What matters most to you?

Table talk

Community Plan Conversation Guide

CITY OF Guelph
Making a Difference

What matters most to you?

We want to know. You likely already talk about the community thoughout your day; maybe it's with coworkers at the office, parents at the park or soccer field or your family around the dinner table. You may talk about:

- the things you love or don't love about Guelph,
- what excites you about other places and cities you have visited or lived,
- what frustrates you,
- what you want for your children,
- what would keep you growing and learning in Guelph.

What you're talking about is what we need to hear. Help shape Guelph by sharing your thoughts.

How will my thoughts make a difference?

Together we are building a Community Plan that will help shape what Guelph will look like in the next 10 to 20 years. It will consider our economic, cultural, educational, environmental, social and health hopes and dreams. The Community Plan will guide the work of our local government while giving everyone in Guelph a way to monitor our progress together, share what we learn and adjust when necessary.

To build a plan that reflects our diverse community, we need to hear from everyone. Each voice matters. Your voice matters.

Our question is simple: what matters most to you? It's simple and big. It's an open ended question with no right or wrong answer. And the answers will be as diverse as our beautiful community.

It is our collective answer to this that will help ensure that as we grow we are keeping in touch with our community's values and needs.

Here's the great thing, the work has already begun. We have an Official Plan as well as other City strategies and community initiatives already in place to guide Guelph's growth and development in the years leading up to 2031. The Community Plan will pull our existing direction into one place. What's left is finding out what really matters to you. With our plans and policies in one hand and your thoughts and values in the other, we can create a Community Plan that works and speaks for all of us.

How can you help?

Be heard. There are many different opportunities for all voices in our community to be heard. And we want to hear from everyone.

This "Do-it-Yourself" workshop booklet is one way you can participate. It is full of activities and questions to get the conversation started. We want to know what the future of Guelph looks like to you and the people you talk to everyday. It's easy.

1. Choose an activity.
2. Have a conversation.
3. Send us your results.

We can't wait to hear what you have to say.

What will we do with what we hear?

Your stories, pictures, thoughts, hopes and dreams will be added to our other engagement results and help shape the Community Plan vision and priorities. In late 2018, we'll take all we've learned and heard from you to draft the Community Plan. We'll present to City Council for validation and approval in the spring of 2019.

Getting Started

Having a Community Plan conversation is as easy as 1,2,3!

1. Pick a location, group, date and time and invite your family, friends, neighbours or colleagues. Think about where you would like to hold your conversation and who you would like to talk to. Some ideas include:
   - Gather your family together after dinner for dessert/ tea and chat
   - Invite your neighbours to your front steps for coffee or tea
   - Invite your friends over for a night in
   - Talk to your colleagues on a coffee or lunch break
   - Add a few extra minutes to the end of your book club night
2. Get organized. The activities in this guidebook are designed to be done with whatever material you have around the house or office. Each activity can use any of the questions asked at the beginning of any of the other activities. Take a look through which activities you would like to do, and have on hand what you might need—a pen, some paper, maybe some tape, and this guidebook.
3. Have fun! The activities in this guidebook will help us all understand what is important for our future Guelph and what could make our lives better. You just might learn more about your family, friends, colleagues and neighbours too!

Activity: **Pictionary**

Question

What does, "That's so Guelph," mean?

Description of activity

Draw your answer to this question and ask others to guess your answer by looking at your drawing.

Materials needed

- Pens, crayons, markers
- Blank paper: one large or several regular 8.5" x 11" sheets
- Flat surface: wall, table or floor
- Tape (if using a wall)

Instructions

1. Place the large piece of paper on a table or tape to a wall. If you are using smaller pieces of papers, spread them out on a table for everyone to use.
2. Ask each person think for a couple of minutes about their answer to the question "What does 'That's so Guelph' mean?" It could be a building or space, a concept, an event, a feeling, a person—you name it!
3. Ask one person to beginning drawing their answer on the large paper or on a regular size piece of paper, so everyone can see.
4. As the person draws, everyone else tries to guess what they are drawing. The first person to guess the right answer scores one point.
5. Repeat until each person has a chance to draw their answer to the question. The person with the most points wins.
6. Write down everyone's answers to the question and send this in to us. We'd also love to see your drawings, so take pictures or send the originals too if you are willing to share. Check out the last page for ways to share your ideas with us.

Tip

No artistic talent is required. The fun is seeing how creative you can be at communicating an idea through something other than words, and to see how well your friends, family, colleagues or neighbours know you.

Activity: **Make a story**

Question

What would be your perfect Guelph day in 2030?

Description of activity

Write a story about your perfect Guelph day in 2030 (or if you prefer 2040)? This can be an activity you do alone or with others.

Materials needed

- Pens or pencils
- Blank lined paper or a computer

Instructions

1. Imagine your future in Guelph 10 or 20 years from now. If we've done a good job planning for our community it will be a perfect day. What makes the day perfect? What does the future look like to you? What do the roads look like? Where does our food come from? What global or human problem has been solved? How do you spend your leisure time? What thing that isn't in Guelph now is in your future perfect day in Guelph?
2. Take 10 or 15 minutes to write down your story or a description of your perfect Guelph day in 2030. If this is a group activity share your story with your group or if you like, write a story together that includes parts of everyone's perfect day.
3. Have a conversation about your story. Is your perfect day different from that of your friends, family, neighbours or colleagues? What needs to happen to make your perfect future day a reality? Take some notes about this conversation.
4. Write the ideas for each heading on a single piece of paper, take a photo, and send us your ideas! Check out the last page for ways to share your ideas with us.

Tip

You don't need to be a published author to tell a good story. Your future perfect day is important. Please tell us about it.

Activity: **Mapping**

Question

What are the best things in Guelph?

Description of activity

Imagine you have a visitor who has never been to Guelph before. They have asked you to share the best things in Guelph with them. What do you think the best things are; a restaurant, a tree, the university, a really nice wide bike lane? Figure out the best things and then make a map to take your imaginary visitor on a "best things" tour.

Materials needed

- Pen or markers
- Blank paper: either several 8.5" x 11" sheets or one very large piece of paper
- Flat surface: wall, table or floor
- Tape (if using wall)
- Yarn, string or ribbon

Instructions

1. On a flat surface spread out your large sheet of paper or if you are using small sheets, dump everything in the middle of your group.
2. Start a conversation with your group. As you talk about Guelph's best things start recording them. If you have a large piece of paper, ask people to draw and write their ideas on this. If you have smaller pieces of paper ask people to record their ideas on these, one idea per sheet. Use words, pictures, photos to share with your group about what the best things in Guelph are.
3. One at a time, share your best things with each other. If you've used small papers, spread these out on your flat surface.
4. Start making connections between best things by using the yarn or string, or draw lines and arrows with a pen or marker to show how each best thing word, picture, idea is connected to other people's. Does that bike lane make it safe to get to the university? Is the tree connected to a memory of grandma? Make that connection. Keep going until there are no connections left to be made. (You might need more yarn!)
5. Now you have a "map" for your visitor. Talk with each other about your map—does it make sense to everyone? Is anything missing? What does mapping the "best things" make you think about? How do you feel?
6. Write the ideas for each heading on a single piece of paper, take a photo, and send us your ideas! Check out the last page for ways to share your ideas with us.

Tip

You don't need a map of Guelph. And you don't need to worry about geography. This map is about connecting your group's best things about Guelph, not about exactly where they are located.

Activity: **Brainstorming**

Question

What would make Guelph the best place to live in 2030?

Description of activity

Think of what would make Guelph the best place to live in 2030, for you or your family, for your neighbourhood, and for Guelph as whole. Pretend there are no limits. Be creative!

Materials needed

- Pens or markers
- Blank paper, three 8.5" x 11" sheets, and several others that are cut in half or quarters
- Flat surface: wall, table or floor
- Tape (if using wall)

Instructions

1. On three sheets of 8.5" x 11" of paper, write one of the following headings on each:
   - Me/my family
   - My neighbourhood
   - Guelph
2. Place the headings in a row on a flat surface.
3. Ask your group to take a few minutes to individually think of ideas that would make Guelph the best place to live in 2030 for themselves and/or their family, for their neighbourhood, and for Guelph as a whole. Write each idea on a separate piece of small paper. If young children are part of the group, they could draw pictures.
4. Ask for volunteer to share one of their ideas with the group, explaining why they feel their idea will help make Guelph the best city to live in 2030, and ask them to place their idea under the appropriate heading.
5. Keeping going around the group until each person has shared all their ideas and are placed them under or beside the appropriate heading.
6. Look at the ideas under each heading and talk about what else would make Guelph the best place to live in 2030 for you and/or your family, your neighbourhood, and Guelph as a whole. Write new ideas on a sheet of paper and place under the appropriate heading. Some actions may cross columns—that's okay!
7. Write the ideas for each heading on a single piece of paper, take a photo, and send us your ideas! Check out the last page for ways to share your ideas with us.

Tip

There is no right or wrong answer. Make sure that everyone knows their ideas are equally valued, and that everyone takes their turn listening. Ask people to prepare an answer by writing it down first. This will help them have confidence to share what they are thinking with the group.

Activity: **Cards for Community**

Question

This activity is full of questions. Print the game to see for yourself.

Description of activity

How much do you know about Guelph? Learn some surprising and not so surprising facts about Guelph and have conversations about what it all means to you and to others. Contribute to the conversation from your lived experience and knowledge and be receptive to others' points of view. Say what you think, ask hard questions, disagree and debate.

Materials needed

- The playing cards
- A space to play, a table works nicely

Instructions

Here's a quick overview of how to play the game. Full instructions are included in the card game file.

1. Print the cards and gather three or more people.
2. The dealer should read the Guidelines card out loud to the other players.
3. Shuffle the green question cards and place them in a pile in the middle of the table, face down and turn over the top question card. This is the conversation starter for this round.
4. Shuffle the purple conversation and orange action cards together and deal all the cards out to the group. The person with the 'My Perspective is . . .' conversation card goes first.
5. Play one conversation card at a time. Once the 'My Perspective is . . .' card has been played, you can play the conversation cards in any order just make sure everyone has a turn. Save your action cards for later.
6. Using the prompts on the conversation cards, discuss the question as a group. Bring new ideas or perspectives into the group discussion.
7. Once all of the conversation cards have been played move on to the action cards.
8. Play one action card at a time, the order doesn't matter. Discuss the card as a group and record the action ideas on the Community Actions form to share with the Community Plan.
9. Write the ideas for each heading on a single piece of paper, take a photo, and send us your ideas! Check out the last page for ways to share your ideas with us.

Tip

Have an open mind. It is okay to speak your mind, play Devil's advocate and especially to listen differently. Try to understand the true meaning of what's being said, and listen at least as much as you speak. The wisest decisions are made when all of the wisdom is the room is considered.

Wrapping up the conversation

By now you and your group have probably come up with some interesting ideas about the future of Guelph, and maybe learned some interesting things about each other.

A great way to close a conversation is to go around your group and ask each person to say one sentence about an idea that really stood out for them or about what they learned from the conversation.

Questions to get you started:

- Tell us an idea that really stood out for you today?
- Tell us one thing you learned today?

Thank everyone for coming and taking the time to share their thoughts.

And from us, thank you for getting your family, friends, and/or neighbours together.

Where to send your ideas

Make a copy or take a photo of your stories, pictures, maps, brainstorms and card games and then send them to us. Here's how:

- Email: makeyourmark@guelph.ca
- Twitter: @cityofguelph, #makeyourmark
- Facebook: facebook.com/cityofguelph
- In person or mail:
  Service Guelph, City Hall
  1 Carden Street, Guelph, ON N1H 3A1
  ATTN: Community Plan

A United Vision:
GUELPH'S COMMUNITY PLAN

MAKE YOUR MARK.

guelph.ca/communityplan
makeyourmark@guelph.ca
#makeyourmark

Accessible formats available by calling 519-822-1260 extension 3356 or TTY 519-826-9771.

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