

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC MEETING ELGIN COUNTY OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

TAKE NOTICE THAT the County of Elgin invites you to attend a public open house and a public meeting in consideration of the County's Official Plan Review as follows:

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – for anyone who wishes to learn more about the project process and the proposed Official Plan.

Date: March 19, 2024

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Attend online at www.engagelgin.ca/officialplanreview, or attend in person at 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, ON

PUBLIC MEETING – for anyone who wishes to provide comments or submissions on the proposed Official Plan to the County.

Date: March 26, 2024

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Attend online at www.engagelgin.ca/officialplanreview, or attend in person at 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, ON

PURPOSE & EFFECT – The Elgin County Official Plan is the County's statement of land use policy passed under the authority of the Planning Act, and its purpose is to:

- a) Establish a county-wide planning framework for managing growth and land use, and addressing planning issues of county-wide importance and scope until 2044;
- b) Provide direction for the responsible management of the natural environment and natural resources, including the County's agricultural land base;
- c) Ensure that planning in the County occurs in an orderly and logical manner that supports the creation of healthy, liveable, and vibrant communities;
- d) Provide direction to local municipalities in the preparation of their own official plans, zoning by-laws, and other planning documents, as well as local infrastructure decisions; and
- e) Ensure a consistent approach to the review of all applications under the Planning Act at both the County and local levels.

A new official plan is being proposed by the County that will have the effect of replacing the existing Official Plan that was adopted by County Council in 2011. In accordance with the Planning Act, all land use and public works decisions made in the County must conform to the Official Plan in effect.

SUBJECT LANDS – The new official plan will apply to all lands within the corporate boundaries of the County of Elgin, save and except for lands within the corporate boundaries of the City of St. Thomas.

WHERE TO ACCESS MORE INFORMATION – To obtain a copy of the proposed official plan, please visit: www.engageelgin.ca/officialplanreview. Alternatively, you can view a copy of the proposed official plan during normal business hours at the County Administration Offices located at: 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, ON

NOTICE OF DECISION & APPEALS – The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is the approval authority for the County's Official Plan. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Minister on the proposed official plan, you must make a written request to the County of Elgin at the following address: opreview@elgin.ca. Alternatively, you can mail your request to: 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, ON N5R 5V1 Attn: Paul Clarke, Planning Technician.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the County of Elgin before the proposed official plan is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the County of Elgin before the proposed official plan is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.