



VISION GEORGETOWN

Community Visioning Workshop #1 Summary

November 2, 2013



Community Visioning Workshop

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction 2
 - 1.1 Workshop Outline 2
 - 1.2 Who Came to the Workshop?..... 3
 - 1.3 Results of Dot Exercise 3
- 2.0 Group Response Exercise 1
 - 2.1 Key Findings 1
- 3.0 Group Workshop Discussions 1
 - 3.1 Icebreaker Exercise 2
 - 3.3 Group/ Table Discussion Question..... 3
 - 3.4 Key Findings 16
 - 3.5 Principles 17
 - 3.6 Elevator Speech..... 18
- Appendix A – PowerPoint Presentation from Nov. 2, 2013 Visioning Session 19
- Appendix B - Copy of Workbook..... 19
- Appendix C – Results of the DOTTS Exercise 50

Community Visioning Workshop

1.0 Introduction

On Saturday, November 2nd, 2013, a Visioning Session was held at the Gellert Community Centre. Interested residents and stakeholders were encouraged to participate in the Visioning Session to provide their input into the Vision and Guiding Principles which will form the foundation as the study moves toward developing a preferred land use concept and supporting policy framework.



Attendees were asked to identify where they live, as well as places they like in Georgetown, Halton Hills and beyond.

1.1 Workshop Outline

Opening Remarks and Overview Presentation

The session began with opening remarks from the Steering Committee Chair, Councilor Johnson. A presentation was then made by Steve Burke, Manager Planning Policy, on the status of the project. Following the project update, Tara Buonpensiero, Senior Planner, presented the results from the online survey that was available on the Vision Georgetown website as well as a summary of some of the information we have heard from the public to date.

Nick McDonald, from Meridian Planning (the lead project consultant) then presented the building blocks that have already been established for the study area based on Provincial, Regional and Town policies

Community Visioning Workshop

already in place. Mr. McDonald also provided an overall summary of the themes to be discussed during the workshop which were: 1) Community Structure; 2) Mobility; 3) Built Form; and 4) Conservation.

The presentation is provided in Appendix A.

Group Response Exercise

In order to get participants feedback on a number of topics related to the themes identified above, a group response exercise was conducted. Each participant was given a remote to anonymously respond to a number of questions. Details of the responses are provided in Part 2 of this summary.

Group Workshop Discussions

Attendees were divided into 15 tables and asked to participate in a small group discussion. A facilitator was assigned to each table to assist with the discussion and answer any questions. Groups were asked to engage in discussions and a recorder was at each table to summarize the groups input into workbooks. Each group presented a vision statement at the end of the workshop exercise. A copy of the workbook is provided as Appendix B.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The session concluded with an overview of what is coming next and closing remarks from Councillor Johnson.

1.2 Who Came to the Workshop?

Approximately 70 residents and stakeholders attended the workshop, in addition to a number of Town Staff, and Councillors. Members of the Town Staff and the consultant group were on hand to help facilitate the workshop and answer questions.

1.3 Results of Dot Exercise

As attendees arrived at the workshop they were asked to place dots on an air photo map identifying their favourite places in Georgetown and Halton Hills.

Some of the most common responses for favourite places in Georgetown were:

Hungry Hollow trail

Go Station

Downtown Georgetown

Mountainview Senior Centre

Georgetown Library and Cultural Centre.

Georgetown Hospital and the Civic Centre

Gellert Community Centre

Georgetown Market Place

Georgetown Fairgrounds

Shopping plazas located in Georgetown South

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Some of the most common responses for favourite places in Halton Hills were:

Glen Williams

Prospect Park (Acton)

Cedarvale Park

Silver Creek Conservation Area

Willow Park Ecology Centre

Dominion Seed House Garden

Terra Cotta

Blue Springs Golf Course

2.0 Group Response Exercise

As mentioned previously, in order to get participants feedback on a number of topics related to the themes identified above, a group response exercise was conducted using Data on the Spot technology. Each participant was given a remote to anonymously respond to a number of questions and the responses are instantly provided on the screen.

2.1 Key Findings

Below are some highlights of the results of the Data on the Spot exercise. The full results are available on Appendix C.

More than 80% of respondents felt the following statements were either very important or somewhat important:

- That streets be safe, comfortable and convenient for pedestrians
- That we place as much emphasis on creating walking trails, cycling paths and sidewalks instead of focusing mostly on the car
- That a number of community gathering places and opportunities for social interaction be created
- That there are as many connections as possible between uses, neighbourhoods, environmental areas and parks
- That a wide range of housing be developed for all ages and incomes
- Encouraging energy efficient buildings and the conservation of resources
- That there are a wide range of parks, open spaces, community facilities etc. within walking distance to as many residents as possible

About 71% of respondents though incorporating urban agriculture in public parks and open spaces was either very important or important.

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Creating a cultural focal point (such as a “cultural commons”) was slightly less important with 65% responding that it was very important or somewhat important.

There were some questions where the responses differed. One example is related to the distribution of retail space in the new community. Almost 1/3 of respondents wanted the retail in one central location, ¼ wanted to have several shopping areas located along major streets, and a little more than 1/3 wanted to be able to walk to as many different types of stores as possible.

Another interesting result was related to the preferred location for townhouses and apartments in the new community. 58% of respondents wanted to see these dwelling types dispersed throughout the community, while 26% would like to see them located along major streets.

3.0 Group Workshop Discussions

Afterwards, in small groups, and with the assistance of a facilitator, participants were encouraged to discuss and respond to four thematic conversations and principles, including:

Theme #1: Community Structure

Theme #2: Mobility

Theme #3: Built Form

Theme # 4: Conservation

(Refer to Appendix B for the Workbook)

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3.1 Icebreaker Exercise

“Wouldn’t it be great if the new community...”

- Meets the needs of all sectors of the community and is an integrated community
- Makes Georgetown a better place to live
- Is as friendly and environmentally sustainable as possible (Is a model for other communities)
- Is designed to be flexible to take into account new trends
- Incorporates accessibility into homes and street design
- Has a small town feel/character
- Is walkable with access to trails connected throughout the community and connects to existing trails
- Includes some live/work units
- Helps to support better GO Transit Service
- Attracts others in Georgetown to visit
- Includes innovative design for multi-unit construction and fits into the existing community
- Has a street design that is connected and slows down traffic
- Includes different types of parks and greenspaces throughout the community (gathering places, splash parks, multi-use park, off leash area for dogs)
- Considers nature, maintains woodlots and older trees (looks treed from the air)
- Helps benefit the existing Georgetown Downtown area
- Is family friendly, youth friendly (YMCA, community centre)
- Has sufficient parking
- Has access to social supports
- Is affordable and has different housing forms for everyone throughout their entire life
- Is truly different than standard subdivision development

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3.3 Group/ Table Discussion Question

Table 3¹

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall ‘community structure’ for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- Design streets with cross walks with lights overhead, and lower speed limits to be walking and cycling friendly
- Design major streets for traffic
- Provide different types of gathering places (squares, playgrounds, neighbourhood parks)
- Centralized stores and restaurants within walking distance and connect pathways
- Centralize recreation areas
- Concentrate higher density near the centre of the neighbourhood so more people have access to the services provided

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Provide trails behind subdivisions
- Establish car free zones (e.g. Sundays) and provide bike paths to the centre or hub of the neighbourhood
- Locate drive thrus in the perimeters of the neighbourhoods and not in residential areas
- Not have through streets

Describe the characteristics of ‘built form’ that you would like to see in the new community.

- Provide all types of housing with higher density in the core of the community
- Roads connecting at the core and the density is reduced as you leave the core
- Maximum height up to 4-storeys and provide some store front with residential above
- Maintain small town character
- Address seniors-need for accessible homes

When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Incorporate higher density
- Plan for different kinds of transportation

¹ Note: There was no Table 1 or 2

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- Houses must have “triple glazing”, returns for everything (thermal), a district energy system at the town square and be water efficient
- Make Green Energy a requirement

Table 4

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall ‘community structure’ for Vision Georgetown. study area?

- Have paths that can be used by sustainable modes of transportations such as long board, bikes, scooters
- Paths that go to destinations such as stores, churches etc.
- Provide a centre square which is connected to a library, senior centre, community centre, youth space and public indoor gallery
- Provide a mix of housing types to keep home prices down
- Provide coffee shops and small stores to walk to along major corridors
- Protect trees and nature

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Accessible buildings
- Totally barrier free for scooters, bikes, strollers
- Modified grid (grid type but angled streets to fit natural areas and style of land)
- Encourage the type of mobility that does not impact the existing Georgetown south
- Provide transit for youth
- Provide a small median between the road and cycling/walking path
- Provide multi-use path so runners, walkers and cyclists can use it

Describe the characteristics of ‘built form’ that you would like to see in the new community.

- A variety of house types- single story and more affordable homes
- Architecturally pleasant and more variety of inside and outside styles

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When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Follow best practices such as homes oriented for solar energy, geothermal, community gardens, green roofs

Table 5

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall 'community structure' for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- Build a community that goes with the flow of the land and preserves as much of the green/ natural area
- Main Square that acts as a focal point that attracts the community to gather around it
- Build a more intense community to save as much natural forest as possible
- Integrate linear parks with green spaces
- Provide focal points for developments

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Prefer a grid pattern system but respect the topography
- Does there need to be the connection to the three major roads?
- Plan for the number of people that do not have a car

Describe the characteristics of 'built form' that you would like to see in the new community.

- Low to mid-rise (less than 6-storeys)
- Build linked bungalows for seniors and/or a seniors multi-storey building (do not always have to build vertical can build horizontal)
- Integrate different land uses (live/work; mixed use)

When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Community gardens partnering with schools
- Net zero/ district energy system
- Low impact development

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Table 6

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall 'community structure' for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- well laid out (avoid cul de sac's)
- schools centred in the community or multi-use facility such as a school/library partnerships
- open spaces spread out
- plan for aging population (walkability and resting areas)
- provide a mixture of shopping area and housing
- ensure community services are provided (doctors)

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Plan so traffic is not restricted
- Expand Activan program and work with an Internal community transit service (e.g. Niagara Falls multi-use transit)
- Good road system
- Bike friendly major roads and well- lit bike paths
- Think about truck routes
- Transit system not needed

Describe the characteristics of 'built form' that you would like to see in the new community.

- Mixture of homes in some areas including condominiums
- Maximum height up to 5 to 6-storeys at most
- Build facilities for seniors and all incomes

When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Plan for an efficient community but lower priority

Table 7

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall 'community structure' for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- Modified grid pattern to preserve natural topography and enhanced within development

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- Build large multi-purpose sidewalks with good lightning
- Put height restriction on buildings- no more than 6 storeys
- Make the square very accessible
- Build more accessible homes for all ages and the aging population
- Engage local youth and local artists
- Locate high density buildings throughout the community

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Street pattern should be based on a modified grid system to provide easier access
- Buses are important for seniors
- Plan for transit but it is not needed yet

Describe the characteristics of 'built form' that you would like to see in the new community.

- Various styles of homes, different textures, lots of windows
- Consider that the farm land on Trafalgar will make the area very windy
- More studies necessary to see what shops are needed in the community

When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Energy conservation and other environmental conservation strategies must be affordable.
- Meet LEED standards.
- Decentralized power grid.

Table 9²

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall 'community structure' for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- Build wider sidewalks/ bike paths
- Plan roads to control traffic speed including roundabouts
- Keep small town
- Preserve trees and hills

² Note: There was no Table 8

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- Would rather a small community and hub than a main street
- Small community hub with high density and good pedestrian walkways
- Community gathering places (gyms, community gardens, shopping areas, theatre, youth centres, basketball, etc.)
- In community hubs locate commercial on the first floor and residential on 2nd and 3rd floors.

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Lit trails and pathways planned so people can walk to parks, facilities and stores
- Provide landscaped centre medians
- Reduce the number of high speed travel roads and separate community from heavy traffic
- Include roundabouts and have less straight aways as traffic will travel fast
- Need to revisit train services (all day services in Milton and Georgetown)
- Integrate overall transportation plan (Metrolinx) with local services.

Describe the characteristics of ‘built form’ that you would like to see in the new community.

- Small communities with high density in each hub for seniors, low income and young families.
- Mix commercial and business sections
- Locate a mix of density and housing types in each hub

When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Solar lights for all street lightning, parks and walkways, vehicle charging systems throughout neighbourhoods
- Municipal facilities to store gray water to be used to water flower s and gardens
- Community gardens should be located in each neighbourhood hub

Table 11³

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall ‘community structure’ for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- Strong neighborhoods with focal points and central gardens and parks
- Integrated all types of houses to integrate all ages
- Have day to day services within walking distance (commercial stores, doctor offices, businesses)

³ Note: There was no Table 10

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- Place higher density development along environmental areas to maximize enjoyment of these areas
- Have focal points in neighbourhoods (like European neighbourhood style)
- Include community gardens

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Build complete streets with multi-purpose sidewalks
- Include roundabouts
- Link new paths to existing paths and ensure pathways connect through the entire community
- Have underpasses for trails to provide safe crossings

Describe the characteristics of 'built form' that you would like to see in the new community.

- Combine old and new styles with different materials, stonework etc.
- Build charming, romantic houses with outdoor space
- Build homes with lanes in the back
- Maximum height of 6 storeys
- Preserve all churches and keep the local landscape
- Like the existing townhouses downtown and Spark Street in Ottawa for commercial development
- Encourage walkability and build places for socializing

When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Better technology and techniques such as green roofs, panels and more insulation
- Urban agriculture practices
- Ensure a safe community where people can walk and cycle which will conserve a lot of resources

Table 12

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall 'community structure' for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- Rear lanes may increase vandalism
- Wide sidewalks for 2 people, strollers, scooters, service dogs (wide enough for plows)
- Less requirement per lot for greenspace so wider sidewalks can be provided
- Design for seniors in mind

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- Disperse community services throughout the neighbourhood including parks that people can walk to
- Co-location of public facilities (Queen Elizabeth Park in Oakville)
- Provide flexible community spaces (gazebos, checkers, place for a wedding)

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Multi use trails to encourage multiple ways to get into a place
- have street lights for bikers and separate bike lanes from street
- Plan for transit and proper stopping areas for school buses
- Trail surfaces should be pervious

Describe the characteristics of 'built form' that you would like to see in the new community.

- All types of homes including affordable homes
- Mixed use buildings where you can live and work
- Front porches to encourage a small town feel
- Accessible community for seniors, for people with disabilities and for youth

When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Community gardens near schools and seniors
- Plant native trees, provide bike racks and solar panels on buildings
- Pervious surface driveways and limit asphalt and concrete
- Encourage a rain water collection program
- Create a climate change adaptability program
- Orient buildings to take advantage of sun in winter and minimize it summer
- Look at partnerships that can work on renewable energy projects

Table 13

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall 'community structure' for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- Pedestrian friendly with more trails and connections throughout the neighbourhood
- Maintain natural contours of the area

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- Provide a central community park/gathering place and provide animated spaces that are transitional throughout the seasons of the year

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Roads should connect through
- Encourage roundabouts
- Separate bike lanes and separation of trails for different uses
- Plan for transit

Describe the characteristics of 'built form' that you would like to see in the new community.

- Add higher density near amenities
- Have a mix of housing type
- Visually interesting architecture and provide live work options
- Consistent design keeping with the small town feel

When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Ensure sustainable design and build community facilities as LEED and geothermal
- Enhance natural forest and ensure that there is a net environmental gain
- Encourage urban agriculture
- Ensure traffic flows

Table 14

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall 'community structure' for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- Ensure that roads are not designed to be speedways (meander roads and provide roundabouts)
- No rear lots backing on roadways
- Provide live work options
- Dispersed community gathering space- interconnected parks and pathway
- Build a Celebration space that is flexible
- Keep as much of the natural landscape as possible - keep the hills.
- Keep the main street to maintain a small town feel

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How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Planning for transit is a good idea and put density close to transit
- Create more space for cyclist and pedestrians and connect to existing pathways
- Grid pattern more efficient
- Follow land pattern and leave the trees

Describe the characteristics of 'built form' that you would like to see in the new community.

- Different type of housing spread throughout the community

When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Public buildings should be energy and water efficient
- Encourage Energy Star houses
- Energy saving strategies need to be cost effective for construction and maintenance
- Urban agriculture is a good idea but need to consider maintenance

Table 15

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall 'community structure' for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- Create main square like Goderich as a focal point
- Control traffic but allow people to walk and bike
- Respect current topography and landscape
- Community Centre (gym, pool, basketball court) to complement the Gellert
- Provide places for seniors and ensure accessibility
- Needs a main street to keep retail dollars in the Town
- Disperse the high density throughout the community

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Need a good path and trail system and integrate trails with Hungry Hollow
- Need transit to deal with growth
- Need to integrate this are with Hungry Hollow trail system

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Describe the characteristics of 'built form' that you would like to see in the new community.

- Need wide variety of housing types and architectural styles to make it visually interesting

When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Locally grown food is more important than community gardens- farmer's markets
- Look at any practical energy and water saving solutions

Table 16

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall 'community structure' for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- Dispersed shopping areas and different types of housing
- Support rear lanes but still need sufficient front and backyards
- Like townhouses fronting common open space to promote eyes on the park, sense of ownership
- Provide gathering places such as pubs, restaurants, main street, shops, market, plaza
- Maintain a farmers market to get local produce/ice cream

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Dedicated LRT system to connect entire town and connect to Milton
- Need to plan for transit
- Focus on separate bike trails and provide options for all modes of travel across all streets
- Design streets to slow down traffic and maintain old trees.
- Provide for space for large trees to grow

Describe the characteristics of 'built form' that you would like to see in the new community.

- Affordable senior housing and other places to downsize within Georgetown such as bungalows and low rise condos
- Mixed housing types
- Ensure that higher density areas have high quality finishes and landscaping

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When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Position homes to take advantage of sun light
- Grey water re-use and green roofs
- Keep natural habitat for animals

Table __ (No Table Number Provided on Two Workbooks)

What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall 'community structure' for the Vision Georgetown study area?

- Keep small town feeling
- Fully integrated with the rest of Georgetown
- Safe for children and cyclist
- Connected and attractive to everyone
- Build public building such as community centres, hospitals, arenas and skating rinks.
- Learn from mistakes in South Georgetown and integrate to older community
- Provide for all stages of life while still attracting young families
- Build community centres, schools libraries, and police station
- Concern that the tax base may not be adequate for multi-generation households
- Avoid large rental areas. Need pride of ownership

How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned?

- Connect people to employment areas
- Transit is long overdue, think about bus stops and implementation
- Connect trail system and bike lanes
- Plan for transit
- Needs four way stops and roundabouts
- Need parkways and limit residential on these routes
- Better Go transit

Describe the characteristics of 'built form' that you would like to see in the new community.

- All types of housing - low rise (4 storeys max);
- Build high density housing well integrated into the community so that residents can access public amenities

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- Preserve natural heritage.
- Address parking for townhouses
- Make architecturally interesting
- Mix of housing types spread through the community
- Houses for seniors and young families
- Cultural and heritage focal point
- Live/work in retail and small shops

When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials) what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible?

- Community gardens are good- add character
- Build energy star home
- Consider other efficient technologies
- Preserve old woodlots
- Connect natural areas

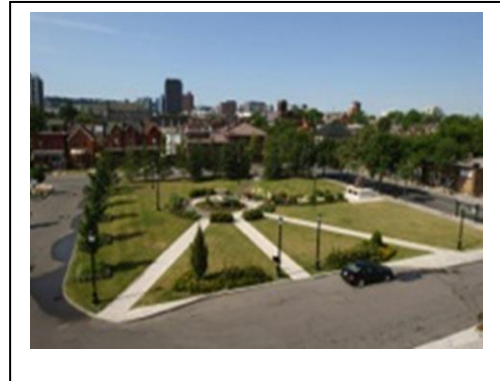
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3.4 Key Findings

Although a wide-range of feedback was generated from each of the groups, there were some notable points of consensus. The key findings are summarized below.

Theme #1: Community Structure

Most participants agreed that it is important to preserve natural areas and work with the existing topography when building this community. Many participants suggested that it is important to integrate this community with the rest of Halton Hills and to ensure accessibility for residents of all ages. Some participants felt that building a main square or multiple neighbourhood focal points would create a more interconnected community.



Theme #2: Mobility

All groups felt that the new development should not create gridlock within the community or outside of the community. Participants also agreed that it is important to build large multi-purpose sidewalks with adequate lighting to provide a safe environment for residents of all ages to walk and cycle. Some participants agreed that it is important to plan for transit; however, some participants suggested that transit is not a priority.



Theme #3: Built Form

Most participants agreed that it is important to have a variety of housing types located through the community for all ages and incomes. There was also a high degree of agreement that there should be some restrictions in place to limit the height of building in the new development. Many suggested building housing and facilities for seniors. All groups felt that the new development should add to the small town feel.



Community Visioning Workshop

Theme # 4: Conservation

In terms of conservation strategies for the new community, most participants agreed that best practices should be followed. Some suggested considering practical energy efficient building practices that could include solar panels, green roofs, and enforcing LEED designation. Most participants also agreed that community gardens and urban agriculture practices should be encourage in this new community as ways to promote community engagement and to protect the character Halton Hills.



3.5 Principles

List 3 to 5 Principles that should guide the planning and creation of the Vision Georgetown Community.

Include town square(s) in all hubs to encourage walkability

Efficient

Includes mixed use

Connections from the existing community

Be respectful of existing homes

Accept topography and keep and enhance natural landscape when possible

Build the community to encourage people to stay, live, work and play (complete community)

Maintain small town character

Develop the community for all age groups and incomes

Encourages social interaction

Connected and walkable to encourage active living

Maintain beautiful pastoral views

Make it different and stand out

Community centres with something for all ages

Built different home types

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3.6 Elevator Speech

“Elevator Speech” to Describe the Vision Georgetown Community

"Georgetown is a welcoming community that people truly desire to spend a life time in"

"Small town, affordable, accessible neighborhood feel"

"A community I want to live in, the go to place for all ages and stages to work, live or play"

"Age friendly, cultural, integrated community with a small town feel; a financial self-sufficient, integrated, age friendly community addressing the needs of all citizens while maintaining a small town feel"

"While promoting a sense of community that is included as a part of Georgetown and by building a Town Square that is integrated, welcoming, accessible and placed for the whole community"

"Integrated, connected neighborhoods keeping the small town feeling preserving hills and wood lands while focusing on environment and energy efficiencies. A community built for all ages and incomes that is flexible to accommodate change and new trends for this development"

"Safe, relax, maintain uniqueness"

"Georgetown is accessible to all, friendly, includes nature in the community structure, honours the town's existing history and allows small, local business to prosper. A place where people want to live and work"

"This new community will be the most sustainable community in Canada. It will have something for everybody that meets lifecycle needs from cradle to grave"

"Peaceful, serene, beautiful, small town feel, no grid lock, and friendly"

"A safe community for everyone to get around from kids to seniors"


"A dispersed but walkable community that is designed with the existing landscape in mind and focuses on the natural features that already exist"

"Integrated, small town feel with a variety of housing"

"We love this town and choose to live here because our vision is for a complete community, with unique character, drawing on our strengths integrated with the rest of the town."

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Appendix A – PowerPoint Presentation from Nov. 2, 2013 Visioning Session



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Vision Georgetown: Community Visioning Workshop

Gellert Community Centre
November 2, 2013



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Agenda

- Where We Are in the Process
- Overview Presentation
- What We've Heard
- Building Blocks
- Group Response Exercise
- Facilitated Table Discussion
- Next Steps



2 Vision Georgetown Community Visioning Workshop – November 2, 2013



Community Visioning Workshop



Where We Are in the Process





Project Process and Timing


Phase One	Phase Two	Phase Three	Phase Four	Phase Five	Phase Six
Project Initiation	2A: Background Research and Community Visioning	Detailed Planning Study	Land Use Alternatives	Preferred Land Use Alternatives	Secondary Plan Development
<i>Timing:</i> 2013 (Q2)	<i>Timing:</i> 2013 (Q3, Q4) 2014 (Q1)	<i>Timing:</i> 2014	<i>Timing:</i> 2014/2015	<i>Timing:</i> 2015	<i>Timing:</i> 2015/2016
<i>Ongoing Presentations to Council and the Steering Committee. Ongoing Public Engagement Activities.</i>					
	2B: Subwatershed and Natural Heritage System Planning	<i>Deliverables:</i> 1. Subwatershed Plan including a natural Heritage System Plan			
		<i>Timing:</i> 2013 to 2016			

4

Vision Georgetown Community Visioning Workshop – November 2, 2013






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Where We Are

- Gathering input from as broad a range of people and perspectives as possible to develop the Foundation for the Plan
- Today's Visioning Exercise
- Conversations with community groups throughout rest of year using our 'toolbox'

5 Vision Georgetown Community Visioning Workshop – November 2, 2013



Overview



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The Big Picture

155R
10SR
TRAFALGAR RD
EIGHTH LN

BE PART OF PLANNING FOR THESE LANDS

Public Input

Provincial, Regional and Local Policy Framework

Technical Studies

Secondary Plan

7 Vision Georgetown Community Visioning Workshop – November 2, 2013

HALTON HILLS MERIDIAN PLANNING

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Why are we here?

Province of Ontario Growth Plan (2006)

Region of Halton – Sustainable Halton Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 38 (Adopted 2009)

Town of Halton Hills Official Plan Amendment No. 10 (Adopted 2010)

Town of Halton Hills - Vision Georgetown

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HALTON HILLS MERIDIAN PLANNING

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Growth Plan (2006)



- Allocated 130,000 people and 50,000 jobs to Halton Region between 2021 and 2031
- Requires new communities to be developed at an average density of 50 residents/jobs per hectare*
- Regional and local Official Plans must conform to Growth Plan

9
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Density Precedents

Stewarts Mill (Construction early 2000's)
 Low density residential
 All single detached dwellings with lot frontages ranging from 10.6 m to 18 m






Area	Dwelling Units	Population	Density (People/ha)
33.9 ha	456	1,376	40.6

Vision Georgetown Steering Committee - October 22, 2013

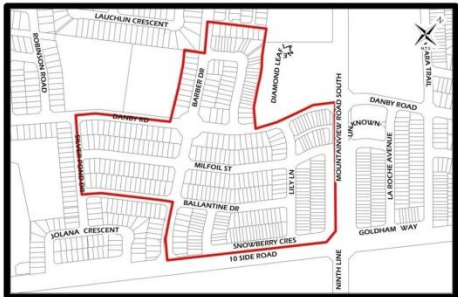





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Density Precedents


Mountainview Road West (Construction - 2005)
 61% low density residential/39% medium density residential
 Lot frontage 7 m for semi-detached and 10 - 12 m for single detached and bungalow townhouses






Area	Dwelling Units	Population	Density (People/ha)
18.04	350	993	55.0


Vision Georgetown Steering Committee - October 22, 2013





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Sustainable Halton/ROPA No 38




- Growth Allocation - 20,000 people and 13,590 jobs to Halton Hills between 2021 and 2031
- Most of new jobs to be in 401 Corridor
- Moderate scale of growth to 2031
- Balance of greenfield growth to Milton (70,000), and growth through intensification to Burlington and Oakville
- Halton Hills required to conform to ROPA 38


Urban Area
 Built Boundary

12

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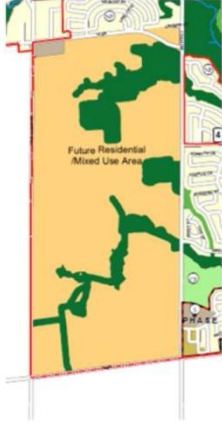


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Town OPA No. 10



Future Residential
Mixed Use Area

- Identified subject lands as Future Residential/ Mixed Use Area to accommodate growth over the 2021 to 2031 planning period
- New community integrated with Georgetown
- New community is a 'complete community' with compact pedestrian-friendly neighbourhoods
- High standard of urban design

13
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The Local Context



Imagine Halton Hills
Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy
March 2013
TOWN OF HALTON HILLS



TOWN OF
Halton Hills
OFFICIAL PLAN



Halton Hills where culture matters
Cultural Master Plan
Halton Hills




STRATEGIC
ACTION PLAN
September 2007
TOWN OF HALTON HILLS




WASTE ACTION PLAN
Halton Hills

Vision Georgetown Steering Committee - October 22, 2013






Council Vision



- People friendly
- Community oriented
- Cleaner, greener, more sustainable
- More walkable
- More cycling-friendly
- Less dependent on cars
- Have more people gathering places
- Have different styles of parks

15 Vision Georgetown Community Visioning Workshop – November 2, 2013





What is a Secondary Plan?




- Sets out where all land uses are to be located (residential, commercial, schools, parks)
- Environmental areas are identified and protected
- Improvements to infrastructure and road upgrades are identified
- Plans for needs of future residents – schools, parks, shopping areas, trails
- The design and walkability of the new community will be a key consideration

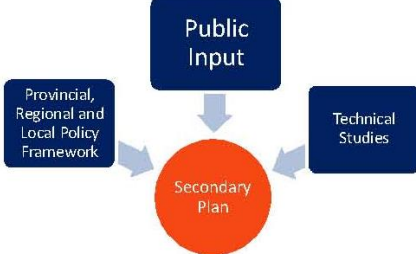
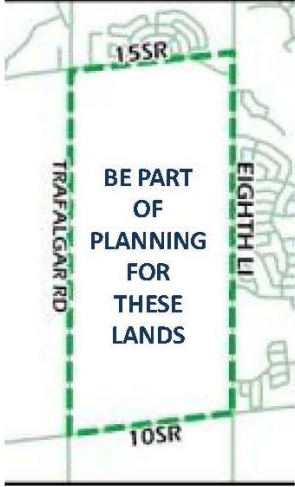
16 Vision Georgetown Community Visioning Workshop – November 2, 2013




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The Big Picture



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Planning Studies

- Subwatershed Study, and Natural Heritage System Plan;
- Transportation Strategy, including Active Transportation;
- Functional Servicing Plan;
- Sustainable Neighbourhood Design Guidelines;
- Energy/Water Conservation Strategies;
- Heritage Conservation Strategy;
- Agricultural Impact Assessment;
- Community Infrastructure Plan (Parks/Public Facilities)

Vision Georgetown Steering Committee - October 22, 2013





What we've Heard

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What We've Heard

In developing this community, what do we want to avoid (according to comment forms)

- Traffic gridlock and congestion
- Paving over for parking pads
- Public transit/bussing, excessive bus traffic
- Basement apartments
- The new community being too spread out with no public transit and no easy access to amenities
- High density (we are not a city) develop singles, towns and semis only
- Housing focused on a narrow demographic (2 storey 4 bedroom home)
- Degradation of surrounding farmlands
- Flat urban sprawl, elimination of forests and green areas
- Excessive commercial areas including strip malls, big box stores or an auto mall
- Walls of detached homes that all look the same
- Unaffordable units with minimal parking
- Not maintaining the quality of life for the existing residents surrounding the area


21 Vision Georgetown Community Visioning Workshop – November 2, 2013



Workshop Purpose and Goals

- To provide core information about the project — including key parameters and building blocks
- To share collective aspirations — both for the vision and guiding principles
- To get a sense of preferences within 'areas of choice'
- To enhance understanding of the trade-offs and implications of choices
- To generate support for and confidence in the project process through meaningful community engagement

22 Vision Georgetown Community Visioning Workshop – November 2, 2013





Vision and Principles Overview

- By **vision** we mean that to which we aspire and what it is we want to achieve in terms of how the community is planned, designed and will function
- By **principles** we mean the main beliefs, core assumptions, philosophy and ways of working that need to inform the project in its entirety — both during community design and in the eventual development

Example: To foster the development of a distinctive and attractive community with a strong sense of place

23



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Before We Begin


there are some 'building blocks' to consider...

1. About 19,000 people and 1,700 jobs have been allocated to the Study Area
2. The community will have a minimum density that is 50% higher than currently in Georgetown as a whole



24

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Before We Begin

there are some 'building blocks' to consider...

3. We need to plan for more medium and higher density housing (as a percentage of the total new housing) than in other newer areas of Georgetown
4. About 650,000 sq. ft. of new retail space has to be accommodated to serve population growth from 2021 to 2031, most of which will be on the Vision Georgetown lands

25


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Before We Begin

there are some 'building blocks' to consider...


5. Trafalgar Road, 10 Side Road, the 8th Line and the 15 Side Road will be upgraded and will look very different than they do today




Source: Regional Right of Way Guidelines from 'The Road to Change' (Halton Region TMP, 2011)

26


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Before We Begin
there are some 'building blocks' to consider...

6. There will be multiple connections between the 8th Line and Trafalgar Road to provide access into and out of the community
7. The community will be on full water (lake-based) and wastewater services
8. A Regional Natural Heritage System must be protected - the extent and delineation will be confirmed through the subwatershed planning process



27 Vision Georgetown Community Visioning Workshop – November 2, 2013



 

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Before We Begin
there are some 'building blocks' to consider...

9. A range of parkettes, neighbourhood parks, and community and town-wide parks are required to be provided for new residents
10. Schools, libraries, community centres, and other recreational facilities are also required to meet the needs of residents
11. All new development is required to be planned with transit in mind

28 Vision Georgetown Community Visioning Workshop – November 2, 2013




Themes for Discussion


The starting point is that we are collectively aspiring to implement a number of **Sustainability and Healthy Community objectives** through a discussion of the following themes:


1. Community Structure
2. Mobility
3. Built Form
4. Conservation

29 Vision Georgetown Community Visioning Workshop – November 2, 2013




Group Response Exercise





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Facilitated Table Work



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Next Steps

- Develop the Vision and Guiding Principles based on your input today (End of 2013)
- Hold a second community workshop to prepare a Land Use Concept (Early 2014)

32

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VISION GEORGETOWN

Workbook

Community Visioning Workshop
November 2, 2013

Table No.:





WORKBOOK: SIGN-IN SHEET

Name

Lined area for writing names, consisting of 20 horizontal green lines.



AGENDA

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1:30 | Opening Remarks |
| 1:45 | Study Overview Presentation |
| 2:15 | Group Response Exercise |
| 2:35 | Roundtable Icebreaker |
| 2:50 | Thematic Conversations and Principles Discussion |
| 4:00 | Elevator Speeches |
| 4:20 | Closing Remarks |



WORKBOOK

Roundtable Icebreaker

Question No. 1: Ask participants at your table to quickly come up with 5 answer/endings to the following sentence:

“Wouldn’t it be great if the new community...”

(Encourage your group members to call out their ideas informally and quickly in a rapid-fire format).



WORKBOOK

Thematic Conversations Theme #1: Community Structure

Community Structure: refers to the basic physical framework for the community, including the road and trails network, natural heritage system, focal points, and the distribution of land uses. In other words, community structure refers to the 2 dimensional map of these elements.

Question No. 2: What are your ideas and aspirations for an overall ‘community structure’ for the Vision Georgetown study area. Consider the following:

- How can we create streets that are safe, comfortable and convenient for pedestrians? What are the key elements to a ‘pedestrian-friendly’ street?
- What kind of community gathering places would you like to see? How can we provide opportunities for social interaction?
- How important is the inclusion of a cultural focal point in the community? What should be included in a cultural focal point? How important is public art?
- How important will it be to establish a ‘Main Street’ with a mix of residential and commercial uses? What are the most important elements of a successful ‘Main Street’?
- Where should townhouses and apartments be located? In one key location? Along major streets?
- Where would you prefer to do your shopping? In one key location? Along key corridors? Or would you prefer to be able to walk to various types of shops?
- How important is it to you that there are many parks, open spaces and community facilities of different sizes and types within walking distance to the largest number of residents possible?
- How important is it that environmental areas be accessible and visible?



WORKBOOK

Lined writing area with 20 horizontal green lines.



WORKBOOK

Thematic Conversations: Theme #2: Mobility

Question No. 3: Take some time to discuss the theme of 'mobility' in the new community. How should various transportation networks (roads, trails, transit) be planned? Consider the following:

- What kind of connections do you envision between uses, neighbourhoods, environmental areas and parks? (These can include streets, sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, etc.). Where do you see these located? Which are the most important?
- Is planning for transit important to you? How can we plan for future public transit?
- When designing roads, what modes of travel should be considered? How should various modes (i.e. cars, walking, cycling) be integrated or separated?
- How should an overall street pattern look? Should it be based on a grid pattern to provide a greater range of options for moving around?



WORKBOOK

Lined writing area consisting of 21 horizontal green lines.



WORKBOOK

Thematic Conversations

Theme #3: Built Form

Built Form: refers to the use, design, general shape, size, scale and type of buildings in a community, as well as a building's relationship to other land uses. Where the community structure represents the 2 dimensional map of the community, built form refers to the 3 dimensional representation of what the community could look like.

Question No. 4: Describe the characteristics of 'built form' that you would like to see in the new community. Consider the following:

- What types of housing should be encouraged to provide more living options for a range of incomes and ages?
Semi-detached housing? Townhouses? Apartments?
- What are some examples of building styles in Georgetown that you would like to see in the new community?
- How can we make this new community visually interesting?



WORKBOOK

Thematic Conversations Theme #4: Conservation

Question No. 5: When we think about the use of resources (such as energy, water, and materials), what are your ideas about ensuring that the new community is as efficient as possible? Consider the following:

- How can buildings and neighbourhoods be designed to use less resources?
- Is incorporating urban agriculture (such as community gardens) important to you? Are there additional agriculture-related uses we should plan for?
- What other elements of a sustainable community development should be considered as we plan for these lands?
- Many of the items discussed in previous themes help implement the four pillars of the Halton Hills Community Sustainability Plan, which are Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health and Social Well-being. Is there anything that has been missed?



WORKBOOK

Elevator Speeches

Question No. 7: Ask the group at each table to come up with a Vision Georgetown “Elevator Speech”. The speech is a short (20 second) summary that quickly and simply describes the Vision Georgetown community. Ask the group to record their speech in the space provided. Each table will present their speech to the larger group.

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Appendix C – Results of the DOTS Exercise

DOTS Results by Question

Session Name: Vision Georgetown Nov.2.2013

1.) Q.1 This year, the Maple Leafs: (multiple choice)

- Are Stanley Cup bound
- Will make the playoffs
- Will just miss the playoffs
- Will finish last
- Who are the Maple Leafs?

Responses	
(percent)	(count)
14.29%	12
40.48%	34
23.81%	20
9.52%	8
11.90%	10
Totals	100% 84

2.) Q.2 I first heard about Vision Georgetown from: (multiple choice)

- Newspaper
- Website
- Social media (i.e. Twitter)
- Direct mail notice
- Road sign
- None of the above

Responses	
(percent)	(count)
22.62%	19
8.33%	7
1.19%	1
19.05%	16
16.67%	14
32.14%	27
Totals	100% 84

3.) Q.3 I have lived in Halton Hills: (multiple choice)

- 0-5 years
- 6-15 years
- 16-30 years
- 31 plus years
- I don't live in Halton Hills

Responses	
(percent)	(count)
10.84%	9
25.30%	21
24.10%	20
30.12%	25
9.64%	8
Totals	100% 83

4.) Q. 4 My age is: (multiple choice)

- Under 18 years old
- 18-25 years old
- 26-35 years old
- 36-45 years old
- 46-55 years old
- 56-65 years old
- 66-75 years old
- 76 plus years old

Responses	
(percent)	(count)
0%	0
1.20%	1
3.61%	3
20.48%	17
30.12%	25
25.30%	21
18.07%	15
1.20%	1
Totals	100% 83

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5.) Creating streets that are safe, comfortable, and convenient for pedestrians: (multiple choice)

Very important.
Somewhat important.
Not important.
No opinion/Need more information.

	Responses (percent) (count)	
	68.35%	54
	25.32%	20
	1.27%	1
	5.06%	4
Totals	100%	79

6.) Creating a number of community gathering places and opportunities for social interaction: (multiple choice)

Very important.
Somewhat important.
Not important.
No opinion/Need more information.

	Responses (percent) (count)	
	50.63%	40
	39.24%	31
	6.33%	5
	3.80%	3
Totals	100%	79

7.) Creating a cultural focal point in the community (such as a "Cultural Commons") and incorporating artwork into public buildings and spaces: (multiple choice)

Very important.
Somewhat important.
Not important.
No opinion/Need more information.

	Responses (percent) (count)	
	21.95%	18
	42.68%	35
	28.05%	23
	7.32%	6
Totals	100%	82

8.) Ensuring that there are as many connections as possible between uses, neighborhoods, environmental areas and parks: (multiple choice)

Very important.
Somewhat important.
Not important.
No opinion/Need more information.

	Responses (percent) (count)	
	48.10%	38
	37.97%	30
	8.86%	7
	5.06%	4
Totals	100%	79

9.) Ensuring that we place as much emphasis on creating walking trails, cycling paths and sidewalks, instead of just focusing mostly on the car: (multiple choice)

Very important.
Somewhat important.
Not important.
No opinion/Need more information.

	Responses (percent) (count)	
	63.75%	51
	31.25%	25
	3.75%	3
	1.25%	1
Totals	100%	80

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10.) Incorporating urban agriculture (such as community gardens) in public parks and open spaces: (multiple choice)

Very important.
Somewhat important.
Not important.
No opinion/Need more information.

Responses	
(percent)	(count)
39.24%	31
31.65%	25
24.05%	19
5.06%	4
Totals	100% 79

11.) Ensuring that a wide range of housing is developed for all ages and incomes: (multiple choice)

Very important.
Somewhat important.
Not important.
No opinion/Need more information.

Responses	
(percent)	(count)
63.29%	50
20.25%	16
8.86%	7
7.59%	6
Totals	100% 79

12.) Ensure that we plan for transit: (multiple choice)

Very important.
Somewhat important.
Not important.
No opinion/Need more information.

Responses	
(percent)	(count)
39.51%	32
16.05%	13
30.86%	25
13.58%	11
Totals	100% 81

13.) Encouraging energy efficient buildings and the conservation of resources (such as water): (multiple choice)

Very important.
Somewhat important.
Not important.
No opinion/Need more information.

Responses	
(percent)	(count)
65.43%	53
25.93%	21
6.17%	5
2.47%	2
Totals	100% 81

14.) Q.6 To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "I would like there to be a 'Main Street' in the new community, where residential uses are mixed with other types of uses (such as food stores, restaurants, personal services, offices, and retail) in a pedestrian-friendly environment." (multiple choice)

Strongly agree.
Somewhat agree.

Responses	
(percent)	(count)
45.78%	38
30.12%	25

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Do not agree.

No opinion/Need more information.

	19.28%	16
	4.82%	4
Totals	100%	83

15.) Q.7 We need to plan for about 7,500 dwelling units in total. 2,500 of these will be townhouses or apartments. I would like to see these townhouses and apartments: (multiple choice)

Concentrated in one key location.

Located only along major streets.

Dispersed throughout the community.

No opinion/Need more information.

	Responses (percent) (count)	
	9.88%	8
	25.93%	21
	58.02%	47
	6.17%	5
Totals	100%	81

16.) Q.8 Imagine you lived in this new community. How would you prefer to access retail areas? (multiple choice)

Travel to one central location to do most of my shopping.

Choose from several shopping areas located along major streets.

Walk to as many different types of stores as possible.

No opinion/Need more information

	Responses (percent) (count)	
	32.93%	27
	24.39%	20
	39.02%	32
	3.66%	3
Totals	100%	82

17.) Q.9 Imagine you lived in this new community. How important is it to you that there are many parks, open spaces and community facilities of different sizes and types within walking distance to the largest number of residents possible? (multiple choice)

Very important.

Somewhat important.

Not important.

No opinion/Need more information.

	Responses (percent) (count)	
	61.73%	50
	30.86%	25
	6.17%	5
	1.23%	1
Totals	100%	81

18.) Q.10 Integrating the new community with the existing community is an important consideration. Which of the following options would be most effective in making the new community feel most connected to the surrounding areas of Georgetown: (multiple choice)

Ensuring that new roads match up with existing and planned roads (i.e., Miller, Argyll, and Danby).

Ensuring that new trails connect with existing and planned trails.

Locating new retail uses that would be used by residents of the surrounding

	Responses (percent) (count)	
	28.40%	23
	11.11%	9

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community.

Establishing 'community hubs' (schools, public facilities, and gathering spaces) that will benefit both existing and new residents.

None of the above.

No opinion/Need more information.

	16.05%	13
	35.80%	29
	2.47%	2
	6.17%	5
Totals	100%	81