
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Memorandum PDD-M01-2023 University of Guelph Student Project – Infill Design Guidelines



For Consideration by Council in Committee on February 7, 2023

To: Mayor Bentley and Members of Council
From: Alisha Cull, BES, MCIP, RPP, Supervisor of Planning & Development

The University of Guelph School of Environmental Design and Rural Development offers a master's degree course entitled Advanced Planning Practice, currently taught by Dr. Wayne Caldwell. Each year, municipalities are contacted for research proposals so that the students can complete a project in a real-world planning context. The benefits are mutual in that the students gain experience learning about specific municipal planning issues, while the municipalities receive research on a topic of interest that can benefit their community. This approach can also be a recruitment vehicle by marketing the County to up and coming professionals. Haldimand County Planning & Development staff submitted two proposals for the winter 2023 term, one of which was chosen by the students.

The project title is "Design Guidelines for Infill Development". Staff submitted this topic for consideration due to the increased amount of infill development being experienced in Haldimand County and some of the challenges associated therewith. Applications for infill development projects regularly generate a substantial amount of public interest, and a recurring theme is the desire for the development to match the character of the existing neighbourhood, specifically the "small town character". Staff hope to receive a comprehensive set of guidelines based on best practices as well as Haldimand-specific input. This will involve finding out from the public what their idea of "small town character" means to them. The students are proposing to attend a Council-in-Committee meeting in April to present their findings. Should the guidelines prove to be attainable in the context of Haldimand County, they could be considered for implementation as part of future updates to the County's Official Plan and/or Zoning By-law.

Should the Mayor or any Councillors be contacted with questions regarding this project, please feel free to direct inquirers to Planning & Development staff for further information. In addition, the student team may wish to contact some members of Council for their individual thoughts/input into the process.

Other projects completed by former Advanced Planning Practice students can be found here: <http://www.waynecaldwell.ca/Students/courseprojects.html>. Haldimand County participated in this project in 2022, and received a report entitled "Haldimand County - Additional and Alternative Housing Forms for the Prime Agricultural Area".

REFERENCES:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.