

## C9. Community Consultation and Engagement Policy

### Policy Objective

To ensure that the Shire of Dundas has a culture which respects and welcomes community input; and provides opportunity for the voices of Community and stakeholders to offer valuable input into the topics that are important to them. To ensure that Community engagement and consultation is genuine, valued, accessible, inclusive and timely.

### Policy Statement

The Shire of Dundas is committed to providing opportunities for all members of the community to contribute to the civic decision-making processes; and acknowledge that Community is a valuable source of knowledge, experience and expertise.

### 1. Principles

Community engagement is guided by key principles and as such the Shire of Dundas will:

#### 1.1 Clearly communicate why we are engaging and the community's role in the engagement.

#### 1.2 Carefully consider who to engage.

The Shire of Dundas will identify community members and stakeholders who are directly involved, or likely to be affected by the project. The Shire will seek and encourage broad community participation when considering major projects or decisions to ensure that a diverse range of views and ideas are expressed and considered. The Shire will also consider barriers that prevent or deter people from participating in engagement activities and consider ways to minimise them.

#### 1.3 Explain the process in an accessible, inclusive and clear manner.

The Shire of Dundas is committed to transparent decision-making processes. We do this by explaining the process to be undertaken, identifying where there is opportunity for all community and stakeholders to have input, and why decisions are made.

The Shire recognises that people engage in different ways. Community consultation will be conducted in an inclusive and accessible manner that provides opportunity for all community and stakeholders to have input whenever practical and achievable.

### 2. Engagement

The Shire of Dundas will engage with Community and Stakeholders when:

- A formal resolution to conduct community consultation is made.
- A project, plan or decision will have significant impact to the Community.
- Legislation, policy or an agreement requires community engagement or consultation.
- Community input will enhance outcomes.

The level of consultation conducted will be guided by:

- The complexity of the project, plan or decision.
- Resources available to the Shire of Dundas, including time, staff and budget considerations.
- Level of interest from Community and stakeholders.
- Legislative and Statutory requirements.

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