

**DATE:** April 12, 2021

**REPORT NO:** PD-41-2021

**SUBJECT:** Information Report –Update Relating to the Residential Lot Inventory for the Smithville Settlement Area and Compliance Analysis with the A Place to Grow (P2G) Plan

**CONTACT:** Brian Treble, Director of Planning & Building

**OVERVIEW:**

- This report is written to inform the Planning/Building/Environmental Committee (the Committee) that Township Planning Staff continues to monitor the inventory of vacant and potentially vacant residential lots inside the existing Smithville Settlement Area boundary. Further, Staff is monitoring, as required, the number of housing starts per year, along with the breakdown of housing starts within the Built Boundary versus Greenfield lands in the Township of West Lincoln.
- Two issues arise as a result of this work: first, the number of available lots is too low at 0 greenfield and 89 infill lots ready for development in 2021 and second, that there is generally a healthy supply of potential lots, but they need to be brought on line quicker so that there is developable land available for 2022 and beyond. A potential of 917 lots are available to be brought on line.
- The housing starts are not up to the standard required in order to maintain/achieve our growth targets and the volume of housing starts is being hampered by the lack of available lots (supply).
- This report is written to inform the Committee of this information prior to submission of an annual report to the Region.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That, Report No. PD-041-2021, dated April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, relating to the “Update of the Residential Lot Inventory for the Smithville Settlement Area and Compliance Analysis with the A Place to Grow (P2G) Plan”, BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

## **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

### **Theme #3 & #6**

- Strategic Responsible Growth
- Efficient, Fiscally Responsible Operations

## **BACKGROUND:**

In 2005, the Township of West Lincoln hired BLS Planning Consultants (Glen Barker) to commence a Growth Management Study of Smithville. This study was initiated to determine the amount of additional land, if any, that was required in order to accommodate continued residential growth. Part of this review was to establish an inventory of vacant lands and potential vacant lots within the existing Smithville Settlement Area. The first Table of this kind was created in 2007, and has been updated each year since that time.

Further, in 2006 the Province first passed the Places to Grow Act and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area (including Niagara Region). The Region of Niagara was instructed (along with all other Regions in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area) to prepare an implementation strategy by 2008. The result was RPPA 2-2009.

Township Staff had concerns with the implementation strategy of RPPA 2-2009 and subsequently Township Council appealed the Regional Policy Plan to the former OMB. In conjunction with RPPA 2-2009, Township Official Plan Amendments (OPA) 37 and 38 accomplished an urban boundary adjustment known as “the swap”, for Smithville. Final approval of all of this process by the OMB occurred in 2015.

More recently, the Region was assigned provincial growth targets to achieve by 2041 and now new targets to achieve by 2051. The Township and Region are now working towards new growth targets for West Lincoln which will result in the monitoring of land supply being a continual, ongoing requirement.

The Province made changes to the Growth Plan in 2020 which is now called A Place to Grow Plan. A new Land Needs calculation document and employment conversion needs guideline were also issued by the Provincial Government in 2020. In order to implement all of the Provincial Policy by 2051 the Region is working on several policy documents as part of a new Regional Official Plan. At the same time, the Township is now working on a Master Community Plan and a Subwatershed Study for the future growth of Smithville and West Lincoln. Originally, both studies were planning for 2041 but have now been shifted to plan for growth to 2051.

## **CURRENT SITUATION:**

Staff realize that the content of these monitoring tables is very important as we move forward. An evaluation of compliance with P2G, RPPA 2-2009, Niagara 2041 and current provincial policy is required. Further, significant planning work is currently underway to establish a strategy to implement P2G as it will relate to the future implementation of the new 2051 growth allocation numbers.

The attached Tables provide a quick overview of our status with respect to available lands and our compliance with Regional and Provincial intensification targets. These two tables are discussed in more detail in the following sections of this report.

### **Vacant Lot Inventory**

The first vacant lot inventory that was completed by Township staff in 2007 determined that there were potentially up to 912 vacant lots inside the pre 2015 urban boundary of Smithville. Of these, 573 were potential Greenfield lots and 339 were potential lots located within the Built Boundary. Most of the Greenfield supply noted above, has now been consumed.

The Built Boundary is defined as the limit of continuous urban growth within the urban area, as it was determined by the Province, on June 6, 2006.

The most recent vacant lot inventory is found at Table 1 to this report, and now includes the Northwest Quadrant lands. Additional lots continue to be created and developed internal to the built boundary. This is in keeping with the concept of infill and intensification as required by provincial and regional policy. The information can be summarized as follows:

- Potential vacant residential lots within the Built Boundary of Smithville at the end of 2020 = 111 lots (of which only 86 currently are approved).
- Potential vacant residential lots within the Greenfield area of Smithville at the end of 2020= 804 lots (of which 0 lots are approved).
- Total potential vacant residential lots in 2021= 917 lots (only 86 are approved and available for building permits).

The 2011 Stats Canada numbers showed West Lincoln as the third fastest growing municipality in the Region (behind Grimsby and Niagara-on-the-Lake, and just ahead of Lincoln). Our 2011 population was established by Statistics Canada as 13,837 people with approximately 5,200 people in Smithville.

In 2017, the 2016 Statistics Canada numbers were released. These numbers showed that the population of the Township of West Lincoln was 14,500, with the population of Smithville estimated at 5,500. Some areas of our Township declined in population thereby slowing our overall growth to sixth place in the Region of Niagara.

### **Residential Infill and Intensification and New Housing Starts**

Regional Policy Plan Amendment RPPA 2-2009 was first approved to implement the growth plan targets to 2031 and established that we were required to achieve an infill/intensification target of 15% by 2015. This meant that 15% of the total number of new housing starts in West Lincoln must be within the Built Boundary of Smithville (a line that was established by the Province on June 6, 2006). The province requires that the Region achieve 40% intensification across the Region. Each municipality has a different target, as assigned by the Region, based on the amount of developable land that is available; for example, Grimsby and St. Catharines are required to achieve 75%

intensification by 2021. A new target will eventually be assigned by the Region for growth in West Lincoln until 2051.

The Table found at Attachment No. 2 reflects our recent analysis of new housing starts in the Township of West Lincoln and their relationship between Greenfield, Built Boundary, Rural and Hamlet Development.

Based on the building permit stats for 2020, we achieved 84% growth within the built boundary area in 2020; well above our 15% target. This is off balance because Greenfield lands are not at the final approval stages of the development approval process. **HOWEVER**, as long as we continue to encourage and support infill development and redevelopment then we will continue to achieve the general intent of the target despite the fact that some years more growth will be greenfield and not infill in the future. The goal is to balance out at 15% infill and intensification.

To achieve significant intensification in Smithville in the future will require redevelopment of some existing developed sites as well as developing all vacant lands. Until such time as redevelopment of existing sites is economical, our ability to intensify will be limited. Staff report PD-148-20 (November 2020) provided a consultant report on how this could be achieved.

The new residential housing starts in the Township (specifically Smithville) need to grow over time in order to achieve our future growth targets. Unfortunately, the land available for development is currently in limited supply and therefore housing starts have been held back for the last 24 months or so.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable to this report.

**INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:**

Not applicable to this report.

**CONCLUSION:**

Additional policy changes by the Province were approved in 2020 including new population allocations to 2051. Early in 2021, Regional Planning staff are expected to release new target populations to each lower tier municipality. In addition, the employment land conversion requirements have recently changed and the land needs calculation methodology was also changed. The attached Tables have been submitted to Township Committee and Council for their information and review. The Region and the Province have requested annual updates of these tables and staff wish to ensure that they have been presented to Committee and Council first. These Tables will form a component of the discussions with the Region and Province as we work to achieve a growth strategy to implement the targets for 2051 and any future growth allocations.

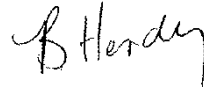
Many reports will be forthcoming to Committee and Council during 2021.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Potential Residential Vacant Lot Inventory Table
2. Analysis of Residential Development (Building Permits Issued) in West Lincoln for Infill/Intensification

**Prepared & Submitted by:**

**Approved by:**



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**Brian Treble**  
Director of Planning & Building

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**Bev Hendry**  
CAO

Attachment No. 1 to PD-041-2021

: Unit Summary Update

MAP LABEL	SUBDIVISION	STATUS	FINAL CERTIFICATE ISSUED FOR ASSUMPTION (YEAR)	AREA (ha)	TOTAL APPRVD UNITS	NUMBER OF REMAINING VACANT UNITS				BUILT OUT (YEAR)	NOTES
						Singles	Semi's	Towns	Apts.		
<b>A</b>	Streamside	Final Approved Plan	Final Certificate 2018 (final vacant lot and LC reduction 2019)	25	84	0	-	-	-	2019	
<b>B</b>	Brookside (Atwater)	Final Approved Plan	Final Certificate 2019	3.3	44	-	0	0	-	2017	
<b>C</b>	Anastasio Phase 4 (Auburn Trail 2a & 2b)	Final Approved Plan	Final Certificate 2019	9.4	136	0	-	-	-	2019	
<b>D</b>	Alma Acres Phase 3	Final Approved Plan		17.7	100	0	-	-	-	2012	
<b>E</b>	Station Meadows Phase 3	Final Approved Plan	Final Certificate 2012	17.8	24	0	-	-	-	2014	
<b>F</b>	Spring Creek Estates	Final Approved Plan	Final Certificate 2018	2.1	23	0	-	-	-	2016	
<b>G-1</b>	Brookside Phase 2 ***	Final Approved Plan	Final Certificate 2016	3	48	0	0	0	-	2014	
<b>G-2</b>	Brookside Phase 3 ***	Final Approved Plan	Final Certificate 2018	13.7	102	0	-	0	-	2014	
<b>H</b>	Spring Creek Heights	Secondary Plan As Amended By OPA 26 (18 units/ha) **		2.3	0	-	-	46 est	-		conversion analysis in progress
<b>I</b>	6334 Townline Road	No Application		1	0	2 est	-	-	-		
<b>J</b>	6392 Townline Road	No Application		0.6	0	6 est	-	-	-		
<b>K</b>	West Street (East of Streamside)	No Application		0.4	0	-	4 est	-	-		
<b>L</b>	Station Meadows Phase 4	Final Approved Plan	Final Certificate 2018	1.57	16	0	-	-	-	2016	
<b>M</b>	Streamside Commercial Block	Final Approved Plan		1.7	54	-	-	0	-		
<b>N</b>	Marz Homes (south of tracks)				0	57est	60est	100est	-		
<b>O</b>	Dunloe (north of tracks)	Draft Approval Granted Dec 16/19			123	29	20	74	0		Draft Approval 2020
<b>P</b>	Budd (east of S. Grimsby Rd. 5)	Application Received in December 2019			395	68	0	327	-		
<b>Q</b>	East Smithville Secondary Plan	Under Review 2020			0	0	0	0	0		conversion analysis in progress
<b>R</b>	Spring Creek Manor	LPAT Approval 2019		0.5	11	0	0	0	0	2020	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99.57</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>162 (p) 0 (a)</b>	<b>86 (p) 0 (a)</b>	<b>556 (p) 0 (a)</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>Total # of Vacant Units/Lots (Greenfield) 804 (p) 0 (a)</b>
		** Potential number of vacant units determined by a factor of: L.D. 15 units/ ha, M.D. 20 units/ ha, H.D. 30 units /ha									<b>0</b>
MAP LABEL	INFILL LOTS (BUILT BOUNDARY)		Infill Factor	Area (ha)	Proposed # of Units	Number Potential Units And/Or Number of Units Available					
						Singles	Semi's	Towns	Apts's		
<b>1</b>	New Era (Condo) Rosemont	Site Plan & Plan of Condo Approved	as proposed	3.031	63	-	2	61	-		
<b>2</b>	Anastasio Phase 3	Final Approved Plan - Developed	as approved	5.5	76	0	0	-	-	2018	
<b>3</b>	Shurie Road (Griffin Place)	Final Approved Plan - Developed	as approved	0.9	40	-	0	0	-	2018	
<b>4</b>	Wes-Li Gardens	Final Approved Plan - Developed	as approved	3.16	40	-	0	-	-	2015	
<b>5</b>	Wes-Li Heights	Final Approved Plan - Developed	as approved	0.84	13	-	0	-	-	2016	
<b>6</b>	College Street	Final Approved Plan - Developed	as approved	0.3	10	-	-	0	-	2009	
<b>7</b>	Smithville Station	Final Approved Plan - Developed	as approved	6.18	98	0	-	0	-	2020	
<b>8</b>	St. Catharine Street (NS)	Draft Approval Granted - 2018	M.D. - 20 units/ ha	0.6	20	-	-	20	-		
<b>9</b>	DiCarlo Property	Final Approved Plan - Developed	as approved	0.8	20	-	-	0	-	2012	
<b>10</b>	TWL Property Downtown		H.D. - 40 units/ ha	0.71	28	-	-	-	28 est		
<b>11</b>	6358 Townline Road	No Application	L.D. - 15 units / ha	0.6	5	0	-	-	-		
<b>12</b>	Crossings on the Twenty (South)	Final Approved Plan	as approved	0.7	24	-	-	0	-	2020	
<b>13</b>	278 St. Catharine Street	No Application	L.D. - 18 units/ ha	0.4	7	-	7 est	-	-		
<b>14</b>	West Street (Starlight)	No Application	H.D. - 40 units/ ha	0.8	32	-	32 est	-	-		
<b>15</b>	314 St. Catharine Street	No Application	L.D. - 18 units/ ha	0.7	12	-	12 est	-	-		
<b>16</b>	Forest Avenue Property	Rezoning and Site Plan	H.D. - 40 units/ ha	0.4	32	-	-	-	32		
<b>17</b>	Crossings on the Twenty (North)	Draft Approval			10	-	-	-	-		
<b>18</b>	St. Martin's School Redevelopment	study not completed			HD	-	-	-	-		
<b>19</b>	College Street School Redevelopment	study not completed			HD	-	-	-	-		
<b>20</b>	Ellis Property - Station Street	Consent Approval 2019			4	3	0	0	0		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25.62</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>0 (p) 3 (a)</b>	<b>51 (p) 2 (a)</b>	<b>0 (p) 81(a)</b>	<b>60 (p)</b>		<b>Total # of Potential Units (Infill) 111 (p) 86 (a)</b>
			<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>125.19</b>	<b>1694</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>TOTAL SUPPLY 917 (p) 86 (a)</b>

P = Potential A = Approved

Updated to December 31, 2020

Attachment No. 2 to PD-041-21

**Analysis of Residential Development Units (Building Permits Issued) in West Lincoln  
for Compliance with RPPA 2-2009 AND OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT #38  
to the Township of West Lincoln Official Plan**

Year	Greenfield Development in Smithville						Built Boundary Development in Smithville						Undelineated Hamlet (Greenfield)						Agricultural (Greenfield)					Analysis				
	Singles	Semi's	Triplex	Townhouses	Apartments in Dwellings	Other	Singles	Semis	Triplex	Townhouses	Apartments in Dwellings	Other	Singles	Semis	Triplex	Townhouses	Apartments in Dwellings	Other	Singles	Farm Help House	Garden Suites	Apartments in Houses	Other	Total Units in West Lincoln	Total Units in Smithville	Total Greenfield Units	Total Units Built Boundary	% in Built Boundary of Total
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	34	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	130	102	0	102	78.46
2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	10	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	88	66	0	66	75.00
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	20	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	116	90	0	90	77.59
2006	11	0	0	0	0	0	41	6	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	79	58	11	47	59.49
2007	32	6	6	8	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	21	1	0	0	0	95	58	52	6	6.32
2008	20	2	0	3	0	0	11	0	0	7	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	59	43	25	18	30.51
2009	11	2	3	4	2	0	7	10	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	52	42	22	20	38.46
2010	12	6	9	0	0	0	11	24	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	75	62	27	35	46.67
2011	24	0	18	4	0	0	3	10	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	77	59	46	13	16.88
2012	22	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	45	28	24	4	8.89
2013	25	2	30	0	0	0	4	0	0	10	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	81	71	57	14	17.28
2014	39	16	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	1	0	0	81	66	55	11	13.58
2015	52	2	0	46	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	122	107	100	7	5.74
2016	88	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	116	93	88	5	4.31
2017	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	28	12	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	1	65	49	8	41	63.07
2018	1	0	0	15	0	0	12	0	0	19	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	70	47	16	31	44.28
2019	0	0	0	8	0	0	4	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	65	57	8	49	75.38
2020	0	2	0	9	0	0	15	2	0	80	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	115	108	11	97	84%