



To: Mayor and Council  
 From: Malcolm Morris, Chief Administrative Officer  
 Date: February 28, 2019  
 Committee of the Whole Date: March 4, 2019  
 Title: Beckwith Street Redevelopment – Public Engagement Options

- For Direction
- For Information
- For Adoption
- Attachment

**Recommendation:**

That Committee of the Whole provide direction to staff as it relates to further public engagement respecting the Beckwith Street Redevelopment Project.

**Purpose:**

To provide a suite of options available to Council should it wish to pursue additional public engagement on the Beckwith Street Redevelopment Project.

**Background:**

At the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, Committee directed staff to prepare a list of options for additional public engagement in response to recent feedback from members of the public.

It may be useful to take stock of the public consultation/engagement efforts that have occurred related to this project:

<u>Forum</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. Working Group (stakeholder) meeting #1	September 28, 2017
2. Working Group (stakeholder) meeting #2	November 2, 2017
3. Public Open House #1*: Confirming the vision	November 23, 2017
4. Staff Presentation to the DBA Annual General Meeting	November 28, 2017

5. Staff Presentation to the Chamber of Commerce Board meeting	December 13, 2017
6. Presentation to Committee of the Whole* (status update)	December 18, 2017
7. Public Open House #2*: Recommended plan	February 7, 2018
8. Presentation to Committee of the Whole*: Recommended plan	February 20, 2018
9. Council meeting - decision on option #1 (angle parking)	February 26, 2018
10. "The Great Excavate" session hosted by the DBA & Chamber of Commerce for the business community – Town staff presented	July 24, 2018
11. Committee of the Whole discussion	January 7, 2019
12. Committee of the Whole discussion	January 21, 2019
13. Council meeting – decision on complete streets model	January 21, 2019

\*All presentation materials were posted to the town website along with an invitation to comment.

### **Analysis and Options:**

There are a series of options available to Council to further consult or engage with the public as follows:

- Communicate information to the public to address specific concerns that have been expressed. This approach is presently underway with the posting of a Question & Answer document to the Town website and social media. Material can be update as needed.
- Use the new [Speak up Smiths Falls](#) online engagement tool to post information and seek feedback.
- Invite/encourage interested parties to address Council through the well-established delegation process within the Procedural By-law. Council may want to consider making an exception to the practice of limiting the number of delegations at each meeting.
- Host a group meeting by inviting a manageable number of interested individuals to engage in a conversation with the Mayor (and perhaps up to two other members of Council) and staff to discuss/address concerns.
- Host a public meeting with an external facilitator/moderator. Clear meeting protocols (objectives for the meeting, length of meeting, limit on number of questions per speaker, etc) should be established to give all attendees equal opportunity to speak while ensuring the dialogue remains constructive. Staff can advise on options for a suitable moderator.

- Host a public meeting with an in-house facilitator/moderator. Clear meeting protocols (objectives for the meeting, length of meeting, limit on number of questions per speaker, etc) should be established to give all attendees equal opportunity to speak while ensuring the dialogue remains constructive.
- Take no further action.

The most appropriate option will be dependent on the objectives of the engagement/consultation exercise. For instance, if the goal is to communicate and inform then the first and second options would suit. If a two-way dialogue is preferred, then the third to sixth options would be more suitable. Council may choose to combine more than one option.

**Budget/Financial Implications:**

Additional forms of public engagement will come at a minimal cost to the Town. Any alteration to the present direction given by Council as it relates to the Beckwith Redevelopment project may result in potentially significant cost to the Town.

**Link to Strategic Plan:**

Not applicable

**Existing Policy:**

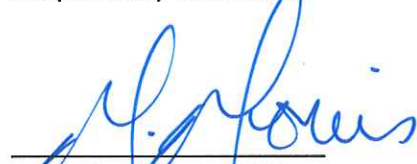
The Procedural By-Law enables public participation via a delegation to Council.

**Attachments:**

Not applicable

**Notes/Action (space for Council Member's notes):**

Respectfully submitted:



---

Malcolm Morris, CMO  
Chief Administrative Officer