




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	August 18, 2023
SUBJECT:	Former Greenbelt Area Lands – Date and Format of Upcoming Open House and Special Meeting of Planning Committee (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Steve Robichaud Director Planning, and Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to provide Council with an update regarding the planned public engagement respecting any private development proposals and associated community benefits within the former Greenbelt Area lands as shown on the maps attached as Appendix “A”. Staff provided an [earlier update](#) on this topic on August 3, 2023.

Council directed City Planning staff on July 14, 2023 to consult with the public when providing input to the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator on community benefits required as a condition of Provincial development approvals.

The City’s participation in discussions with the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator would be under protest respecting these lands, because of the City’s continued opposition to the removal of the former Greenbelt lands.

As part of Council adoption of Report PED23046(a), Council provided the following direction:

- “(c) That Planning and Economic Development Department staff be directed to schedule a public meeting of the Planning Committee for the purpose of obtaining public input as to the City’s priorities and expectations with respect to any private development proposals within the lands removed by the Province from the Greenbelt Plan Area; *and, that staff consult with City*

of Hamilton Public Engagement staff to ensure: the statutory meeting meets best engagement practice as much as possible; that the statutory meeting be held in the evening, be live streamed, and be held at a publicly accessible facility that is in close proximity to the Book Road lands; and, that all MPP and MP's be extended an invitation to attend."

Open House

An Open House has been scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at the Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre (6:30 p.m. start time at 357 Wilson Street East). Engagement staff have been consulted on best practices in developing the program for the Open House. The Open House will include:

- a presentation from City staff providing background on the Provincial decision to remove the lands from Greenbelt Plan, their authority to issue a Minister's Zoning Order, the City's opposition to the development of these lands and role moving forward; and,
- a Q&A session moderated by an external moderator retained by the City.

In addition to the presentation and Q&A session, the public will have an opportunity to provide input on the Development Objectives (e.g. how any new development should look and function) and Community Benefits (e.g. contribution to the community over and above what the City can require under the *Planning Act*) for each of the three areas removed from the Greenbelt Plan. Feedback can be provided by placing dots on different display panels containing a list of Development Objectives and Community Benefits based upon the 11 Directions to Guide Development. Individual written comments will also be accepted at the Open House.

Invitations to the Open House will be provided to local Members of Parliament (MP's) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's) as well as the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator.

Website & Online Survey

The City will also be posting an online survey through Engage Hamilton for the public to provide input on Development Objectives and Community Benefits for the three areas removed from the Greenbelt Plan. The structure of the survey will be based on the display panels at the Open House. The survey is scheduled to go live on Monday, August 21, 2023 and would close on Friday, September 8, 2023.

Staff will be posting information on the upcoming Open House and Special Meeting of Planning Committee along with an FAQ and previous reports on the [Provincial Planning Matters](#) page of the City's website.

Special Meeting of Planning Committee

As directed by City Council, a Special Meeting of Planning Committee has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at the Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre in Peter Hall. The meeting will be livestreamed and invitations will be provided to local MP's and MPP's as well as the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator.

Next Steps

To inform the public of the upcoming Open House, Special Meeting of Planning Committee and online survey, staff will be undertaking the following:

- Letters will be sent to property owners within and adjacent to the former Greenbelt Plan lands informing them of the upcoming Open House and Special Meeting of Planning Committee.
- Posting notices of the Open House and Special Meeting of Planning Committee in all local newspapers.
- Posting notice via the City's social media accounts.
- An emailed note to members of the local media, including this Council Communication Update

If you require any further information on the above matter, please contact Steve Robichaud, Director of Planning and Chief Planner by email at Steve.Robichaud@hamilton.ca or at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4281, or, Charlie Toman, Program Lead – Policy Planning & Municipal Comprehensive Review by e-mail at Charlie.Toman@Hamilton.ca or at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5863.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" – Map of Lands Removed from the Greenbelt Plan Area

