

# COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

## Urban Character and Settlements Workshop

The second workshop featured a broader discussion on Meaford's urban area outside of the downtown core, with the understanding that Urban Meaford plays a vital role in providing community functions such as housing, employment, shopping, and parks and recreation, and recognizing that Meaford's urban area will be a vital focus for future residential development as the population grows.

Participants value Meaford's sense of interconnectedness, safety, and unique character.

These values are reflected in participants' desire to see:

- inclusive and diverse housing opportunities that includes longer-term housing and residency
- a diversity of jobs and services
- mixed-uses
- community spaces
- urban design that fosters interaction and connection
- community hubs and community centres to facilitate social and recreational opportunities
- support for creative opportunities, local businesses
- developing a fulsome tourism and economic development strategy

With future developments, participants supported the need for urban design guidelines to ensure regard for existing built form and the protection of Meaford's heritage buildings, as well as creating a walkable, safe, and accessible environment that integrates active transportation and addresses traffic and parking issues.