

Summary of Visioning Workshop Responses



The following is a summary of the responses received during the visioning workshop.

1. *What are the top 5 things you value most about your community (in order of importance)?*

- Access to the natural environment and green spaces, including recreational trails
- Town and rural environment
- Clean water and air
- Safety and cleanliness of community
- Affordability
- Sense of community and friendliness
- Services
- Location

2. *Please identify what you believe to be the 5 top planning issues that will face the Township over the next 5 years.*

- Services and infrastructure requirements
 - Schools, internet, medical
- Land supply, managing residential sprawl, and protection of natural environment and farmland
- Affordable housing and diversifying housing supply
- Local jobs and economic development
- Public transportation
- Residential density and community development

3. *Please identify what you believe to be the 5 top planning issues that will face the Township over the next 20 years.*

- Servicing of smaller settlement areas and new development
- Public transportation and increased traffic
- Urban sprawl and protection of farmland
- Infrastructure
- Pollution, including light and noise
- Access to healthcare
- Affordable housing and options for seniors
- Social places and green spaces
- Commercial and industrial expansion

4. *Where should residential and non-residential growth be focused?*

- Where infrastructure is existing
- Already developed and established areas
- Residential growth
 - Angus, Baxter, Utopia, Thornton
 - Near commercial centres

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- Along County Road 90 or County Road 10
- Existing or planned municipal services
- Non-residential growth
 - Thornton, Ivy, Baxter

5. *Where should residential and non-residential growth not occur?*

- Prime agricultural land
- Sprawl of smaller, un-serviced settlement areas should be limited
- Wetlands and forested areas
- Thornton and Ivy
- Thornton west of Concession 11
- Baxter east of the 5th Sideroad

6. *Should second units be permitted? If so, where?*

- Yes,
 - Where density, servicing and parking can support
 - In Angus, close to CFB Borden
 - Near green spaces
 - Throughout the Township
 - With some restrictions
- No

7. *Are there housing styles that are missing or lacking in supply?*

- Units beyond single detached dwellings
- Medium density (2 to 6 units)
- Apartments
- Townhouses
- Condominiums
- Second units
- Bungalows
- Smaller homes

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8. *What can the OP do to promote new business opportunities and facilitate expansion of existing businesses?*

- Municipal servicing to support industrial and manufacturing
- Development of downtown area
- Online directory of retailers
- Preservation of lands within settlement areas adjacent to major roadways
- Incentives and support for new businesses
- Expand servicing

9. *What are the key economic attributes of the community that are not realized to their full potential?*

- Presence of bilingual persons
- Underutilized commercial spaces
- Tourism
- Creation of Community Improvement Area and financial incentives
- Proximity to major County Roads (90, 89 and 27) and Highway 400

10. *Does the OP do enough to protect environmental features such as woodlands, watercourses, and wetlands?*

- There is balance in the OP and recognition for protection of environmental features
- Does not contain a lot of language regarding the protection
- More community gardens, parks and green space
- Township needs to use power to protect these features
- More education and active engagement required
- NVCA is consulted which helps in protecting these lands

11. *Does the OP sufficiently protect agricultural lands?*

- Yes
 - It sufficiently protects agricultural lands
 - It recognizes the importance of protecting agricultural lands
 - But need to set a percentage of land that can not be changed to other sources
 - However, if growth is going to happen, have to take a look at what is viable farmland
- No

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12. Does the OP permit too much or not enough rural lot creation?

- Should be limited on useable farmland
- Balance is appropriate
- Rural lots should not be created

13. Is it important that farmers be permitted to have alternative income sources on farm properties?

- Yes,
 - Provided secondary in nature
 - Appropriate by-law and licensing
 - Does not cause damage to the land/water/view
 - If meets intent of PPS
 - Adequate parking, entrances and supporting facilities

14. Are there any other comments you would like to make that should be considered in the OP Review?

- Reconsideration of land use designations to help permit infill designation, higher density housing
- More parks, outdoor spaces and recreation facilities
- Need for sanitary servicing in Thornton
- Seniors lifestyle community and services
- Reducing environmental footprint
- Protection of natural environment
- Expanded events
- Affordable housing and living