



**Chelsea ,**  
a harmonious community  
Summary of Public Consultations

## Public Consultation



participants

## Online Survey



participants

The process for developing the Municipality of Chelsea's strategic plan involved several key steps.

- First, a review of past consultations and planning documents from the municipality's various departments was carried out. Next, market research was conducted, including a review of award-winning eco-villages and the world's most livable cities.
- To take the pulse of Chelsea's residents, an in-person public consultation session was held on April 3, 2023, where 62 people attended.
- To broaden the consultation effort, a survey on the Cocoriko platform was put online until April 30, 2023, where residents could share their opinions. There were 964 votes in this survey with a total of 205 participants.
- This document summarizes the results and opinions of the participants, which helped guide the thought process for the municipality's strategic plan.



# THEMES

During the consultations to shape Chelsea's future in 2040, several key themes emerged from residents' discussions. These themes reflect the aspirations of the community.

Here are the six observed themes. This report summarizes the key points of each theme, providing an overview of the priorities and concerns of the participating individuals.

**01**

**Infrastructure Improvement**

**02**

**Environmental Sustainability**

**03**

**Active Transportation and Traffic Management**

**04**

**Economic and Entrepreneurial Development**

**05**

**Community Engagement and Access to Services**

**06**

**Urban and Development Planning**

# 01

## Infrastructure Improvement

Shared opinions on this theme include solving issues related to traffic congestion, water supply, power outages and public transit accessibility.



# 01

## Infrastructure Improvement

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**

**62 participants**

**Elements mentioned more than four times:**

- Optimization of traffic control measures to reduce road congestion.
- Modernization of water and wastewater services and resolution of supply issues.
- Development of sidewalks, improving the safety of the existing network, street lighting and footpaths.
- Reinforcement of snow removal measures to ensure pedestrian safety.



# 01

## Infrastructure Improvement

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**

**62 participants**

**Elements mentioned less than three times:**

- Extension of parking spaces and encouragement of carpooling.
- Agreement with the NCC to develop alternative access to Gatineau Park outside Chelsea.
- Limit changes to cul-de-sacs to maintain neighborhood feel.
- Installation of speed cameras to limit speeding.



# 01

## Infrastructure Improvement

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Suggestions made by participants and votes:

- Add an on/off ramp to Wakefield from Old Chelsea Road to connect to Autoroute 5 and reduce congestion in the village center.
  - **30% of respondents totally agree**
  - **20% somewhat agree**
  - **10% somewhat disagree**
  - **40% totally disagree**



# 01

## Infrastructure Improvement

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Suggestions made by participants and votes:

- Collaboration between the *ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable du Québec (MTMD)* and the municipality to mitigate the increasing level of noise from Highway 5.
  - **40% of respondents totally agree**
  - **20% somewhat agree**
  - **10% somewhat disagree**
  - **30% totally disagree**





# 01

## Infrastructure Improvement

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Suggestions made by participants and votes:

- Paving of roads in the Hollow Glen Sector.
  - **8% of respondents totally agree**
  - **19% somewhat agree**
  - **36% somewhat disagree**
  - **37% totally disagree**



# 01

## Infrastructure Improvement

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Suggestions made by participants and votes:

- Installation of street lighting in new developments such as Hollow Glen, to ensure pedestrian safety and limit accidents.
  - **17.5% of respondents totally agree**
  - **15% somewhat agree**
  - **25% somewhat disagree**
  - **42.5% totally disagree**



# 01

## Infrastructure Improvement

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

### Elements mentioned more than four times:

- Manage traffic issues by implementing speed reduction measures.
- Improve roads to increase pedestrian use.
- Ensure the safety of bicycle paths.

### Elements mentioned less than three times:

- Installation of weight-training structures for seniors and children's equipment in parks.
- Increase the number of parks for children.
- Solve water supply problems.



# 02

## Environmental Sustainability

Residents have expressed a desire to adopt and respect environmental policies in Chelsea.

There is a desire to maintain the municipality's natural, village-like aspect by protecting forests and wetlands.



# 02

## Environmental Sustainability

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**  
62 participants

**Elements mentioned more than four times:**

- Safeguarding forests, wetlands and natural areas from the impacts of development.
- Compliance with environmental policies and regular evaluation of their effectiveness.
- Development of the *Voie verte* to better connect Chelsea to other municipalities and to Gatineau.
- Protection of the green zone around the Meredith Centre.
- Adoption of high ecological standards in development projects, and preservation of green spaces.
- Protect flora and fauna by developing protected ecological corridors.
- Limit pollution of the river from water treatment plants.
- Provide access to the river and lakes.



# 02

## Environmental Sustainability

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**  
62 participants

**Elements mentioned less than three times:**

- Implementation of concrete objectives to achieve carbon neutrality.
- Obtaining accreditation for excavation in compliance with environmental standards.
- Limiting dynamite demolition and rock destruction.



# 02

## Environmental Sustainability

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Suggestions made by participants and votes:

- Consider having the municipality purchase and protect the green area behind the Town Hall building and the Meredith Centre.
  - **74% of respondents totally agree**
  - **17% somewhat agree**
  - **9% somewhat disagree**



# 02

## Environmental Sustainability

**ONLINE SURVEY**  
205 participants

### Elements mentioned more than four times:

- Preserving nature and green spaces, and putting forward sustainable development measures.
- Limiting new housing developments and imposing strict requirements on future developments in order to maintain the semi-rural aspect.
- Introduce appropriate infrastructure to support developments (where appropriate), while respecting the environment.
- Educate residents about reducing their carbon footprint and co-existing with wildlife.
- Focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce carbon emissions.





# 02

## Environmental Sustainability

**ONLINE SURVEY**  
205 participants

**Elements mentioned less than three times:**

- Raising awareness of light pollution in neighbourhoods.
- Awareness campaign on better use of water by residents.
- Stop the expansion of natural gas.



# 03

## Active Transportation and Traffic Management

Initiatives proposed to improve mobility in Chelsea include developing public transit and bike paths, improving road safety, reducing traffic speeds and introducing electric shuttles.

To encourage active means of transport, the recommended actions are to promote walking, cycling and other forms of non-motorized transport.

The primary concern is to improve safety for these modes of transport and reduce congestion on the roads.



# 03

## Active Transportation and Traffic Management

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**  
62 participants

Elements mentioned more than four times:

- Extending and improving the public transit network to better link Chelsea to neighbouring municipalities.
- Improving road safety measures and pedestrian crossings.
- Construction of safe and accessible cycling and walking paths.
- Working with the province to reduce the speed limit on roads (Old Chelsea, Notch Road).
- Promoting the use of public transport within the community through awareness campaigns or incentives for residents.
- Reducing noise and car traffic through speed moderation initiatives.



# 03

## Active Transportation and Traffic Management

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**  
62 participants

Elements mentioned less than three times:

- Develop electric shuttles.
- Reduce the speed limit throughout Chelsea to 50 km/h.
- Encourage the *ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable du Québec (MTMD)* to increase police presence on route 105 to control traffic speed.
- Allocate sufficient funds to road maintenance.
- Work with the NCC to provide alternative entrances to the Park and limit the need to go through the village of Chelsea.



# 03

## Active Transportation and Traffic Management

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Suggestions made by participants and votes:

- Reducing driving speed on all Chelsea roads to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists and to reduce greenhouse gases.
  - **44% of respondents totally agree**
  - **19% somewhat agree**
  - **27% somewhat disagree**
  - **10% totally disagree**



# 03

## Active Transportation and Traffic Management

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Elements mentioned more than four times:

- Accelerating the transition to electric cars by installing charging stations.
- Promote the transformation to an entirely pedestrian village with services offered by local businesses.
- Improving cycling infrastructure and promote active modes of transport.
- Encourage car pooling and strengthen public transit options.



# 03

## Active Transportation and Traffic Management

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Elements mentioned less than three times:

- Creating safe zones around the Gatineau park with reduced speeds.
- Working with organisations such as the NCC and Chelsea Trails to make the trails accessible.



# 04

## Economic and Entrepreneurial Development

Desire to encourage small and medium-sized businesses to establish themselves in the community.

Residents would like more local services and access to community programs, while preserving Chelsea's historic heritage.





# 04

## Economic and Entrepreneurial Development

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**  
62 participants

Elements mentioned more than four times:

- Prioritizing and facilitating local and community businesses in development planning.
- Supporting farmers' markets and other community initiatives.
- Accelerate the development of municipally-managed sports facilities.
- Avoiding urban sprawl.
- Increasing access to local services in each neighbourhood.



# 04

## Economic and Entrepreneurial Development

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**  
62 participants

Elements mentioned less than three times:

- Become an employer of choice.
- Development of various sources of revenue for the municipality.
- Recognition of Chelsea's economic and creative demographics.



# 04

## Economic and Entrepreneurial Development

**ONLINE SURVEY**  
205 participants

### Elements mentioned more than four times:

- Ensuring greater control over property developers in order to comply with environmental practices.
- Enhance local businesses and promote the preservation of Chelsea's unique identity.
- Expanding the Chelsea market to develop attractions for local vendors.
- Organising festivals and cultural events to stimulate the local economy and create more opportunities for artists and entrepreneurs.

### Elements mentioned less than three times:

- Creating a sustainable community centre with electric carpooling options.



# 05

## Community Engagement and Access to Services

The participants aspire to greater involvement and inclusion in the municipality's decision-making process. They would like to see improved communications between residents and the municipality, and greater transparency with decision-making bodies.

In addition, participants expressed a desire for more community events and gathering places in their neighborhoods.

They would also like to see neighborhood life enriched by more events and meeting spaces, as well as improved access to basic services, notably educational, health and cultural services with bilingual programs.



# 05

## Community Engagement and Access to Services

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**  
62 participants

Elements mentioned more than four times:

- Encourage community cohesion by organizing activities and events, such as music festivals.
- Provide more essential services, such as schools and daycare centers, as the population grows.
- Promote access to health services by setting up a medical clinic.
- Better support and invest in the public library to implement bilingual programs.
- Reduce response and permit times for renovations.
- Create neighborhood gathering places.
- Establish greater transparency in decision-making by elected officials and improve notice times affecting residents.



# 05

## Community Engagement and Access to Services

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**  
62 participants

Elements mentioned less than three times:

- Setting up community gardens.
- Creation of basketball courts.
- Creation of a resource sharing and community group online.
- Diversification of means of communication with residents, other than Facebook.
- Development of a community swimming pool (internal or external).
- Increase library opening hours.



# 05

## Engagement communautaire et accès aux services

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Suggestions made by participants and votes:

- Provide a central gathering space for community groups and clubs outside Hollow Glen and Farm Point.
  - 48% of respondents totally agree
  - 32% somewhat agree
  - 12% somewhat disagree
  - 8% totally disagree



# 05

## Community Engagement and Access to Services

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

### Elements mentioned more than four times:

- Create community gathering places for groups, clubs and associations in the village centre and neighbourhoods.
- Providing access to more services, such as a medical centre, childcare facilities and a larger school.
- Distribute municipal resources among neighborhoods to ensure equity between services.
- Elaborate concrete action plans for conservation and carbon neutrality.
- Demonstrate leadership in renewable energy for municipal buildings.
- Developing more music festivals, garage sales and other community events.





# 05

## Community Engagement and Access to Services

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Elements mentioned less than three times:

- Maintaining the French-speaking side of the municipality, activities and services.
- Focus on accessibility of basic services in neighbourhoods.
- Improving resident participation in decision-making by elected representatives and making consultations less superficial.



# 06

## Urban and Development Planning

Participants expressed concern about the impact of growth on the environment, congestion and municipal services.

Participants expressed a desire to respect the current urban plan and to assess the impact of each action from an environmental point of view.



# 06

## Urban and Development Planning

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**  
62 participants

Elements mentioned more than four times:

- Respect the current Urban Plan (*Plan d'urbanisme*).
- Curbing additional growth (development, construction, etc.)
- Balance between urban development and the preservation of green spaces.
- Purchase of land by the municipality to preserve Chelsea's natural appearance.
- Protect Chelsea's historical heritage.



# 06

## Urban and Development Planning

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN PERSON**  
62 participants

Elements mentioned less than three times:

- Introduce discouraging measures to visitors by car, such as paid parking or a tourism tax.
- Develop and install fibre optics.
- Consider the accessibility of housing in a multi-generational context.
- Managing road congestion caused by weekend tourism.



# 06

## Urban and Development Planning

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Elements mentioned more than four times:

- Diversify affordable housing options.
- Design development to limit car use.
- Promote environmentally friendly development, and implementation and monitoring of ecological standards.
- Compact, mixed-used urban planning.
- Encourage cultural, social and economic diversity for a inclusive community.



# 06

## Urban and Development Planning

ONLINE SURVEY  
205 participants

Elements mentioned less than three times:

- Housing and infrastructure should encourage diversity and integration.
- Possibility of Chelsea joining Hull and Aylmer.
- Encourage animal crossings along the routes.





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