

# Corporation of the County of Wellington Public Meeting Minutes

### OPA 120 – County Growth Forecast OPA 121 - Development Approval Process Updates

January 12, 2023 Council Chambers

Present: Warden Andy Lennox

Councillor James Seeley (Chair)

Councillor Mary Lloyd Councillor Michael Dehn Councillor Shawn Watters

Also Present: Councillor Matthew Bulmer

Staff: Jennifer Adams, County Clerk

Aldo Salis, Director, Planning and Development Department

Matthieu Daoust, Senior Planner (Development)

Meagan Ferris, Manager of Planning and Environment Curtis Marshall, Manager of Development Planning

Jameson Pickard, Senior Planner (Policy)

Zachary Prince, Senior Planner (Development)

Troy Van Buskirk, Planning Technician

Sarah Wilhelm, Manager of Policy Planning

### **OPA 120 – County Growth Forecast**

**Members of the Public:** There were 18 members of the public who attended the meeting. Staff have recorded their names in the project file as part of the public record.

### **OPENING OF MEETING**

Chair Seeley welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:41 am.

#### PURPOSE OF MEETING

Chair Seeley read the following statement:

The purpose of this meeting is to present information and receive public input regarding proposed amendment 120 to the County of Wellington Official Plan for the County Growth Forecast as part of the County's Municipal Comprehensive Review.

### STATEMENT READ BY CHAIR

Chair Seeley read the following statement:

This meeting is to provide information, comments and input for Planning Committee and Council. County Council has not taken a position on the matter; County Council's decision will come after full consideration of input from the meeting, submissions from the public and comments from agencies.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Corporation of the County of Wellington in respect of the adoption of the proposed Official Plan Amendment, you must make a written request to the Director, Planning and Development Department, County of Wellington, 74 Woolwich Street, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 3T9.

Official Plan Amendment 120 requires approval from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Pursuant to Section 17(36.4) of the Planning Act there is no appeal in respect of a decision of the approval authority if the approval authority is the Minister.

#### PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Chair Seeley invited Sarah Wilhelm, Manager of Policy Planning to make a presentation about the proposed amendment. Ms. Wilhelm's presentation covered the following areas:

- Policy Context and Provincial Planning Policy Structure
- County and Local Planning Policy Context
- Potential Impacts of Bill 23
- Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) and Work Plan
- Overview of Phase 1 Work
- County Growth Forecast Amendment
- Population, Housing, and Employment Highlights 2021 2051
- Consultation to Date
- Key Themes from Comments

Presentation slides are available at the following link: <u>OPA 120 Public Meeting Presentation Jan</u> 12 2023

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

**Janet Harrop** spoke on behalf of the Wellington Federation of Agriculture (WFA). The WFA wants to preserve as much agricultural land as possible by requesting:

- increased intensification in urban areas;
- support for the agricultural system as a whole;
- Canada Land Inventory class 1 through 6 lands to be considered Prime Agricultural; and
- that growth be concentrated within current urban boundaries.

WFA is concerned that land use changes over time have converted farmland to non-agricultural uses which, when taken as a whole, have negative impacts on the agricultural system in Wellington. Related information is detailed in a report by Dr. Wayne Caldwell of the University of Guelph. The WFA is currently preparing a study of the economic impact of agriculture in Wellington County.

**John Sloot**, a Puslinch resident and home builder, requested that rural residential lots be permitted to be under 1 acre in size, due to improvements in septic system design. He also asked that staff revisit the growth allocated to Puslinch to allow more rural growth, as Puslinch is so desirable.

**Evan Wittmann**, planning consultant representing Landscout Investments and Cachet Developments, spoke regarding a proposed residential development in Clifford (Minto) to develop Future Development designated lands and also expand the urban boundary for additional development. Mr. Wittmann distributed and presented a document which outlined his concerns with the findings of the County's Land Needs Assessment and servicing availability in Minto. He requested that more growth be allocated to Clifford to support his client's proposal.

**Warden Lennox** advised that he would want to hear from the Town of Minto before taking action on this request.

John Scott of Elora asked what vision is informing these discussions and decision-making.

**Aldo Salis** advised that the Province broadly sets the planning vision, but that it is also based on input from residents and communities.

**Chair Seeley** indicated that this is part of strategic planning and that elected officials also juggle this with financial responsibilities.

**Councillor Lloyd** noted that some municipalities have urban design guidelines. The role at the County is to decide where growth occurs and member municipalities decide how growth occurs through their planning guidelines.

**Councillor Watters** advised that the Province takes the lead by dictating the growth numbers and the County distributes the growth to member municipalities. Our communities will change and start looking different.

**Warden Lennox** noted that we are at the beginning stage today. There are many more pieces that go into this before things are built. Our communities are evolving and we need to have a vision of where we are going to take this in line with the needs of today. We need housing and we can't build what we have always been building. We need to be thoughtful about it.

### **CLOSING**

There being no further comments or questions from the public, Chair Seeley thanked everyone for attending the OPA 120 – County Growth Forecast public meeting and declared the public meeting closed at 11:50 am.

### **OPA 121 - Development Approval Process Updates**

**Members of the Public:** There were 3 members of the public who attended the meeting. Staff have recorded their names in the project file as part of the public record.

### **OPENING OF MEETING**

Chair Seeley welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:57 am.

### **PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

Chair Seeley indicated that the County of Wellington is holding this public meeting to present and receive public input regarding a proposed amendment to the Wellington County Official Plan to update the plan with recent legislative changes made to the Planning Act and to operationalize existing optional planning tools in the act, that could help member municipalities further streamline their development review and approval processes.

#### STATEMENT READ BY CHAIR

Chair Seeley read the following statement:

This meeting is to provide information, comments and input for Planning Committee and Council. County Council has not taken a position on the matter; County Council's decision will come after full consideration of input from the meeting, submissions from the public and comments from agencies.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Corporation of the County of Wellington in respect of the proposed County Official Plan Amendment does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the County of Wellington before the proposed County Official Plan Amendment is adopted, the Ontario Land Tribunal may dismiss all or part of the appeal.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Corporation of the County of Wellington in respect of the proposed County Official Plan Amendment, you must make a written request to the Director, Planning and Development Department, County of Wellington, 74 Woolwich Street, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 3T9.

### PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Chair Seeley invited Mr. Jameson Pickard, Senior Policy Planner to come forward to present the proposed County Official Plan amendment 121, Development Approval Updates. Mr. Pickard provided a brief introduction of the proposed official plan amendment and explained the reasons why this amendment was necessary. Mr. Pickard explained that these change will align the County Official Plan with recent Planning Act changes as well prepare our member municipalities for the new development review environment the province has created, with reduced application review windows and the potential to have application fee's refunded.

Mr. Pickard gave an overview of the changes proposed to the Official Plan in OPA 121 which include:

- Changes to policy section 13.9 Site Plan Control- to align with Planning Act changes and clarification about what matters can and cannot be addressed through site plan control;
- Changes to policy section 13.15 Complete Application and Pre-Consultation to align with Planning Act changes and strength municipal pre-consultation and complete application requirements;
- New optional policy section added related to a Community Planning Permit System;
- New optional policy section added enabling councils to delegate decisions on Minor Zoning By-law Amendments to an agent or employee of the municipality; and
- New policy added under the minor zoning by-law amendment section allowing the use of an alternative consultation process related to minor zoning by-law amendments.

Mr. Pickard advised that additional information related to OPA 121 is available on the County website and that a staff report about public input on OPA 121 and any recommended revisions would be prepared for the Planning Committee and County Council for consideration.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

**Barclay Nap**, resident of Puslinch, asked a question seeking clarification around minor zoning by-law amendments as they relate to re-zonings on agricultural land.

Mr. Pickard responded advising that the intent is not to apply a minor zoning by-law
amendment process to significant development proposals like gravel pit or subdivision
re-zonings. In most cases it will be used in instances where other development
applications have already been considered such as the removal of a holding provision.
Municipalities, should they chooses to use this process, will be responsible for
identifying what they feel is a minor zoning by-law amendment.

**Councillor Lloyd** asked a question related to the recent Planning Act changes to Site Plan Control and new restrictions on a municipality's ability to apply site plan control to developments up to 10 units. She raised concerns regarding a municipality's ability to regulate drainage and grading on these sites.

- Mr. Pickard responded indicating that member municipalities will have to review their processes to ensure that important matters like grading and drainage in these instances can be addressed.
- Warden Lennox commented about Wellington North's approach and that the building code provides a means to get information related grading and drainage when seeking a building permit.

**Councillor Dehn** asked a question regarding what a Community Planning Permit system was, and asked if this tool could be used to get Conservation Authority input given recent changes to their role in commenting on Planning Act applications.

- Mr. Pickard responded indicating that the Community Planning Permit System is a
  process that replaces traditional zoning, minor variance and site plan control processes
  with a more streamlined flexible permitting process. Mr. Pickard indicated that the
  Community Planning Permit System would require a considerable amount of work for a
  municipality to develop and a number of details about this process would need to
  figured out through its development.
- Mr. Salis provided clarification about the limited role Conservation Authorities now have in commenting on Planning Act applications.

**Councillor Watters** asked if recent Planning Act changes related to a municipality's ability to regulate exterior design of buildings, include restrictions on landscaping and façade treatments.

Mr. Pickard responded that the changes have generally removed a municipality's ability
to address landscaping and exterior design. There are limited circumstances under
which the Planning Act would let municipalities regulate landscape matters on adjoining
municipal roadways.

**Warden Lennox** asked about the proposed policy on minor zoning by-law amendments, seeking clarification about who defines what a minor zoning by-law amendment is.

 Mr. Pickard indicated that the proposed policy would list a few matters that would be considered minor zoning by-law amendments and further includes a clause that states member municipalities have the ability to further define what could constitute a minor zoning by-law amendment. Variation from municipality to municipality is expected.

**Councillor Bulmer** asked if there were any proposed policies in the amendment or contained in the legislation to help direct municipalities in determining what "minor" means.

 Mr. Pickard indicated that the Planning Act is fairly broad in its direction and essentially leaves it to the discretion of the municipality to determine what a minor zoning by-law amendment could be.

### **CLOSING**

There being no further comments or questions from the public, Chair Seeley thanked everyone
for attending the OPA 121 – Development Approval Process Updates public meeting and
declared the public meeting closed at 12:50 pm.

James Seeley
Chair
Planning Committee



# Wellington County Official Plan Review

### **OPA 120 County Growth Forecast**

Public Meeting January 12, 2023







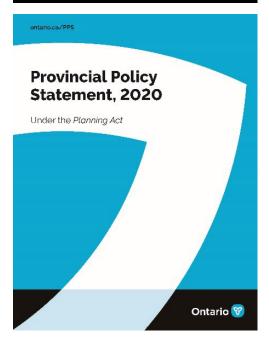
# Purpose of Public Meeting

- Hosted by County Planning Committee to provide a chance to:
  - Learn about the proposed Official Plan Amendment (OPA 120)
  - Ask questions and provide comments
- A virtual Open House hosted by Planning and Development Department was also held December 15, 2022
- Both meetings are required under Section 26 of Planning Act and the staff presentations are essentially the same

# OPA 120 Policy Context

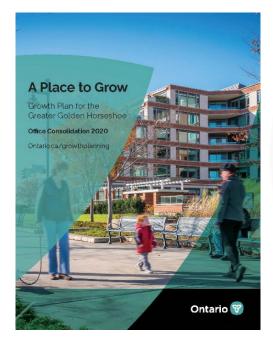
### Provincial Planning Policy Structure

PROVINCE-WIDE Provincial Policy Statement

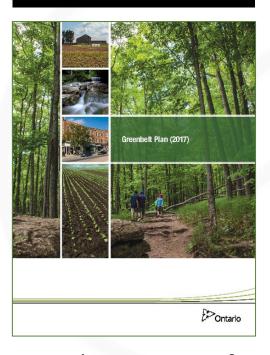


Applies County-wide

PARTS OF PROVINCE Growth Plan



Applies County-wide PARTS OF PROVINCE Greenbelt Plan



Applies to Parts of County

### Provincial Planning Policy Structure

- ProvinceAmended GrowthPlan in 2020
- Minimum

  population of

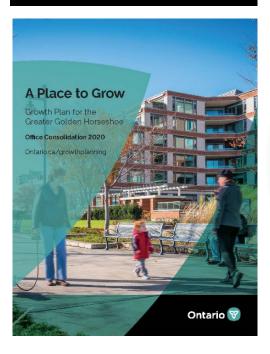
  160,000 people

  and 70,000 jobs

  for Wellington

  County by 2051

PARTS OF PROVINCE
Growth Plan



 County is required to distribute this growth across
 Wellington

### Provincial Planning Policy Structure

PROVINCIAL POLICY

IMLEMENTATION
OF PROVINCIAL
POLICY

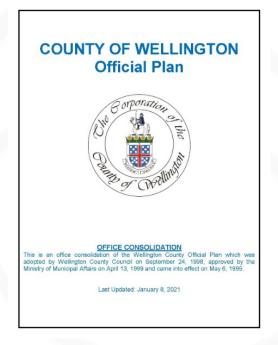
IMLEMENTATION
OF PROVINCIAL,
COUNTY & LOCAL
POLICY

**Provincial Provincial Policy Statement** Interests and / Provincial Plans **Policies** Land Use **Official Plans** Designations and Policies Land Use Zoning and **Zoning By-laws** Regulations

### County and Local Planning Policy

- The County Official Plan:
  - Applies to all seven Member
     Municipalities in Wellington
  - There are also local policy sections for each Member Municipality
- Centre Wellington and Erin also have local Official Plans

# COUNTY-WIDE County of Wellington Official Plan



More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

# Review of A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement

- Seeking input on a streamlined Province-wide land use policy framework
- Consultation on five core elements



More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

# Review of A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement

- Some potential areas that relate to growth forecasts:
  - Use the most current, reliable information in forecasting
  - Increased flexibility for rural residential development



More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

# Review of A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement

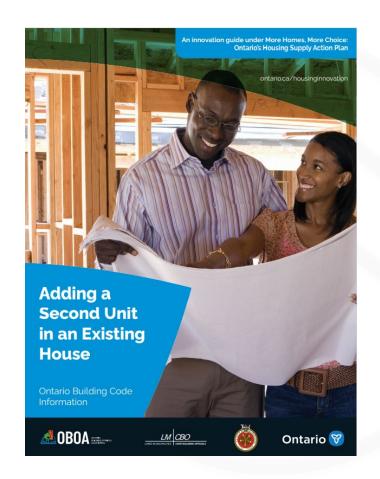
- Comments on core elements due to Province December 30, 2022 (ERO Posting 019-6177)
- Early in process
- No policy document available



More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

# Additional Residential Units (ARUs)

- As-of-right zoning to permit up to three residential units per urban lot
- County Official Plan policies support ARUs
- ARUs are accounted for within
   Urban Land Needs Assessment



# OPA 120 Official Plan Review Context

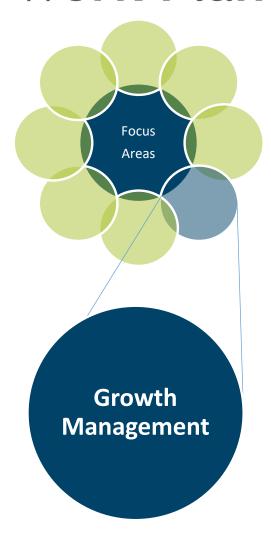
Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR)

- Interrelated and overlapping focus areas
- OPA 120

   implements part
   of growth
   management
   technical work



### Work Plan



Three key phases of technical work:

### Phase 1

Urban
Structure
and Growth
Analysis

### Phase 2

Land Needs Assessment

### Phase 3

Settlement Area Boundary Review

**COMPLETED** 

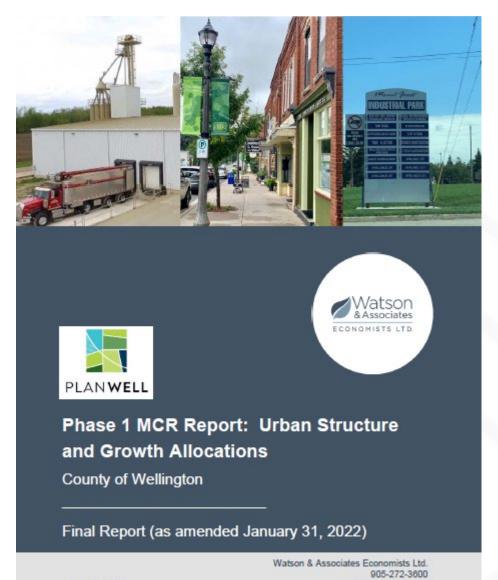
**IN PROGRESS** 

**COMING SOON** 

**ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH OPAS** 

### Phase 1: Technical Work

- Phase 1 Report
   developed for the County
   by Watson & Associates
- Covers urban structure and growth allocations
- Phase 1 growth allocations form basis for OPA 120



June 16, 2021

### Phase 1: Consultation

Type of Consultation	Audience
Review of draft growth allocations, preliminary findings and proposed revisions	<ul> <li>Technical Resource Team (TRT) with:</li> <li>Municipal CAOs (or their designate)</li> <li>Municipal planning consultants</li> <li>County planning staff</li> <li>Watson &amp; Associates</li> </ul>
Public Information Centre to present Draft Phase 1 Report (June 16, 2021)	<ul> <li>Member Municipalities</li> <li>Indigenous Communities</li> <li>Agencies</li> <li>Members of public and stakeholders (through website subscription and email list)</li> </ul>
Circulation of Draft Phase 1 Report for comment (June - July, 2021)	<ul> <li>Member Municipalities</li> <li>Indigenous Communities</li> <li>Agencies</li> <li>Members of public and stakeholders (through website subscription and email list)</li> </ul>
Local Council presentations by request	Member Municipalities
Individual emails/calls/on-line meetings by request	<ul> <li>County and Municipal Councillors</li> <li>Member Municipality staff</li> <li>Members of public and stakeholders</li> </ul>

# Phase 1: Key Themes from Comments

- Preserve agricultural land
- Ensure municipal servicing availability
- Conserve heritage
- Consider urban centre expansions
- Consider infilling and rounding out of rural settlements
- Affordable housing need

### Phase 1: County Response

- Comments reviewed by County staff and consultants
- Reported results
  - through Planning Committee,
  - shared with member municipalities, and
  - posted on project website.
- County has limited flexibility in allocating growth
  - Provincial-led process, lower projections are not permitted
  - Provincial policies direct where growth should occur
- Comments applicable to growth allocations were factored into the analysis, where appropriate
- Comments not applicable to growth allocations are being carried forward to future phases of our work, where appropriate

### Phase 1: Decision

- Phase 1 Report
   approved in principle
   by County Council in
   March 2022
- Adopted OPA 119
   implements the Urban

   Structure
- OPA 120 implements
   the Growth Forecast



June 16, 2021

### What do we use forecasts for?

- Forecasts are used to plan for land needs to support growth
- Forecasts are also used to plan for infrastructure and servicing to support the following:
  - Municipal financing
  - Public services
  - Economic development and tourism
  - Transportation planning

# **OPA 120** County Growth Forecast Amendment

# Purpose of Amendment

- Update the population, household and employment forecast tables in the Official Plan
- Revise text in accordance with new forecasts

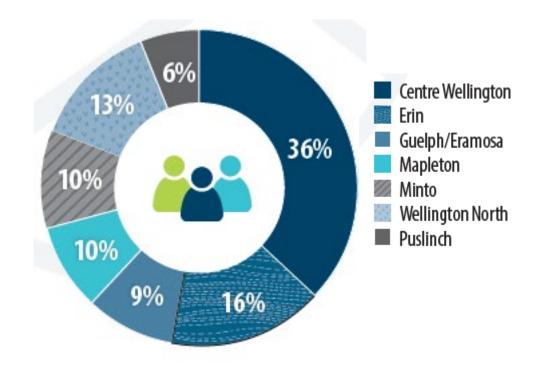
# Main Changes

- Extend forecast to 2051
- Include 2021 as a base
- Higher percentage of population forecast to be in urban centres at 2051
- Higher percentage of population growth will take place in urban centres

# Population Highlights 2021-2051

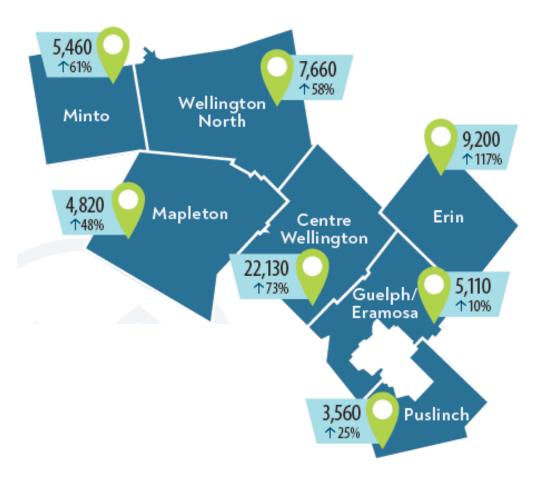


**↑** 59,200



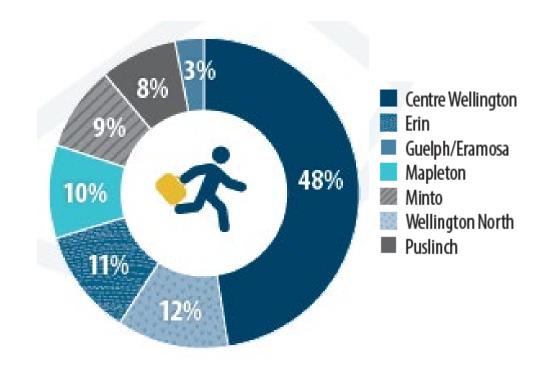
# Housing Highlights 2021-2051





# **Employment Highlights 2021-2051**





# Other Changes

- Text changes to reflect the new growth, planning horizon
- Removal of Special Policy for Hillsburgh and Erin Urban Centres that no longer applies

# Future Implementation Matters

- OPA 120 does <u>not</u> include other phases of the technical work
- Changes to land use designations or policies related to Phase 2 Land Needs Assessment or Phase 3 Settlement Area Boundary Review are subject to review and evaluation through the ongoing MCR process

# OPA 120 Consultation to Date

### Circulation for Comment

### Draft OPA 120 was circulated to:

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for 90day review
- Agencies and members of the Public with a comment deadline of November 18, 2022

### Circulation Comments Received to Date

### Comments

- Township of Puslinch
- 7 from Members of the Public
- Wellington Federation of Agriculture

### No Comments or Concerns

- Indigenous Communities
   (Métis Nation, Chippewas of the Thames, Chippewas of Rama First Nation)
- Conservation Authorities
   (Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, Grand River Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton, Saugeen Conservation)
- Bell Canada

### **Key Themes from Circulation Comments**

Comments which apply to growth allocations of OPA 120:

- Need more growth for Puslinch through rural severances and subdivisions/condominiums
- Need more rural residential growth/flexibility for Belwood
- Support for growth for Mapleton, including Drayton

We will respond to these comments through future report on OPA 120

### **Key Themes from Circulation Comments**

Comments which do not apply to growth allocations of OPA 120:

- Protection of farmland:
  - Remove Secondary Agricultural designation County-wide
  - Increase intensification target to 20%
  - Increase greenfield density target to 80 people and jobs per hectare
  - Integrate climate change and transportation planning into process
- Site specific request to re-designate lands from Prime Agricultural to Secondary Agricultural

We will respond to these comments through future report on OPA 120, but note that they will be considered as part of Agricultural Mapping and Policy Review (under way) and Phase 3 technical work

### **Open House Comments**

42 participants joined the virtual meeting

- Recording of presentation is available on-line
- Meeting summary will be posted to project website

### **Key Themes from Open House Comments**

- High growth for Centre Wellington
- Challenges related to Bill 23 and growth targets
- Agricultural Mapping Review
- Impact of Greenbelt Expansion in Erin
- Ability of Erin to service its future growth
- Climate change impacts
- Housing affordability

We will respond to these comments through future report on OPA 120, but note that some will be considered as part of Agricultural Mapping and Policy Review (under way) and Phase 3 technical work

## OPA 120 Next Steps

### **Next Steps**

- Review of all comments and submissions through circulation of OPA, Open House and today's Public Meeting
- Preparation of final draft OPA
- Recommendation report to County Council for adoption
- Submission to Province for a decision



### Thank you for joining us!

For more information

Sarah Wilhelm Manager of Policy Planning sarahw@wellington.ca 519.837.2600 x2130 Jameson Pickard Senior Policy Planner jamesonp@wellington.ca 519.837.2600 x2300

Project website: <a href="https://www.wellington.ca/planwell">www.wellington.ca/planwell</a>

Project email: planwell@wellington.ca



### Development Approval Updates (OPA) 121

County of Wellington
Planning and Development Department

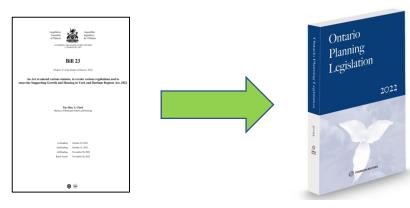
Public Meeting January 12, 2023

### Background

- The Ontario Government has set a priority on housing and is making legislative changes to ensure that homes are being brought to market expeditiously. Legislative amendments to the Planning Act include:
  - Bill 13 Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021
  - Bill 109 More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022
  - ▶ Bill 23 More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022









### Background Cont. ...

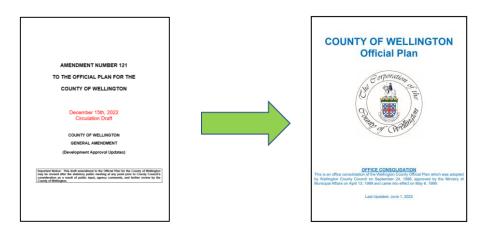
- Beyond recent legislative changes, the Planning Act also contains several policy tools that municipalities have the option to utilize.
  - These provisions are activated through municipalities establishing
     Official Plan policies outlining the use of these tools.





### Purpose of OPA 121

- ► The purpose of OPA 121 is to:
  - Amend the Official Plan to address recent legislative changes made to the Planning Act aimed at increasing the speed of the development review and approval process; and
  - Activate some existing optional provisions of the Planning Act, related to Community Planning Permit Systems and alternative consultation measures for minor zoning by-law amendments.





### What's Changing in the Official Plan?

Official Plan Section	CHANGE PROPOSED IN OPA No. 121
Section 13.9 – Site Plan Control	<ul> <li>Removing language that allows municipal regulation of exterior design of buildings. (Bill 23);</li> <li>Clarifying that decisions on site plan control applications are to be delegated to an employee or agent of the municipality. (Bill 109)</li> <li>Clarifying that site plan control does not apply to a residential building or structure containing no more than 10 units. (Bill 23)</li> <li>Updating this section to include existing and new Planning Act provisions related to what municipalities can address through site plan control.</li> <li>Clarifying that municipalities can require applicants to entre into site plan agreements.</li> </ul>
Section 13.15 - Complete Application and Pre- Consultation	<ul> <li>Clarifying that municipalities can now require pre-consultation and complete applications requirements for site plan control applications. (Bill 109)</li> <li>Clarifying that municipalities can pass by-laws and develop policies related to pre-consultation and can charge a fee.</li> <li>Updating the list of studies in this section to address site plan related matters.</li> </ul>



### What's Changing in the Official Plan? Cont. ....

CHANGE PROPOSED IN OPA No. 121	
New Section – Community Planning Permit System	<ul> <li>A new policy is proposed policy to operationalizes existing Planning Act provisions related to Community Planning Permit Systems (70.2 &amp; O.Reg 173/16).</li> <li>This policy will outline requirements that need to be addressed by local municipalities should they choose to implement a CPPS.</li> </ul>
New Section – Minor Zoning by-law amendments	<ul> <li>A new policy is proposed to operationalize new Planning Act provisions related to a Councils ability to delegate decisions on minor zoning by-law amendments to committee of Council, employee or agent of the municipality. (Bill 13)</li> <li>Proposed policy sets out matters that can be considered a minor zoning by-law amendment.</li> </ul>
Alternative Consultation Measures for Minor Zoning By-law Amendments	<ul> <li>A new policy is proposed to operationalize an existing optional section of the Planning Act 34 (14.3), related to alternative consultation measures for zoning by-law amendments.</li> <li>Policies would set out an alternative consultation process for minor zoning by-law amendments, that if meet, could not require a public meeting if no concerns are raised with the Notice of Complete Application circulation.</li> </ul>

### Key Milestones So Far

- September 2022
  - Background Report to County Council
- December 2022
  - Notice of Complete Application and Public Meeting and formal circulation to agencies
    - No objections have been raised to date
    - Comments were generally supportive



### **Next Steps**

### Planning Committee Recommendation and possible County Council Adoption

Planning Committee will receive a staff report about the Public Meeting input and any final changes, and may recommend that County Council adopt the Amendment.

County Council then will consider the recommendation to Adopt the Amendment.

#### **Appeals**

The County's decision on the amendment is subject to potential appeals to the Ontario Land Tribunal.



### **Additional Information**

Additional information on this amendment is available in the County website through the link below:

https://www.wellington.ca/en/resident-services/pl-legislative-changes-and-development.aspx



### Questions?





Jameson Pickard, Senior Policy Planner Planning & Development Department The County of Wellington

Contact 519-837-2600 ext. 2300 jamesonp@wellington.ca

www.wellington.ca f 2 @wellingtncounty

