



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 14, 2023
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Provincial Amendments to the Greenbelt Plan – Results of Public Engagement on Community Benefits (PED23046(c)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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COUNCIL DIRECTION

That this report be included as an addendum to report PED23046(b).

INFORMATION

Prior to the special meeting of Planning Committee, staff utilized various platforms to obtain public input respecting the City's priorities and expectations for any private development proposals within the lands removed by the Province from the Greenbelt Plan Area. Staff held an in-person open house on September 6, 2023 and had an online survey available until September 8, 2023. The interim results of the public input have been summarized below for information purposes. The final engagement report will include a more detailed summary of the input received, including additional analysis from City staff.

1.0 In-person Open House

The in-person open house provided opportunities for the public to provide input respecting City priorities for the development of the lands removed from the Greenbelt Plan Area. Attendees were encouraged to participate in an activity to rank specified

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

development objectives and community benefits using dot stickers or identifying additional development objectives and community benefits with sticky notes. There were also comment sheets available for additional comments or remarks.

1.1 Panel Activity

For each area removed from the Greenbelt Plan there were three panels forming part of an activity (see Appendix “A” attached to Report PED23046(c)). One panel contained a list of possible development objectives grouped into five categories: climate change, complete communities, housing, natural areas and transportation network. Another panel contained a list of possible community benefits grouped into five categories: climate change, community contributions, housing, natural areas and recreational amenities. Participants were directed to take five dot stickers for each panel for any or all of the three removal area(s) and place them beside their top priorities.

There was also a panel with blank space available to identify additional development objectives and community benefits that were not already listed using sticky notes.

1.1.1 Development Objective Results

Table 1 contains the results from the panel activity for the development objectives. The Natural Areas category received the highest number of dots for all the areas.

Table 1: Development Objective Results

All Areas	Book Road Lands	Whitechurch Lands	Fifty Road Lands
Natural Areas (106)	Natural Areas (60)	Natural Areas (46)	-
Housing (69)	Housing (58)	Transportation Network (17)	-
Transportation Network (35)	Climate Change (22)	Climate Change (11)	-
Climate Change (33)	Transportation Network (18)	Housing (11)	-
Complete Communities (21)	Complete Communities (13)	Complete Communities (8)	-

1.1.1.1 Book Road Lands

Natural Areas was the category with the most dots for development objectives for the Book Road lands. The examples of development objectives within this category are tree preservation (26), preservation of natural areas (developing outside woodlots) (26), and bird friendly design (8).

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Housing was the category with the second most dots for development objectives. The examples of development objectives within this category are long term care homes / supportive housing (28), different low rise housing types (e.g., townhouses, walk up apartments) (17) and medium and high rise housing types (e.g. apartment buildings) (13). It should be noted long term care homes / supportive housing was the individual example with the most dots.

Five sticky notes were left on the panel with additional feedback. Three were opposed to development of these lands and two did not have a clear position.

1.1.1.2 Whitechurch Lands

Natural Areas was the category with the most dots for priorities of development objectives for the Whitechurch lands. The examples of development objectives within this category are tree preservation (18), preservation of natural areas (developing outside woodlots) (19), and bird friendly design (9).

One sticky note was left on the panel identifying opposition for the development of these lands.

1.1.1.3 Fifty Road Lands

There was a printing error on the panel that was not identified until the day of the open house. As such, no data was collected for this panel as it was not displayed at the open house.

1.1.2 Community Benefits Results

Table 2 contains the results from the panel activity for the community benefits. The Housing category received the highest number of dots for all the areas.

Table 2: Community Benefits Results

All Lands	Book Road Lands	Whitechurch Lands	Fifty Road Lands
Housing (93)	Housing (47)	Natural Areas (16)	Housing (33)
Natural Areas (67)	Climate Change (29)	Housing (13)	Natural Areas (27)
Climate Change (50)	Natural Areas (24)	Community Contributions (8)	Climate Change (15)
Recreational Amenities (38)	Recreational Amenities (23)	Climate Change (6)	Community Contributions (11)
Community Contributions (37)	Community Contributions (18)	Recreational Amenities (6)	Recreational Amenities (9)

1.1.2.1 Book Road Lands

Housing was the category with the most dots for community benefits. The examples of community benefits within this category are dedicated land to affordable housing providers (20), financial contribution to affordable housing providers (2) and incorporation of affordable housing in developments (25).

One sticky note was left with an additional comment without a clear position on the development of the lands.

1.1.2.2 Whitechurch Lands

Natural Areas was the top category for priorities of community benefits for the Whitechurch lands. The examples of community benefits within this category are establishment of an ecological preserve (10) and financial contributions to environmental stewardship organizations (6).

One sticky note was left on the panel identifying opposition for the development of these lands.

1.1.2.3 Fifty Road Lands

Housing was the category with the most dots for community benefits. The examples of community benefits within this category are dedicated land to affordable housing providers (13), financial contribution to affordable housing providers (7) and incorporation of affordable housing in developments (13).

Natural Areas was the category with the second most dots for development objectives. The examples of community benefits within this category are establishment of an ecological preserve (18) and financial contributions to environmental stewardship organizations (9). It should be noted that the establishment of an ecological preserve was the individual example with the most dots.

One sticky note was left on the panel identifying opposition for the development of these lands.

1.1.3 Additional Feedback on Panels

The panels with space to add sticky notes were intended to be used to identify additional development objectives and / or community benefits under the corresponding column that should be considered for each area and were not already listed on the other panels. The majority of the sticky notes placed on these panels were used to provide

additional comments or remarks opposing any development of the lands and appeared to be placed randomly on the panel.

1.1.3.1 Book Road Lands

Thirty seven sticky notes opposed to the development of the greenbelt lands, of which, eight (8) identified they supported intensification within the urban boundary instead of sprawl and seven (7) opposed development due to concern about the loss of natural areas and farmland.

Examples of community benefits identified on sticky notes included tennis courts (2), pickleball courts (1), parks, schools and hospitals (1) and funding for affordable housing (1). These align with the community benefits identified as part of the dotmocracy activity and survey.

Examples of development objectives identified on sticky notes included long term care homes (2), medium and high density homes (2), single detached dwelling / low density residential homes (2) and bike lanes (1). These align with development objectives identified as part of the dotmocracy activity and survey.

1.1.3.2 Whitechurch Lands

Twenty two sticky notes opposed to the development of the greenbelt lands, of which, five (5) identified they supported intensification within the urban boundary instead against sprawl and five (5) were opposed to development due to concern about the loss of natural areas and farmland. Two sticky notes identified concern about the development of these lands for other reasons.

Examples of community benefits identified on sticky notes included affordable housing (1) and community gardens (1) which align with the community benefits identified as part of the dotmocracy activity and survey.

1.1.3.3 Fifty Road Lands

Twenty four sticky notes opposed to development of the greenbelt lands, of which three (3) identified they supported intensification within the urban boundary instead of sprawl and five (5) were opposed to development due to concern about the loss of natural areas and farmland. Three (3) sticky notes did not have a clear position on the development of the lands.

There were no sticky notes identifying community benefits or development objectives.

1.2 Comment Sheets

A total of 48 comment sheets were received at the open house or by e-mail. The main themes of the comments provided were concern about lack of transparency and process for choosing the lands to be removed (20), concern about the loss of green space, farmland and natural features and environmental impact (26), and the position that sufficient growth can be accommodated within the urban boundary through intensification (18), utilizing existing services (7).

One comment sheet expressed support for the development of the lands removed from the Greenbelt.

2.0 Online Survey

The online survey mirrored the format of the panel activity at the open house. Respondents were able to select their top five (5) priorities of development objectives and community benefits for each of the three removal areas. The survey also included a section to provide additional feedback.

2.1.1 Development Objective Results

Table 3 contains the results from the panel activity for the development objectives. The Natural Areas category received the highest number of votes through the survey for all the removal areas.

Table 3: Development Objectives

All Lands	Book Road Lands	Whitechurch Lands	Fifty Road Lands
Natural Areas (2645)	Natural Areas (1019)	Natural Areas (820)	Natural Areas (806)
Climate Change (978)	Climate Change (380)	Climate Change (303)	Climate Change (295)
Housing (661)	Housing (328)	Transportation Network (191)	Transportation Network (191)
Transportation Network (651)	Transportation Network (269)	Housing (164)	Housing (169)
Complete Communities (508)	Complete Communities (264)	Complete Communities (124)	Complete Communities (120)

2.1.1.1 Book Road Lands

Natural Areas was the top category for priorities of development objectives for the Book Road lands. The examples of development objectives within this category are tree preservation (369), preservation of natural areas (developing outside woodlots) (387), and bird friendly design (263).

2.1.1.2 Whitechurch Lands

Natural Areas was the top category for priorities of development objectives for the Whitechurch lands. The examples of development objectives within this category are tree preservation (295), preservation of natural areas (developing outside woodlots) (309), and bird friendly design (216).

2.1.1.3 Fifty Road Lands

Natural Areas was the top category for priorities of development objectives for the Fifty Road lands. The examples of development objectives within this category are tree preservation (289), preservation of natural areas (developing outside woodlots) (299), and bird friendly design (218).

2.1.2 Community Benefits Results

Table 4 contains the results from the panel activity for the community benefits. The Natural Areas category received the highest number of dots for all the areas.

Table 3: Community Benefits Results

All Lands	Book Road Lands	Whitechurch Lands	Fifty Road Lands
Natural Area (1586)	Natural Areas (603)	Natural Areas (496)	Natural Areas (487)
Housing (923)	Housing (401)	Housing (260)	Housing (262)
Climate Change (867)	Climate Change (367)	Climate Change (257)	Climate Change (243)
Recreational Amenities (808)	Recreational Amenities (363)	Recreational Amenities (226)	Recreational Amenities (219)
Community Contributions (770)	Community Contributions (334)	Community Contributions (218)	Community Contributions (218)

2.1.2.1 Book Road Lands

Natural Areas was the top category for priorities of community benefits for the Book Road lands. The examples of community benefits within this category are establishment of an ecological preserve (387) and financial contributions to environmental stewardship (216).

2.1.2.2 Whitechurch Lands

Natural Areas was the top category for priorities of community benefits for the Whitechurch lands. The examples of community benefits within this category are establishment of an ecological preserve (308) and financial contributions to environmental stewardship (188).

2.1.2.3 Fifty Road Lands

Natural Areas was the top category for priorities of community benefits for the Fifty Road lands. The examples of community benefits within this category are establishment of an ecological preserve (299) and financial contributions to environmental stewardship (188).

2.1.3 Additional Comments

Similar to the open house panels, the survey allowed respondents to submit specific comments respecting development objectives and community benefits for each of the three greenbelt removal areas. A total of 213 comments were submitted on development objectives and 246 total submissions on community benefits. The majority of the comments submitted opposition and any urban development of the greenbelt removal lands. Staff will provide a more detailed breakdown and summary of these submissions in the final engagement report.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PED23046(c) - Example of Panel Activity
Appendix “B” to Report PED23046(c) - Summary of Online Survey Results
Appendix “C” to Report PED23046(c) - Summary of Panel Activity Results

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