

# Middlesex Centre Strategic Planning Process

## Survey and Community Engagement Results

Part 6 of 8

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### Answers to the Question “Just One Thing”

This document was prepared by **Erebus Municipal Services Inc.** in support of the Municipality of Middlesex Centre Strategic Planning Process, September 2020.

**Accessibility:** If you require an alternative format, please contact Middlesex Centre at [customerservice@middlesexcentre.on.ca](mailto:customerservice@middlesexcentre.on.ca) or 519-666-0190.

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## 496 Responses

<b>*From meetings</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>*From random sample survey</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>*From open on-line survey</b>	<b>244</b>

(note: extra enthusiasm by some respondents)

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## Our summary and categorization of responses

**MAJOR**  $\approx$  **20+ mentions**

**Close Seconds**  $\approx$  **5-20 mentions**

**Minor Mentions**  $\approx$  **3-5 mentions**

(note: some overlap in categories)

# **About the COMMUNITY**

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

**\*\*\*The MAJORS\*\*\***

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**\* Stop/control/slow down  
RESIDENTIAL GROWTH**

- Becoming London; just a bedroom
- Keep small-town feel
- Let roads, schools, commercial, public amenities catch up
- Take no more farmland: restrict to Ilderton, K, and K

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

**\*\*\*The MAJORS\*\*\***

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**\*Traffic/Pedestrian/Cycling Safety**

- Speeding control
- Sidewalks, Crosswalks, Bike lanes, roundabouts
- Streetlights, stoplights
- Glendon Drive
- Hyde Park Road at Heritage Park
- Many individual locations, e.g. Vanneck/Glendon

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*\*The MAJORS\*\*\***

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### **\* Expand/support Business**

- commercial amenities, e.g. groceries
- local - don't chase big box chains
- small business, home business, farm-gate business
- ensure sites available
- be open to ideas and prepared to offer incentives
- (overlap with responses re villages)

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*Close Seconds\*\***

### **\* Affordable housing for first-time home-buyers and young families**

- “insist that any developments include a component for **AFFORDABLE** housing (i.e. based on younger families' actual incomes, rather than average for MxC). Some detached as well as townhouses.”



If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*Close Seconds\*\***

### **\* Komoka-Kilworth Community**

- Build linkages between K and K ;
- Walk and bike paths to a “core”; not just London bedroom
- Commercial variety to meet local needs
- Parks; public access to lake;
- ( overlap with Glendon Drive traffic and pedestrian safety issues)

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*Close Seconds\*\***

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### **\* Ilderton Core**

- **More commercial variety/intensity**
- **Potential for Co-op property**
- **Better pedestrian access from subdivisions**
- **Spruce it up; implement community improvement**
- **Incentives, e.g. for grocery store**

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*Close Seconds\*\***

### **\* Natural Environment**

- Support for various initiatives
- Tree preservation/planting/woodlots
- Habitat protection
- Non-toxic weed spray

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## Minor Mentions

- Promote tourism  
(incl tourist business opportunities and heritage)
- Continue to support growth

**About the**

**SERVICES**

**and**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*\*The MAJORS\*\*\***

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### **\* Parks and Trails**

- walking paths, walkable communities
- bike paths, including linkage between communities
- dog parks
- parks and playgrounds for kids
- numerous site-specific suggestions

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*\*The MAJORS\*\*\***

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### **\* Broadband Service**

- **universal reliable affordable high-speed broadband**

**Quote: “ Our internet backbone should be considered as critical infrastructure. If we have fast reliable internet we can promote more work at home opportunities, and draw in employers to our communities. Internet is a requirement for industry not a luxury”**

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

**\*\*\*The MAJORS\*\*\***

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**\* Ilderton arena**

- Rebuild arena
- Build two ice-pads
- Build two ice-pads and indoor pool
- Build two ice-pads, indoor pool, and gym



If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*Close Seconds\*\***

### **\* Rural Roads**

- **Hard-top all or many of them**
- **Particularly north/south roads**
- **Improve roadside maintenance**

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## Minor Mentions

- Komoka fire station
- Earlier snow ploughing
- More bylaw enforcement/animal control
- Seniors' programming and housing options

**About the**

**MUNICIPAL**

**GOVERNMENT**

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*\*The MAJORS\*\*\***

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### **\* Reduce Water Rates**

#### **Quotes:**

- “lower water rates to level of comparable municipalities”
- “the price of water usage itself is fair, all the additional charges on the water bill, are NOT!”

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*Close Seconds\*\***

### **\* Taxes and value**

- **Stop or at least minimize tax increases**
- **Make sure taxes don't make it unattractive to live here or do business here**
- **Stop or at least justify the value of staffing increases and the productivity of staff**
- **Put the spending priority on infrastructure**

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*Close Seconds\*\***

### **\* Community Engagement**

- Listen to/engage community
- Be open to ideas  
(concern re policy-bound gov't)
- Bring together interest groups across MxC  
(e.g. business groups)
- Youth engagement
- Partnerships, e.g. for food banks, fairs and festivals

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## **\*\*Close Seconds\*\***

### **\* Development Processing**

- Faster processing; stick to approval time frames
- “less red tape” for homeowners and businesses
- spell out clear vision for future development; what will be allowed, what won't
- more training for staff; more staff if necessary
- More communication with developers; build trust

If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

**\*\*Close Seconds\*\***

- \* Reduce the farmland tax ratio**



If there were **JUST ONE THING** that the Municipality could get done **RIGHT NOW** to improve Middlesex Centre, what do you think that one thing should be?

## Minor Mentions

- Eliminate stormwater charge
- Live person answering office telephone
- Review firefighter training schedule... impact on recruitment of busy people?