

ACW's Official Plan Review 2021

Keeping you informed...

The Township is working to review and update its Official Plan to conform with provincial legislation. To keep residents informed, this notice is being distributed to ensure that all those who are interested have an opportunity to be involved.



TOWNSHIP OF
ASHFIELD—COLBORNE—WAWANOSH

Why Review the Official Plan?

The Provincial Government requires that municipalities update their Official Plans every five years. The last time this took place in ACW was in 2013.

What does the Review include?

- Review the policies and make changes that reflect the current direction of the community and other trends motivating land use and development, such as housing trends.
- Ensure Official Plan mapping is accurate and reflects the reality and changing landscape of the community.
- Strategically designate areas where Future Development should take place.

What is the Official Plan?

The ACW Official Plan is a document that establishes the **vision for the future** of the Township and provides policy direction to **manage future land use and growth**. It determines how land can be used, what services are needed and when parts of the Township will grow.

In other words, the role of the Official Plan is to direct where, and how, development should occur in ACW.

The Township needs to make sure that the ACW Official Plan aligns with the Planning Act, the Provincial Policy Statement, and the Huron County Official Plan. Want to learn more about these requirements? See the **Learn More** section towards the end of this notice.

What can you expect?

The next step of reviewing the Official Plan is holding a Public Meeting to gather feedback from the public on the existing Official Plan and what changes may be required. Here are the details:

Official Plan Review – Public Meeting

Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

This is the first opportunity the Public will have to participate in this public process. At this meeting, the public will be able to share with Council thoughts on what should be changed in the **existing** Official Plan. You can also send in written submissions to Celina Whaling-Rae, Planner, before the meeting. See **Learn More** on the next page for more information.

You will find the existing Official Plan that will be discussed at the following link, or contact us to get a copy: <http://www.acwtownship.ca/property-development/official-plan/>

...over

How do I participate in the Public Meeting?

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the municipal office is closed to the public. The Public Meeting will be held via Zoom, an online meeting platform that is easy to use. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on Friday, March 5th, along with information on how to join the meeting. You can find all of this by visiting <http://www.acwtownship.ca/council/council-agendas-4/>.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the office to find out how to call into the meeting.

What happens after the Public Meeting?

After the public meeting, staff will prepare draft revisions to the Official Plan. As part of the whole process, the Township will reach out by letter to each landowner who may be directly impacted, which will include how to contact staff to have a discussion on the proposed changes. The Township must follow a public process for any changes to the Official Plan. For the full project schedule, see the **Learn More** section that follows.

Learn More!

Your participation in the Official Plan review process is very important. There are several ways in which you can stay up to date on what's happening, ask questions, and provide input. The Township has a page on its website dedicated to this project. All information related to the Official Plan Review will be available here:

<http://www.acwtownship.ca/property-development/official-plan/>

We are working to ensure that all information available to the public is accessible to the needs of residents. If you do not have access to the internet, or want the information in a different format, please let us know.

I have questions. Who should I contact?

Celina Whaling-Rae is the Planner who is leading the project. You can reach out to Celina with any questions, stay updated on the process, ask questions, or provide input.

Celina Whaling-Rae, Planner

cwhalingrae@huroncounty.ca

519-524-8394 ext. 3

Other Information...

The Official Plan Review is a joint project between the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh and the Huron County Planning & Development Department.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is anticipated that majority of meetings relating to the Official Plan Review will take place over Zoom. Residents have the opportunity to access Zoom meetings electronically or over the phone. Agendas for meetings, as well as information as to how to join the meetings, will be posted by end of day Friday before each meeting date at <http://www.acwtownship.ca/council/council-agendas-4/>. The feasibility of holding in-person meetings will be re-evaluated at a later date.

Formal Notice for the first Public Meeting, as required by the Planning Act, was posted on Friday, February 5, 2021.