



Prepared by
Ethelo Decisions

Introduction and Summary

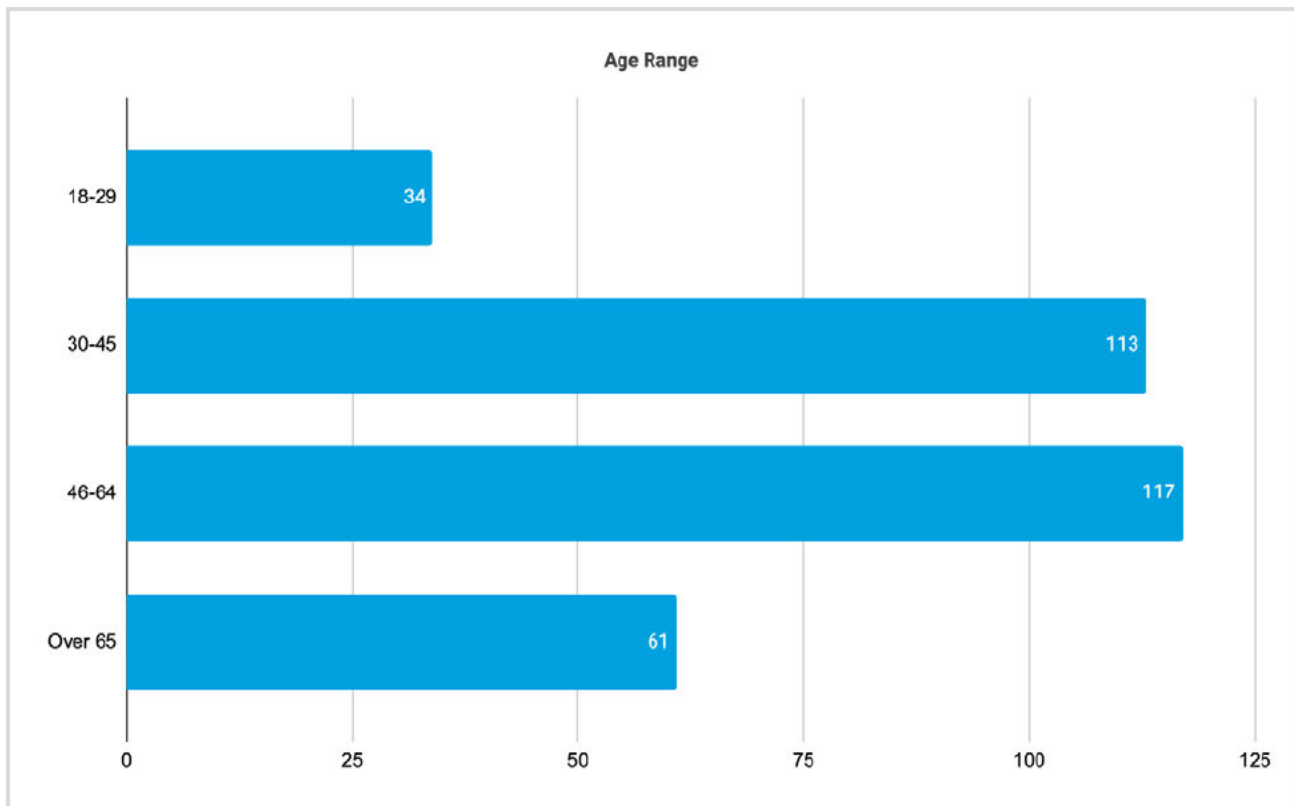
From May 27 to July 5, 2024, residents of the Town of Olds participated in an online Municipal Budget Engagement survey. This initiative aimed to involve the community in the budgetary process, ensuring that spending priorities align with residents' needs and preferences.

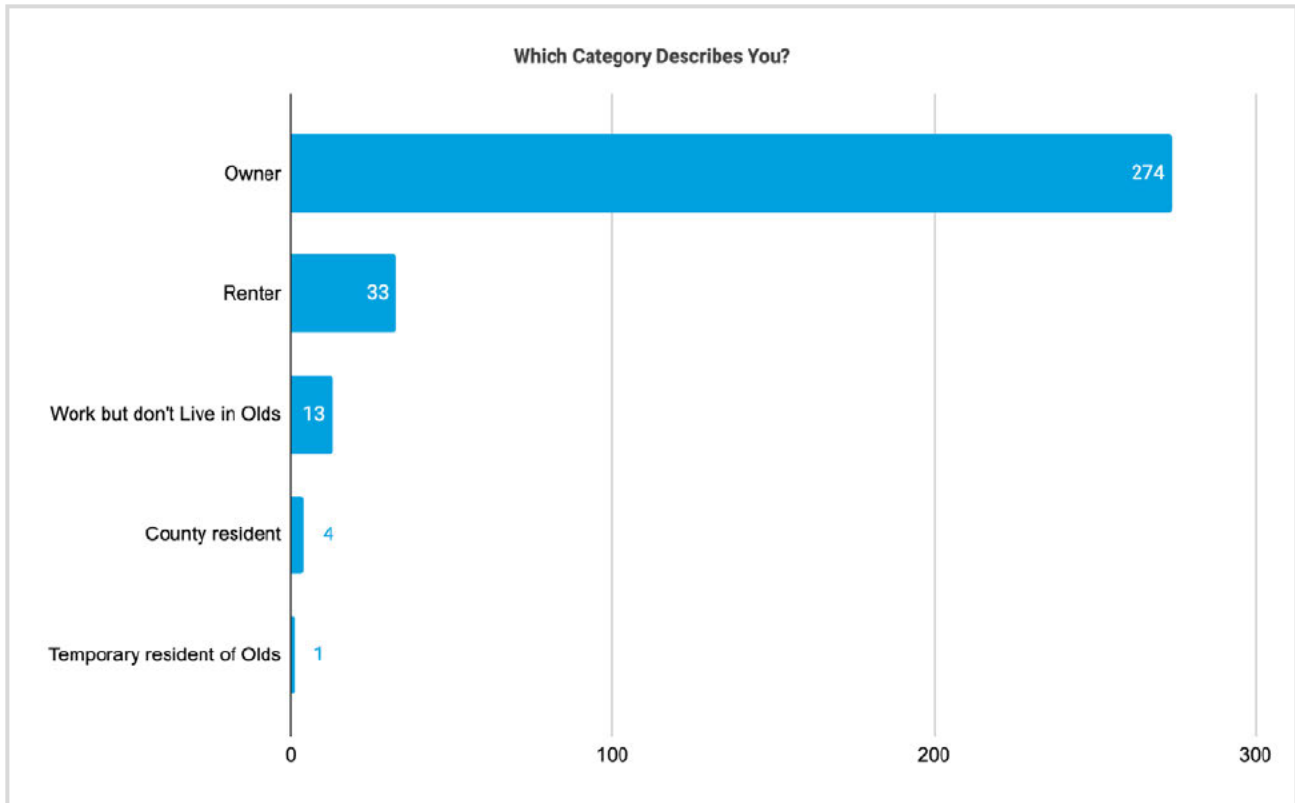
Citizens were asked to share their insights, ideas, and concerns on various aspects of the municipal budget, including key service levels such as Protective Services, Infrastructure, Community Services, Economic Development, and Housing. This engagement follows the Council's Strategic Plan developed in May 2022 and updated in February 2023, which outlines the Town's key priorities to improve the quality of life for residents.

The collected data has been compiled and included in this report to guide future budgetary decisions and strategies. Ethelo facilitated this engagement, providing an online platform for residents to voice their opinions and contribute to the Town's decision-making process.

Participation

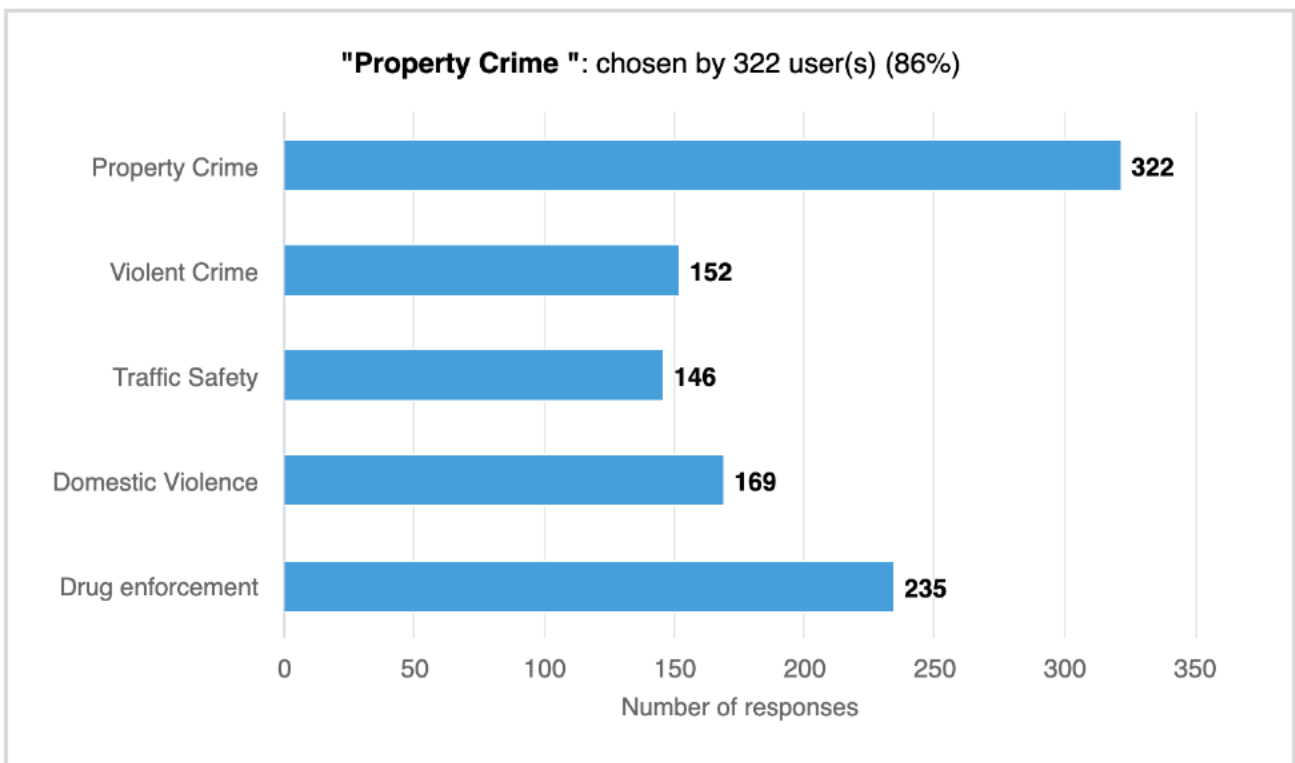
There were a total of 379 participants in the survey. The majority of respondents were between the ages of 30-64 (240). The least represented age group was 18-29, with only 39 respondents. The majority of respondents were homeowners (274), and nearly all reside in the Town of Olds.



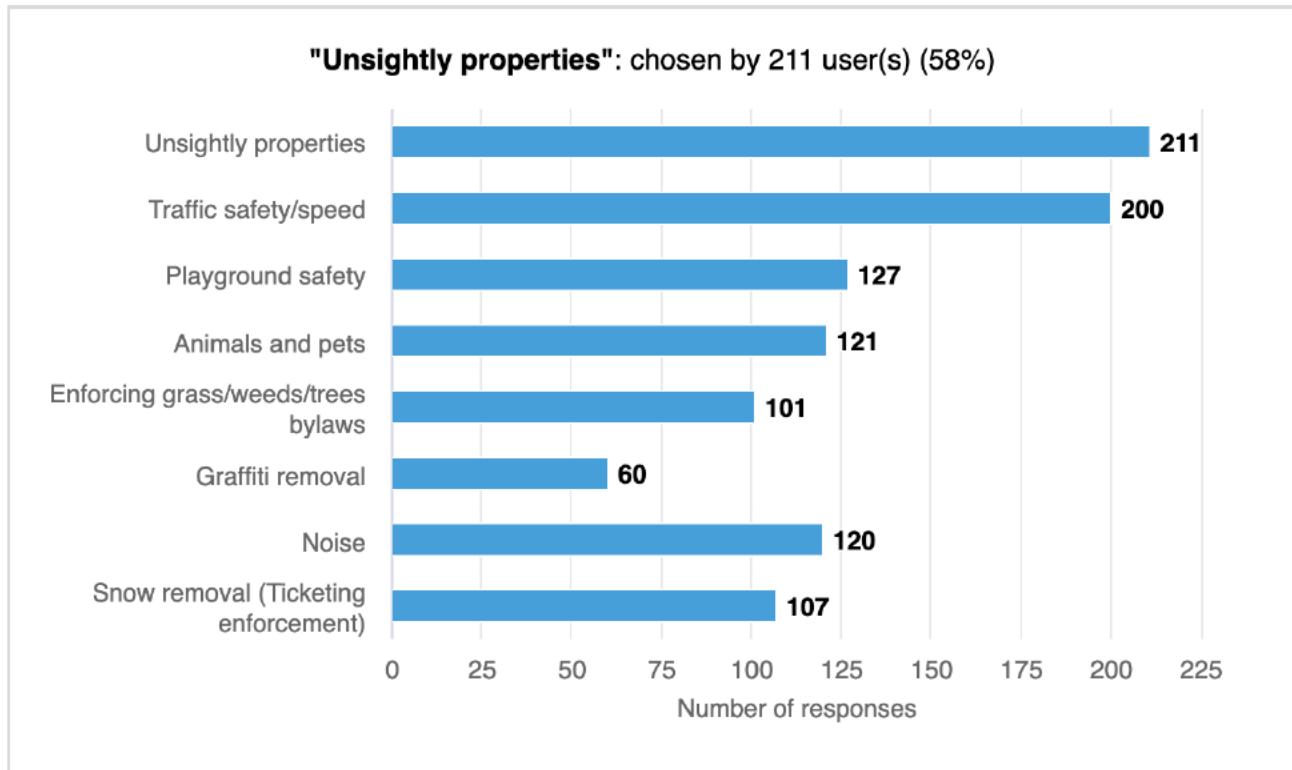


Protective Services

What do you think are the top policing priorities that Council should focus on in 2025? (choose 3)

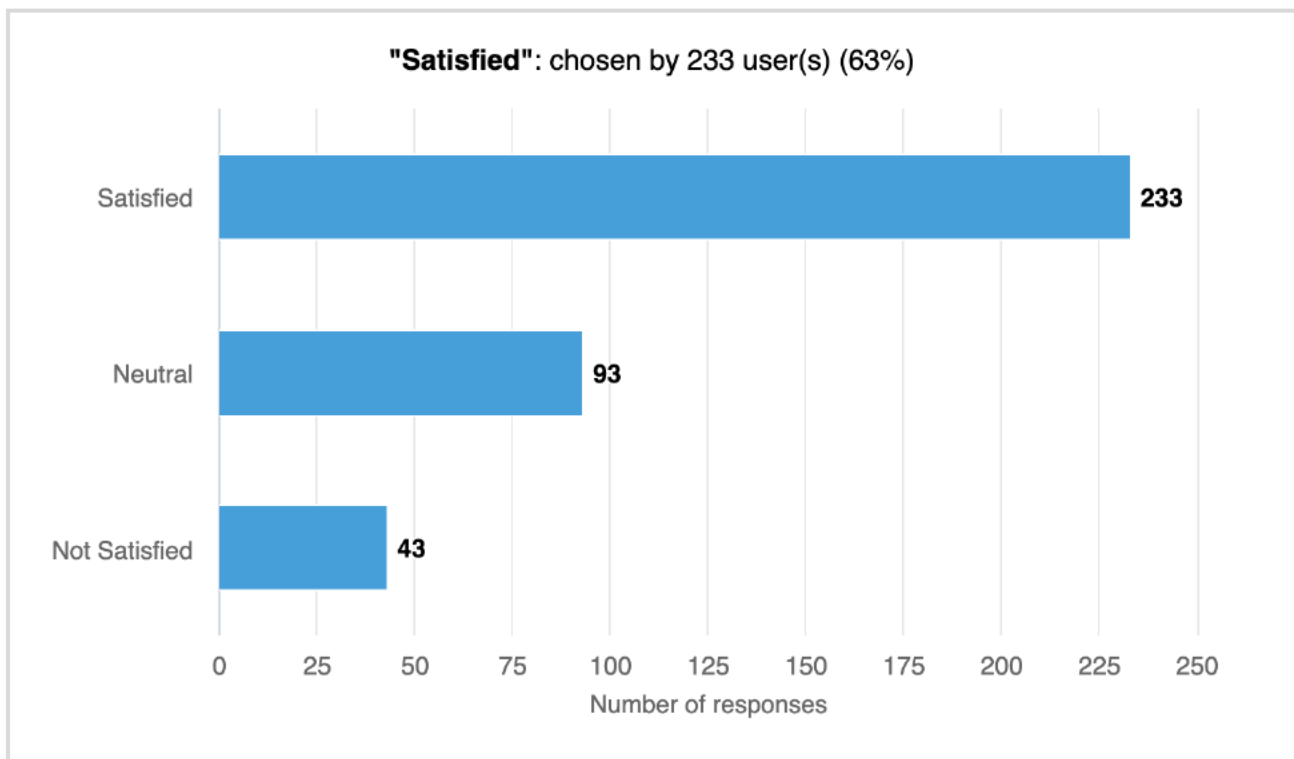


Where would you like to see ME focus their resources?



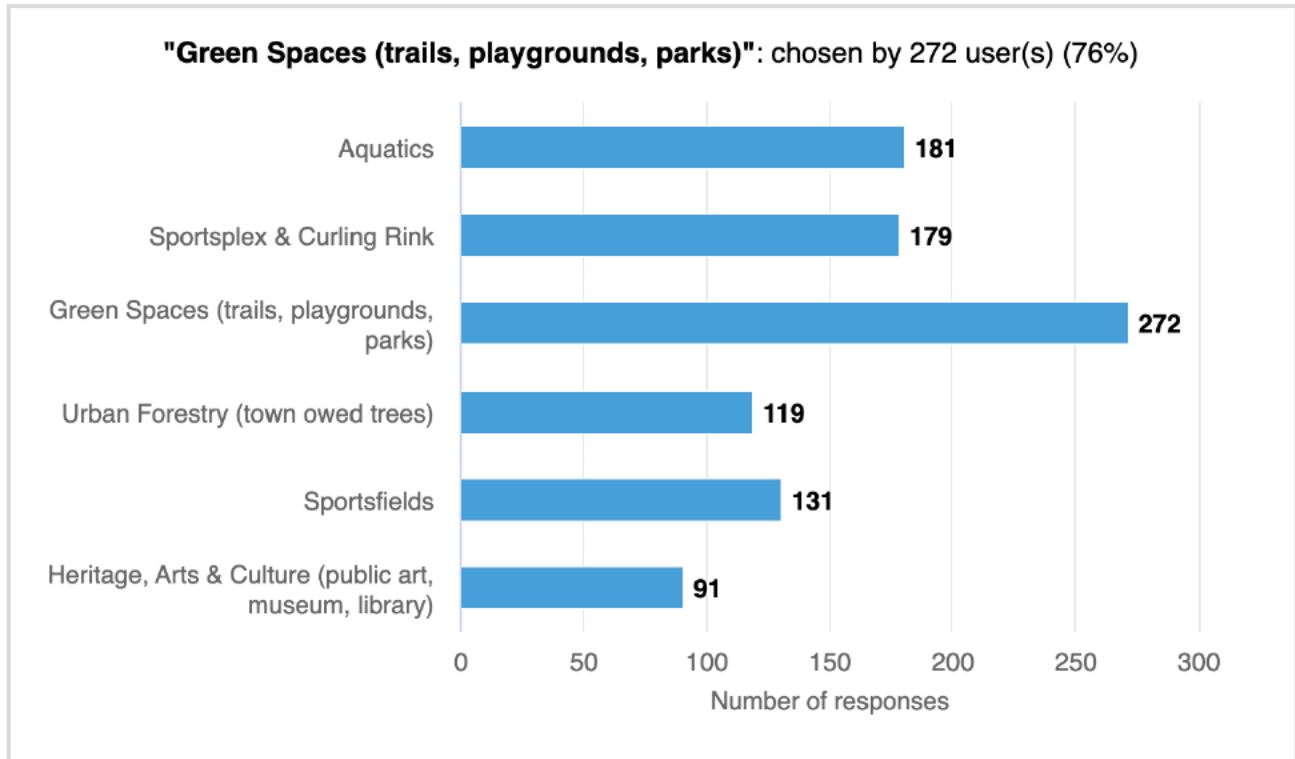
Infrastructure

Considering these changes, what is your opinion of our current solid waste service level?

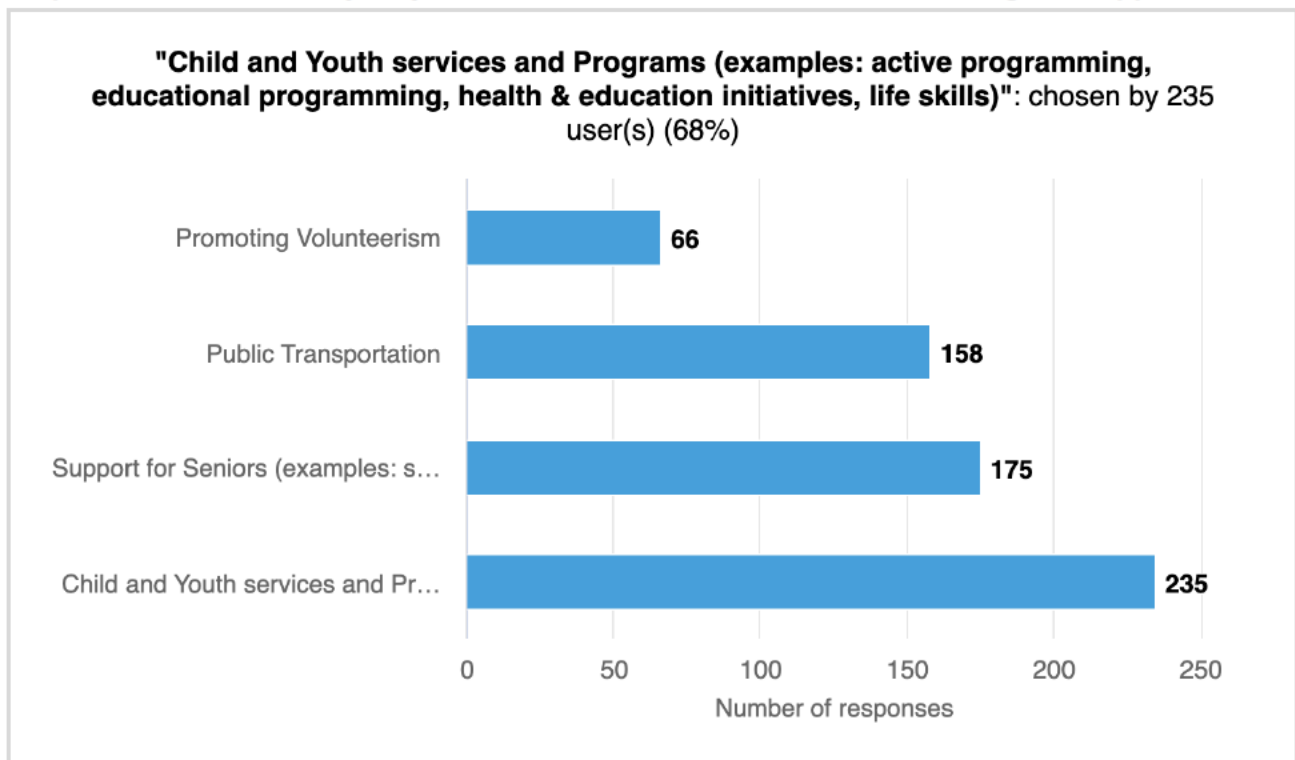


Community Services

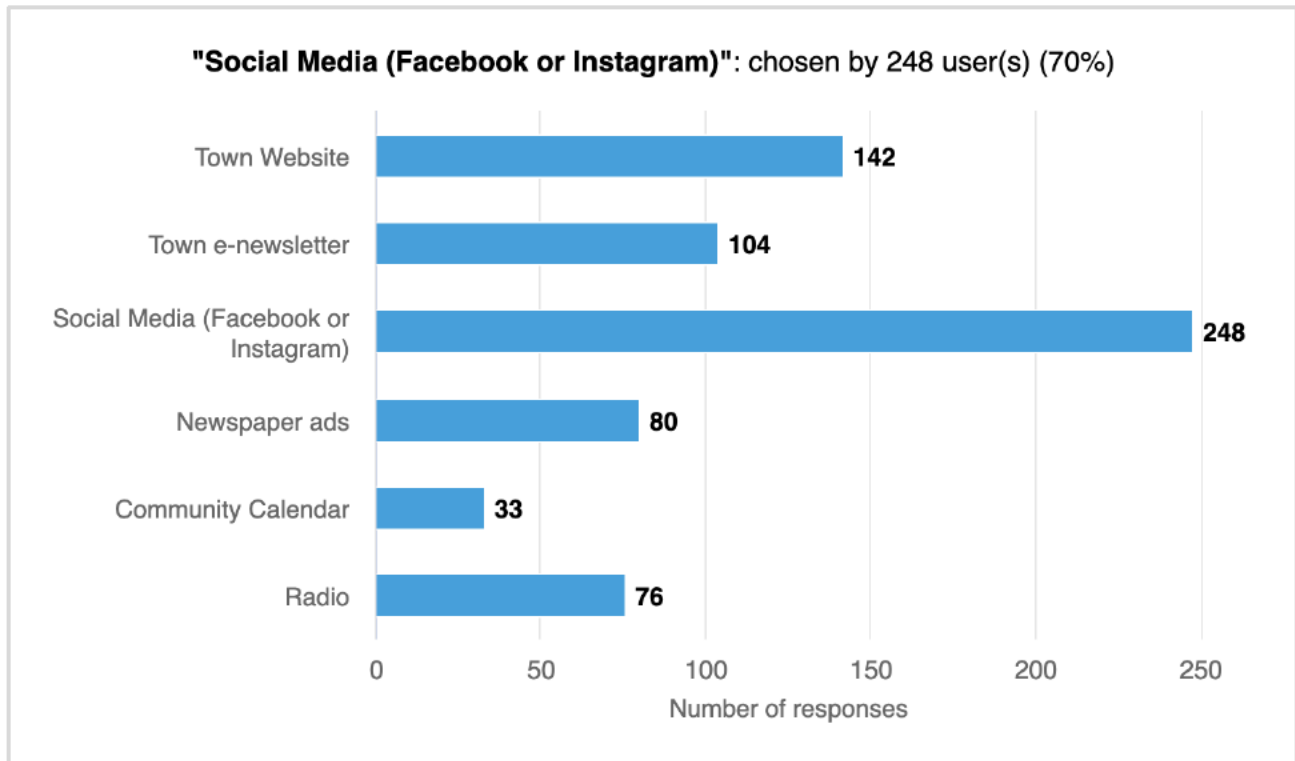
What specific amenities & recreation services would you prioritize for funding in our community? (Choose 3)



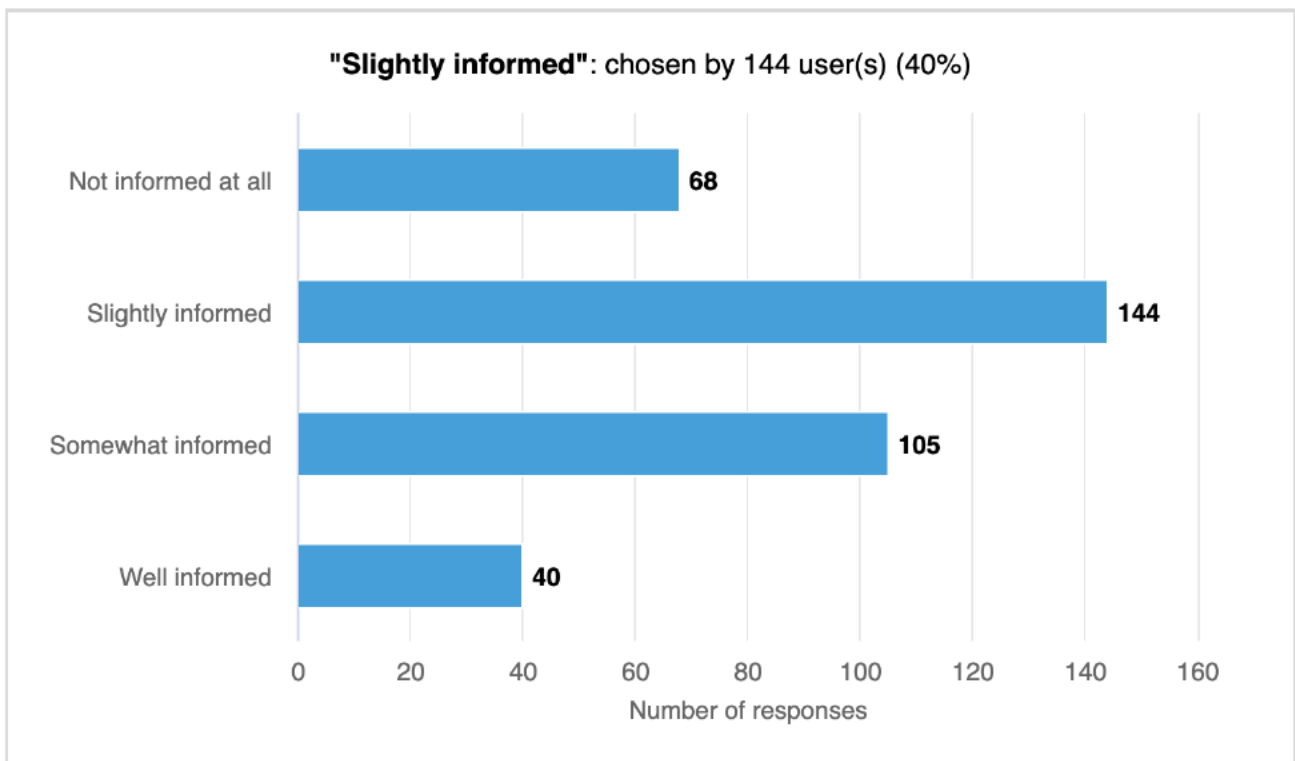
What aspect of the community do you believe is most in need of further funding and support? (Choose 2)



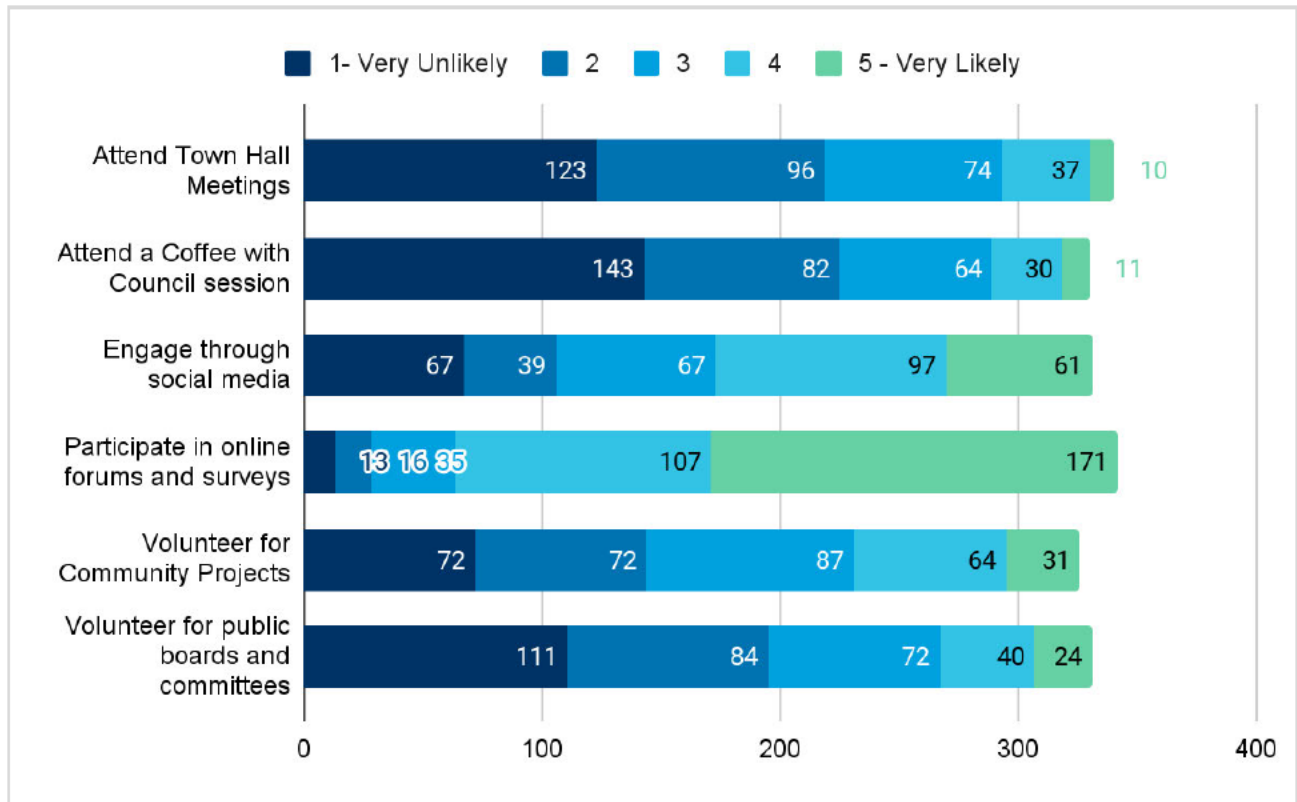
What communication channels do you currently find most effective in staying informed about community events, initiatives, and important updates



How informed do you feel about local government decisions and activities?

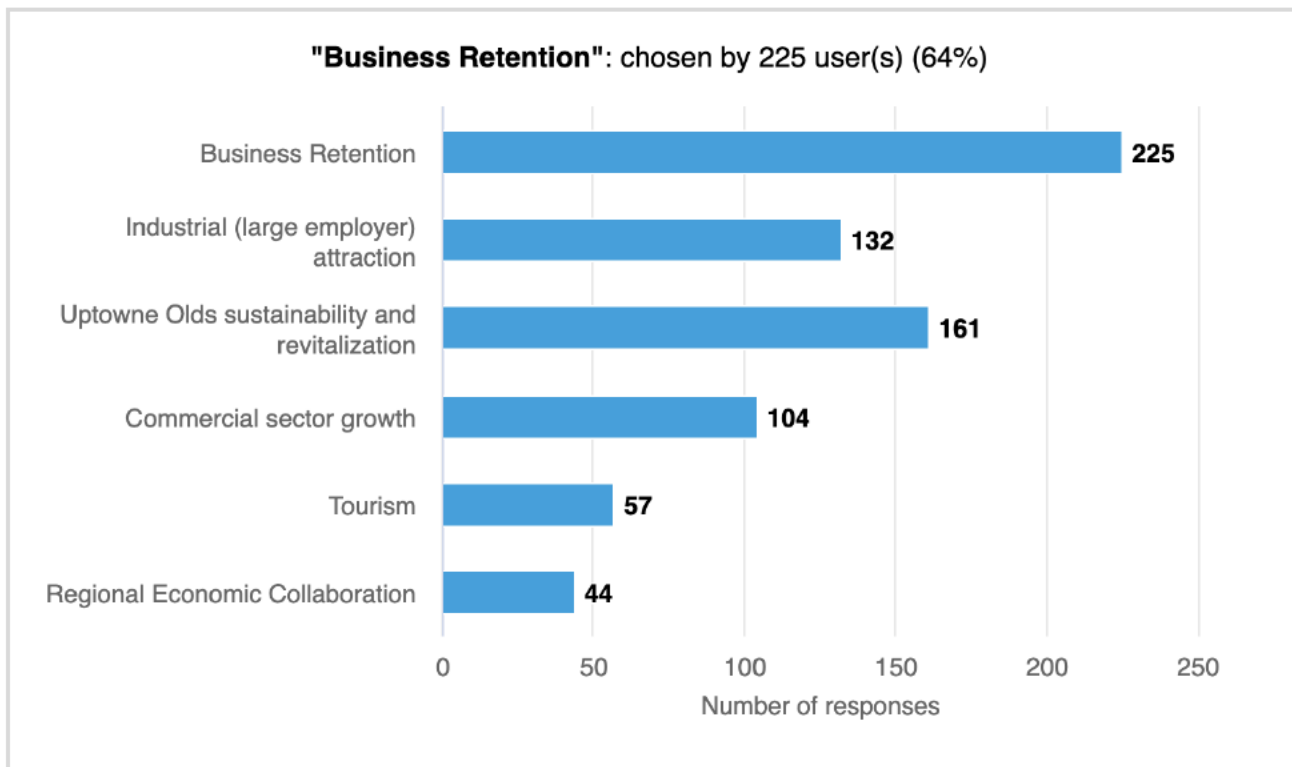


How likely are you to participate in the following types of local government activities? (Rate each on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is "Very Unlikely" and 5 is "Very Likely")



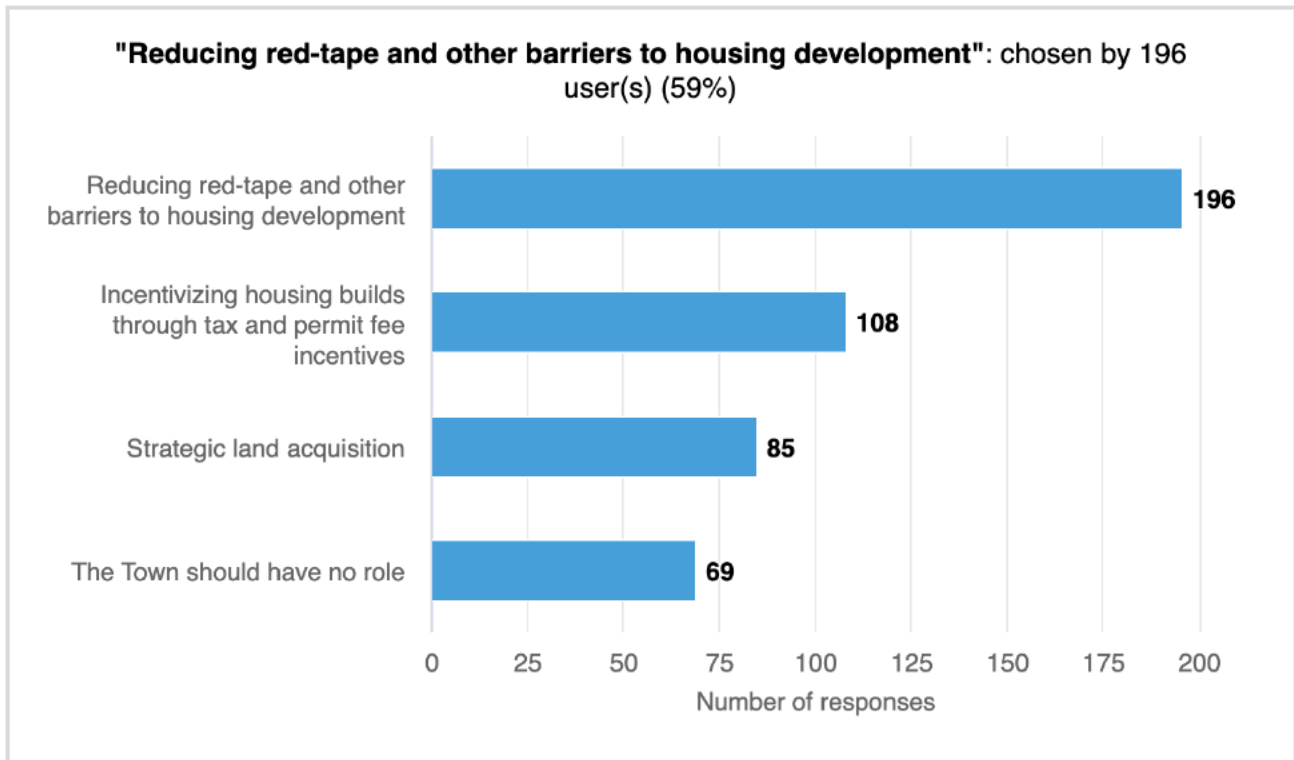
Economic Development

In your opinion, what should be key priorities for the incoming Economic Development Strategy? (choose 2)

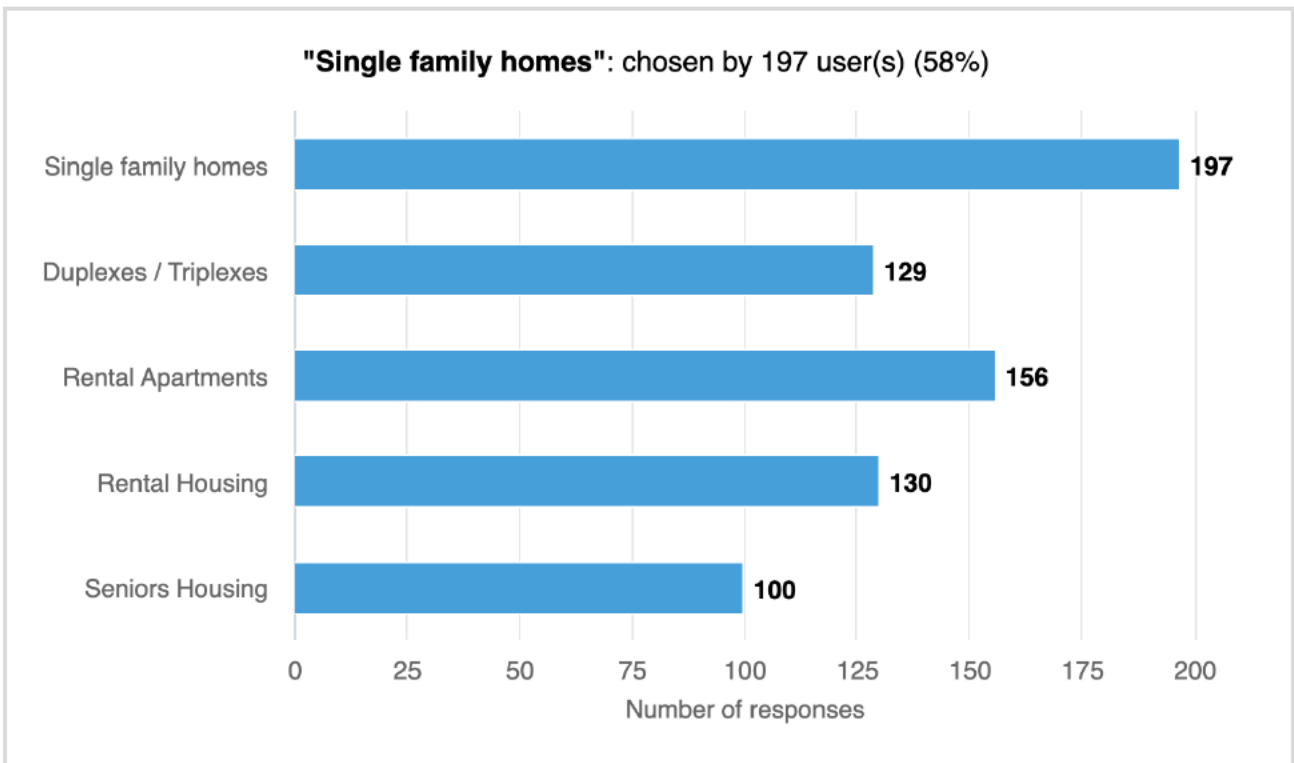


Housing

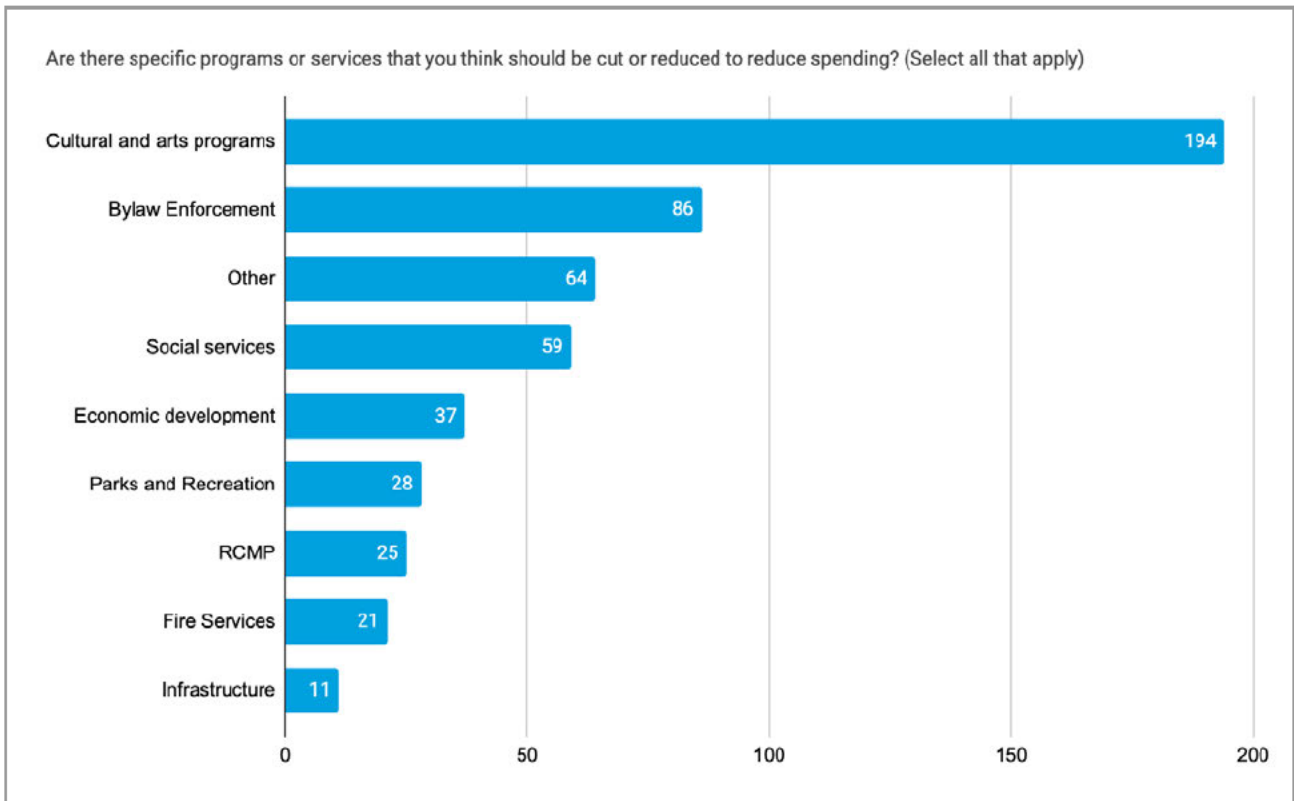
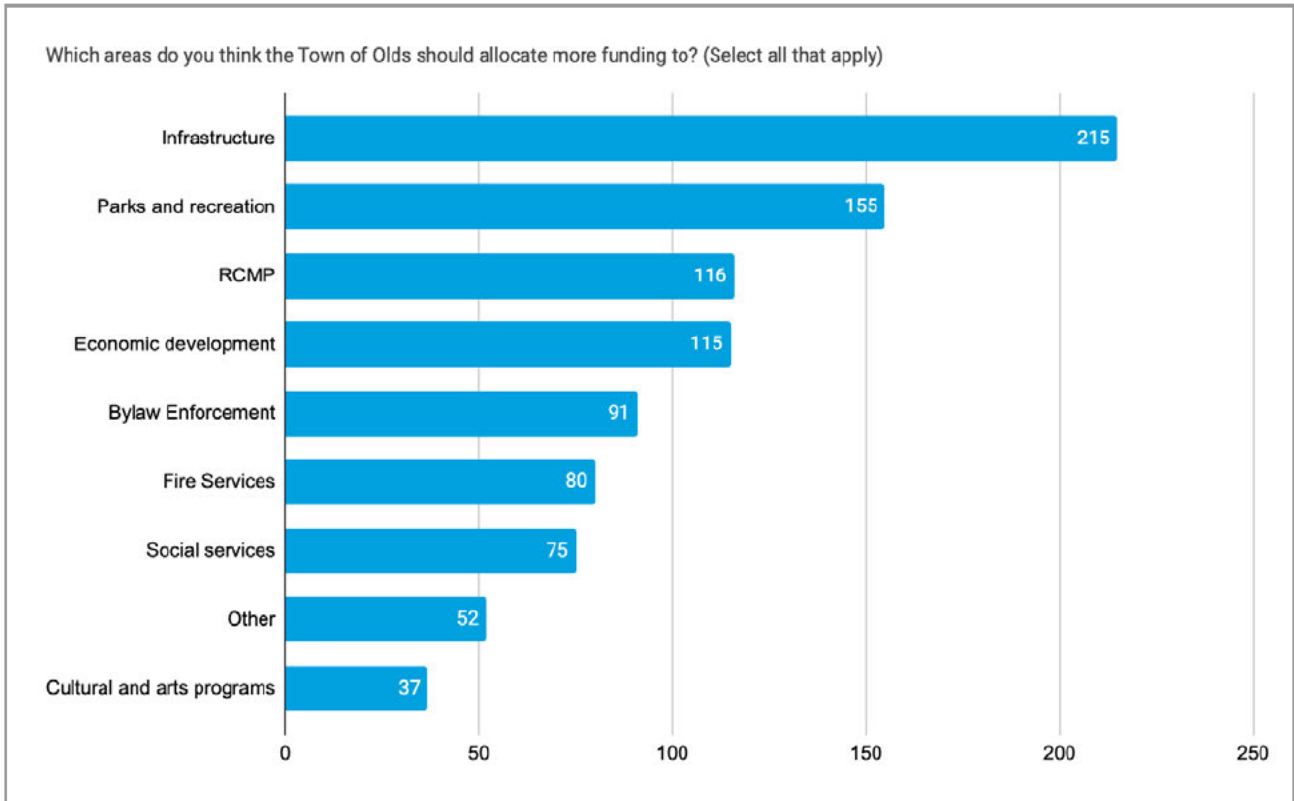
What role should the Town of Olds have in attracting housing developments?



What types of housing do you think are most required in Olds?



Budget Priorities



Comments

2025 Budget Priorities
An audit of town council wages and budgetary spending would be a good place to start looking for funds to allocate to public service
Bylaw enforcement doesn't seem to cover people taking their dogs to Rotary Park and letting them run off leash - go there a lot to walk and every day people are misusing this park - same as young folks meeting up and then dumping their garbage all over - in three years have never seen a by law officer out there
Roads, roads, roads. Paving and pothole fixing, some of the roads in Olds are in terrible shape.
judging by the previous slides it would be difficult for the 2 bylaw officers to be everywhere and satisfy the demands of a town of close to 10k people.
Infrastructure is where the town suffers from what I experience while out and about; enforcement is also a bit lacking it seems
Why waste anymore money on arts and culture! FIX our ROADS!!
How much does O-net cost us to maintain and operate? Is it at a loss? We should focus on fixing our infrastructure and less on running an internet outfit.
The potholes around town are getting pretty terrible.
Roads need repair. I have had 3 flats on my street alone from the potholes
fixing the parking lot of the plaza by smitties it's AWFUL
Snow plow the [REDACTED] roads, grade the back allies and now the [REDACTED] grass. Why does Olds make things so difficult. We pay so much in taxes and get [REDACTED] all in return. Visit Okotoks or Strathmore to get some ideas...so sick of our town looking like [REDACTED]. Plant some trees along Hwy 27 and stop wasting money on the ugliest [REDACTED] planters and then paying people to water them...it's not rocket science.
You seem nice.
A smart investment up-front in infrastructure can save a great deal long-term by reducing the load on other services. As an example, replacing traffic lights with roundabouts reduces collisions by as much as 75% and fatalities by 90%, reducing the load on both police and fire services! They're cheaper to maintain and keep traffic moving constantly instead of start-stop, which would improve traffic flow and increase the average speed through town. 46 Street has a lot of great candidates for this with its wide intersections! It can be done extremely cheaply with plastic pads, like Sundre did with its main road!
We pay more taxes and seem to be getting way less services.
Because that worked so well in Sundre and looks so nice.

<p>The walking paths that we currently have need some great attention to the surfacing. Some have heaved a long time ago and have been patched over and over but never fully repaired.</p> <p>Please take a walk on them and you'll know what I'm meaning.</p> <p>These paths are used greatly and it's time they set money aside for repairs. It would also be great to keep adding to the paths! For example the path could be connected to the far SW portion of the town behind the residential homes to the south.</p>
<p>Nobody likes cuts. If you look at the "critical to operations" factor of any of these, Cultural and Arts is an easy target but good luck surviving the fall out.</p>
<p>Cut waste in all areas.</p>
<p>Not to sure we are getting the value of 11 police officers if that's how many the town is paying for</p>
<p>Police are doing a great job.</p>
<p>Privatize the Sportplex and make the user pay for it all themselves</p>
<p>Olds may need more robust plan to support social services with the "affordability crisis" and the opening a Emergency Shelter which will serve a broader region. I am seeing a lot more panhandling and signs of need in the last year.</p>
<p>More social services = more taxes. Allow NGO to police those issues. Municipalities focus on economic growth</p>
<p>The town needs to focus more on deteriorating roads that have basically not had an overlay in years. Also, try to keep the town looking dandelion and weed free, as well and mowed during the summer months. These areas are a major part of economic development. Who wants to live or bring business to Olds, if the streets are full of potholes and falling apart and the town looks like it doesn't care what the town owned property looks like? If the town doesn't want to maintain these properties, then cutdown on all the island beds and trees in boulevards that developers have in their plan, if the town doesn't want to maintain them after. Have them come back with something less labour intensive.</p>
<p>Fix the roads. Actually fix them. The town digs up water mains on 61 ave, and elsewhere, then dumps gravel and calls it fixed. This is dangerous for bicycles, scooters, motorcycles, and damages our vehicles too. There are potholes all over the place. Do actual repairs, not just a gravel patch job. Some of our busiest roads are the worst. What does this do to promote Olds when visitors see that as a first impression?</p>
<p>Stop the costly waste. Eg.. You change the uptown speed limits and school zones to playground zones requiring all new signage. Was it necessary? Where are the safety statistics to support these changes? Not to mention the uptown signs are ridiculously small.</p>
<p>Enforcing no loitering and no camping out of homeless individuals such as those that have tried to hang out on hospital grounds last year and this year and unsightly tenting at OR hedges.</p>
<p>An audit of town council wages and budgetary spending would be a good place to start looking for funds to allocate to public service</p>
<p>Enough with the damn statues let's buy some asphalt and road work instead. Memorial is gonna be due for a full depth rebuild soon by the 3 way at deer meadow</p>
<p>I think the town operations is very inefficient. I see town vehicles doing lots of driving around doing nothing.</p>

Lots of town employees driving around or parked, sitting in their vehicles. Bylaw and RCMP doing a terrible job with traffic violators. Lots of speeding and lots of people doing 5 mph rolling stops through stop signs. Need more enforcement on local roads. Many times driving by Police building, parking lot is full so no one is doing any enforcement.
Snow plowing must continue. Get the grader up to keep that blade down (lol). Also, I'd be curious to know when the last time O-net did a door-to-door sales campaign? I haven't seen any sort of info on the customer base and what plan there is to increase it.
Maintain adequate public spending for public programs/services.
Repair roads and fix infrastructure. We can't add more business or residents without it. Town council needs to hold the COA to account for funding savings and maintaining the budget not increasing it.
I have questions on why the fire department budget has increased so much in the last few years while call volume has not increased at the same level. I also have questions on why the pool which is a relatively new facility needed a 3 million dollar renovation. In general Olds needs to stop buying the Cadillac when a Chevy can do the job.
I'm not sure what ByLaw Officers do. I have seen them out driving around sometimes but never stop anyone. I see many traffic infractions a day. I see one RCMP officer doing some traffic enforcement these days which has been a long time coming.
More businesses / jobs requires housing. Both bring more taxes so everyone town can enjoy better facilities and infrastructure without cutting what we have. Operational efficiencies should be continually improved. Olds needs to grow. We don't want it to turn in to Calgary, but it can not stay stagnant, or nobody will come here for work, living or tourism and then locals end up paying even more taxes. Nobody relocates to Olds for the museum or Highway 27 statues and tree islands. They might be nice to have, but not at the expense of things that are needed and get used (roads, playgrounds, jobs, housing)
Go bak to Bylaw Officers NOT high priced Peace Officers have them start walking the town a few days a week and then they could see all of the unsightly premises in the town
Spend more money on fixing roads. So many bad pot holes around town
More attention could be paid to the outdoor skating rink area. The ice surface was not available for use for much of the winter and now as a pickle ball court, it appears neglected. Enforcement of littering at the athletic park needs to be a priority. Both are beautiful facilities, but they wont stay beautiful without some care and monitoring.

Communications & Engagement

I am an in-home caregiver so do not have time for volunteering outside of the home but i can do things on-line
Hard to attend and help out when it happens during work hours.
Seems to me coffe with council is a waste of taxpay dollars as the councillors are paid for there participaiton and very few taxpayers attend
Coffee with Council - are any of the comments recorded down to be tabulated to be included in decisions later or is it just a feel good measure?

I feel coffee with council is a waste of my time and tax dollars

I attended the last coffee with the council session. It was nice to have an opportunity to chat with councilmembers about local issues in an informal setting! Sadly, as both a working professional and student I lack the time to be able to engage more than online and in similar informal settings.

Coffee with council and council meetings occur regularly when other community folks work Monday to Friday jobs, limiting accessibility to attend these functions.

Online meetings or forums would be better received especially if being able to engage after 9 to 5

Online council meetings are good and are easily viewed online after hours.

I think that our town council & CAO have no interest in what their citizens have to say. Any meeting that I've attended & concerns of the citizens of Olds were supposed to be discussed, the council just voted how they wanted to regardless of what their citizens are saying...They DON'T listen...

Please. It's time to cut waste and unessential positions instead of constantly going to the taxpayer. We're rapidly becoming one of the most expensive towns to live in (according to what we are discussing as neighbors). Taxes and utilities have increased far too much lately.

Busy parent, large family. Little available time.

Cost of water in Olds is to the point where many can't water their lawns ,when if ever is this water issue to be resolved also the warning signage on some of the paved trail system year after year is getting old ,these areas should be repaired before someone does get hurt

Would be nice to see more sustainable projects like learning how to backyard compost, using ground cover plants or other instead of lawns, water awareness, etc.

I feel that the Sportplex should be user pay all of it. Only people that can afford the high cost of hockey really get to use it. The public hours are ridiculous. It feels like property taxes are subsidizing a small exclusive cohort of people who can afford to pay.

Need a plan to repurpose and/or replace sportsplex.

I feel Council needs a plebiscite on whether we keep the RCMP or go provincial police or our own Force, We need a police force that the town has control over even if it costs more. They also need to stay within town limits....case in point: lady was run over in No Frills parking lot next to the detachment. EMT's and fire department were there as well as all the witnesses they needed. Where were the RCMP? They arrived well after everyone else left so they definitely weren't in town. Probably in the county!

I believe that the council feels that it effectively communicates its Community Involvement with its citizens. Admin staff and the required workspace appears to be growing with no value add being apparent to the taxpayer.

How many taxpayer dollars are tied up by Onet

Judy Dahl and the councils need to take a good walk around town. The tree islands in this town are an eye sore!! Many things aren't getting accomplished because our tax dollars are tied up in Onet!!

The town website can be difficult to navigate at times. I have had a couple instances where I have clicked on a link and it has brought me to a 404 error or a broken link notification

I've read the town is offering tax breaks for some developments. I can't support that when we are raising taxes.

Increased taxes and decreased service does not make for a happy tax payer.

User fees in the Sportsplex need to be raised to cover actual Cost of Running a Facility like that, includes the Olds Grizzly's that don't bring any benefits to the town, enough of Freebies

Next winter, please check the sidewalks for ice and take action. No one wants to complain about their neighbours. Our crescent did not get plowed at all while other residential streets were cleared for each session of snowplowing so perhaps track service and change up the order. Taxes increased about \$500 with less service. Why were crews mowing on a Sunday (Father's Day)? Do they get paid extra on weekends?

I am not a fan of programs like the rain barrel incentive in which residents who have already adopted water conservation measures at great personal expense subsidize late adopters who haven't. Also, it is time to really focus on the services that matter to residents. There is good feedback in the comments as to what these are. None of them involve marketing plans and hiring more staff.

Maybe our bylaw officers should get out and walk around especially during the winter. Then they would actually know what it's like to walk on unshovelled sidewalks

People working can't attend any of these meetings. Seems the town prefers that.

i support this town through my business-i dont like meetings and sitting around talking to politicians-i have a business to run-maybe town council would like to set up a meeting and come to me while they drink their coffee

I have not seen a town e newsletter for a long time,is it still produced? Coffee with Council was poorly organized at one of the venues it seemed like Council member gathered in a group to appear "Us (Council) against Them (citizens) didn't seem friendly at all

Users of the Sports Plex need to start paying their fair share of the costs rates have not been raised for youth leagues in a number of years..

Why is the Town renting space for community services when there is an empty firehall

Housing

I think the Town of Old's needs more townhouses to allow young families and or College students the option to purchase their first home.

Most College students are transients - but younger families need affordable starter homes.

I own, but rentals are desperately needed, too.

Gotta get the more efficient land use housing being built - affordable starter homes and rentals are very much needed; lucky to own but couldn't have done it without my folks

Affordable and safe rentals with fenced yards for children. Single parents or low income families have a really hard time finding housing

Affordable housing and rentals for all walks of life.

Affordable housing / rentals
Affordable housing
More places for college students to rent as well
The goal should be to create home ownership instead of renting which stops most people from being able to buy a house because of the greedy landlords.
Less low income houses. Keep the riff raff in the city.
Mixed-use medium-density development would be ideal for Olds. Ground-floor commercial space and upper-floor residential space (whether condo or apartment) has proven to be the single most financially sustainable type of development for towns the size of Olds. Single-family housing is proven to be financially unsustainable, requiring more money from towns in services than they pay in taxes. On top of that, this type of mixed-use development creates wonderfully pleasant neighbourhoods!
There is no such thing as affordable single detached home with current material, trades, and infrastructure cost. Many residents will claim to want more med-density housing provided that its not in there quadrant of the town. The Town of Olds (as an entity) is in a no win situation on this topic. My only suggestion is to ensure the planning and development departments are working with local and outside builders/developers and not against them to find time and cost efficient ways of permitting and development compliance.
Stay out of the housing business and let the market decide.
Would be nice to see the building of smaller houses with bigger yards that are more sustainable.
The extremely high property taxes probably scare people away. After mine went up \$70 a month this year we had a discussion about leaving Olds.
Build more to encourage growth, which helps local business stay open.
Unless we get more housing in Olds forget economic development. If there is no housing of all types, no one is going to bring business or industry here.
I would like to see more money invested in building houses that people can actually afford. It's all well and good that the Highlands and Vistas exist, but that pricing is just out of reach for most people.
rental apartments in olds would be lovely. they'd likely be cheaper and better for non-car owners to live in (such as myself)
College rentals are the colleges problem, they charge plenty of fees for attending students, especially foreign students. Most of those students will not stay to become part of our community. Affordable single family housing for those who are here to work, is the way to go.
Absolutely need more rental accommodation for college students.
I disagree with doling out tax and permit fee incentives to developers. They are private companies with profit margins.

No tax incentives for developers. The college should be working on strategies to develop housing for students. It shouldn't be pushed onto the town to find solutions.

People can't buy homes when the taxes are so high.

There seems to be sufficient Seniors housing, the college needs to participate in helping with students - they have an empty old residence on campus. Increasing the number of jobs here will bring people. Olds needs new mixed housing areas of smaller single family homes and duplexes. And promote the inclusion of basement suites for rentals / "mortgage helpers". That supply would help bring down the cost of all homes, and attract more people to Town. Businesses and Developers need very strong incentives to come here rather than choose other communities that are competing with us for businesses and residents. Job opportunities plus reasonably priced homes equals reduced taxes for all. We are too far from Calgary to be a bedroom community.

government should get out of the way-its common sense

The Olds College should build family housing on campus. Town should not be involved in housing except for promotion of opportunity for developers to build in Olds

If Carstairs can build what looks like more than 100 houses in a couple years so can Olds. It's obvious demand is there. This area definitely needs some major housing development to happen. It's not government's place to do the development though so hopefully the free market gets on board to invest capital and get some stuff built.

Medium density rentals are needed for all age groups - college, seniors, single income, etc. Home ownership in this town is almost impossible for some. More modern apartments/condos/townhouses for rent

Co-operative housing should be developed and available in Olds. People should work together to create a community of co-operative housing.

Affordable homes are highly needed. More starter/first time owner homes at affordable prices

Olds has a great variety of housing options from apartments, mobile homes, acreage lots and single family. There should be a master plan for housing, rather than developing only in the sw corner of town, and the random location of things, like a mobile home park next to the acreages. The urban plan for the town is not very attractive.

The increase of senior population is inevitable, affordable senior housing (apartments) and affordable apartments for everyone is needed

The availability of family-sized housing in any format has been an ongoing pain point.

if building 4 -plex units, the landlord should consider some outdoor storage for the tenants, somewhere to put their BBQ and bikes.

New Businesses

Ones that are local and/or actively support and improve our community!

no more liquor stores and no more cannabis shops we have enough

Olds would be a perfect location for a Costco
Taco Bell, chicken restaurants (Popeye's, KFC, Jollibee, etc.), breakfast restaurants (Cora, IHOP, etc.), cafés, Korean BBQ, fish and chip restaurant; no more liquor, cannabis, vape, or similar; axe throwing or other indoor recreation
Stop taking money from the federal government and promoting the WEF agenda. Nothing is for free and it leaves the rate payers out of any decision making process.
Drive in movie theater
Where would I buy town of Olds souvenirs any time of the year?
Just want more done from town operations
Costco
Ones that bring new employment opportunities
How about anything that supports local businesses. Bring more people to our beautiful Uptowne area.
Tourism has never been big business here. Let's focus on revitalization in olds and what makes it a great place to live. Less pop up chain restaurants would also be great.
The uptowne Olds area is a great example of what Olds has the potential to be. Unfortunately, current bylaws make it illegal to build anything like it. It would be nice to loosen those restrictions and allow more similar medium-density construction with ground-floor commercial space and upper-floor residential space! Building exclusively single-family residential, which is unaffordable to younger community members, only serves to drive young people away from Olds. Without young people, no business can survive long-term. Additionally; please remove parking minimum bylaws! The massive lots by the Smitty's, Subway, Walmart, Canadian Tire, and Sobeys are never even half full outside of the holidays, and could be put to much more productive use!
There are a lot of existing business spaces in Olds that are poorly utilized, I think we should be encouraging the use of these spaces rather than continuing to just build new instead
Costco
COSTCO!!!! We would attract thousands from neighboring communities, bring hundreds of jobs to Olds (specifically thinking about our young people who are unemployed or adults struggling with underemployment) It will also encourage growth of our town with families relocating to Olds.
Costco, Restaurants (not fast food ones), Gift Store.
#1 priority should to be a tax/employment replacement for the Sundial operation. It would be great for our economic development department to spend some more time on local business over chasing the dreams of foreign investments
Gift stores, other choices of restaurants...Our downtown area needs work...Although there are attempts to revitalize the downtown core, we're still falling short..

Cut red tape for businesses and reduce waste/unessential positions.

Something big to fill the gap left by Sundial.

Something other than Walmart! Costco would be awesome!!!!

More restaurants that serve breakfast, a gym/fitness place that offers multiple varieties of classes. Please, put even more resources into our uptown area to make it more beautiful, unique and attractive to both business owners , locals, shoppers and visitors. Try to keep it vibrant , it is special and is the Olds that so many of us have known and shopped in for years. Maybe a downtown street festival of some kind!

I believe Town needs to better collaborate, communicate and provide more support and resources to the Chamber of Commerce. A strong business community is vital to the success and health of Olds and with resources/support business supporting business is a more effective and efficient model.

More places to eat

We need to foster all business start ups. Grants for businesses that promote tourism, Entrepreneurship, art and culture. Revitalize uptown, by more town murals for attraction of tourism

Every business that promotes art culture, Entrepreneurship, events, uptown revitalization, diversity, and multiculturalism

Home Depot and tacotime would be great.

Any business that is going to fill a void in what we don't have.

I also think the town's Economic officer should have to live in town. How does anyone that doesn't live here even know the Town's strengths and what it has to offer?

Other than the sunset, that picture isn't a great advertisement for Olds in the least. Go back to the drawing board and come up with pictures for the town's website with some mountains other than the sign, The mountains set us apart from other towns. We see them from most streets in town.

Sephora, Winners, a fitness place (not a gym), more "fun" businesses (i.e., escape rooms, trampoline place, laser tag etc.,)

New types of business that can contribute, car dealership like Toyota or Honda. Bakery. A hole is left in the town with gotcha jeans closing.

Costco

Dollar Tree, Rockies Restaurant, Giant Tiger

Another good coffee shop to sit and enjoy a visit, Winners

Peavy Mart, Hobbie Store

Art/music store in town is needed.

Also a real landscape supply store would be a great addition

All Businesses are welcome, there are many voids to fill.

Shopping

Any business that isn't already here except for fast food.

So many businesses have closed.

Do we even have someone who does economic development?

Let's remove the old gas station/repair shop downtown, a great spot for a new business.

Does the Town even have the Utilities to support more Growth doesn't seem to.

More third places for people to relax and congregate: restaurants, coffee, brewery / distillery, bookstore.

Encourage small businesses not large corporate employers. Smaller businesses are more focussed on the success in and of the community.

We need more tourism opportunities in Olds, it's very much a pass through town now.

Find a new supplier for the town planters. They have been colourless and unattractive since this company got the contract. I have never seen colour combinations as dowdy as these. Make a deal with the landscape design dept. at the college to come up with a plan. After all they teach this! Students could be part of this and used as a teaching tool. For all the planters the town has they are definitely not an attractive addition in attracting people to our town.

Movie theatre a decent one !

Large employers in the SE areas of Olds, and even the overpass area, to encourage more people to work and live here

more housing is required before you can grow commercially

There is a window of opportunity to do some substantial housing development. Grow the town, add to our economic base, benefit from all the new people coming to Alberta.

By tourism I mean business conferences, sports tourism (promoting large tournaments and multi-day sporting events). We have a great location and tons of amenities. For example Gymnastics Hay City Classic competition brings as many as 2,000 people/day to town for a weekend in March each year and hotels are always booked solid. Net benefit to the town is crazy! Promote more of this.

There is a major need for condominium housing for seniors. At present, seniors have little choice but to stay in their detached homes with yards until they are literally unable to live there anymore.
Better clothing and sports stores.
Clothing for children at reasonable prices
Costco, Mexican restaurant, Swiss Chalet, IHOP, Winners/Marshall's, Homesense
Climbing centre
i Truly believe the rec centre need to be improved. Olds draws a lot of people for sporting events and the rec centre is extremely outdated. people with disabilities cant even access the dressing rooms on the bottom floor as there is no other option than stairs. The viewing on the small rink is terrible.
We are very lucky in Olds to have a huge variety of businesses and services. Every car dealership, bank, church, medical service. We have great businesses but need to keep the ones we have. Not sure what assistance the town could offer business owners.

Solid Waste
Love the green bin frequency!
The change in service has been great.
Biweekly Blue and Black Bin was much needed
I would prefer the bins because all I have is a dumpster and it's wasteful and unsightly
I appreciate the town adding bi-weekly black bin dumps, every 3 weeks was not enough. Thank you.
We need the large green bins back. Making people drive to Didsbury to get rid of yard waste has a huge environmental impact.
We still need a site for Spring and Fall yard clean up
Happy with the change.
Residential green bins even being pickup more frequently, still need the large green bins back
I think we need to bring back the carboard recycling bins as they were extremely useful

I would like all the yellow large bins for recycling back. I want the operations centre to clean calcsacs and dead end streets at least once or twice a month instead of 2 times a season
Large Community Green Bins
The Community Green Bins to dump grass in were valued. Too early to tell if rollout bins will handle weekly grass cutting.
I wish to thank the Town of Olds for recognising the collection times in the past were really ill suited, and I am very glad that you have gone to a two week rotation. Really appreciated.
The removal of the towns grass bins and the recycle spots were a huge loss to the people of the community. We will have to see how the roll out works for now. I still think having those bins was the better option
I love that our bins are getting picked up weekly however I'd like to see the big bins back. We have a large property and two green bins isn't enough sometimes. And what am I suppose to do with branches?
The biweekly pickup is definitely more convenient than the old three-week cycle, especially on the rare occasion I forget to put out the black bin, but I don't think it's strictly necessary. I would be okay to return to that system if it saves a significant amount of money for the town. My property only produces enough green bin waste for maybe two or three pickups annually, but I recognize that other people may need more!
The removal of the large recycling centers has been a great loss, and unfortunate that the residents need to pay additional fees to recycle the amount we previously did (via purchasing additional bins).
I feel the large green bins need to come back. Most people can't mow their lawns even once before filling their green bin
The large green bins made such a big difference in our neighborhood. People feel more inclined to do their yard maintenance if they have proper and sufficient disposal options
I would love to see blue bins picked up weekly. Without cardboard drop off in town as a secondary option it is hard some weeks depending on parcel orders residential have I would also love to see the green committee bins. They were used regularly by the committees that had especially if you had a larger lawn.
I think the service works great now.
Happy with the current schedule
Removing the large recycle bins has made it really difficult sometimes to keep up with cardboard etc. Perhaps a different location that's easier to monitor would be helpful so we could bring them back
I would appreciate a tree branch dump that is open every day if the week
Loving the biweekly pickup of the black and blue bins so much!!! Such an improvement!!
Wish we could take grass clipping to the branch dump facility too. Having bi weekly garbage has been great
The biweekly black/blue bin pickup is a great improvement. And love the weekly green bin pick up in the warmer months.

Residents do not require green bins to be dumped weekly, we need this service for waste and recycle

Having Green bin pick up weekly is a great improvement!

Would be interesting to know if the Green Bin requires a weekly pickup. I'm assuming during the Winter season that would not be a weekly pickup when you take grass clippings out of the picture.

new schedule works well

Great Job!

Could use a central location for larger amounts of yard waste.

Weekly green bin is great!,

A central location for grass clippings/leaves/compostable yard waste is needed. Recycling is a joke, we're just throwing money down a hole.

Bring back the large recycling bins in town !

Definitely a step in the right direction

Would be nice to have the large recycling centres back.

Extremely satisfied with the changes, thank you.

Much better having garbage bi-weekly and green bins more often!

Make people pay a monthly fee for an extra black bin, giving only a one time fee for an extra black bin seems to encourage not to recycle or use the green bin or blue bins.

These changes have worked for me. It's a shame that people misused the public recycling bins

I like the biweekly pickup of black bin and blue bin. Miss the idea of recycling though.

If it doesnt increase property taxes, then its fine. Taxes are already a lot. However I'd like to see if eliminating bin pick up system reduce the taxes for homeowners or did they stay the same and did municipal expenditures remain the same or does it costs more because initial bin expense costs, also eliminating jobs in the municipality. I'd rather see people employed than spending money on stuff that still cost taxpayers to pay same or more.

The current solid waste service is fantastic! Thank you!

The recycling service should be more comprehensive to include plastic films and bags

Community yard waste and community recycle bins should return to Olds

The lack of winter compost pickup was not a great decision which forced people to put food in the garbage rather than compost once it was full.

the community recycle bins need to come back.

The community bins should return. I don't think we need black bins picked up so often if that happens.

Excellent upgrade having weekly green bin pickup rather than large bins around town. If you property creates more waste then weekly green bin pickup can handle, you can afford to pay a landscape company to remove the waste for you

This service has been changed for the positive. Residents have been asking for this type of pick up schedule for years. Well done Town of olds!

The town is definitely in need if a means for owners to dispose of fill and sod and other landscape materials that the branch collection and didsbury landfill won't accept

Make them take another lap for alley pick up. I shouldn't have to drag my bin across an alley bi weekly just to convince the service our tax dollars provide

I would like a more access to get rid of branches. I find the available times limiting.

Missing the large community recycling bins

I am happy with the way the garbage and other things are taken care.

Living in Imperial estates the large green bins were a necessity and are very much missed.

We do need large grass clipping bins. Larger properties pay more in taxes and now get less services because the green grass bins are gone.

Though the absence of the large green bins at the beginning of spring was an inconvenience, I feel that the weekly household green bin pick up is the better option.

Very happy with the weekly green bin pickup.

Concerned about the future of recycling and the market for recycled materials. How can the larger cities continue to provide recycling for glass for example but the new provider is suddenly unable?

Great decision to go to double can pick up for part of the year.
I agree with removing the large green bins as they were misused.
Very happy with the present schedule.

Relating to infrastructure/road maintenance - I appreciate all the town has done to invest in options to repair roads. I would like to see more infrastructure to support enforcement in managing speeding and traffic safety in town (speed bumps added on Shannon drive, playground zones, etc, and flashing signs that remind people they are in playground zones).

What justifies "reducing cost" but raising property taxes an average of 30%..

Go back to 1 bin being picked per week. Our bins are mostly empty every time they are picked up, big waste of money.

I am satisfied with the frequency of black bin pick up being increased but am dissatisfied with the decision to remove public green bins and recycling areas for cardboard.

Please return the large community green bins. Perhaps not all summer long, but for spring and fall clean up. Additionally, please consider replacing the garbage bins in Centennial Park. It takes a huge loader, 2 staff, and an additional truck and trailer to empty a garage bag? This seems to be a pretty obvious abuse of resources

i had to rent another green bin so in that i am not satisfied when town workers are cutting dead grass last october-how is that managing wage cost? and my green space turned into a lake yesterday just after town workers finished weed wacking in the pouring rain-was that an effective use of wages?

Would like to see return of thee large grass/leaf bins for Spring and Fall Cleanup of yards They could be placed in an area that could be monitored

With the weekly green bin pickup during the warmer months, I now have enough space for my needs.

Unneeded

pass on the savings that were made by going with the cheapest bidder. the service has been sub par at best with Empringham.

The new schedule of weekly pick up is much better than before.

Much rather have weekly green bin service then the community dump alls that were being misused and over flowing.

I like the transition to weekly green bin pick up and removal of community bins. This keeps the onus on the homeowner to respect rules. The option to purchase an additional bin is reasonably priced. However, I find my blue and black bins do not require more frequent pick up. I make concerted efforts to minimize waste and feel I am being penalized. Other communities offer different sizes of waste bins for different costs, this may be a thought.

Love the current pick up schedule. Wish there was still a place to take excess recycling.

The current pick up schedule is AWESOME!! I would like to see a designated area for recycling and continued yard waste such as tree trimmings, tree branches, garden waste, etc.

I appreciate the current pickup schedule, but the removal of the large recycling depot does make it more difficult for us to take care of larger recyclable materials

I appreciate the 2 bins per week pick up in the summer months. I understand all the collected material is going to land fill and not being recycled at this time. Hopefully a facility is found to take the recycleable materials from our area.

Generally the changes have been positive, but not being able to drop off larger amounts of recycling or yard waste is difficult at times

Can the town confirm that our blue bin recycling actually is sent for recycling. Not confident since the county recycling was canceled.

Role in Attracting Developments

More affordable housing.