

DISTRICT 7

MEET & GREET

WHAT WE HEARD



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the District 7 “What We Heard” Report

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the District 7 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 7. 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 7 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 7 Meet and Greet was held at the South Alton Community Hall on March 26th, 2026, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm.

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

In total 14 people attended from the South Alton, North Alton, and Murphy Lake areas

OVERALL THEMES

District 7 spoke, and here is what we heard most clearly.

1. Transportation, Roads, and Mobility.

Across multiple tables, residents raised concerns about road infrastructure. This included requests and advocacy for improved road safety (e.g. speed limits, wider road shoulders), and better support for active transportation signage (e.g. walking community).

2. More Community Programming and Recreation Opportunities.

Residents expressed a strong desire for more local recreation opportunities for all ages including fitness classes, group activities, and programming hosted in rural community halls. The community is seeking more opportunities for both physical activity and social connection.

3. Accessibility and Support for Aging populations.

There were requests for improved support for seniors, particularly around aging in place, including improved accessibility, transportation and community services in rural areas.

4. Clearer understanding of Municipal role

Across multiple tables citizens expressed a desire to better understand the different levels of government and the roles each one plays in their daily lives.

6. Leadership & Follow-Through

Residents shared that transparency, timelines, and follow through are essential pillars for building trust in local government. They appreciate seeing elected and staff 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 7 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 1 postcard completed post card, but had many conversations filled with thoughtful ideas and hopes for the future. From these, the below four main themes emerged.

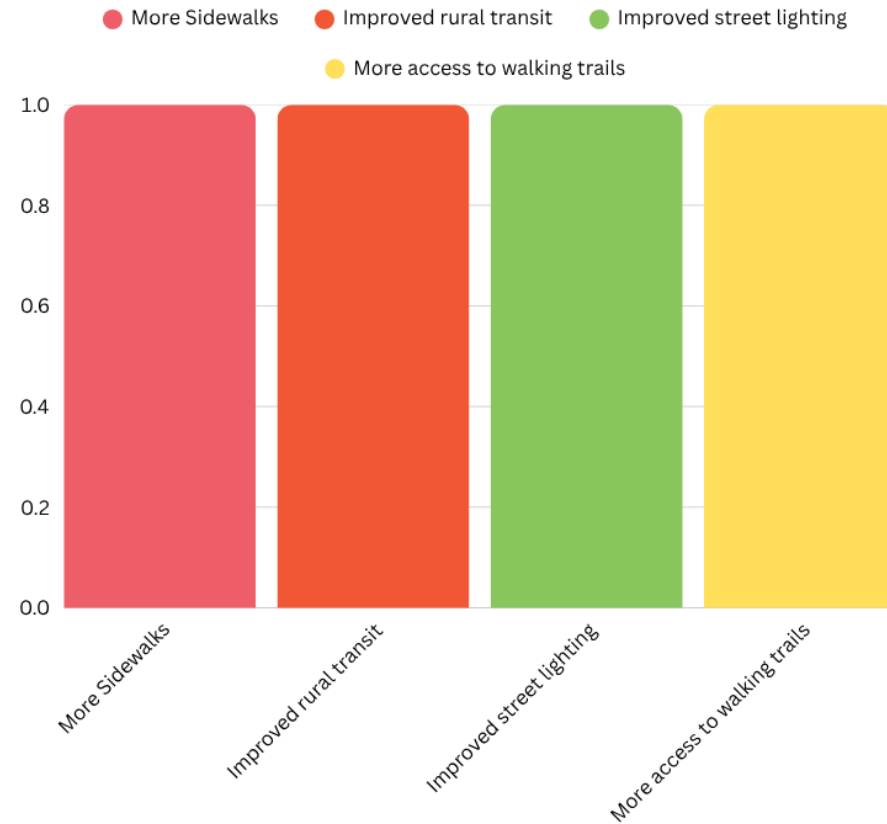


TABLE 2 – FINANCE

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

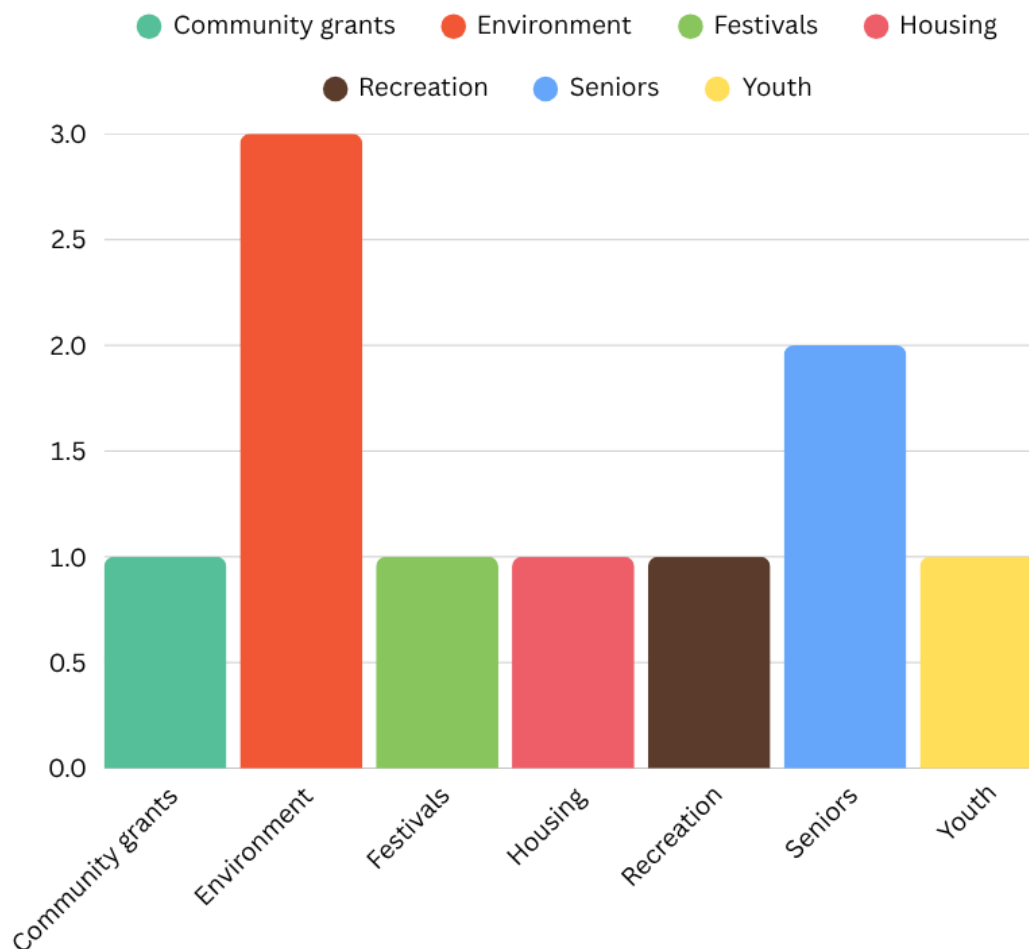


TABLE 3 THE LISTENING TABLE

At this table, residents were invited to share the issues that matter most to them directly with the 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:



- Amended April 22nd to represent missed topic of South Alton Hall funding support request

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 7 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, these results are:



DISTRICT 7 PUBLIC COMMENTS SUMMARY

Residents of District 7 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 7.

Roads, Safety, and Speeding

Road safety was the most repeatedly raised concern in District 7. Residents emphasized:

- Concerns about speeding vehicles, lack of signage and unsafe areas for walking
- Road conditions and ongoing maintenance concerns
- Questions about who is responsible for roads (municipal vs. provincial)
- Interest in traffic calming, sidewalks and safer shoulders to make the community more walkable.

Access to Information

- Residents shared that it can be difficult to decipher who to contact regarding their concerns and a desire to see more learning opportunities about the different levels of government and how to contact them.
- Community members expressed interest for clearer communication, more advertising, and timely municipal updates regarding projects that affect their daily lives.
- Desire for website improvements as “one place to go” for all information, that is user friendly and easily searchable.

Local Recreation Programming

Reigniting the sense of community in rural districts was a common theme across all tables.

Residents in District 7 felt that:

- More programming for youth, families and seniors in their own communities would be beneficial to support strong communities.
- More localized events and support for local programming would increase people’s sense of belonging.
- Accessibility for all needs to be a priority when looking at funding community halls.
- Community halls are central to bringing people together.

Support for Seniors and Aging in Place

- Suggestions for more support to allow seniors to remain in their homes and communities as they age.
- Identified gaps in rural transportation services.
- Placed value on increasing local programming that supports a healthy lifestyle and community connection for senior residents.

Overall Conclusion

Public comments in District 7 reflect that residents are deeply invested in the safety, sustainability and development of their community Key priorities include:

- **Improved road safety**- including a review of speed and making the community more walkable.
- **Improved access to education** - opportunities to learn about different levels of government and how their decisions affect the lives of citizens.
- **Support for seniors** - by allowing seniors to remain active and engaged in their communities.
- **Transparent communication** - including easy access to information that affects them.

Across every table, the message was clear:

**Residents of District 7 want:
safe and reliable
transportation, clear and
accessible information,
vibrant local spaces and a
meaningful role in shaping
their community's future**

OUR COMMITMENT

District 7 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 7 Meet and Greet.