

2019-2023 Southgate Community Action Plan 2021 Annual Report & 2022 Project Plans



The Southgate CAP Mission Statement Pillars are:

***Trusted Government
Economic Prosperity
Environmental Conservation***

**The 2019-2023 Community Action Plan themes for
the next 5 years are:**

- **Business Development;**
- **Health & Housing;**
- **Municipal Services; and**
- **Public Communications.**

2019-2023 Southgate Community Action Plan Goals

Goal 1 - Attracting New and Supporting Existing Businesses and Farms

Action 1:

The residents and businesses of Southgate envision a growing and diverse local economy, which respects our agricultural background while also attracting new businesses and new employment opportunities in keeping with the renewed growth of our population.

Goal 2 - Revitalizing Downtown Dundalk

Action 2:

The residents and businesses of Southgate envision our largest town once again becoming a source of community pride and a hotbed of community activity, with a much-improved appearance and a broader range of business opportunity.

Goal 3 - Promoting Health Services and Housing Choices

Action 3:

The residents and businesses of Southgate envision a caring community which meets the needs of all ages and incomes for a healthy and comfortable life, even as our population grows and changes.

Goal 4 - Adequate and Efficient Public Facilities

Action 4:

The residents and businesses of Southgate expect the Township to plan and adequately provide for public facilities for gatherings, recreation and doing business with the Township, while recognizing at the same time that facility needs can change with age and a changing population.

Goal 5 - Upgrading our "Hard Services"

Action 5:

The residents and businesses of Southgate recognize our linear services - roads, bridges, water and sewer works, for example - to be a fundamental purpose of municipal government. This infrastructure needs to be serviceable and sustainable so that our businesses and communities can thrive and grow.

Goal 6 - Citizen Engagement

Action 6:

The residents and businesses of Southgate expect their local government to be transparent and approachable, to provide clear and timely information, and to explain and seek their input on issues and decisions facing the community.

2019-2023 Southgate CAP Annual Report

2021 Goals-Strategic Initiatives Accomplishments

Goal 1 - Attracting New and Supporting Existing Businesses and Farms Action 1:

The residents and businesses of Southgate envision a growing and diverse local economy, which respects our agricultural background while also attracting new businesses and new employment opportunities in keeping with the renewed growth of our population.

Strategic Initiatives:

1-A - By 2023, together with existing businesses and other partners, the Township will have identified the types of new business opportunities that are likely to have emerged when Dundalk's 10-15 year growth has taken place and the Dundalk population approaches 4500 people. This business opportunity projection should project the likely demographic make-up of that future population and its likely work, travel, and shopping patterns. It should also identify possible municipal incentives that could facilitate the emergence of these future business opportunities.

Staff Leaders: Economic Development Officer (EDO) & Planner

2021 Progress & Actions:

- Significant progress has been made in this area in the Downtown core with the completion of the Credit Union Façade, the construction of a new drug store nearing completion, new business starts downtown with the opening of Common Ground Café, Suko Barb Boutique and Buy Way Second Hand Store.
- The industrial land sale closings in the Eco Park Phase I of Nicola Rago Manufacturing, Casa Terre, Petawawa Energy (now Southgate Renewables), Waldemar & Diane Litz, MKSN Holdings and Alana Litz Self Storage Development will translate into building construction and future local job creation in 2022 and beyond.

2022 Project Plan:

- The increased residential development in Dundalk is accelerating new business inquiries for commercial and industrial growth in Southgate with pressure to find lands and support development project interest.
- In 2022 a Southgate Chamber of Commerce or Business Owners Association lead by the Township's EDO should be organized to drive and support community business planning and events coming out of COVID pandemic.
- This initiative will continue to evolve beyond the CAP 2023 window and will continue to be highly driven by consumer demand and commercial/industrial development interest in Dundalk.

1-B - By 2023, the Township will have completed a bypass road between Hwy 10 and the industrial park.

Staff Leaders: Public Works Manager

2021 Progress & Actions:

- The Environmental Assessment and bypass road design has been completed and approved.

2022 Project Plan:

- Discussions with the County of Grey Transportation Department are underway and continue related to bypass route being a future County Road.
- A tender for construction will be released in 2022 for construction in 2022 and 2023.

1-C - By 2023, the Township will have entered into an appropriate agreement to sell its Hwy 10 frontage for the purposes of commercial development, and development will be underway.

Staff Leaders: Economic Development Officer

2021 Progress & Actions:

- The Township of Southgate has received proposals on the valuation and development potential of the Hwy #10 development lands.
- An outcome of the proposals was the creation of a draft roadway construction and development partnership agreement, as well as a draft land purchase and sale agreement with Flato Developments for 90 acres of the property for Commercial, Industrial and Residential development.

2022 Project Plan:

- The Township will finalize the negotiations with Flato Developments to sell part of the Hwy #10 municipal property lands for Highway Commercial, Industrial and Residential development as well as partner in a 50-50 split in the road construction and servicing construction costs on the property.

1-D - The Township will continue to encourage, facilitate and publicize business skills training programs in Southgate.

Staff Leaders: Economic Development Officer

2021 Progress & Actions:

- COVID restricted developing training program development and training in 2021.

2022 Project Plan:

- In 2022 the EDO will to work on advancing the present discussions related to skills training and feedback from a Local Business Association for specific business needs.

1-E - By 2023, the Township will have updated the Official Plan and zoning bylaw to provide flexibility for business, help to reduce processing requirements, and help to provide more opportunity for success.

Staff Leaders: Planner

2021 Progress & Actions:

- The Planner issued an RFP to complete the Southgate Official Plan Review process. Ron Davidson Planning Services started the project in 2021 completing much of the work late in the year holding consultation with Council, staff and a Public meeting.

2022 Project Plan:

- The Southgate Official Plan (OP) Review will be completed in early 2022.
- A comprehensive review of the Southgate By-law will be completed in 2022 following the approval of the Southgate Official Plan.

1-F - Working with the County, and in coordination with other partners, the Township will place a priority on developing and establishing a permanent transportation service between Southgate and other communities, in order to provide access to employment, as well as to meet other needs.

Staff Leaders: Economic Development Officer & CAO

2021 Progress & Actions:

- The GTR (Grey Transit Route) service continued operations and has served the community well with the Dundalk to Orangeville route seeing the highest ridership.
- The weekend service was started in 2021 for the Dundalk to Orangeville route with the Town of Shelburne funding 100% of the cost as their contribution towards their Monday to Friday benefit they have realized from the Grey County and Southgate sponsored pilot project.

2022 Project Plan:

- Staff will continue to monitor and support the GTR operations and Grey County staff in 2022.

Goal 2 - Revitalizing Downtown Dundalk

Action 2:

The residents and businesses of Southgate envision our largest town once again becoming a source of community pride and a hotbed of community activity, with a much-improved appearance and a broader range of business opportunity.

Strategic Initiatives:

2-A - The County and the Township will have reconstructed Main Street.

Staff Leaders: Public Works Manager

Note:

- The Main Street East project was completed in 2019 with cleanup and paving in 2020.
- The Main Street West roadway and services reconstruction project is scheduled to be completed through partnering with Grey County in 2026.

2-B - The Township will have developed, adopted and implemented Community Improvement Plans for settlement areas, including incentives for downtown redevelopment and re-use.

Staff Leaders: Economic Development Officer & Planner

Note:

- The Southgate Community Improvement Plan (CIP) policy and guidance document was completed and approved by Council in 2020.
- The new CIP is now posted on the Township's website through the following link:

<https://www.southgate.ca/en/economic-development/southgate-community-improvement-plan.aspx>

2022 Project Plan:

- The EDO in 2022 will work with local businesses to promote the Southgate

CIP and develop projects to improve building facades and support business expansion with the funding available in the CIP reserve fund.

- The EDO will complete the CIP Annual Evaluation Report Card for the County of Grey Economic Develop Department.

2-C - The Township will have modified the vacant commercial premises tax rebate program, in order to remove disincentives to restoration and re-use.

Staff Leaders: Treasurer & CAO

2021 Progress & Actions:

- Southgate Council approved the cancellation of the Township's Vacancy Tax Rebate program at the April 21st, 2021 Council meeting.
- The approval of By-law 2021-154 to cancel the Vacancy Tax Rebate program in Southgate came into effect on July 1st, 2021.

Note:

- No further action is required on **Strategic Initiative 2-C**

2-D The Township will have taken aggressive action to enforce compliance by downtown buildings with property standards Building Code, and Fire Code regulations.

Staff Leaders: Fire Chief

2021 Progress & Actions:

- In 2020 Council appointed a Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) to support the Fire Chief, work with the Chief Building Official (CBO) when necessary and deal with downtown building compliance issues they find during inspections.

2022 Project Plan:

- When we get out of the COVID conditions in 2022, the FPO will be planning inspections and safety compliance with the specific focus in downtown Dundalk buildings with the support of the Fire Chief and the CBO.

2-E - The Township will increase its support for, and promotion of, community events, festivals, parades, library activities, and other events that attract people to the downtown area.

Staff Leaders: Economic Development Officer & CAO

2021 Progress & Actions:

- The COVID pandemic cancelled many community events in 2021.
- In 2021 we consulted with the Downtown businesses to discuss building accessibility concerns, creating the Downtown Business Area in Dundalk as an attraction and future parking development in the core of the village. The outcome was interest in improved parking, but there was little support for lane reductions on Proton Street between Main and Holland Streets to create accessibility for the downtown business through sidewalk elevation changes to provide on-grade access.
- Create a business community survey to receive feedback on the future development of Downtown Dundalk.
- The Township applied for funding to upgrade the downtown business section of Dundalk and create downtown as an attraction for

community events. The Township application was not granted funding for the project, so we did not proceed further.

- Through a virtual meeting presentation staff introduced and promoted our Community Improvement Plan to the Downtown Business owners.

2022 Project Plan:

- In 2022 will work with the business owners to create new events in Downtown Dundalk business section and consider periodic closure of Proton Street for historic events like the Santa Claus parade, Fire Department Community Frolic, Canada Day celebrations, etc. and consider events like the Farmers Market, Black Friday promotion event, etc.

2-F - The Township will appoint and work with a Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee, involving community organizations, businesses, landlords and tenants, and other stakeholders.

Staff Leaders: Economic Development Officer

2021 Progress & Actions:

- The CIP was approved in 2020 and no progress was made in 2021 because of the COVID pandemic.

2022 Project Plan:

- Input from a Southgate Business Owners Association, should one be created, should be a consideration for this initiative, as to its value and how it will be funded.
- In 2022 or future years the Township will need to consider focusing efforts to secure an investment in and secure building rights, if the property owner does not want to support the project.

2-G - The Township will have installed prominent signage to direct visitors to downtown attractions and businesses.

Staff Leaders: Economic Development Officer

2021 Progress & Actions:

- Downtown signage planning has been completed.

2021 Project Plan:

- Signage will be installed in 2022.

2-H - The Township will support the renewal of the downtown murals.

Staff Leaders: Economic Development Officer

2021 Progress & Actions:

- No progress has been made on this issue.

2022 Project Plan:

- Input from a Southgate Business Owners Association should be a consideration for this initiative as to its value and how it will be funded.
- In 2022 or future years the Township will need to focus efforts to secure the rights to the murals, make investment in the murals and secure building rights they are attached to. If the property owner does not want to support the project, this will need to be considerations.

Goal 3 - Promoting Health Services and Housing Choices

Action 3:

The residents and businesses of Southgate envision a caring community which meets the needs of all ages and incomes for a healthy and comfortable life, even as our population grows and changes.

Strategic Initiatives:

3-A – By means of appropriate policies, incentives and development partners, the Township will facilitate a significant increase in the supply and variety of both rental and purchase housing/accommodation within Southgate.

Staff Leaders: Economic Development Officer & Planner

2021 Progress & Actions:

- In 2021 Southgate issued 198 building permits for residential unit construction.
- Flato started construction of the 80 units of rental apartment building spaces for senior living in 2021. The building will be ready for occupancy in the late spring or early summer of 2022.
- In 2021 Southgate approved a pre-servicing and subdivision agreement for Flato Glenelg Carriage House Phase I project to construct a mixed residential development.
- In 2021 Southgate formed an Affordable Attainable Housing Committee, created a Terms of Reference document, appointed members and held 3 meetings during the year.

2022 Project Plan:

- Southgate will continue to promote development of more attainable housing development including townhomes, multi-unit housing and mobile home park developments.
- Early in 2022 Southgate will consider approval of the Flato East Subdivision Agreement for Phases 7, 8 & 10.

3-B - The Township will have been a significant advocate for and contributor to a new and expanded South East Grey Community Health Centre clinic in Southgate.

Staff Leaders: CAO

2021 Progress & Actions:

- South East Grey Community Health Centre (SEGCHC), Grey County and Southgate worked cooperatively in 2021 to transfer County owned lands to Southgate for the new Community Health Centre construction project. Southgate then created a long term land lease agreement with SEGCHC to support the project.
- SEGCHC staff have made significant steps in 2021 with the Ministry of Health Capital Branch approval of the project.
- Ontario Premier Doug Ford attended the new SEGCHC Dundalk Clinic site to participate in a sod turning as support of the project.

2022 Project Plan:

- To receive final project approval and allocation of Ministry construction funding for the project in 2022.
- Tendering for the construction of the project by SEGCHC will be completed in 2022 with a plan to start building with a 12 month construction window.

3-C - The Township will have worked with the County, Public Health, Police, and other agencies to develop a profile of the Southgate population in 10-15 years time, and to develop a shared image of the health, housing, and social support services that will be required by that time.

Staff Leaders: CAO & Planner

2021 Progress & Actions:

- The Township continued in 2021 to participate in the creation of a regional Community Safety and Well Being Plan that is the start of this initiative to identify both regional and local gaps in our community services and will identify challenges and the needed for support services we are presently missing.
- Southgate continues to work with JunCtian Community Initiatives as a valued partner, supporting our municipality and in welcoming new residents looking to be part of our community. JCI also has done a lot of work with youth and young adults. They also hosted virtual talent night show events through 2021 and as well planned and funded a great Canada Day event to celebrate the July 1st holiday in our community.

2022 Project Plan:

- The Township will continue to participate in the Community Safety and Well Being Plan (CSWBP) roll out in 2022.
- Staff will continue to participate in the Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership (GBLIP) working group meetings in 2022.
- The Township will review and consider increased level of policing services in 2022.

Goal 4 - Adequate and Efficient Public Facilities

Action 4:

The residents and businesses of Southgate expect the Township to plan and adequately provide for public facilities for gatherings, recreation and doing business with the Township, while recognizing at the same time that facility needs can change with age and a changing population.

Strategic Initiatives:

4-A – The Township will have identified the growth-related impacts on municipal facilities, and will have designed solutions to expand its facilities, or develop new facilities, as required.

Staff Leaders: CAO & Facilities Manager

2021 Progress & Actions:

- Tended upgrading of space for a new Council Chambers location in the former Holstein Office to free up the Southgate municipal office space for increased staff capacity.
- Southgate received ICIP grant funding to support the relocation of Council Chambers to Holstein municipal office project.
- The former Council Chambers in the Hopeville office was converted in late 2021 to new office space and a meeting room to accommodate the building department staff.
- The plan for 2021 will continue into 2022 and beyond to consider community facility options to address our needs for event facilities and

municipal accommodation space for administrative operations. Some of those options that have been looked at with building reserve funds and seeking new external funding have been for the following:

- Consider purchasing Grey Roads Operation facility in Dundalk when it becomes available to retain access to sand storage, increase garage area for increased equipment storage space requirements. This project is a consideration and would provide new future office space in front of the existing garage for our expanding Building services & staff, By-law Enforcement, as well as the Dundalk Public Works as a growing department.

2022 Project Plan:

- In 2022 Council needs to decide on the continued collection of Development Charges for a Multi-Use Community Facility project. This was originally approved by Council and created as a source of future funding, put into our DC By-law to collect from future growth for a facility with the options to include the needs of a new municipal office, community gathering/event space and/or other public services in one building.

4-B - The Township will have made a decision on the future viability or uses of the Olde Town Hall, and taken action accordingly.

Staff Leaders: CAO & Council

2021 Progress & Actions:

- In 2021 the Township issued a Request for Proposals to sell the Dundalk Olde Town Hall. The Township received a proposal to locate their business operation and provide public events/cultural rental use opportunities in the building. A draft purchase and sale agreement that includes a building lease agreement for the theatre and cultural use spaces and building capital support costs was created by staff for Council and Wellington Capital Corporation to review and consider at the end of 2021.
- The Township also worked and met through 2021 with Team Town Hall to understand their interest in managing cultural space in the Dundalk Olde Town Hall. Township staff drafted an agreement for Team Town Hall to consider and review that reflected their responsibility to raise funding to support capital project, maintenance, operations, organize events and sustainably operate the building allocated for the theatre and cultural uses. The agreement was presented to Council

2022 Project Plan:

- The Township staff in 2022 will finalize the draft agreements and provide recommendations for Council to consider Team Town Hall and the recent interest by JunCtian Community Initiatives as an interested community organization to achieve a sustainable operating partnership community use of the property.
- The Township will also need to consider finalizing the sale of the building or retaining ownership with the Cultural Use partners.

4-C - The Dundalk arena auditorium will have had an elevator installed and the necessary renovations will have been completed, in order to accommodate the expanded Early-ON program and a wider variety of programming for youth, seniors, and newcomers to the community, and possibly a cafeteria.

Staff Leaders: Facilities Manager & CAO

2020 Progress & Actions:

Note: This project was completed in 2020 and the Early-On program is now operating out of this location. The Auditorium space is also complete and offering a broader range of services, from community events with a kitchen, as well as programs, a drop-in center and recreation location for youth, seniors and community members of any age.

4-D - The Township will have reviewed all facilities it owns to determine their condition and utilization and to develop a business case for the future use or disposition of each facility.

Staff Leaders: Facilities Manager

2021 Progress & Actions:

- Staff have reviewed and assessed all community facilities and open space lands for condition of the property and/or building and its use. There are definitely locations with extra lands that are underutilized and could be disposed of to generate income and reduce maintenance costs, downsized to create a sale for housing development lot and some reassessed for area redundancy based on use because there is an overlap of services within that area of the Township.

2022 Project Plan:

- This is a Community discussion as to the size of these facilities. This is also a Council decision based on staff recommendations to maintain services and reduce operating costs. Some of facility and land base considerations could be the following:
 - Holstein Ball Diamond
 - Proton Station park land reduction
 - Dromore Park land reduction
 - Hopeville Community facility space versus Swinton Park Hall

4-E - The Township will have projected the likely demand for/viability of ice sports at the Dundalk arena in 10-15 years time, and will have developed a business case for the future ice sport usage, or for alternative non-ice uses, as appropriate.

Staff Leaders: Recreation

2021 Progress & Actions:

- This 4-E initiative will be a discussion for years to come. At this point in time Southgate continues to invest in the Dundalk Arena and the repair of support column structure maintenance. This discussion is not a building use issue, it is based on the sporting needs and usage issue. What is driving this discussion is reduced enrollment in minor hockey and the increased cost families incur to participate in this sport. This is evident by the amalgamation of Dundalk and Flesherton Minor Hockey.

2022 Project Plan:

- The continued future conversations on this will need to consider minor hockey enrollment, decreased or increased use of our ice surface and the possible growing community use demand within our community and rental pressures from the southern communities that may justify continued operations. This needs to be a regional municipal discussion that develops

multiple community use and funding partnerships agreement to create a broader population service area for each ice surface in our region. One arena likely needs to serve a population circle around a community of 6,000 to 8,000 people during the ice season to attempt to support the operating losses a community has to cover to deliver this service. The day of ice sport arena servicing community of 3,000 to 5,000 is not financially sustainable.

Goal 5 - Upgrading our "Hard Services"

Action 5:

The residents and businesses of Southgate recognize our linear services - roads, bridges, water and sewer works, for example - to be a fundamental purpose of municipal government. This infrastructure needs to be serviceable and sustainable so that our businesses and communities can thrive and grow.

Strategic Initiatives:

5-A - While continuing to invest an average of 45% of tax dollars on maintenance/repair/reconstruction of road and bridge infrastructure, Council will consider an additional 1% levy, compounding, dedicated exclusively for upgrading the road and bridge network.

Staff Leaders: Public Works & Council

2021 Progress & Actions:

- In Southgate the projected 2021 expenditure in the Roads department maintenance and capital projects was 52.1% of the total Southgate taxation collected and that is up 13.52% from 2020 actual costs.
- In the 2021 capital roads budget, approved by Council allocating a 22.1% increase over 2020 for road capital investment in projects to narrow the asset funding gap.

2022 Project Plan:

- In the 2022 capital roads budget, approved by Council allocating a 3.24% increase over 2021 for road capital investment in projects.

5-B - The Township will have adopted a long-term asset management plan for the timely repair, replacement, and expansion of the Township's infrastructure, facilities, and other assets.

Staff Leaders: Treasurer & CAO

2021 Progress & Actions:

- In 2021 the Township hired a new Asset Management Coordinator & Financial Analyst to continue to develop our asset data, create reports of the Township's assets in consistent manner and develop long term asset management plan as a staff culture within our annual reporting and data to support our budgeting decisions.

2022 Project Plan:

- The Asset Management Coordinator will continue the annual asset reporting for use in future budget cycles.

5-C - The Township will have increased wastewater treatment capacity in Dundalk to support growth.

Staff Leaders: Public Works - Wastewater

2021 Progress & Actions:

- Southgate's engineers have completed the work on the Dundalk Wastewater Environmental Assessment to determine both short and long term servicing solutions, with the capital required over the next 25 years.
- In 2021 Triton issued a call for contractors to submit proposals for wastewater treatment solutions.
- Triton received 8 proposals that were reviewed and 4 proposals were advanced for a more in depth qualification process.

2022 Project Plan:

- The Dundalk Wastewater shortlisted contractors will be qualified in 2022 and asked to submit a final tendered project cost for the solution being recommended by the contractor in their proposal.
- The Township plans on making a decision with Triton and start project construction in 2022 for their treatment solution to increase servicing capacity in Dundalk.

5-D - The Township will have erected a new water tower in Dundalk.

Staff Leaders: Public Works

2021 Progress & Actions:

- The new water tower's Environment Assessment has already been completed.
- The new water design work has been completed and updated budget numbers acquired in 2021.

2022 Project Plan:

- The Township will be tendering the new water tower construction work to start in 2022.

5-E - The Township will have produced savings by examining alternatives when bridges or culverts require replacement, including where appropriate installing dual culverts instead of replacing box culverts.

Staff Leaders: Public Works

2021 Progress & Actions:

- In 2021 the Township completed the following bridge and culvert replacements:
 - S108 replaced with box culvert
 - S109 was rehabilitated
 - A few smaller diameter road crossing culverts due to failure

2022 Project Plan:

- Public Works will continue to require engineers and our maintenance staff to investigate designs, precast alternatives and construction methods to replace bridges and box culverts in the future with more affordable solution that provide equivalent or better capacity flow.
- In 2022 the following projects will be undertaken related to watercourses and drainage works:
 - No major bridge or culvert structures for replacement
 - Smaller diameter road crossing culverts on SDR 75 to coincide with the new Municipal Drain 75 elevations
 - Extension of McCauley / Victoria St drain

Goal 6 - Citizen Engagement

Action 6:

The residents and businesses of Southgate expect their local government to be transparent and approachable, to provide clear and timely information, and to explain and seek their input on issues and decisions facing the community.

Strategic Initiatives:

6-A – The Township website southgate.ca will have had a complete facelift.

Note: Project completed in 2019

Staff Leaders: Clerks

Note:

- This project was completed in 2019 to upgrade the Southgate website.

6-B - The Township will work with existing organizations, including the Historical Society, in reviewing its built and natural heritage, and planning for the future of its cultural and recreational assets.

Staff Leaders: CAO, Planner & Recreation

2021 Progress & Actions:

- In 2020 the decision was made by Council to issue a Request for Proposals to see if there would be community interest to purchase the Dundalk Olde Town Hall in 2021 as a business opportunity and for community uses.
- The Township received one proposal to purchase the Olde Town Hall building with conditions that the municipality would support future capital investments in the building, as well as to lease back theatre and cultural space for community use and management by Team Town Hall.

2022 Project Plan:

- This will be an important discussion that will be included in our New Official Plan Review and public consultation events related to maintaining natural heritage in the community.

6-C - As its population approaches 10,000, the Township will be prepared to create the statutorily required Heritage Committee.

Staff Leaders: CAO & Council

2021 Progress & Actions:

- No action on this initiative in 2021

2022 Project Plan:

- Southgate will not reach a population of 10,000 people before the end of this CAP ending in 2023 and this initiative will likely roll over into the next CAP.

6-D - Council will have implemented a variety of practices to provide Council and residents public with opportunities for informal two-way communication with residents, including semi-annual "Coffee with Council" events, participation in Library events, presence at fairs, etc.

Staff Leaders: Clerk & Council

2021 Progress & Actions:

- In 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic Southgate continued to hold Public Open Forum opportunities for the community members to speak and present comments or concerns to Council during their virtual meetings.

2022 Project Plan:

- The Township will continue the reach where possible to hold community discussions through virtual and in person meetings again when it is safe to do so.

6-E - The Township will have acquired and be utilizing on-line public meeting software.

Staff Leaders: Clerk & Council

Note: The Township is currently utilizing on-line public meeting software due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Once in person meetings resume, staff want to allow members of the public to still be able to participate in public meetings online using an in-person/on-line hybrid system.