

Appendix B – Virtual Public Information Centre

On September 25, 2024, from 7:00p.m. to 9:0 p.m., members of the project team hosted a virtual Public Information Centre via Zoom. Approximately twenty-four (24) people attended the online event. A brief presentation was delivered by City staff at the start of the meeting, defining the Official Plan, roles and responsibilities, as well as the purpose of the review.

Question and Answer

Following the presentation, attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions of clarification. These are summarized below, with questions noted with a 'Q' and answers noted with an 'A'.

- **Q:** Can the presentation be found online?
 - **A:** It is not on the website yet, but will be shortly. We have a discussion paper on the website that has more details, and this content can also be found there.
- **Q:** To confirm, the Official Plan will go to 2051?
 - **A:** The province set parameters for the City of Pickering's timeframe. We understand that this needs to be modified over time. Provincial requirements ask that we check after a period of time to see if we are still on track.
- **Q:** Is Pickering able to step up and say that in the interest of our voters, we do not want this? Can we push back?
 - **A:** Municipalities are creatures of the province. We exist because the province created the requirements for us, and they continue to set rules for how we do planning and municipal business. Therefore, we are limited to what we can do and must meet certain requirements. We can fill in gaps with our unique details for what is important to us.

Following the Question and Answer portion of the meeting, small group discussions were conducted as attendees were split into three different breakout rooms of about seven participants each. The discussions were centred around the future of Pickering to 2051 and, in particular, the vision and priorities of the Official Plan. Input from these breakout room discussions is summarized below and is organized within discussion questions for each topic.

The same set of images as the In-person Public Information Centre was displayed on a PowerPoint presentation in each of the breakout rooms for participants to sift through and discuss their perceptions of the future of Pickering to 2051. Please see Figures 20 through 44 for reference.

Breakout Room 1

Exercise #1

Point to one of two of the images that are important to you and explain why.

- I like images 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25 – the natural areas.
- I like images 2 and 13 – people will be moving here, and we need to make opportunities for people to do so. See the necessity of the growth that needs to happen.
- Also do enjoy the beaches and the green areas.

- I like images 7, 12, 11, and 19.
- Moved to Pickering and ended up loving it.
- Went to the waterfront often when my child was young. We need to ensure options for people with younger families.
- See a solar panel – we need to be creative with our energy generation and use.
- Notice in the pictures that there are not many commercials, shopping centers, or stores. Pickering lacks this.
- There is nothing in the new Seaton development. We need to provide these.

Exercise #2

By 2051, Pickering will have...

- Very diverse community.
- Friendly neighbourhoods.
- Integrated public transit system with the rest of the GTA.
- An abundance of people.
- Less green space (worried this will happen).
- The waterfront will continue to be revitalized.
- Cultural events in the city are bigger and better.
- Have the infrastructure to support all of the new developments happening around us.
- More business/shopping.
- Traffic congestion issues (concerned this will only worsen).

By 2051, Pickering will be known for...

- A great place to live, work, shop and play.
- This idea is so important – I previously found myself going to Toronto to do these things, but now I find myself staying in Pickering more often.
- Putting the cart before the horse (do the development, wait and see what happens, then fix problems if you can).

Exercise #3

Vision:

Do you resonate with the current Official Plan vision?

N/A

What parts of the current Official Plan vision are still relevant?

- Meeting the evolving needs of the people is relevant.

What needs to be added or changed to the Official Plan vision?

- Which people? Residents of Pickering, or people outside too?
- Current people or people coming in the future and anticipating their needs?
- Focus on the people here now.

- Something about all other places or people is not resonating; it sounds strange with the beginning part of the statement.
- I love how diverse it is in Pickering, and I love events that celebrate diversity.
- I want to see myself reflected but also see value in seeing how other people do things.
- Add something to do with the environment/climate change.
- Including the waterfront, parks, and rural spaces.
- Ways we can be connected.
- Transportation.
- Food.
- Community events.
- Culture.
- Needs to be better detailed to understand the vision.

Priorities:

Do you resonate with the current Official Plan priorities?

N/A

What parts of the current Official Plan priorities are still relevant?

- The “unique community” section seems to contradict the vision statement.
- The five of them are relevant, and the description helps to understand what they mean.
- Evolving needs are still relevant.

What needs to be added or changed to the Official Plan priorities?

- More clarity on the “global connectivity” priority.
- Does not seem to connect to the vision well.
- Missing the environment – the intent might be there, but it needs to be explicit.
- Add one about a City that is agile enough to meet change demands.
- The priority seems to be to develop the urban community – the need to protect and appreciate the rural settings.
- Need to blend the old with the new (Markham may be an example that has done this well).
- Need to define sustainability.
- Does this refer to protecting the environment?
- Define what this means, or be explicit about environmental protection.
- Need something about protecting the City in the face of a changing climate and extreme weather events.
- Missing the importance of economic development in Pickering.
- We go elsewhere for dining, shopping, entertainment, etc.

Exercise #4

Are there any important topics that you do not see included?

N/A



N/A

Breakout Room 2

Exercise #1

Point to one of two of the images that are important to you and explain why.

- I do not like the condo building photo, photo number 13, because it shows what Pickering may look like in the future with all of the condos being built around the City Centre area.
- The City needs to be more mindful of making the City more affordable as these condos are geared towards investors and residents that live here in Pickering.
- Young people will not be able to afford anything.
- Image 4 – I really like gentle intensification.
- Image 10 – need something that represents the 55+ community. I would like to see lowrise individual housing with a garden.
- Image 16 / 17 – water views would be nice to have accessible at any age.
- Image 23 / 24 – open spaces.
- Image 18 – walking.
- Images 1 and 3 – A little nicer style than image 6. Create beautiful buildings.
- Image 16 and 17 – Paved paths for accessibility trails.
- Images 11 and 18 – trails.
- Not a ton of highrises, but I understand the need.
- Image 13 – not a lot of green here (it's the least appealing). Create spaces where people want to live, with a sustainable design.

Exercise #2

By 2051, Pickering will have...

- No bricks and it will be all glass condos.
- Town Centre with an ice rink and festivals.
- Mixed community.
- Include spaces for seniors and those with disabilities.
- Groups where seniors and intergenerational families could be done in Seaton.
- Style – less towering buildings.
- Creating green spaces around buildings.
- Cherry Blossom Park would be great.
- Homes that are great looking and proud to live in. Respectful of community.
- Great place to live with a scenic neighbourhood.
- The homeless situation will be addressed in the future, and affordable places with a roof for everyone will create safety.

By 2051, Pickering will be known for...

- Accessibility.

- City center plans – still going forward.
- A more pedestrian city center where you can walk and have a coffee.
- A downtown – modern and walkable.

Exercise #3

Vision:

Do you resonate with the current Official Plan vision?

- All participants agreed with the vision.

What parts of the current Official Plan vision are still relevant?

- Sounds great.
- Policy needs to make it real.
- Love the reference to rural settings.

What needs to be added or changed to the Official Plan vision?

- The City has to make sure that the developers are not building for investors, they need to build for residents and the OP should show that.

Priorities:

Do you resonate with the current Official Plan priorities?

- All participants agreed with the priorities.

What parts of the current Official Plan priorities are still relevant?

N/A

What needs to be added or changed to the Official Plan priorities?

- Accessibility should be clearly stated.
- Important to see policy to support it integrated into site plans.
- Unique community – what assets are there in the future to consider?
- Inviting for own community.
- Natural resources protection.
- Capitalize on Rouge and Alton forests – make it a priority to provide access.
- Hoping residents get housing – not investors.

Exercise #4

Are there any important topics that you do not see included?

N/A

Additional Comments/Questions

N/A

Breakout Room 3

Exercise #1

Point to one of two of the images that are important to you and explain why.

- Images selected:
 - Images liked: 11, 12, 12, 16, 16, 17, and 18.
 - Images not liked: 4, 5, and 7.
- Comments:
 - Enjoy nature, our parks and trails.
 - The condos going up on Kingston and Bailey will generate a lot of traffic.
 - Roads are already busy and then become exceedingly busy when accidents on the 401 cause a detour onto local roads.

Exercise #2

By 2051, Pickering will have...

- Good jobs.
- A place where young people can thrive.
- Recreational trails.
- A healthy balance of urban and rural areas.
- Interconnections with other people and places.

By 2051, Pickering will be known for...

- Looking after its people by providing employment and good health care.
- Looking after its seniors.
- Preserving and maintaining its waterfront and trails.
- Continuing to evolve.
- Being a healthy community.
- Being a complete community that includes nature with development.

Exercise #3

Vision:

Do you resonate with the current Official Plan vision?

N/A

What parts of the current Official Plan vision are still relevant?

- Healthy urban and rural settings.
- Interconnected.

What needs to be added or changed to the Official Plan vision?

- Connecting communities with green space.
- Protecting shopping areas.
- Preserving nature.

Priorities:

Do you resonate with the current Official Plan priorities?

N/A

What parts of the current Official Plan priorities are still relevant?

- Great list, but it is too vague.

What needs to be added or changed to the Official Plan priorities?

- Make sure younger generations are accounted for.
- The list is vague. Needs to be more specific – identify clear outcomes.
- They indicate forward movement but don't identify a direction.
- Needs to include references to businesses and retail.
- Needs to include social spaces, like churches, as a healthy component of our communities.

Exercise #4

Are there any important topics that you do not see included?

N/A

Additional Comments/Questions

- Participants are excited about the following:
 - Growth Management.
 - Agriculture and natural heritage should be completed first to determine what we will protect first.
 - Ensure that growth is phased in such a way that existing sewer infrastructure is maximized before building new capacity. Include finance in your planning to ensure that growth is fiscally responsible.
 - Prioritize growth in existing urban areas.
 - Recognize the transportation (and other) constraints in places like Nautical Village/bottom of Liverpool Road before planning more infill in that area.
 - Ensure there is sufficient private parking to avoid spillover onto surrounding areas.
 - Natural heritage.
 - Recognize existing and expanding flooding hazards when planning infill.
 - Agriculture.
 - Community Elements.
 - Recognize the deficiencies in the existing stormwater sewers in Bayridges before planning for more growth.
 - Housing and Affordability.
 - Ensure that housing is not only affordable but also accessible for people with mobility constraints.