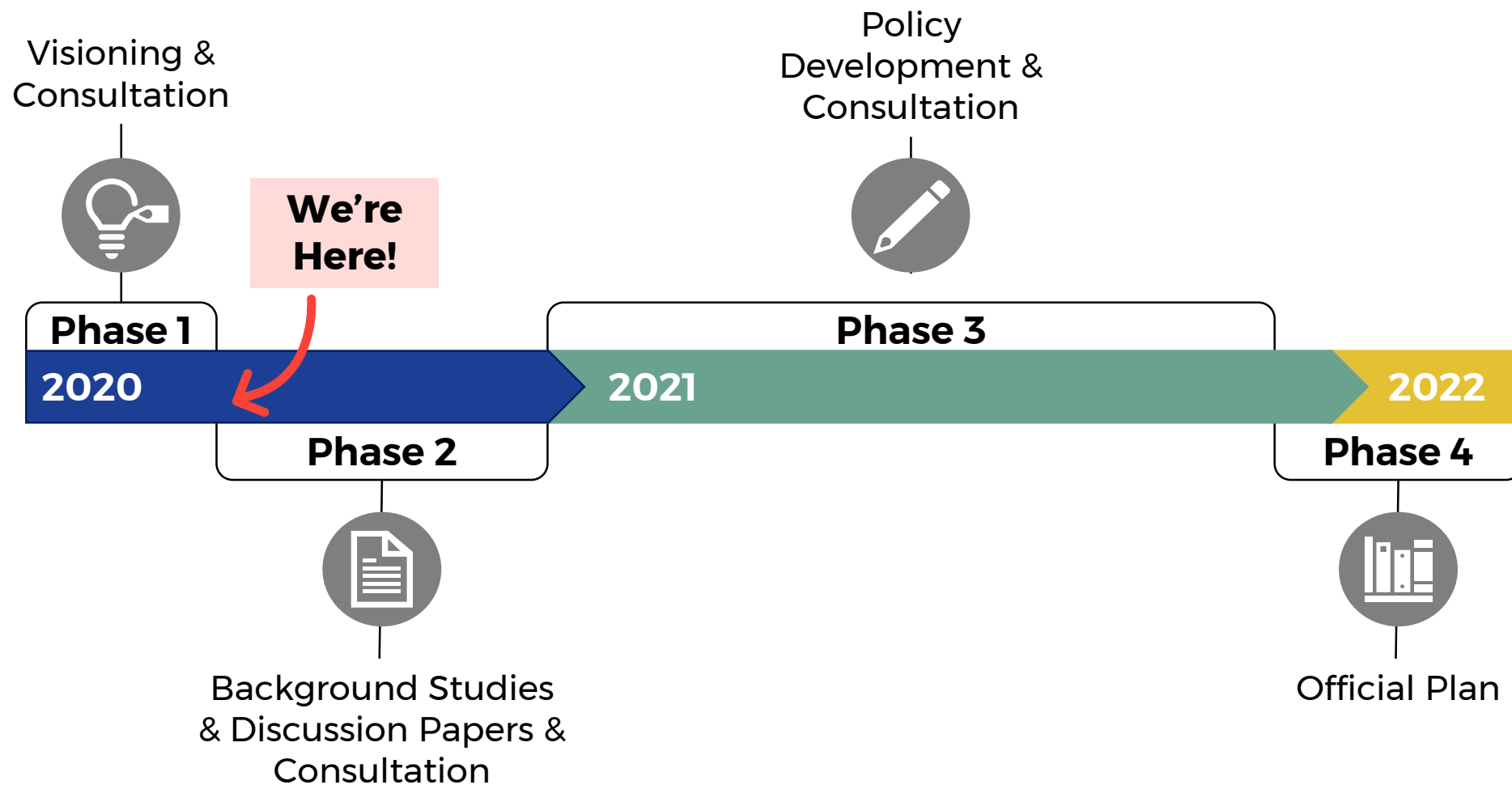


# Why does the Town need a New Official Plan?

- The current Official Plan was adopted in 1980, and the last comprehensive update was in 2004
- Required under the *Planning Act*
- Required to conform with Provincial Plans and York Region's Official Plan
- The Town's population is growing and changing
- The Town needs to manage growth and development over the long-term (25 years)
- Official Plan policies will inform and be informed by other Master Plans and planning studies



# General Work Program



# Public Engagement Principles



## **Respect & Inclusion**

To be inclusive and respectful towards the citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville



## **Transparent and Accountable**

To be transparent and accountable through ongoing communication and reporting back on what was heard



## **Trust & Social Capital**

To build trust and social capital in the Town by getting citizens involved in the long-term plan of their community



## **Active Listening**

To actively listen to citizens in order to build a collaborative vision that represents the community's values

# Who is participating in the Official Plan Review?

Public

Town Staff

Region

Conservation Authorities

Transportation Authorities

School Boards

Public Services

Community Groups

Indigenous Communities

Special Interest Groups



# Official Plan Review Context

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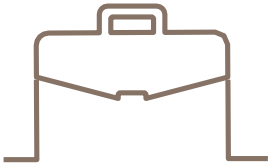


# Focus Areas of the Official Plan Review

**Visioning and Guiding Principles**



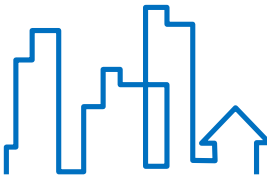
**Planning for Growth**



**Planning for the Natural Environment**



**Planning for Complete Communities**



**General Technical / Housekeeping Updates**



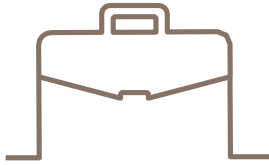
# Visioning and Guiding Principles



- Ensure the Town's Official Plan reflects the community's vision for managing growth and change



# Planning for Growth



- Ensure the Town's Official Plan accommodates for population and employment forecasts and a mix of land uses



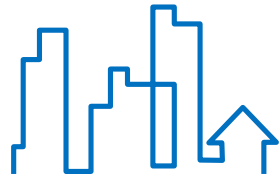
# Planning for the Natural Environment



- Ensure the Town's Official Plan works to protect and enhance natural features and resources



# Planning for Complete Communities



- Ensure the Town's Official Plan meets the community's housing needs, mix of housing types, and affordable housing

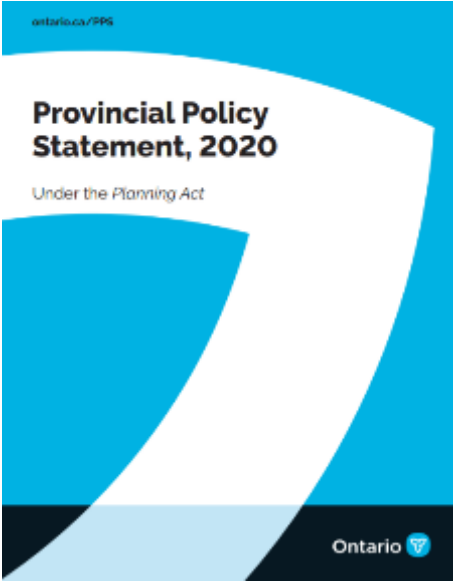


# General Technical / Housekeeping Updates



- Ensure the Town's Official Plan is up-to-date with relevant Provincial and Regional policy

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# PHASE 1 SUMMARY

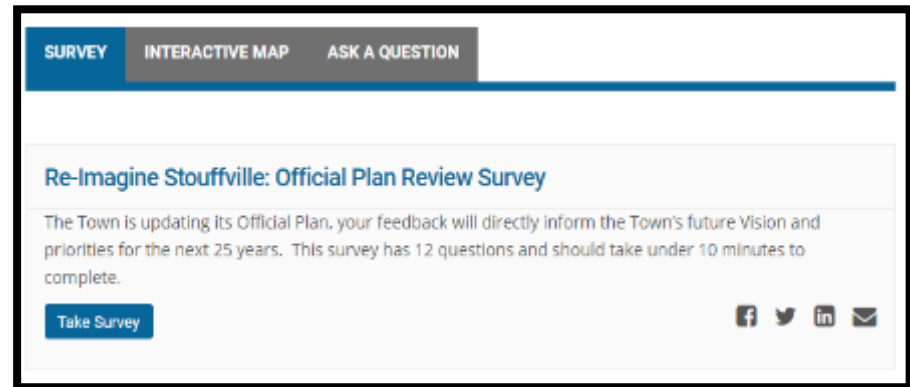
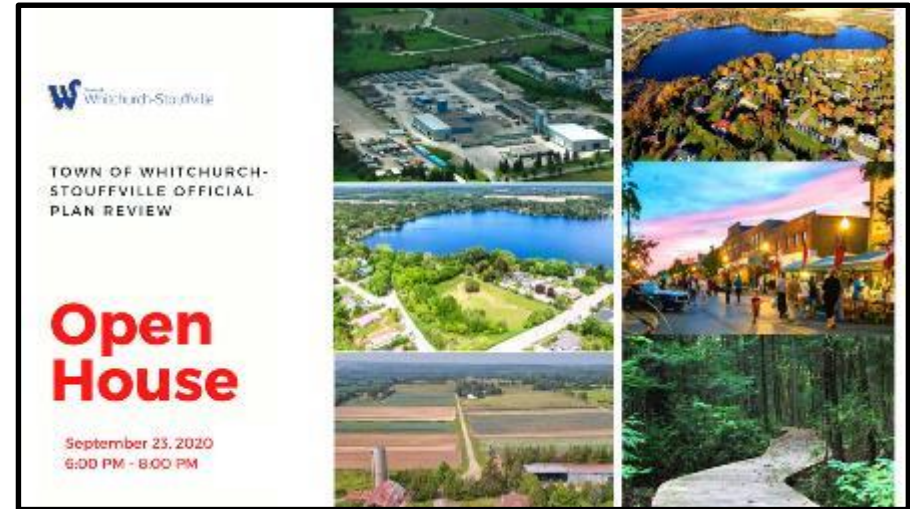
## Visioning and Consultation

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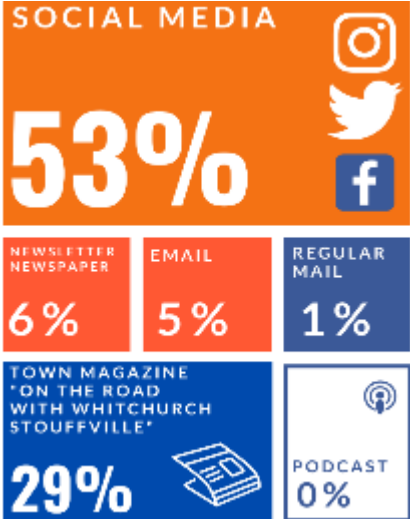
# Consultation Completed

- Technical Advisory Committee & Stakeholder Advisory Committee
  - Meeting and Vision Workshop held August 13, 2020
- Public Survey (4 weeks)
- Interactive Mapping (4 weeks)
- Public Open House
  - Vision Workshop held September 23, 2020
- Draft Community Vision Summary Report
  - Outlines consultation and communications completed to date
  - Presents a Draft Vision Statement for consultation



# Communications Completed

- Social Media
  - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Project Website
  - <https://cometogetherws.ca/opr>
- “Talk of the Town” Podcast
- On The Road Magazine
- Newspaper Advertisements
- Post Card
- Project Video and Town Website
- Email



# What We Heard in General



Top three key messages focused on:

- Infrastructure and community services must meet the needs of a **growing population** while providing a mix of **employment options** and **affordable housing** options
- Planning and designing future settlement areas, major corridors, and transportation options that support **walkable, inclusive and sustainable and complete communities** with a particular focus on Main Street
- **Preservation of the natural environment**, rural character and farmland with focus on protecting the Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine and York Regional Forest

## Feedback collected from:

- TAC and SAC members
- 241 survey respondents
- 50 Public Open House participants
- 14 interactive mapping entries



# What We Heard About Growth



- Improve infrastructure to accommodate future growth
- Allow a mix of employment and office uses (i.e. agri-tourism)
- Cultural heritage and built heritage balanced with new mixed use, affordable housing (i.e. balance of new vs. existing)
- Manage growth in Settlement Areas



# What We Heard About the Natural Environment



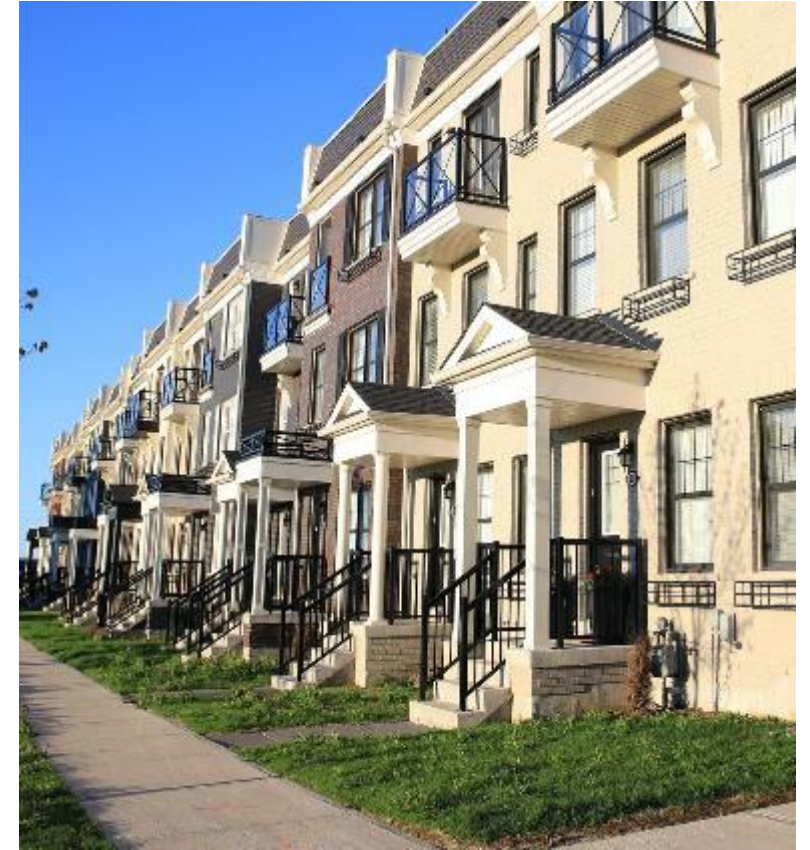
- Preserve natural heritage features
  - Conservation areas, parks, trails, wetlands, the Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine and farmlands
- Create linkages between natural heritage features
- Reduce emissions and improve the Town's impact on climate change by encouraging sustainable practices
- Maintain the Town's strong agricultural community to provide access to local food



# What We Heard About Complete Communities



- Encourage a mix of uses, including a variety of housing, uses and community facilities
- Improve urban design on Main Street and beautify streets and corridors across the Town
- Maintain neighbourhood and rural character
- Promote active transportation and transit options that support walkable communities
- Celebrate the community's diversity and cultural heritage
- Acknowledge and focus on reconciliation with Indigenous communities

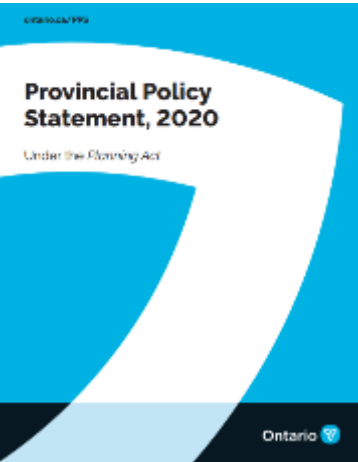


# What We What We Heard about General Housekeeping Items



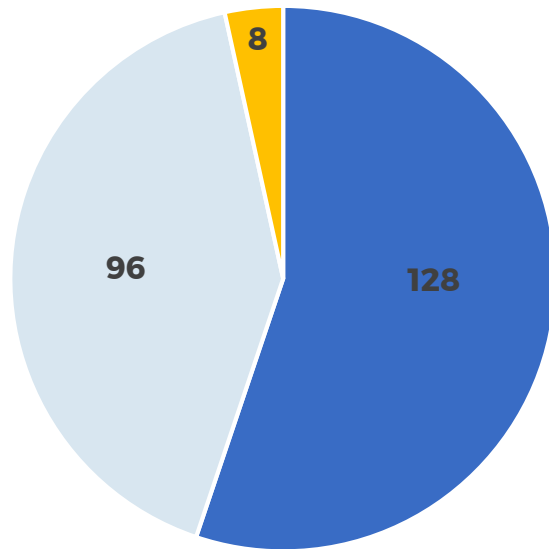
- Align policy directions with Provincial and Regional plans
- Encourage collaboration among agencies
- Assist the Town in meeting its overall objectives through clear and concise policy directions

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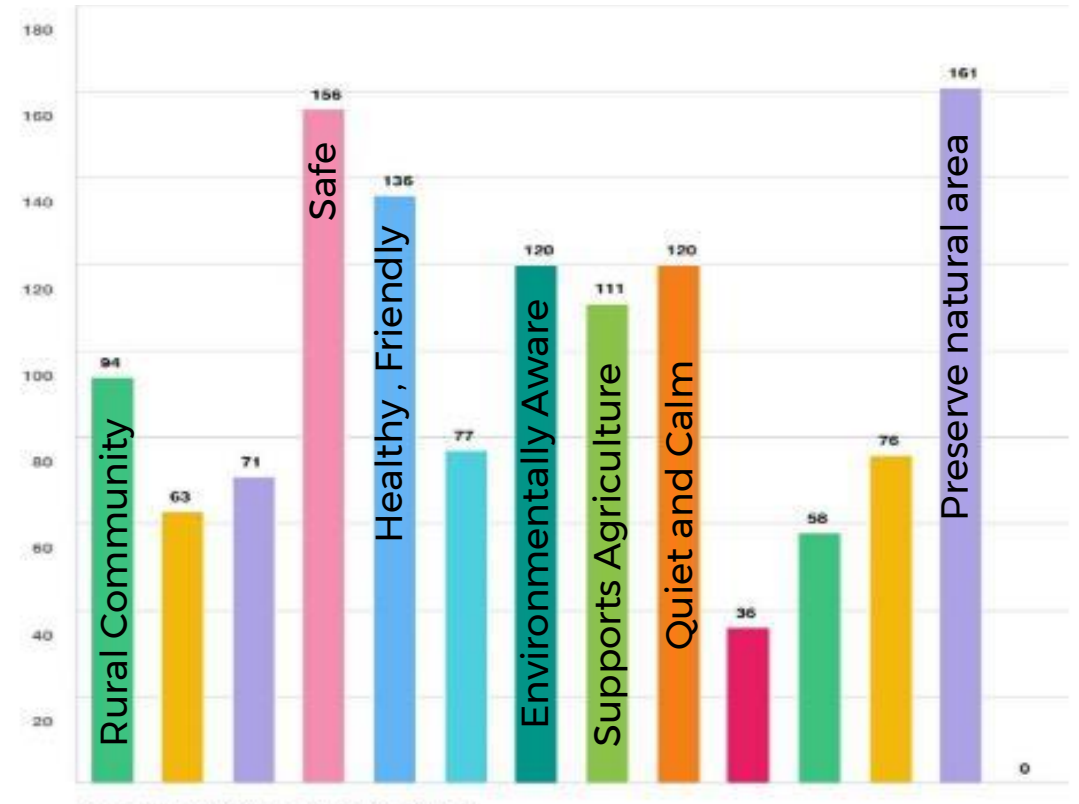
# Vision and Guiding Principles Feedback

Does the current vision statement and key terms used to describe the Town's Vision resonate with the needs of the community for the future?



■ Yes ■ Somewhat ■ No

Which of the key terms used in the Vision Statement are most important to you?







## Proposed Community Vision

*The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will be a safe, healthy, and inclusive community with rural character, supporting future generations by providing a range of community services, affordable housing, employment and active transportation opportunities.*

*Future growth will be directed to key settlement areas which will be designed to a high standard of excellence, while respecting cultural heritage resources and neighbourhood character.*

*The Town will act as a leader in mitigating the impacts of climate change and ensure that existing and future infrastructure services are resilient and meet the needs of a growing community.*

*The Town will support and enhance the development of parks and open spaces, while providing natural linkages across natural areas, including the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine.*

## Guiding Principles



**Public Health and Safety and Community Services**



**Environmental Protection and Improvement**



**Accountable, Inclusive and Equitable**



**Climate Change and Resilience**



**Economic Prosperity & Financial Accountability**



**Design Excellence and Cultural Heritage Preservation**

# Community Vision and Guiding Principles – What has changed?

- Key Messaging, Future Focused, Concise Single Statement
- Focus on equity and inclusion to reflect to changing demographic and values of citizens
- Organized based on core thematic areas which prioritize community, safety, health, natural environment, economy
- Key message includes the idea of welcoming smart growth while respecting rural character and supporting design excellence
- Future focused and includes priorities for addressing climate change, natural heritage linkages and direction for more park and open space
- Focus on local economy and diversification of economic opportunities including local agriculture



## Next Steps

- **Seek input from Council** on the Vision and Guiding Principles
- Quick Poll and Feedback from the Community on the Vision – **Did we get it right?**
- Advance work on developing **Growth Scenarios and Assessing Land Needs**
  - This is contingent on York Region’s timing and looks at allocation of population growth to 2051
- **Future Public Meetings** (Q1 2021) will be held to collect feedback on Discussion Papers detailing each of the OPR Focus Areas presented here today
  - **Online Engagement** ([www.cometogetherws.ca/opr](http://www.cometogetherws.ca/opr))

Thank you

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