



## **REPORT**

**REPORT TO:** Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

**REPORT FROM:** Melissa Ricci, Senior Policy Planner

**DATE:** December 04, 2020

**REPORT NO.:** PD-2020-0058

**RE:** Scoped Glen Williams Secondary Plan Review- Public Consultation Update

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. PD-2020-0058 dated December 4, 2020 regarding the Scoped Glen Williams Secondary Plan Review – Public Consultation Update be received for information.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In late January 2020, Council approved the award of the Request for Proposal for the Scoped Glen Williams Secondary Plan Review Project to MacNaughton Hermsen Britton Clarkson Planning (MHBC) and WSP. Significant changes to Provincial and Regional policies have occurred since 2007 when the current Plan was approved, and the purpose of the scoped review is to ensure that the Secondary Plan is in conformity with all applicable Provincial, Regional and Local plans and policies. It is important to note that this scoped review of the Secondary Plan will not be revisiting the external boundaries of the Hamlet of Glen Williams. In this regard, Glen Williams is confined by the Greenbelt Plan and the Georgetown Urban Area.

The Project includes 4 phases in total. Phase 3, the Policy Formulation Phase has recently been initiated. Phase 1 of the Project, which included policy and technical background research and culminated with the preparation of a Background Report, is now complete. Phase 2 included the Virtual Open House and other public engagement initiatives which are described below. This report provides an update on the status of the Project to date, with a focus on the public consultation component.

## **COMMENTS:**

In May 2020, the Project was officially launched. In advance of the Project Launch, a Public Engagement and Consultation Plan was prepared which identified the goals and objectives of community engagement and the preferred engagement methods through the four phases of the project. The Project Launch included initial meetings with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC, which is comprised of Town, the Region of Halton and Credit Valley Conservation staff) and the Steering Committee (which is comprised of the Mayor, Ward 2 Councillors and community members from the Hamlet of Glen Williams), and a Project Launch Virtual Event on April 29, 2020 via the Let's Talk Halton Hills platform.

Due to the Covid-19 situation, preliminary public engagement was conducted virtually to seek feedback from the community on the nine key topic areas: Urban Design, Natural Heritage, Cultural Heritage, Land Use, Transportation, Servicing, Growth Management, Land Use and Parks and Open Space. A presentation was made available on the Let's Talk Halton Hills site, explaining the purpose of the review and the areas being considered. A survey and an interactive map were created on the Let's Talk Halton Hills page to allow community members to provide direct comments on areas of interest in the Hamlet. Approximately 700 users accessed the webpage during the Project Launch Event, 197 participants viewed the presentation and other engagement material and 21 participants provided feedback by responding to the survey and/or providing comments. The community was informed of the Project and how to get involved via a newspaper ad, email blasts and social media posts. It was also emphasized that those community members that do not have access to technology and want to provide their input could reach out via phone to the Planning Department and planning staff would coordinate an alternative way of engagement by phone or mail.

Simultaneously, work began on the preparation of a Background and Key Findings Report (see Executive Summary attached as Appendix A). The report, which is available on the [Let's Talk Halton Hills page](#), is based on a thorough review and analysis of the existing policy and regulatory framework at the Provincial, Regional and local level in order to inform the development of the revised Secondary Plan. The draft report has been circulated to the TAC and Steering Committee for their review and the key results were presented at a Virtual Open House on October 28th.

Approximately 85 participants attended the Virtual Public Open House and a total of 34 questions and comments were received. As part of the Virtual Open House, 8 polling questions were asked for participants to answer live and participants were encouraged to provide questions in advance or during the event to be answered by the project team during the live Q&A session of the Open House. A summary of the event can be found as Appendix B to this report and a recording of the presentation and Q&A can be accessed on [Let's Talk Halton Hills](#).

Display panels explaining each of the areas for review and preliminary key findings and follow up survey questions were uploaded to the Let's Talk Halton Hills page after the Virtual Open House to give an opportunity to community members to provide additional feedback specifically related to each of the areas for review. The project team also reached out to key stakeholders including the businesses in the area and the Hamlet of Glen Williams Residents Association to encourage them to provide any further input into the initial phases of the Project. The areas for review survey was also advertised through social media, "The Current", and email blasts to the Let's Talk Halton Hills registrants as well as the project email list.

In addition, the Glen Williams Public School Grade 5 students participated in answering the survey questions and provided their feedback. Students were mainly interested in the following areas for review: Natural Heritage, Parks and Open Space and Transportation.

### What We Have Heard:

During the Virtual Public Open House, a number of polling questions were introduced asking participants about the relevancy of the existing Goal and Objectives of the Secondary Plan. It is important to highlight that 94 percent of participants indicated that the current Goal is still relevant, and 70 percent indicated that ensuring that change maintains the character of the Hamlet is the most relevant component of the Goal. In addition, 58 percent of participants indicated that the current Objectives of the Plan are still relevant while 33% indicated that the Objectives are still relevant, but they are missing some important topics. The results to the polling questions can be found in Appendix B.

To facilitate the gathering of public feedback, survey questions on Let's Talk Halton Hills have been specific to each area for review. The areas for review that have received the most interest include Transportation, Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Servicing. Below is a summary of key comments we have received under these key areas for review. A summary of all comments and questions received to date can be found in Appendix B.

#### Cultural Heritage:

- Promote Glen Williams heritage as a cultural attraction.
- Ensure heritage recognition of some properties and consider review of the Community Core as a heritage area.
- Consider guidelines for new development to fit with the character of the area.

#### Transportation:

- Consider speeds and traffic issues through Hamlet.
- Consider parking issues in Community Core.
- Consider safety issues for pedestrians around Glen Williams Public School.
- Consider opportunities for active transportation.

#### Land Use:

- Glen Williams has grown from a mostly autonomous hamlet to a suburban oasis, a significant part of which is because of the mixed private and small-scale commercial entities preserved within the boundaries.
- Official Plan policy should be included on maximum permitted density, minimum lot standards and urban design criteria for the residential areas inside and outside of the Core Area.
- Policy promoting and incentivizing commercial development within the Core Area is necessary to serve local community.

#### Servicing:

- Ensure as many residents as possible can be connected to municipal services.
- Ensure services minimize disruption to the natural heritage system.

#### Next Steps

During Phase 3, the project team will continue to review technical information, gather feedback from the public and begin drafting the proposed Secondary Plan policy updates. The draft policies will be presented at another Public Open House and to Council early next year.

Phase 4 will finalize the updated Secondary Plan and will include an Open House and a Statutory Public Meeting to Council. The policy update process will be iterative and will include ongoing meetings with the TAC and the Steering Committee. At each step of the process, the project team will be meeting with the Committees to obtain their input.

All project documents will be accessible through the project website and future engagement opportunities will be advertised in the Georgetown Independent & Free Press, Let's Talk Halton Hills, a variety of social media platforms and via email to the project's email list.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This report directly aligns to the following values in the Strategic Plan 2019-2022 including:

##### Foster a Healthy Community

To maintain and enhance a healthy community that provides a clean environment and a range of economic and social opportunities to ensure a superior quality of life in our community.

##### Preserve, Protect and Enhance our Environment

To preserve, protect and enhance our natural environment for the health benefits and enjoyment it provides to present and future generations.

### Preserve, Protect & Promote our Distinctive History

To preserve the historical urban and rural character of Halton Hills through the conservation and promotion of our built heritage, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources.

### Achieve Sustainable Growth

To ensure that growth is managed so as to ensure a balanced, sustainable, well planned community infrastructure and services to meets the needs of its residents and businesses

The report is also closely linked with a number of Focus Areas/Priorities including Shaping Growth.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

### **CONSULTATION:**

Town staff will continue to consult with staff from the different departments including Transportation, Development Engineering, and Parks and Recreation as well as staff from the Region of Halton and Credit Valley Conservation as part of the Technical Advisory Committee, and the Halton District School Board.

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

A Consultation Strategy has been prepared for the project which identifies objectives, key stakeholders and a consultation strategy and activities for all phases of the Project.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

This report supports the Environmental Health and Social Well-Being pillars of sustainability. Consistency with Regional and Provincial policy will ensure that the updated Secondary Plan policies that incorporate best practices with regards to the environment, climate change and resiliency. The Secondary Plan Review will also update design guidelines and ensure that best practices in conservation are incorporated. In addition, by working with the residents of Glen Williams to address relevant issues and concerns in the community, the Town will ensure that residents feel welcomed, safe, connected, respected and actively engaged in Halton Hills.

Overall, the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is: Good.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

N/A

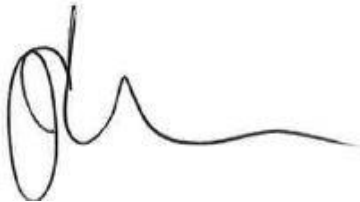
**CONCLUSION:**

The Scoped Glen Williams Secondary Plan Review is initiating Phase 3 which is the policy formulation phase. As part of this phase, draft updated policies will be prepared and will be presented to the TAC, Steering Committee and the public for their review and comment. Phase 4, which is expected to begin early next year will culminate in the completion of an updated Secondary Plan to be presented for Council Adoption in the Spring of 2021. The scoped review will ensure that the Town is diligently ensuring that Secondary Plans conform with updated Provincial, Regional and local policies while actively consulting with residents, local businesses and landowners to ensure that updated policies are sensitive to the local community context.

Reviewed and Approved by,



Bronwyn Parker, Director of Planning Policy



John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning and Development



Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer