



Draft Official Plan Guiding Principles

Who attended?

Throughout January and February 2009, over seventy community members helped Town Staff shape the future of Richmond Hill. Participants, in three workshops held on January 28th, January 29th and February 3rd provided their comments on the draft principles which will help guide the new Official Plan's policies and land-use decisions. For those community members who were unable to attend a meeting in person, the innovative online *Draft Guiding Principles Workbook* helped them work through the workshop exercises from home with the click of a mouse!

What is a principle?

A principle is a statement that guides or influences thought or action, by describing what direction should be taken on a matter. Through policy, a principle can be translated into more tangible goals and objectives.

Why does the Official Plan need principles?

The Official Plan Guiding Principles are intended to provide the Town with clear guidance and direction for public policies and land-use decisions. Since the Official Plan Guiding Principles are based on a solid foundation, gathered from Provincial and Regional policy direction and extensive consultation through *People Plan Richmond Hill*, then the planning policies and decisions coming out of the new Official Plan will be that much stronger.

What did we hear?

There was broad support for the Draft Guiding Principles from the public. Participants felt that the protection of employment lands, environmental management, design excellence and accessibility needed to be highlighted. Input from these sessions helped inform the development of the Official Plan Guiding Principles.

Where can I see the final set of Official Plan Guiding Principles?

Please visit www.richmondhill.ca/officialplan for the final list of Official Plan Guiding Principles.