

DISTRICT 9

MEET & GREET

WHAT WE HEARD



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the District 9 “What We Heard” Report

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the District 9 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 9. 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 9 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 9 Meet and Greet was held at the White Rock Community Hall on January 8th, 2026, from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M

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

In total 28 people attended the meeting from the Hants Border, White Rock, and Gaspereau communities.

OVERALL THEMES

District 9 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 more accessible public washrooms, programming and recreational facilities.

3. Improved Infrastructure

- Residents expressed a strong desire for improvements to sidewalks and shoulders of roadways to allow for a safer and more walkable district.

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, and more opportunities for older generations to be able to work alongside younger generations to develop a stronger intergenerational connection.

TABLE 1 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

At this table, community members were invited to imagine what District 9 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 12 postcards filled with thoughtful ideas and hopes for the future. From these, five main themes emerged, which are highlighted below:

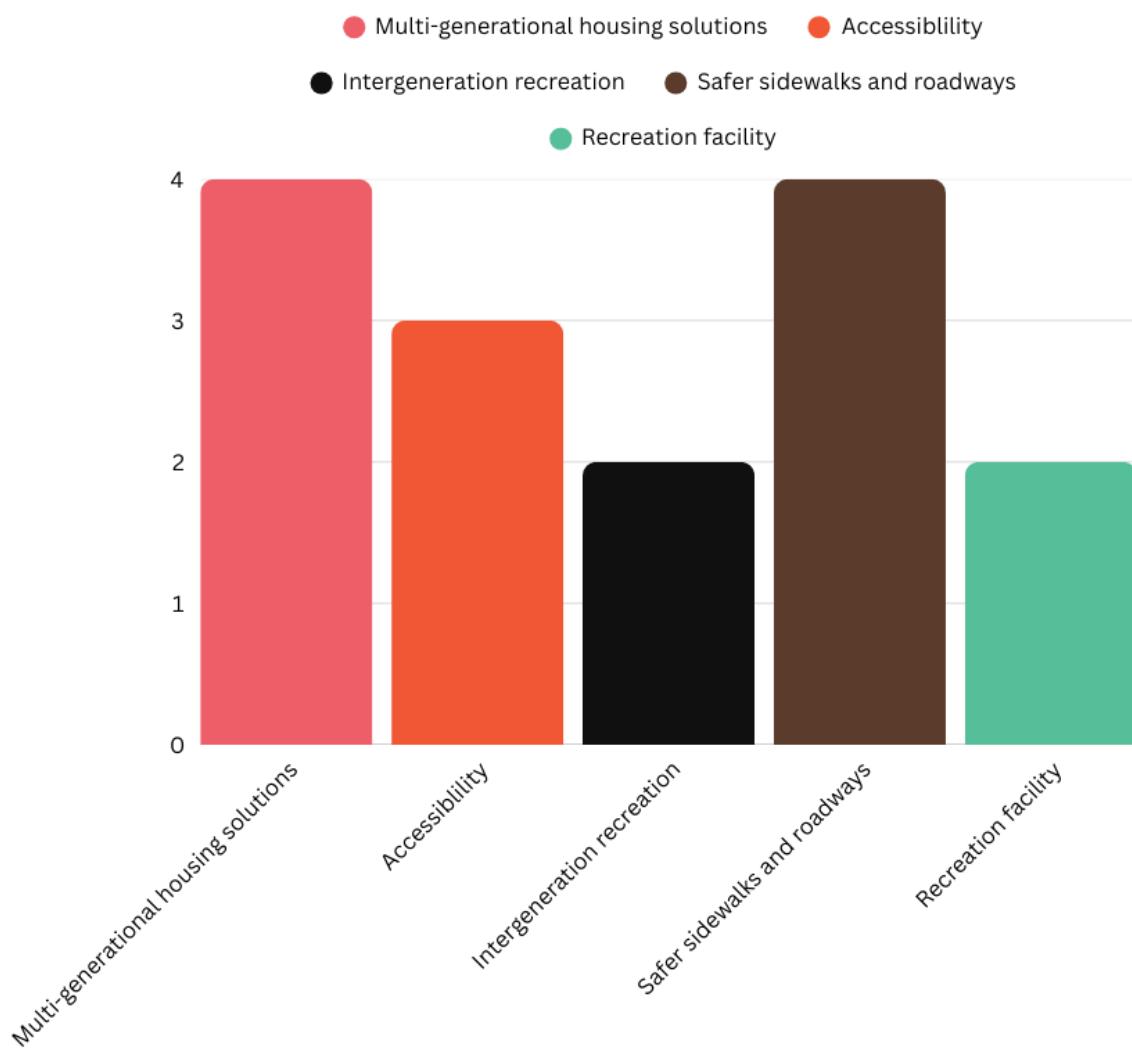
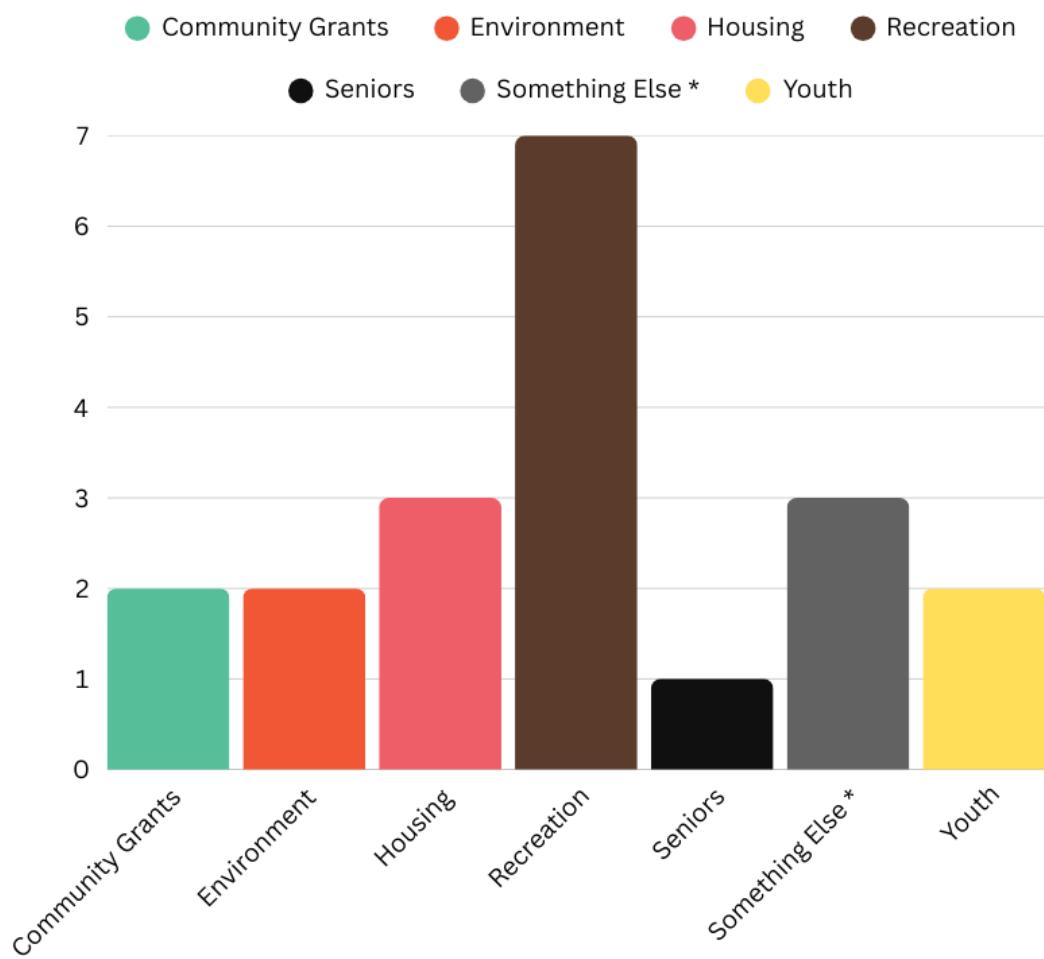


TABLE 2 FINANCE

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



*The “something else priorities” included more investment in libraries, regenerative agriculture and spending less on electric vehicle infrastructure and more on sidewalks.

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:

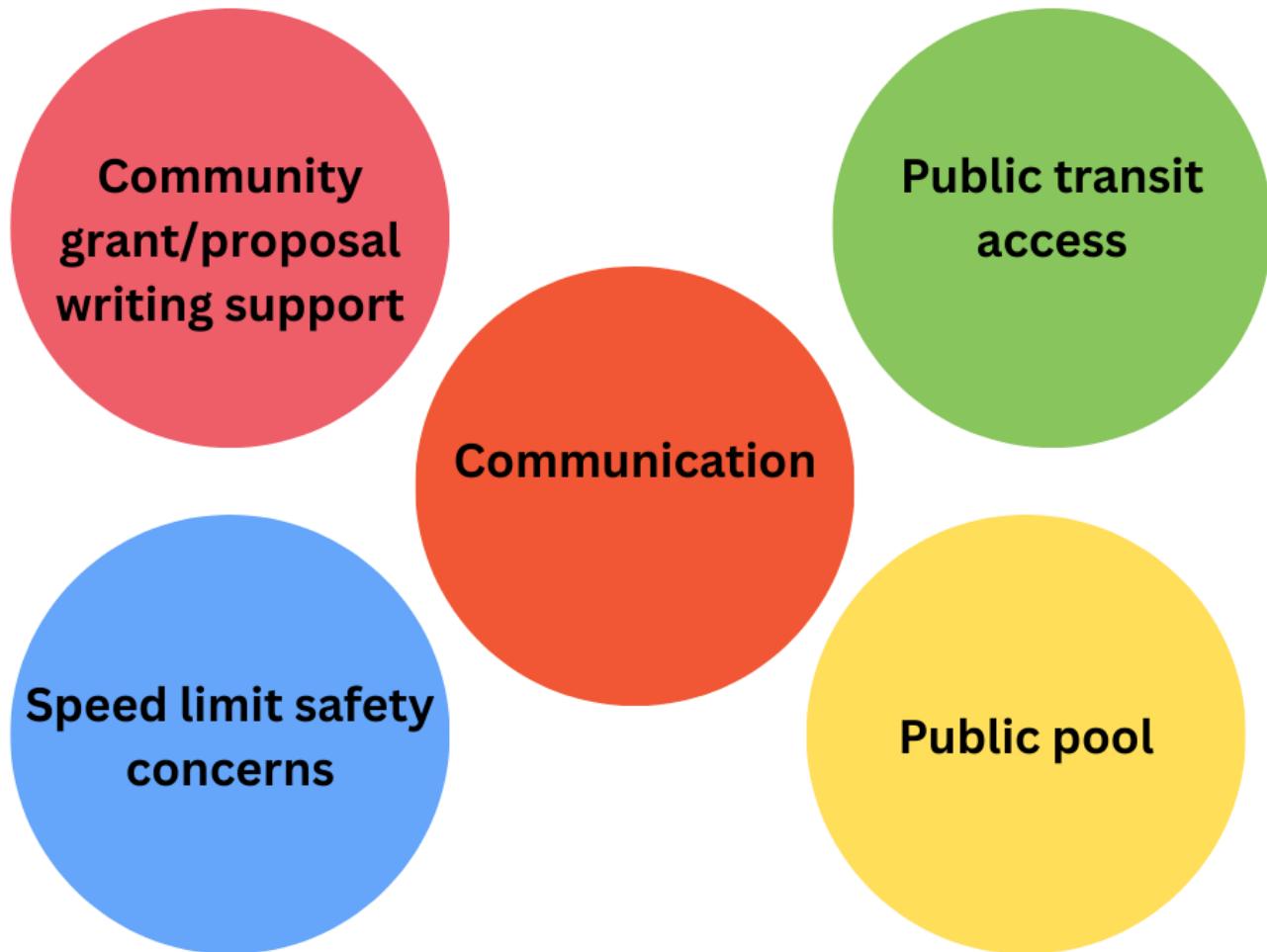


TABLE 4 COMMUNITY

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 accessible programs to community gardens, recreational rentals, 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.

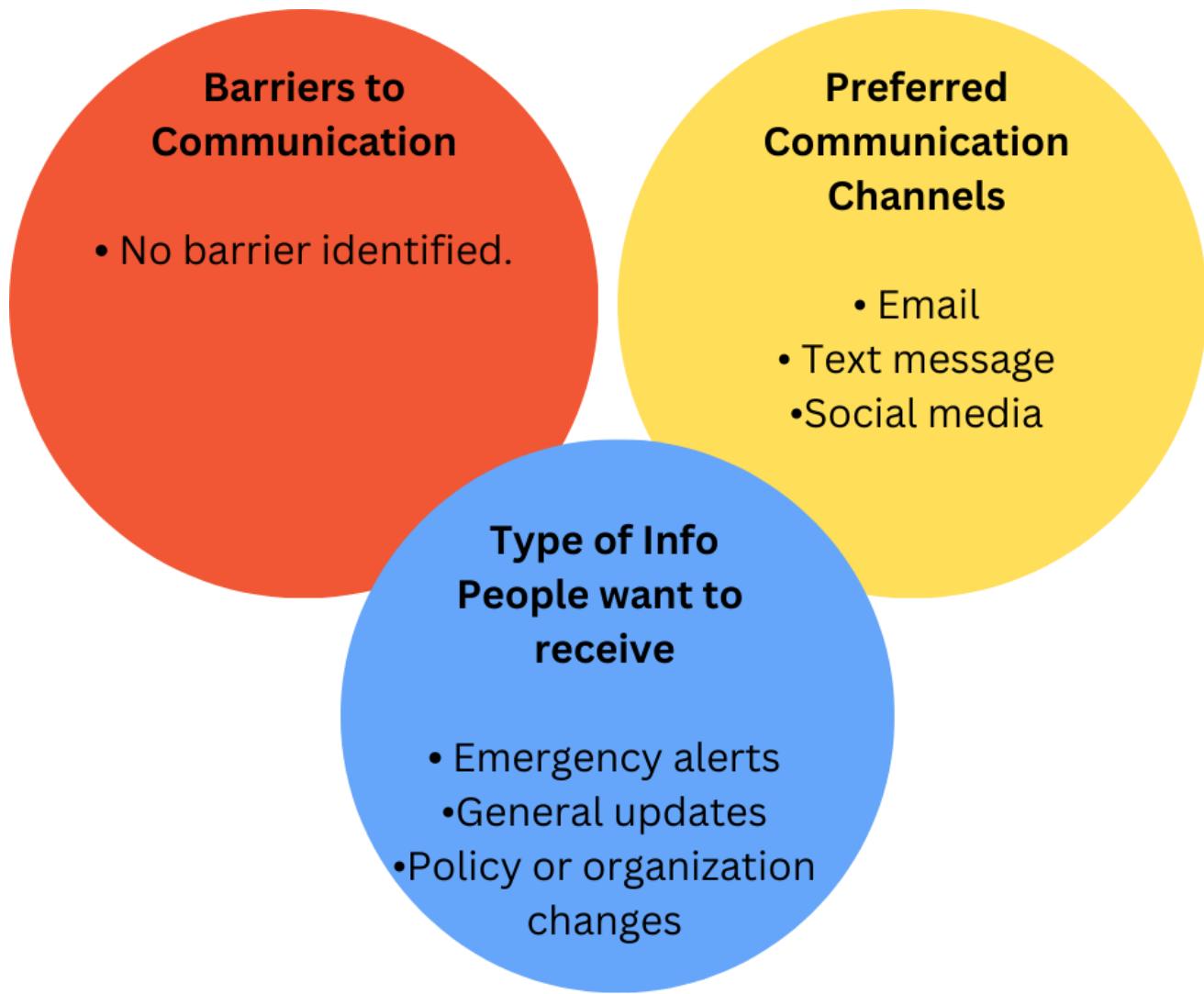
TABLE 5 ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

At this table, residents of District 9 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 9 PUBLIC COMMENTS SUMMARY

Across all tables, citizens shared detailed feedback reflective of deep care for the future of District 9. From the comments, clear patterns pertaining to **infrastructure and land use planning, facilities, and sidewalk safety**. Comments have been summarized as follows under these themes:

Walkability, Sidewalks, Roads and Traffic Safety:

Residents raised concerns about the lack of sidewalks and safe walking routes throughout the district.

Feedback highlighted:

- The need for wider road shoulders, better road maintenance and infrastructure that supports pedestrians and cyclists.
- Concerns for speeding and unsafe driving which impact residents' ability to walk on the streets.
- The desire for better lighting in public walking areas including parks, and trails.
- A desire for better connectivity between communities through active transportation infrastructure.

Accessibility and Inclusion

Residents expressed strong interest in community facilities and regional recreation that is accessible and safe for all ages and abilities.

Comments include:

- The need for public infrastructure and facilities that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities.
- Feedback on gaps in accessible public washrooms and the need for improved accessibility on trails and in public spaces.
- The importance of recreation facilities including pools that are designed to accommodate people of all abilities.
- Inclusion of people with invisible disabilities in regional recreation facility design and programming.

Family Support, Childcare and the Ability to Age in Place.

District 9 believes in the power of supporting its residents through all stages of life.

Comments included:

- The need for more affordable and accessible childcare options that support families in the community.
- The importance of programming and services that support children, youth, and young families.
- Concern about housing and service options for seniors, particularly the ability to age in place in rural or semi-rural communities.
- Suggestions for alternative housing models and flexible housing approaches that support changing household needs (e.g. multi-generational housing and options for more community style living).

Trust, Communication and Support to Community Groups.

Residents also provided input on how they want to hear from the municipality and the desire to receive individualized responses.

Residents expressed:

- Frustration with responsiveness and follow up from municipal leadership.
- The desire for more consistent and meaningful engagement with residents including regular opportunities for citizen input.
- Requests for a wider range of communication methods and more frequent, timely, and accessible updates.
- A desire for municipal support and assistance in grant writing.
- The need to build stronger connections between residents to encourage neighbourhood level engagement.

Overall Conclusion

Public comments from District 9 reflect a community focused on infrastructure improvement, inclusion of all community members, and enhanced collaboration between the municipality and residents. Key priorities include:

- Improved sidewalks and walkability
- More access to recreational activities for all
- Housing alternatives that support multigenerational living
- Improved communication
- Support for community groups

Across every table, the message was consistent:
District 9 residents are seeking a community that is safe, walkable, inclusive, and connected.

OUR COMMITMENT

District 9 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 9 Meet and Greet.