

DISTRICT 8

MEET & GREET

WHAT WE HEARD



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the District 8 “What We Heard” Report

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the District 8 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 8. Similar reports will also be released for other District meetings. 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 8 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 8 Meet and Greet was held at the New Minas Fire Hall on October 9th, 2025, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm.

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

In total 24 people attended from the New Minas area.

OVERALL THEMES

District 8 spoke, and here is what we heard most clearly.

1. Infrastructure and Sewer:

Residents expressed strong concern about the condition of local infrastructure particularly the sewer system, as well as the need for sidewalks, traffic safety measures, and pedestrian connectivity. There is a desire to see long-term investment in these systems to accommodate future growth.

2. Affordable Housing and Thoughtful Growth

Residents value growth that maintains a “small town” feel while addressing the need for affordable and accessible housing, especially for seniors or those on fixed incomes. Many called for local business support, fair development practices and sustainability.

3. Environmental Sustainability

Protecting natural spaces, maintaining trails, and promoting sustainability are important priorities for District 8 residents. There is a strong interest in tree planting, litter reduction, active transportation and ensuring adequate access to trails.

4. Recreation & Community Life

Safety was top of mind for residents of District 8 including concerns around homelessness, fireworks, and public safety.

6. Leadership & Follow-Through

Residents expressed that transparency, timelines, and follow through are key to building confidence in local government. They appreciate seeing staff and leadership at engagement events and want on-going opportunities to stay informed.

TABLE 1 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

At this table, residents were invited to imagine what District 8 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 11 postcards filled with thoughtful ideas and hopes for the future. From these, the below five main themes emerged.

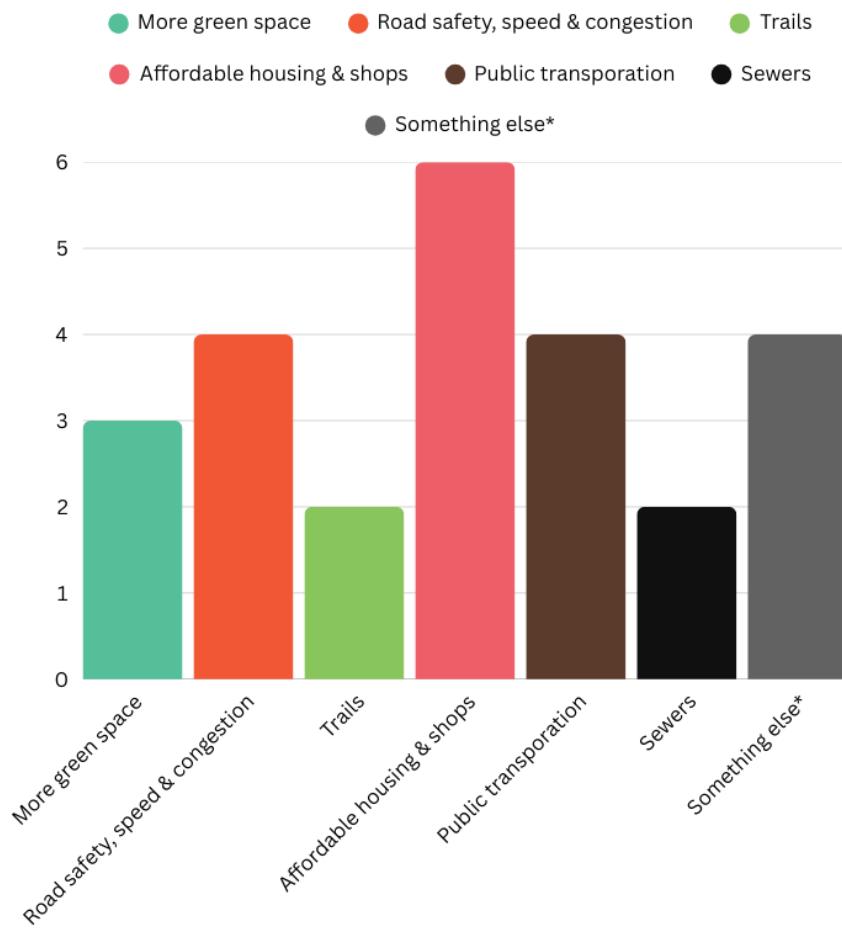
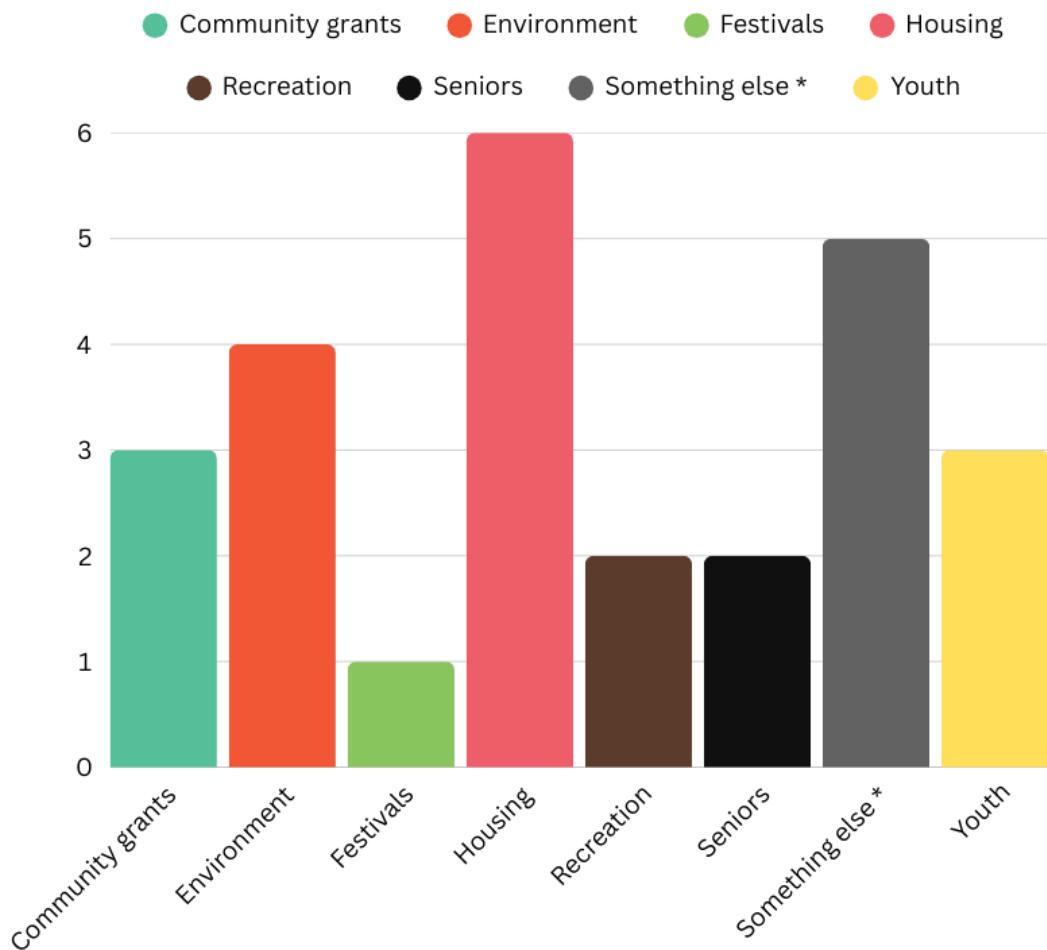


TABLE 2 – FINANCE

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 financial flexibility and must make tough choices to ensure that the remaining funds support the needs of our community.

A total of 13 participants took part in this activity, each having the option to select 2 areas of importance.

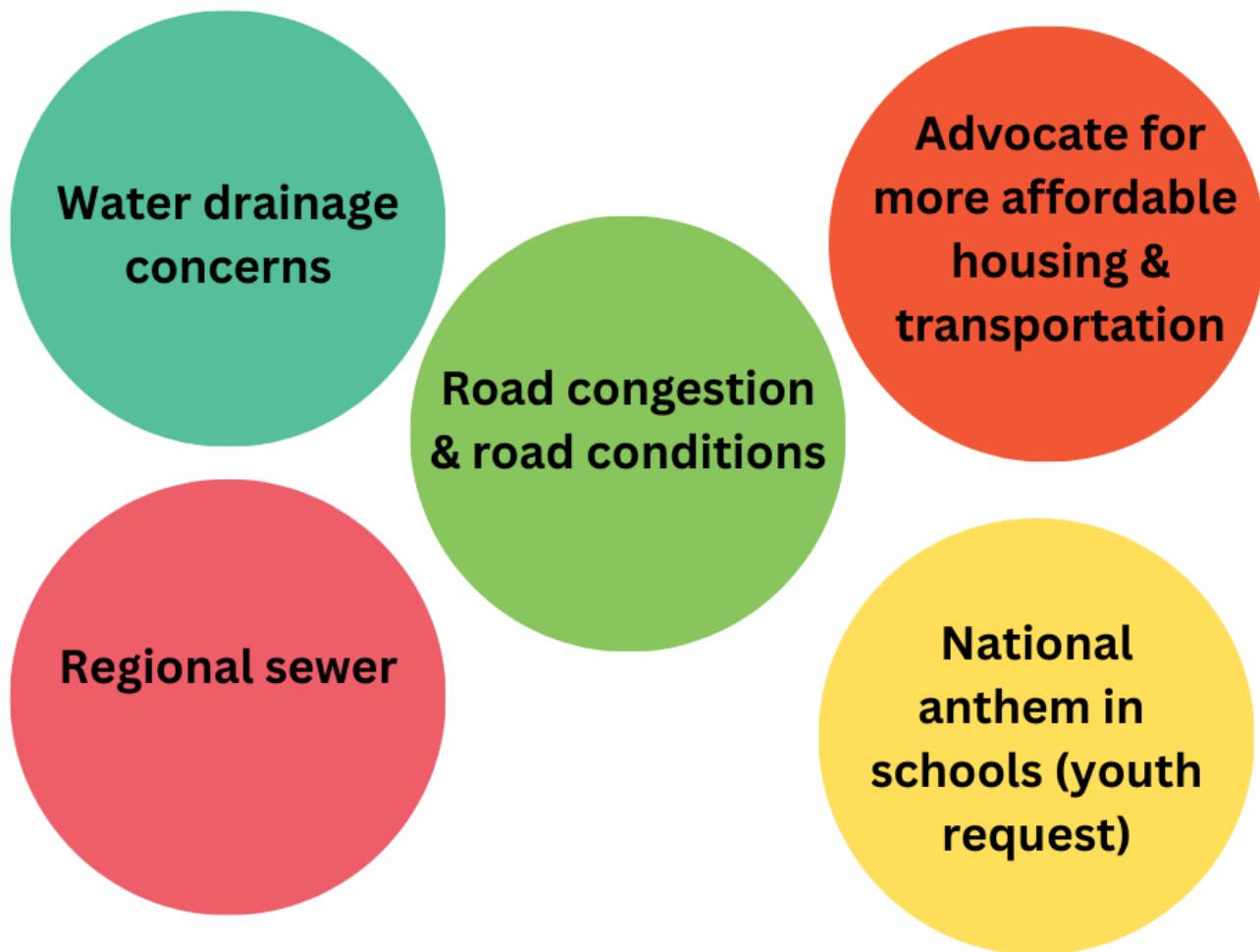


*The “something else priorities” included more investment in infrastructure and fire protection.

TABLE 3 THE LISTENING TABLE

At this table, residents were invited to share the issues that matter most to them directly with the Municipality's Mayor and 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:



Citizens shared with us what would build more trust with the Municipality, what would make people feel more comfortable that their concerns had been heard, and provided suggestions for improved communication and input.

What do you need from Municipal Leadership to build more trust?
“Direct responses to concerns.”
“Listen more to people and try your best to help.”
What would make you feel most comfortable that your concern has been heard today?
“Follow up is important!”
“Confirming actions in the public.”
“More communication like this event.”
“More engagement events.”
Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve our communication?
“Consider things like snap chat, tiktok, twitch, youtube ads to get youth involved.”
“Make the website easier to find what is needed.”
“Improve website so it’s easier to find what you’re looking for.”
“More radio/facebook ads”

TABLE 4 COMMUNITY

At this table, residents 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 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 8 were invited to share their thoughts on what's working well, what could be improved, and their big ideas for infrastructure.

Below, 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 is a summary of the information obtained from the attendees:

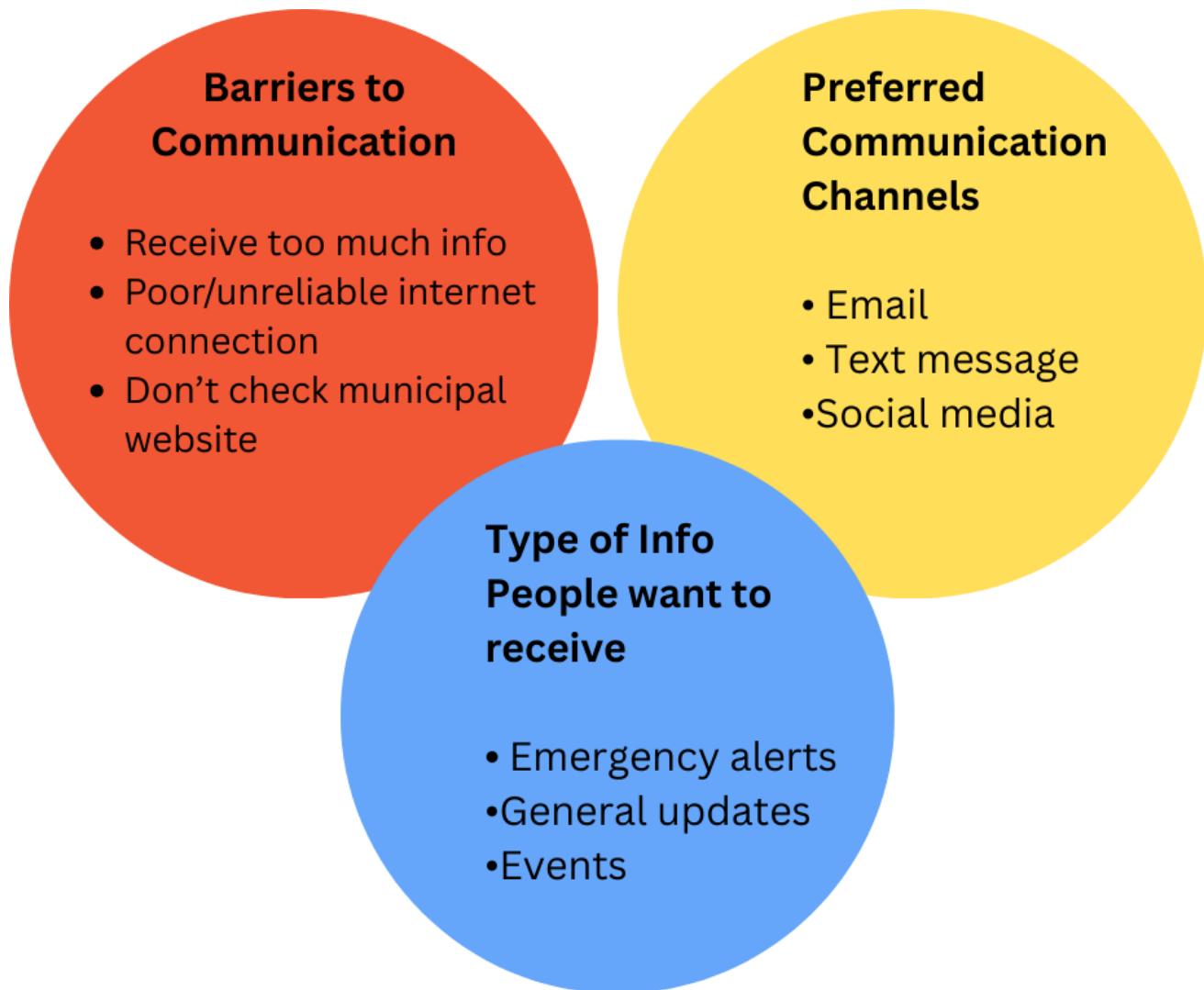
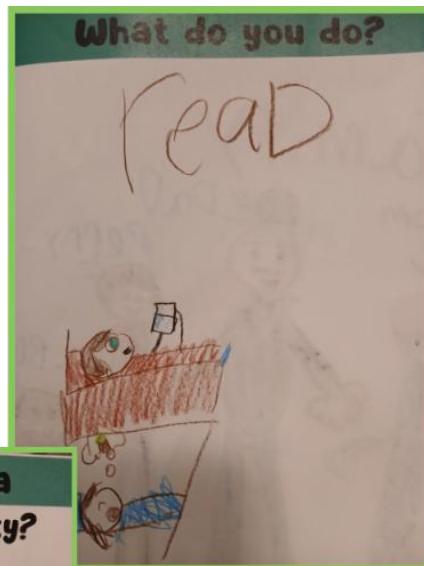
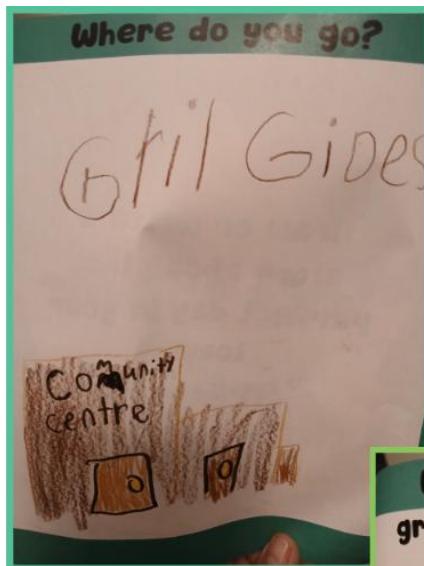


TABLE 7 KIDS CORNER

We asked our youngest residents to tell us what they love about their community,
Below you will find some highlights from the “Me and My community colouring books”



DISTRICT 8 PUBLIC COMMENTS SUMMARY

Residents of District 8 shared thoughtful, detailed feedback across all engagement tables. Their comments reveal concerns around infrastructure, a desire for growth, requests for improved communication, safety concerns and a need for environmental sustainability. Below are the consolidated public comments from District 8.

Infrastructure, Sewer and Traffic Safety

Infrastructure was the most urgent and repeatedly raised concern in District 8. Residents emphasized:

- Widespread concern for the condition of the sewer system and a desire for transparent updates and long-term planning.
- Desire for additional sidewalks (on both sides of the street), improved pedestrian connectivity, and safer crosswalks.
- Need for traffic calming and better managed intersections due to concerns with congestion and speeding.
- Call for infrastructure investment to support future growth.

Affordable Housing and Thoughtful Growth

- Residents requested advocacy for affordable housing solutions, especially for seniors and individuals on fixed incomes.
- Ensuring that future growth is well planned, transparent and fair.
- Advocacy for supporting local business growth while maintaining rural charm.
- Balance development with sustainability and preserving natural areas.

Communication, Trust and Accessibility

Communication was a major theme in District 8. Residents emphasized:

- The importance of clear, direct, and timely follow-up from municipal leadership.
- Ensuring actions discussed at meetings are accessible to the public.
- Desire for easier navigation of the Municipal website and improved search function.
- Interest in modern communication tools for youth (Snapchat, TikTok, Twitch, YouTube etc.)
- More radio and Facebook outreach.

Community, Safety and Social concerns

Safety was frequently mentioned in District 8 discussions regarding:

- Concerns about homelessness, fireworks, and public safety.
- Strong interest in more safety measures in public spaces.
- Requests for improved lighting, secure walking routes, and reliable trail signage.

Municipal Engagement and Youth Inclusion

District 8 was passionate about the future of engagement and its youth. Residents asked for:

- More engagement events like the district meeting.
- Consider approaches to engagement that bridge generational gaps (e.g. youth council).
- Involving residents more directly in long-term planning conversations.

Overall Conclusion

Public comments in District 8 reflect that residents are deeply invested in the safety, sustainability and future growth of the district. Key priorities include:

- **Safe and modern infrastructure** - especially sewer and sidewalks
- **Affordable Housing** - that supports aging populations, fixed income residents and families
- **A small-town feel** - preserved through careful and thoughtful growth
- **Transparent Communication** - and opportunities to provide feedback

Across every table, the message was consistent:
District 8 residents want meaningful participation, accessible information and a clear sense that their voice influences Municipal decisions.

OUR COMMITMENT

District 8 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 8 Meet and Greet.