

# DISTRICT 5

## MEET & GREET

### WHAT WE HEARD



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# INTRODUCTION

## Welcome to the District 5 “What We Heard” Report

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the District 5 Meet & Greet! Your time, thoughts, and willingness to share your insights are what make our community stronger.

After the 2022 District Meetings, many community members asked for more opportunities to provide input on municipal information and to share their opinions during these meetings. We heard you—and we listened. This year, we’ve restructured our District Meetings to make sure everyone, of all ages, can engage and provide feedback on a wide variety of topics.

The following encapsulates “what we heard” from District 5. Similar reports will also be released for each District meeting. These reports summarize the input shared, so the community can see what was discussed. Once all District Meet & Greets are complete, the information from every district will be compiled into a full report that will show how we are taking steps to incorporate your feedback into municipal operations.

At the District 5 meeting, we asked for input in several areas, including:

- **Planning and Development**
- **Engineering and Public Works**
- **Community Programming**
- **Finance**
- **Leadership**
- **Communications**
- **And a special table for our youngest residents to share what matters most to them in their community.**

# MEETING ATTENDANCE

The District 5 Meet and Greet was held at the Millville Community Hall on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm

The meeting was advertised on municipal social media channels, our website, on radio and in print media.

In total 8 people attended the meeting from the Aylesford Area.

# OVERALL THEMES

District 5 spoke, and here is what we heard most clearly. The following priorities reflect the shared aspirations, concerns, and ideas expressed by residents, and will guide future municipal planning and engagement efforts.

## 1. Input and Communications

- Residents want opportunities to provide input into municipal decisions and to be able to see in municipal decisions that their voices were heard.

## 2. Accessibility and Safety

- Residents expressed desires for neighbour watches, increased police patrols, and improvement to municipal standards for accessibility in both municipal buildings and in the community.

## 3. Youth as the Future

- Residents expressed a strong desire to see future generations have opportunities at home. These comments included working toward meaning growth that leads to employment opportunities, affordable housing, addressing the cost-of-living crisis and connection youth and seniors so they can learn from each other.

## 4. Recreation & Community Life

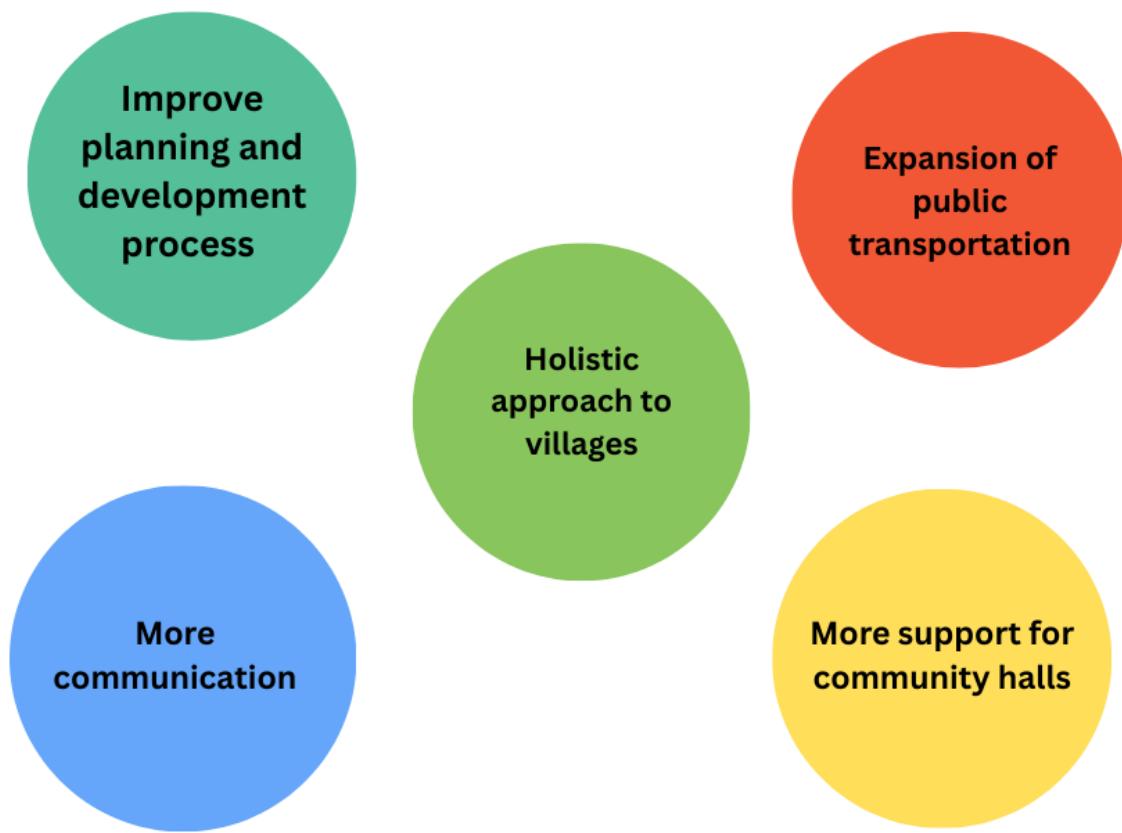
- Advocacy for a large-scale recreation complex that is accessible to all, was of high importance to residents. Attendees highlighted the importance of community health and connection, and opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities to participate in recreational activities.

## 5. Senior Programming and Care

- People want to see supports for seniors to be able to stay in their home, more connections to community and opportunities for senior fitness and activities.

# TABLE 1 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

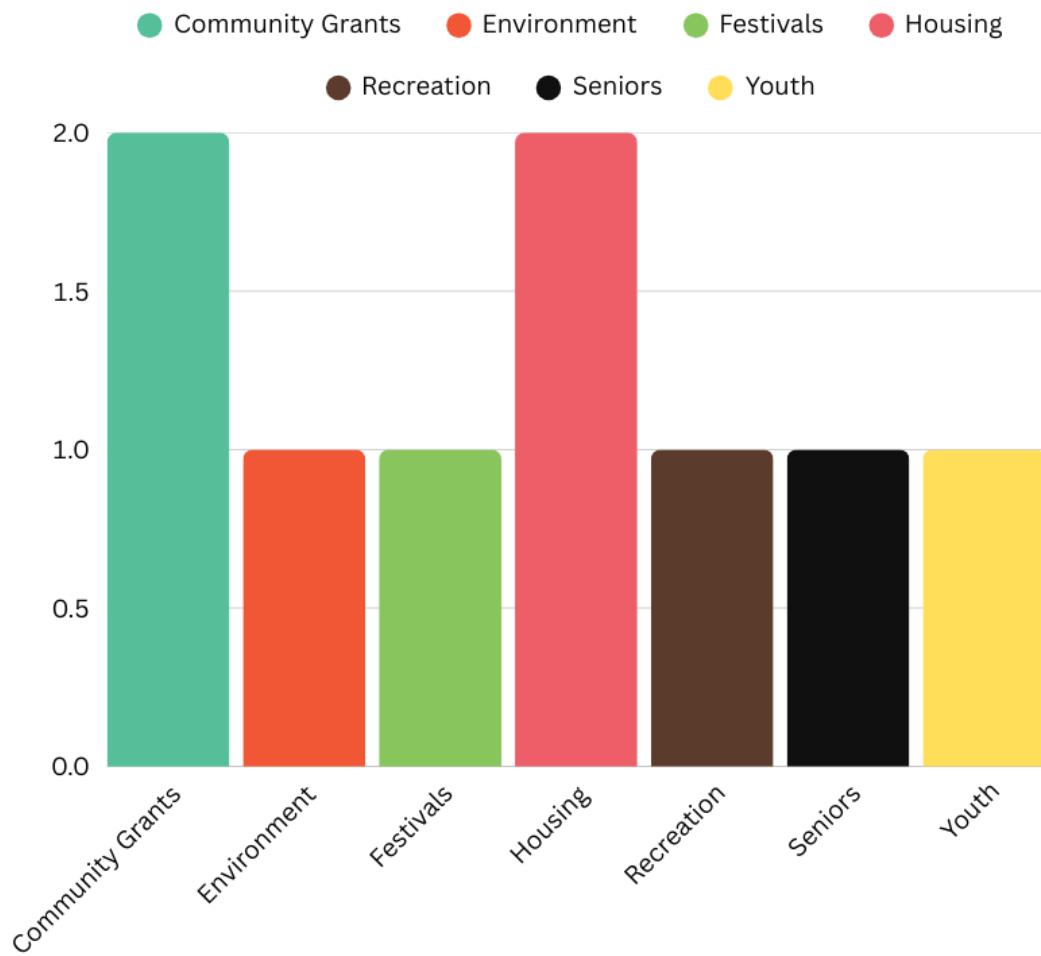
At this table, community members were invited to imagine what District 5 could look like 10 years from now. Through “Postcards for the Future,” participants shared their vision for housing, commercial spaces, and overall community development. We received 5 postcards filled with thoughtful ideas and hopes for the future. From these, five main themes emerged, which are highlighted below:



## TABLE 2 FINANCE

At this table, community members were encouraged to step into the role of decision-makers and take part in the financial planning process. Many were surprised to learn that most of our budget is tied to mandatory contributions (policing, fire, and education among others.) This means we have limited flexibility and must make tough choices to ensure that the remaining funds support the needs of our community.

A total of 5 participants took part in this activity, each having the option to select 2 areas of importance.



## TABLE 3 THE LISTENING TABLE

At this table, residents were invited to share the issues that matter most to them directly with the Mayor and the Municipality's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). The purpose of this table was to foster open and transparent dialogue, ensure that every voice was heard, and establish a clear process for follow-up after the event.

The key topics discussed at the Listening Table are summarized below:



## TABLE 4 COMMUNITY

At this table, community members were invited to share their hopes and ideas for the future of our municipality. Conversations touched on a wide range of topics – from festivals and youth opportunities to community safety, facilities, and more.

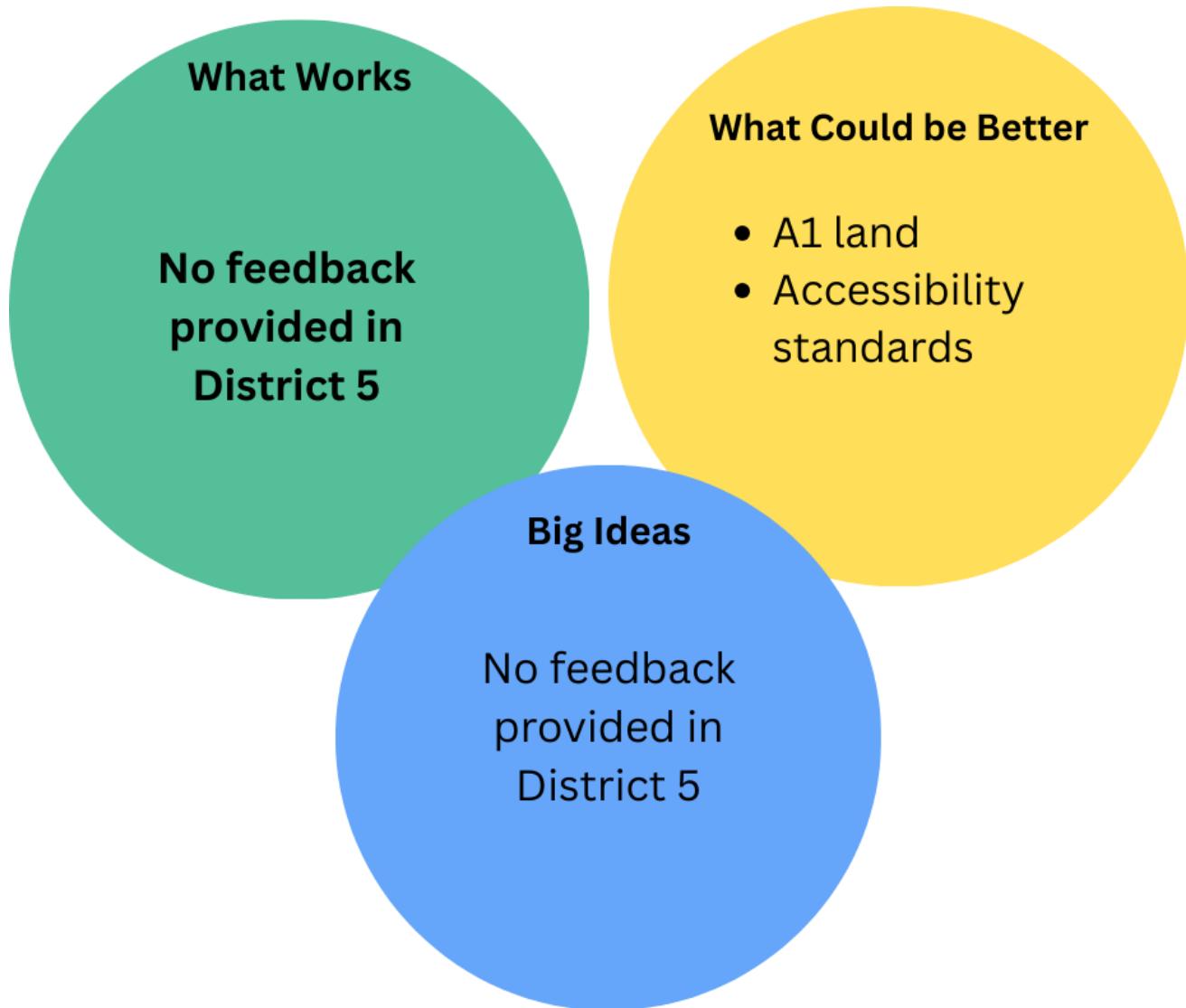
Below, you'll find a snapshot of ideas that emerged:



*Circle size corresponds to the number of times an area of interest was mentioned by residents, with larger circles reflecting higher levels of community interest.*

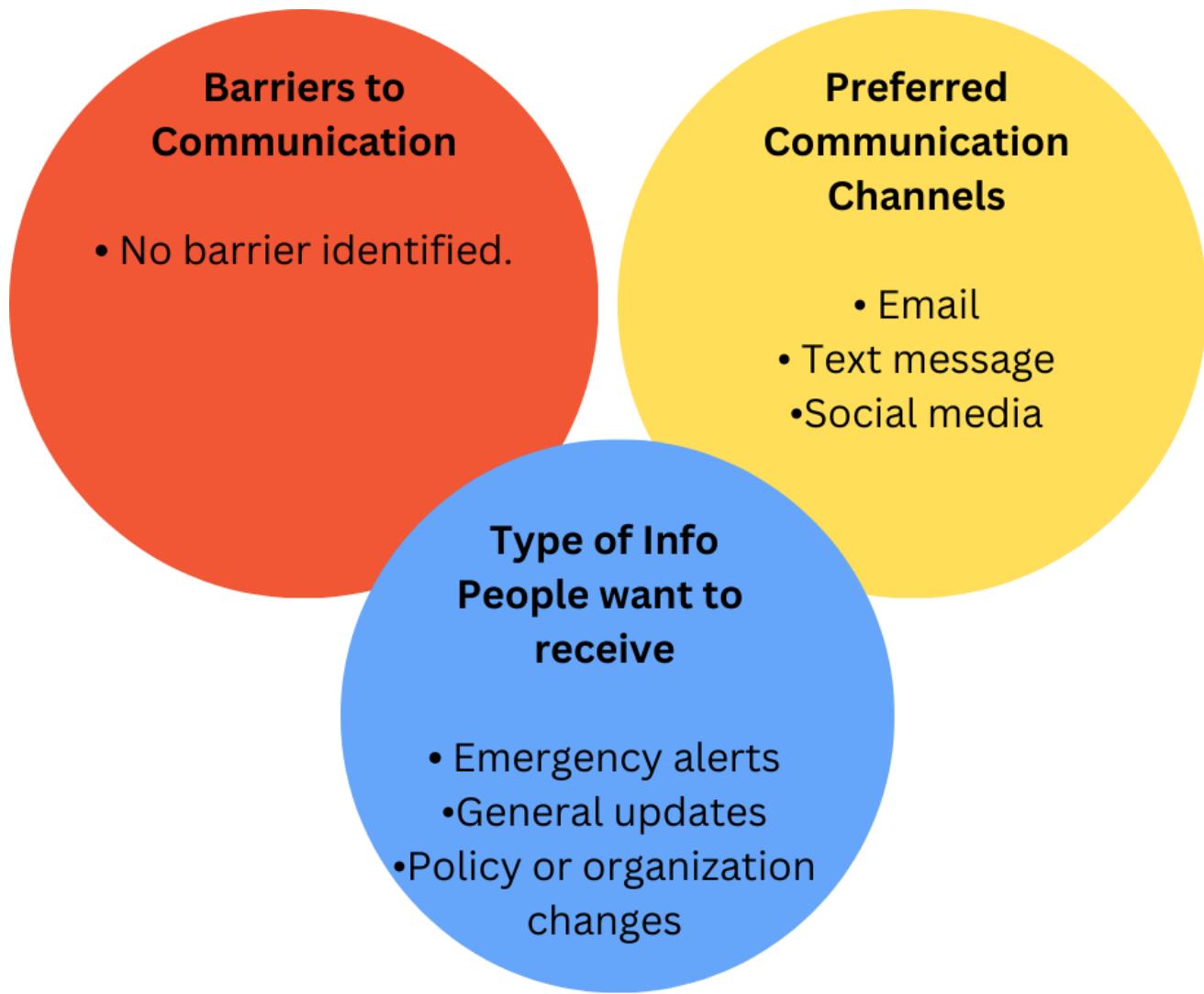
## TABLE 5 ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

At this table, residents of District 5 were invited to share their thoughts on what's working well, what could be improved, and their big ideas for the future of Public Works in our community. Below, you'll find the key themes and insights that emerged from these discussions:



## TABLE 6 COMMUNICATIONS

At this table, residents were invited to complete a short survey to help us better understand how the Municipality can most effectively communicate with the public. Their feedback will guide how we share information, updates, and opportunities for engagement moving forward. Below, you'll find a summary of the top 3 answers to how people want to be communicated with, the types of information they want to receive, and barriers to finding information from the Municipality.



# DISTRICT 5 PUBLIC COMMENTS SUMMARY

Across all tables, citizens shared detailed feedback reflective of deep care for the future of District 5. From the comments, clear patterns pertaining to **Safe and reliable infrastructure**, **Thoughtful growth and land use planning**, **Improved communication**, and **Recreation opportunities**. Comments have been summarized as follows under these themes:

## Safe and Reliable Infrastructure

Residents' consistency raised concerns about road conditions, infrastructure planning and transportation including transit access and safety.

Comments and concerns included:

- The condition and maintenance of local roads, noting the need for ongoing upkeep and long-term infrastructure planning.
- The importance of transportation networks that can safely support current and future community needs.
- Improved public transit access in all communities to support residents without access to private transportation
- Interest in better clarity around transportation projects and infrastructure expansion.

## Recreation, Arts and Community Programming

Residents expressed a strong desire for expanded recreation opportunities including fitness classes and programming delivered through local community halls.

Feedback emphasized:

- The value of arts and culture programming such as festivals and outdoor events
- The need for more local learning and enrichment opportunities that support life-long community engagement
- Community events as a means to build social connection and enhance the quality of residents' lives.

## Communication, Transparency, and Trust

Residents indicated a need for clearer communication about municipal processes, policies and decision making.

Residents asked for:

- More frequent and accessible updates on what the municipality is doing, and why.
- Improved responsiveness and clearer explanations of decisions.
- Utilizing more communication channels to reach different audiences effectively.

## Development and Land Use Planning

Residents expressed concern about how growth and development are occurring particularly in villages and rural areas.

Feedback included:

- A desire for holistic planning that considers community character and long-term sustainability.
- Support for flexible development approaches towards secondary suites.
- A desire for clearer communication and processes for planning and development.

**Across every table, the message was consistent:**  
**District 5 residents value proactive planning, strong communication, and district focused decision making.**

## OUR COMMITMENT

District 5 residents have shown that meaningful change starts with conversation and continues through action, and this “What We Heard” report is just the beginning. Once we have met with all districts, we will compile the feedback into a comprehensive report, which will be shared broadly and include actionable items of how your feedback will be incorporated. It is anticipated that the comprehensive report with actionable items will be available in late Spring. These reports will help guide the future of our community engagement initiatives and we thank you all for your participation and thoughtful contributions. Together, we’ll keep the dialogue going. Thank you for participating in our District 5 Meet and Greet.