

Staff Report

Administration – Communications

Report To: COW_Finance_Admin_Fire_Community_Services

Meeting Date: August 26, 2024 Report Number: FAF.24.082

Title: 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey

Prepared by: Tim Hendry, Manager of Communications and Economic

Development

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.24.082, entitled "2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey";

AND THAT Council endorses the survey questions in principle, as presented, and directs staff to conduct the survey with results presented back to Council in Q4 2024;

AND THAT Council approves a budget to an upset limit of \$15,000 to be funded by the 2024 Communications Division Operating Budget.

B. Overview

This staff report provides Council with an overview of the 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey questions and communications plan.

C. Background

The Town has conducted two Resident Satisfaction Surveys, the first in 2015 and the second in 2022. The first survey was conducted by an external research firm and received 416 responses using randomized phone interviews. The second survey was conducted online and in-house by Town staff with support from the Town's survey firm of record, The W Group. The survey received a total of 520 responses and was split into two parts:

- **Part 1:** The first part received 369 responses and asked questions about resident satisfaction related to service delivery, customer service and communication, financial management and leadership.
- Part 2: The second part received 151 responses and asked questions about resident satisfaction with Town-owned infrastructure, including roads, sidewalks, bridges, water and wastewater systems, and recreational facilities/amenities.

Following the presentation of the 2022 survey results, Council passed the following motion:

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.22.147, entitled "2022 Resident Satisfaction Survey Results";

AND THAT Council directs staff to bring forward a subsequent report to outline actions being taken and/or considered to address the comments and feedback provided in response to the survey;

AND THAT Council supports the staff recommendation to conduct a Resident Satisfaction Survey every two years, with the survey results used to benchmark progress and to help inform the annual budget process.

D. Analysis

Under the direction of Council, staff time is allocated as part of the Communications Division work plan to conduct the 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey in Q3/Q4.

Learning from the challenges of the 2022 survey, staff strongly recommends conducting it as one full survey instead of two separate parts. This will aid in streamlined promotion and reduce response rate drop-off.

Draft survey questions are attached to this report as Attachment #1. The questions were selected based on the 2022 Resident Satisfaction Survey and have been adjusted to ensure accuracy and consistency based on current Town operations.

Communications Plan

The Town's Communication Division will lead the 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey promotion. The survey will be advertised Town-wide using a variety of tools, including but not limited to:

Communication Activities	Cost	Staff Time
Town Website	\$0	3 Hours
- Dedicated project page on the Town website with a		
link directly on the homepage		
Press Release	\$0	3 Hours
 Press release to advertise the survey launch 		
 Mid-point press release to encourage participation 		
 Final reminder press release to stress the deadline 		
Town Newsletter	Covered by	2 Hours
 Included in the monthly Town e-newsletter 	existing operating	
- Included in the quarterly Town print newsletter	budget	
	4	
	\$1,600	5 Hours
properties in The Blue Mountains		
Mailed Post Cards - Approximately 7,000 postcards mailed to all properties in The Blue Mountains	\$1,600	5 Hours

Communication Activities	Cost	Staff Time
Road Signs	\$1,500	4 Hours
 Road signs installed at key high-traffic areas throughout the community 		
Newspaper Advertising	Covered by	2 Hours
- Advertisements included within the Blue Mountain	existing operating	
Review and Collingwood Today newspapers	budget	
Radio Advertising	\$1,500	3 Hours
 Focused campaigns during key drive times on 95.1 		
Peak FM and 560 CFOS		
Digital Advertising & Social Media	\$1,200	4 Hours
 Promotional video advertised on social media 		
(Facebook and Instagram)		
In Person Promotion	TBC	TBC
 Opportunities to promote the survey at community 		
events will be determined based on the timing on		
the survey		
Total	\$5,800	26+ Hours

PDS Customer Service Satisfaction Survey

The Planning and Development Services Department (PDS) launched a customer service survey in July 2024. The survey aims to gain feedback directly from individuals who have worked with the department through the Planning, Development Engineering and Building division.

As PDS is largely funded through application fees, the intent is to use the feedback gathered by individuals who have worked with the department to better understand the challenges and opportunities for service delivery, rather than gathering input on perceptions of development in the community.

Based on the focus of the 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey to be all-encompassing of Town service and service delivery, high-level questions related to development in the community and service-based questions related to the Planning and Development Services Department will still be included. However, technical and detail serviced focused questions related to the PDS Department will remain the focus and intent of the PDS Customer Service Survey.

2022 Resident Satisfaction Survey Results

The results from the 2022 Resident Satisfaction Survey have provided valuable information to help the Town better understand resident needs and expectations related to service delivery. The survey results have been reviewed in detail by the Town's Management Teams, and subsequent discussions have been held at the division and team levels.

It is important to highlight that efforts to address feedback and comments received from the 2022 Resident Satisfaction Survey have been discussed and considered thoroughly by staff, with a number of actions and initiatives being either completed, currently underway or planned for future execution.

Results from the 2022 survey are available on the Town website through report <u>FAF.22.147 – Resident Satisfaction Survey Results.</u>

A detailed summary of the action items is included in this report as Attachment #2.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders.

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

The results of the Resident Satisfaction Survey will be used to provide feedback and insight to Council and Staff related to environmental impacts and the delivery of Town services.

G. Financial Impacts

The Resident Satisfaction Survey is identified as an action item within the $\underline{2020 - 2024}$ Corporate Strategic Plan.

The full cost to conduct the Resident Satisfaction Survey is estimated to be between \$10,000 - \$15,000. This includes costs for survey support from the Town's survey firm of record, The W Group and advertising/promotional costs to generate awareness and participation.

No budget has been specifically earmarked within the 2024 Operating Budget to support the Resident Satisfaction Survey. However, the Communications Division Operating Budget includes \$15,000 annually for survey support that has not been used, and that can be allocated to this project.

H. In Consultation With

Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Tim Hendry, Manager of Communications & Economic Development communications@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

- 1. 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey Questions
- 2. 2022 Resident Satisfaction Survey Action Items

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Hendry
Manager of Communications & Economic Development

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	FAF.24.082 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment-1-2024-Resident-Satisfaction-Survey-Questions.pdf - Attachment-2-2022-Resident-Satisfaction-Survey-Action- Items.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Aug 13, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tim Hendry - Aug 13, 2024 - 12:49 PM

Shawn Everitt - Aug 13, 2024 - 4:48 PM



The Town is conducting a Resident Satisfaction Survey to help inform future decision-making, budgeting and priority setting. The survey seeks to understand resident satisfaction related to service delivery, customer service and communication, financial management and leadership Survey results will be presented to the current Town Council this fall.

Reference Material

Some survey questions reference and are related to various policies, maps, and strategic documents. All referenced documents are available on the project webpage at $\underline{www.thebluemountains.ca/residentsurvey}$



Resident Satisfaction

* 2. How do you generally feel about the Town of The Blue Mountains as a place to live?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

3. Please indicate	e how often you	visit or use ead	ch of the follow	ring Town facilitie	es.
	Weekly	Monthly	Bi-Monthly	Rarely	Never
Town Hall					
Beaver Valley Community Centre	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Beaver Valley Community Centre - Arena	\bigcirc	\circ			\bigcirc
Municipal Golf Course & Recreation Complex (Tomahawk)	\bigcirc	\bigcirc		\circ	\bigcirc
L.E. Shore Library					
Craigleith Heritage Depot	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Craigleith Community Centre			\bigcirc		
Ravenna Hall					
Town-owned Trails					
Public Beaches, Parks and Greenspaces	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Thornbury Harbour					
Landfill and Recycling Depot	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc
Dog Park					
Fields & Courts (Pickleball Courts, Baseball Diamonds, Soccer Fields, Tennis Courts)	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ
Skateboard Park					
4. Please indicate	e your level of sa	itisfaction rega	arding each of	the following Tow	n services:
	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied	N/A
Garbage and Recycling Collection			\bigcirc		
Gallery, Library, Archives, Museum Services (L.E. Shore Library and Craigleith Heritage Depot)		\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Fire Protection Services (The Blue Mountains Fire Department)	0	0	0	0	\circ
General Road	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	

Maintenance		<u> </u>			
Winter Snow Plowing					
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance					
Snow Removal to Maintain Access to Businesses in Downtown Thornbury and Clarksburg	0	0	0	0	
Water and Wastewater Services		\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
By-Law Enforcement, Animal Control and Parking Enforcement		\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ
Maintenance of Trails, Beaches, Parks and Greenspaces	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Maintenance of Town-owned Recreation Facilities (Beaver Valley Community Centre, Tomahawk, Thornbury Harbour, etc.)	0	0	0	0	
Corporate Communications (Town Website, Newsletters, Public Consultation, etc.)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\bigcirc
Administrative Services (Customer Service Inquiries, Permits, Licences, etc.)	0	0	0	0	
Town Clerk Services (Meeting Agendas, Minutes, etc.)	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Building Department Services (Inspections, Permits, etc.)	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Land Use Planning Services		\bigcirc		\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Financial Services (Property Taxes, Utility Payments, Pre-authorized Payments, etc.)	0	0	0	0	
Online Services Portal (Permits,	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

Licences,	Service
Requests)	

* 5. For each service listed, please indicate whether you feel that the quality of the service has increased, decreased, or stayed the same over the past five (5) years (or for as long as you have lived here if it has been less than five years).

	Increased	Decreased	Stayed the Same	N/A
Garbage and Recycling Collection	\bigcirc			
Gallery, Library, Archives, Museum Services (L.E. Shore Library and Craigleith Heritage Depot)	\bigcirc			
Fire Protection Services (The Blue Mountains Fire Department)	\bigcirc	\circ	0	
General Road Maintenance	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Winter Snow Plowing	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ	\circ
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Snow Removal to Maintain Access to Businesses in Downtown Thornbury and Clarksburg				
Water and Wastewater Services	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
By-Law Enforcement, Animal Control and Parking Enforcement	\circ	\bigcirc	0	
Maintenance of Trails, Beaches, Parks and Greenspaces	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Maintenance of Town-owned Recreation Facilities (Beaver Valley Community Centre, Tomahawk, Thornbury Harbour, etc.)				
Corporate Communications (Town Website, Newsletters, Public Consultation, etc.)	\bigcirc			

Administrative Services (Customer Service Inquiries, Permits, Licences, etc.)	0	0		
Town Clerk Services (Meeting Agendas, Minutes, etc.)	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Building Department Services (Inspections, Permits, etc.)	\circ	0		
Land Use Planning Services	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Financial Services (Property Taxes, Utility Payments, Pre-authorized Payments, etc.)				
Online Services Portal (Permits, Licences, Service Requests)		\bigcirc		



Customer Service and Communication

* 6. What method services, or assis	l are you most likel tance?	y to use when con	tacting the Town	for information,
In-Person		○ We	ebsite	
Email		On	lline Service Portal	
Telephone		○ So	cial Media	
Mail				
* 7. In the past ye employee? Yes No 8. Based on your meyour level of satisfa	ost recent experien	ce and contact wit	h a Town employe	on, etc.) with a Town
J	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
How satisfied were you with the performance of the staff member that provided the service?	0			
How satisfied were you with the overall quality of the service provided?	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	0
How satisfied were you with the response time to address/resolve your inquiry?			0	

e staff member was	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
ourteous and respectful.			
was treated fairly.			
he staff member was nowledgeable and ompetent.	0	\circ	0
received a response vithin a reasonable imeframe.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
t was clear what to do if I encountered a problem.	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ
was informed of what I had to do to get the ervice/product/information was seeking.	\circ		
The staff member went the extra mile to ensure I received the help I needed.	0	\bigcirc	0
The hours of service were convenient.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
10. Based on your mos receive an initial respo	-	and contact with the Town	n, how long did it take to
Within one business d	ay	Within four business	s days
Within two business d	ays	More than four busi	ness days
Within three business	days		
Within three business			
	t recent experience a	and contact with the Tow	n, did you ultimately:
		and contact with the Town	n, did you ultimately:
11. Based on your mos Receive an answer to			n, did you ultimately:



Communications & Public Consultation

* 12. Which of the following methods do you m information about the Town? (select all that ap	
Town Website Town Newspaper Advertisements Printed Quarterly Town Newsletter Monthly Town E-Newsletter Town Twitter Account (@townofbluemtns)	Meeting Live Stream and/or archived video recordings Community Social Media Groups Published Newspaper Articles/Stories Word of Mouth
13. The Town offers several opportunities for reshare feedback regarding Town initiatives and of the following methods: (select all that apply)	projects. Please indicate if you have used any
Attended a Public Meeting Attended a Public Information Centre	
Attended a Workshop/Open House	
Completed a Public Survey	Journal and Committee Mactings
Participated during the public comment period at C Provided correspondence and/or made a deputation	Ü



Financial Planning

The Town of The Blue Mountains collects approximately \$45 million per year in property taxes. Of the taxes collected, 41% stays with the Town to support operations and infrastructure. The remaining 59% is allocated to the County of Grey and the School Board.

There are several factors that affect the Town's annual budget, including inflation, growth, development activity, economic trends, changing market conditions, taxation issues, and policy decisions of Council. The Town understands the need to achieve balance between the demand for services and the taxpayers' ability to pay for these services. The goal is to ensure, through prudent fiscal planning, the long-term economic sustainability of the community.

* 14. Based on the information above, please rate the value that you get for your tax dollars:

Very poor value Poor value Good value Very good value

Please explain:

* 15. Thinking about the services provided by the Town, which of the following tax strategies do you support?

Enhance service levels by increasing property taxes

Enhance service levels by increasing fees for users of the service

Maintain current service levels, with a property tax increase matched to inflation

Reduce service levels to reduce property taxes

sele	ect all that apply)
	Council/Town Administrative Operations
	Building/Planning Services
	Roads Maintenance
	Snow Plowing and Winter Road Maintenance
	Road/Sidewalk Improvements and Infrastructure
	Garbage and Recycling Collection
	Gallery, Library, Archives, Museum Services
	Landfill and Recycling Depot
	Maintenance of Parks, Trails and Greenspaces
	By-law Enforcement Services
	Online Services
	Environment and Climate Change Initiatives
	Recreation Facilities
	Emergency Services
	Events/Festivals/Family Activities
	Other (please specify)



Leadership

* 17. When you think about the current term of the Town of The Blue Mountains Council, how satisfied are you with each of the following areas?

	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Overall Performance				
Quality of Decision Making				\bigcirc
Responsiveness to Community Issues/Concerns				\circ
Collaboration with Community Partners and Organizations	\bigcirc		\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Strategic Planning and Strategy Development			\bigcirc	\circ
Financial Planning and Financial Management			\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Responding to Climate Change	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

* 18. Throughout the current term of Council, several new initiatives have been prioritized. In your opinion, please indicate your priority for each of the following items.

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Protecting the natural environment		\circ	
Preserving trees and green space throughout the community	\bigcirc		
Improving access to long-term care beds		\circ	\bigcirc
Attracting and retaining family doctors	\bigcirc		\bigcirc
Increasing access to attainable housing		\circ	\bigcirc
Prioritizing infrastructure replacement for future growth	\bigcirc		
Improving communication and customer service	\circ	\bigcirc	
Ensuring accountability and transparency in decision-making	\bigcirc		
Implementing policies to promote sustainable environmental practices	0		
Addressing regional transportation issues on Highway 26	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Completing the Drainage Master Plan	\circ		\circ
Completing the Official Plan Review		\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Completing the Natural Heritage Study	\circ		\circ
Updating the Community Design guidelines	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Update to the Municipal Licensing By-law (Short-Term Accommodation Enforcement)			0

* 19. To help guide what projects the Town of The Blue Mountains should focus on during the next term of Council, please indicate your priority for each of the following topics:

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Water/Wastewater servicing for Clarksburg	\circ	0	0
Cycling infrastructure (e.g., bike lanes, cycling routes, signage)	\circ		
Waterfront acquisition for public use	\circ		0
Access to public transit throughout the entire community	\circ		\bigcirc
Library expansion and additional library services	\circ		0
Investing in infrastructure replacement	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Enhanced winter maintenance of sidewalks throughout the entire community (where sidewalks exist)	0		
Community events and activities		\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Installation of a seasonal outdoor skating rink	\circ		0
Installation of a synthetic year-round outdoor skating rink	\bigcirc		\bigcirc
Installation of an indoor community pool	\circ		\circ
Installation of an outdoor community pool	\bigcirc		\circ
Increased access to long term care	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Increased access to family health care	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0
Increased supply of attainable housing units	\circ	\circ	0
Preservation and retention of mature	\circ	\circ	\circ

ouncil?				
		<i>A</i>		
21. In your opini ountains today?	single most im	portant issue f	acing the Town	of The Blue



Demographic Information * 22. What is your age? O Under 18 45-54 18-34) 55-64 35-44 65+ * 23. How long have you been a resident and/or owned property in the Town of The Blue Mountains? O Less than 5 years 5 to 10 years 10 to 20 years 20+ years * 24. Where is your property located in the Town of The Blue Mountains? * 25. Do you live in a condominium subdivision and pay annual fees to a condo association? Examples of condominium subdivisions include Mountain House and Cottages at Lora Bay. O No

2022 Resident Satisfaction Survey - Action Items

The survey results have provided valuable information to help the Town better understand resident needs and expectations related to service delivery. The Town's management teams have reviewed the results in detail, and subsequent discussions have been held at the division and team levels.

It is important to highlight that staff have discussed and considered thoroughly efforts to address feedback and comments received from the 2022 Resident Satisfaction Survey. Several actions and initiatives have either been completed, are currently underway or are planned for future execution. The following series of charts provide an overview of each department's actions related to the feedback and survey results.

Administration

Summarized Feedback	Actions Taken/Planned Actions
 Email, phone and the Town website were the primary methods that residents use to contact the Town Only 4% of respondents indicated that they had used the Online Service Portal 75% of respondents indicated that they received a response to their inquiry within two business days Of those dissatisfied with customer service, the top issues were attributed to response time issues (24%), inadequate solution provided (17%), poor service (17%) and lack of information (17%) 	 As part of the Corporate Structure Review, Council approved the creation of a new Strategic Initiatives department that will be responsible for customer service. Recommendations regarding customer service improvements will come forward as a key priority of the new department. The Town will continue to train staff and monitor the approved 2+4 response time standard. There is an opportunity to increase awareness of the Online Service Request System through marketing and promotional efforts. The Communications Department plays an active role in developing briefing notes and FAQ material that is provided to customer service staff to help answer common questions. The Town continues to invest in the continual improvement of the Town website to ensure that the platform provides an exceptional user experience.
Communication & Engagement	 The Communications Division supports the activities of all departments, divisions and projects by using a variety of communication tools and best practices. Efforts are ongoing to further

Summarized Feedback **Actions Taken/Planned Actions** newspaper articles and the printed Town strengthen and enhance the quality of the Town's communication activities newsletter through the implementation of the 2021 -The three least used methods of 2025 Communications Strategy. receiving Town news and information included Town newspaper ads (20%), The Town website continues to serve as meeting live stream/archived video the primary communications tool for the recordings (12%) and the Town's Twitter Town. The Communications Division maintains and monitors the website daily account (3%) and continually explores opportunities to enhance the user experience. Funds approved annually through the Town budget are used to update/upgrade the website to ensure that it performs to the best possible standard. The Town maintains a robust email subscription list of over 4,000 subscribers who receive regular email updates with important news, project updates and more. The Town also maintains an active presence on both Facebook and Twitter, with 800+ and 3,600+ followers, respectively. Staff are currently undertaking a process to review and update the Notice Policy to reflect and match the goals and objectives of the Communications Strategy.

Finance and IT

Summarized Feedback	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
Financial Management • 62% of respondents indicated they receive good value for their tax dollars and have a sense of general satisfaction, while 33% indicated they receive poor to very poor value Specific responses provided included: • Taxes and charges are too high • Limited of poor services delivered • Taxes are higher than other communities • Overdevelopment without focusing on infrastructure • Need for improved service delivery	The Town is currently completing a detailed service delivery review and will be completing a Resident Satisfaction Survey in Q3/Q4 2024. The results of these activities will help identify opportunities for efficiency and service delivery improvements. The results will be presented to Council and will help guide future decision-making.

Community Services

Summarized Feedback	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
General Satisfaction Overall satisfaction with the maintenance of town-owned trails, parks, beaches, greenspaces and recreation facilities was high.	Continue with the current level of service. No major actions are required.
Rural Parking 53% of respondents feel there is not adequate parking in rural areas for trail access.	 The Town is working with Grey County to develop a rural trail parking strategy. The Town is also working with the Bruce Trail Conservancy and Ontario Parks to create additional rural parking options.
Trail Connectivity 21% of respondents were unsatisfied with the connectivity of the Town's trail network. Specific mentions: No connection between Thornbury and Clarksburg on Beaver River Trail Sunset Boulevard in Lora Bay	 The Beaver River Trail connects to Thornbury through Arthur Taylor Lane. Part of the route is via the road due to an inability to access or acquire property. The Parks and Trails division will address Sunset Boulevard in 2024/25, including hard surfacing a section that crosses over laneways.
Public Washroom Access 43% of respondents feel there is not adequate access to public washrooms in park areas throughout the Town. • Downtown Thornbury • Moreau Park • 10 th line Recreation Complex • Lions Park	 Downtown Thornbury, Lions Park and the 10th line recreation area have portable washrooms that are available seasonally. The Moreau Park revitalization project is in the early stages of planning and the need for public washrooms was identified within the public survey that was conducted. Additional review will be required if Council wishes to increase access to public washrooms.
Soft Amenities 35% of respondents feel there are not adequate soft amenities (benches, tables, bike racks) in park areas throughout the Town. • More garbage and recycling bins requested • Improved parking signage • More development of undeveloped Craigleith parks	 Staff regularly review opportunities to enhance soft amenities throughout the community. The Craigleith Community Working Group provided feedback to help prioritize amenities in the Craigleith area that will be scheduled for inclusion in the 2025 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Planning Process. The Town empties waste containers during regular operations. If waste containers are regularly overfilled or

Summarized Feedback	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
	underutilized, staff will add or subtract containers based on need. In May 2024, the Town started a gateway and wayfinding signage project that will focus on the design and installation of new signage throughout the community. Further details will be presented to Council when available.
Playground Equipment 27% of respondents feel there is not adequate playground equipment throughout the Town. • Windfall lacking developed parks • Play equipment for Lions Park • Play equipment for Lora Bay Park • Modernize equipment at Bayview Park • Play equipment for Heathcote Park • Fireman's Park needs attention	 The Town is planning to replace playground equipment by utilizing the asset management program. All playground equipment (new or replacement) will focus on accessibility. A project is underway to formalize and develop a new community park in Craigleith adjacent to the Windfall, Second Nature, and Blue Vista development sites. This land was gained through the parkland dedication included in each development agreement. The intent is to transform the land into a regional community park for all to enjoy. The project was launched with a public survey, and a public meeting has been scheduled for September 2024. Playground equipment at Bayview Park is scheduled for replacement in 2024. The Craigleith Community Working Group provided feedback to help prioritize amenities in the Craigleith area that will be scheduled for inclusion in the 2025 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Planning Process. Fireman's Park is owned by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and is scheduled to be reviewed through the 2025 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master planning process.
Hard Recreational Amenities 32% of respondents feel there is not an adequate supply of hard recreational amenities throughout the Town. Requests for swimming pools Requests for more tennis courts Requests for more pickleball courts	The Town has initiated a Multi-Use Recreation Feasibility Assessment in partnership with the Town of Collingwood. The Joint Assessment will assess the current and future recreational facility needs of residents from both communities and will also explore integrating library services into a

Summarized Feedback	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
 Requests for indoor rec complex Requests for skateboard park update Requests for a bicycle pump track Requests for a sledding hill 	multi-use model, as has proven effective in several municipalities across the province. Recommendations for indoor recreational amenities are expected to be presented in late 2024.

Planning and Development Services

Summarized Feedback	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
Process & Transparency Residents are seeking increased transparency throughout the development process Some residents express concern over the thoroughness of PDS review and approval processes	 Interdepartmental Review Committee (IRC) The IRC is an internal working group comprising staff from across the organization involved in the review of development applications, established to complement the Development Review Committee (DRC). The mandate of the IRC includes: Supporting the understanding of PDS processes and the interconnection between all Town departments. Identifying opportunities to make requests or establish requirements that may assist in achieving strategic priorities of the municipality. Collaborating to ensure consistency in communications with development proponents.
	Adapting to New Legislation Bill 23 and Bill 109 have dramatically altered the planning review landscape across Ontario. Staff have been seeking opportunities to ensure that despite tightening timelines for application review and narrowing discretion to regulate new developments, the process remains accessible to the public. This includes encouraging potential applicants to bring their concept to Council prior to filing a submission and consistently including public comments on a planning file in a recommendation report with an associated response from staff and/or the applicant.
	 Website Upgrades The Communications division, with the support of the Planning Department manages 70+ dedicated planning and development project webpage. Efforts are being actively made to increase the transparency of the development process by posting a greater number of documents to planning project webpages, including Approved for Construction (AFC) Drawings and Pre-Servicing/Development Agreements.

Summarized Feedback	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
	Public Notice Template A new corporate branded template for Public Notices was developed to ensure consistency and plain language.
 Communication & Website Upgrades There is a desire for comprehensive project pages that communicate information and progress to the public throughout a development's lifespan Residents are seeking communication about PDS projects through a variety of methods, with the Town website being the primary method (most used by 68% of survey respondents), followed by the monthly e-newsletter (40%) and quarterly print newsletter (33%) 	 Website & Project Page Updates In 2023, the Planning and Development Project webpages were redesigned to improve the user experience and make documents easier to find. The redesign was based on website analytics data and website user experience best practices. As part of the redesign, a new "Development Timeline" feature was added to all project webpages. This feature visually tracks each project's status throughout the development process. An interactive and searchable map of all current development projects was added to the Town website in mid-2023. FAQs have been developed to provide specific information for projects on an as-needed basis.
	Educational & Explainer Content A new "Explore the Development Process" webpage and video series has been launched to provide a high-level 101 on each stage of the planning process. The video series was created to focus on the Pre-Consultation and Planning Process, the Development Engineering Process and the Building Process.
	 General Communications PDS has a monthly update in the Town e-newsletter and a quarterly educational article in the Town print newsletter. Residents can subscribe to an email list on project pages to receive a notification each time an update is made.
 Long-Term Planning & The Official Plan The Official Plan Review is considered High-Medium Priority by 89% of residents Comments from residents indicate concern around: Density and building height Preservation of green and park space Loss of character/small-town feel 	 Official Plan Review The OP will guide all future land-use decisions in the Town, including residential, commercial, and other forms of development. Policies are being developed to consider how to manage growth, housing, density and intensification standards, protection of the environment, how agricultural and natural features will be protected, etc. Research & Background Papers 11 Official Plan Background Papers were posted to the Town website to address the areas of concern to

Summarized Feedback

20% of responses to an open-ended question about what priorities Council should consider indicated a need to "plan and manage growth and development of the Town more effectively" and noted a desire for a long-term strategy

Actions Taken / Planned Actions

- residents (i.e. Environment & Climate Change, Parks and Open Space, Building Heights Study, Infrastructure & Servicing, etc.).
- PDS will also be completing an update to the Community Design Guidelines with a focus on community design best practices and community character analysis.

Public Engagement

- Residents will be able to weigh in directly throughout the Official Plan Review process.
- In addition to the Statutory Public Open House and Statutory Public Meeting, the Town has conducted an Official Plan and Community Design Survey, four Official Plan Public Sessions and a Community Design Workshop.
- Additional opportunities for public engagement will include a public open house and a formal public meeting related to the recommended policy changes.

Sustainable Growth & Infrastructure

- Some residents lack trust in PDS due to general dissatisfaction with the amount of development in the Town
- When asked what the most important issue facing the Town today is:
 - 18% said overdevelopment
 - 16% said sustainable growth
 - 16% said a need for infrastructure/municipal support for the growing population
- Many residents expressed concern that the Town does not have the infrastructure needed to support the current level of development (i.e. roads, water, garbage, schools)

- Planning and Development Services has a legislated obligation to review development submissions received and, if in accordance with provincial and local policies, recommend these projects for approval by Council.
- Many of these policies directly relate to confirming the appropriate capacity of municipal services and infrastructure. This includes planning for both short and long-term impacts. The primary means to ensure growth remains sustainable is in the collection of Development Charges through the review process. The Town adheres to the principle that 'growth pays for growth'. Through the Development Charges Bylaw and Background Study the Town ensures that prudent planning goes into ensuring there is appropriate funding for growth-related infrastructure.
- The town is participating with Grey County on a project with a tri-county approach to create "Green Development Standards".
- The town is completing a Natural Heritage Study and Natural Asset Inventory in an effort to explore greater protection of natural assets and features in the Town.
- Council adopted a Net Zero Energy Municipal Building Policy in 2023.

Operations

Summarized Feedback	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
General Satisfaction Overall satisfaction with garbage and recycling collection, winter snow plowing, downtown snow removal and water and wastewater services was high.	Continue with the current level of service. No major actions are required.
Road Maintenance and Winter Sidewalk Maintenance General road maintenance and winter sidewalk maintenance received the lowest satisfaction scores.	 Many major reconstruction projects are planned or underway to repair road surfaces. There is a plan to bring winter sidewalk maintenance internal to provide a consistent level of service.
Infrastructure & Growth Respondents voiced concerns about infrastructure keeping up with growth.	 Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Phase 1A to be completed by 2025. This project is on track and well underway. The East Side Water Storage EA is in progress. As part of Phase 3 of the EA, the Town's Consultant, JLR, is performing various studies and investigations, including Water Quality Sampling, Archaeological Assessments, and Ecological Field Studies. The West Side Water Storage EA was completed in 2021. The resulting infrastructure upgrade recommendations are underway. Town-wide Wastewater Master Plan EA is currently in progress. The Town held the first public information center on May 23, 2024. The wastewater model has been calibrated and used to evaluate restrictions or limited capacity within the system. The engineering for the capacity increase at the Mill Street Sewage Pumping Station and the Craigleith Main Lift Station is underway. The Long Point Road Environmental Assessment has been completed.
Seasonal Road Maintenance 39% of respondents were unsatisfied with seasonal road maintenance programs including pothole repair, gravel road grading, dust control, street sweeping, etc. Specific roads mentioned: Peel Street North	 The website now has a timeline showing the yearly schedule of activities within the Town's road maintenance program, which provides more clarity on when maintenance happens. Peel Street North will be addressed through the Peel Street North and South Reconstruction Projects.

Summarized Feedback	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
 10th Line North 7th Line North 	
Asphalt Road Maintenance 36% of respondents were unsatisfied with the maintenance of asphalt roads. Specific roads mentioned: • Elma Street • Arthur Street / King Street • Victoria Street • 10 th Line South • Sideroad 33	 Elma Street and Victoria Street will be fully reconstructed through the Thornbury West Phase 1A Reconstruction Project. Arthur Street and King Street are slated to be reconstructed through the Thornbury West Phase 2 Reconstruction, the timeline is currently undetermined. The Town will be adding surface treatment to 28 km of rural roads in 2024.
Sidewalk Connectivity 33% of respondents were unsatisfied with sidewalk connectivity. Specific roads mentioned: Victoria Street, south of Alfred Alfred Street, west of Victoria Victoria Street Beaver Street Elgin Street South	 Sidewalks on Beaver Street and on Victoria Street between Arthur Street and Alfred Street have been replaced through the Thornbury West Phase 1A Reconstruction Project. The recently completed Transportation Master Plan includes a plan to prioritize and implement connectivity for active transportation.

Legal Services

Summarized Feedback	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
By-Law Enforcement 22% of respondents indicated that they were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with by-law enforcement, which includes animal control and parking enforcement services. Comments were provided regarding the desire for resident-only parking spaces and for the need to improve parking signage to make the payment process clear and easily understood.	 The Town has been actively prosecuting dog off-leash charges on the trails, beaches, parks and other Town properties. In 2024, there were six dog off-leash tickets issued. In addition, the Town has proactively provided communication through the website, newsletters, and social media on at least three occasions from January 2024 to July 2024 in relation to dogs off-leash and to provide awareness. The Town has implemented a digital license plate registration for residents, which aligns with the new plate recognition software for parking enforcement. The paid parking program has a 4-hour maximum for waterfront properties. This is to encourage visitors to

Summarized Feedback	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
	enjoy the area for a limited time and allow opportunities for others to use these properties. Residents do not have this limitation.

Prioritizing Initiatives

In addition to the department-specific feedback provided through the survey, respondents were also asked to prioritize a variety of ongoing Council initiatives and new initiatives. To help focus this report, the following chart outlines the combined top ten items that were ranked as high priority and includes an overview of the associated actions.

Priorities	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
Attracting and retaining family doctors and increased access to healthcare	 A delegation was presented to the Ministry of Health at the 2023 ROMA Conference to highlight the need for family physicians in The Blue Mountains. Staff have worked with Councillor Porter to engage local physicians and the North East Grey Health Clinics to understand concerns and opportunities. Staff have actively participated in physician recruitment efforts, including attending a rural family medicine recruitment event hosted by the Rural Ontario Medical Program. In early 2022, a doctor's appreciation event was held at Town Hall to show appreciation to local physicians.
Preservation and retention of mature trees on public land	The Town is conducting a Natural Asset Inventory and is currently initiating a street tree inventory project. Both these initiatives will be a first step in green infrastructure management.
Working with the Ministry of Transportation to address regional transportation issues on Hwy 26	 A delegation was presented to the Ministry of Transportation at the 2023 ROMA Conference to highlight the importance of developing a comprehensive regional transportation plan. A delegation request has been submitted for the 2024 AMO Conference to meet with the Ministry of Transportation. In July 2023, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation announced a new

Priorities	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
	Environmental Assessment Regarding Highway 26 Intersection Improvements. The focus of the work includes intersection improvements at Highway 26 and Grey Road 2, and at Highway 26 and Grey Road 21. The study also includes rehabilitation of Culvert 473 on Highway 26 between Hoover Lane and Camperdown Road, and illumination of the intersection at Highway 26 and Grey Road 113/10th Line.
Completing the Master Drainage Plan	 The Town of The Blue Mountains is undertaking a comprehensive Town-wide Drainage Master Plan following the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Planning Process to serve as a long-term strategy for the Town to manage stormwater in existing and new growth areas. Draft Report will be presented to Council in October, and a Public Information Centre will be held to receive feedback from residents. The final report will be posted for the 30-day period.
Completing the Transportation Master Plan	The Transportation Master Plan was completed and approved by Council in late 2022. The completed Master Plan will be used as a reference and a guiding document for developing strategies and policies and making infrastructure investment decisions.
Completing the Official Plan Review	Phase 2 of the Official Plan Review project is underway, with various public engagement opportunities scheduled throughout the coming months, including a public open house and a formal public meeting related to the recommended policy changes.
Improving access to long-term care beds and increasing access to long-term care	 The Town continues to work with the Ministry of Long Term Care on the Campus of Care project that includes a new 160 bed longterm care facility located at 125 Peel Street in Thornbury. At the May 17, 2023 Council meeting, Skydev and peopleCare communities provided Council with a presentation outlining the Campus of Care Conceptual Proposal. The presentation provided an overview of the proposed site layout, which included the

Priorities	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
	north portion of the property being retained by the Town for future use. • At the June 26, 2023 meeting, Council approved the sale of 18.7 acres of 125 Peel Street to Skydev as outlined in the Campus of Care Concept.
Investing in infrastructure replacement	The Operations Department has over 50 infrastructure renewal projects in the design or construction stage.
Increased supply of attainable housing units	 Significant effort has been made by a variety of stakeholders to determine how best to increase the stock of attainable housing options as well as how to increase the range of housing stock to provide options that include both long-term rental and ownership models. This work has included the Tourism Labour Force Housing Needs completed by the Blue Mountain Village Association (BMVA) and led by Mark Conway, the June 2019 Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation (BMAHC) Concept Business Model that was led by Strategycorp, and the 171 King Street Gateway Project Design Task Force that was led by the BMAHC. It is also important to note that the South Georgian Bay Institute is actively engaging key partners and is seen as a leader in the work being completed for Attainable Housing. In late 2023, the BMAHC's governance structure was changed to a fully Townsupported structure. The new structure included revised Articles of Incorporation and Governance By-laws, which changed the composition of the Board of Directors to five (5) members of the Town of The Blue Mountains staff. In June 2024, Council directed staff to initiate the formal process of dissolving the BMAHC and requested that members of the BMAHC bring forward a draft Terms of Reference that would provide the basis for the scope and mandate for the potential establishment of a formal Attainable Housing Committee of Council. In addition, Council directed staff to engage with the TBM Housing Strategy Working Group to consider how best to

Priorities	Actions Taken / Planned Actions
	collaborate on the Attainable Housing Portfolio. The Town has also expanded the scope of the Official Plan Review to include a Housing Needs Assessment. The study is now completed and has been used to evaluate planning applications.