

# New Official Plan

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## S. 26 Statutory Public Meeting

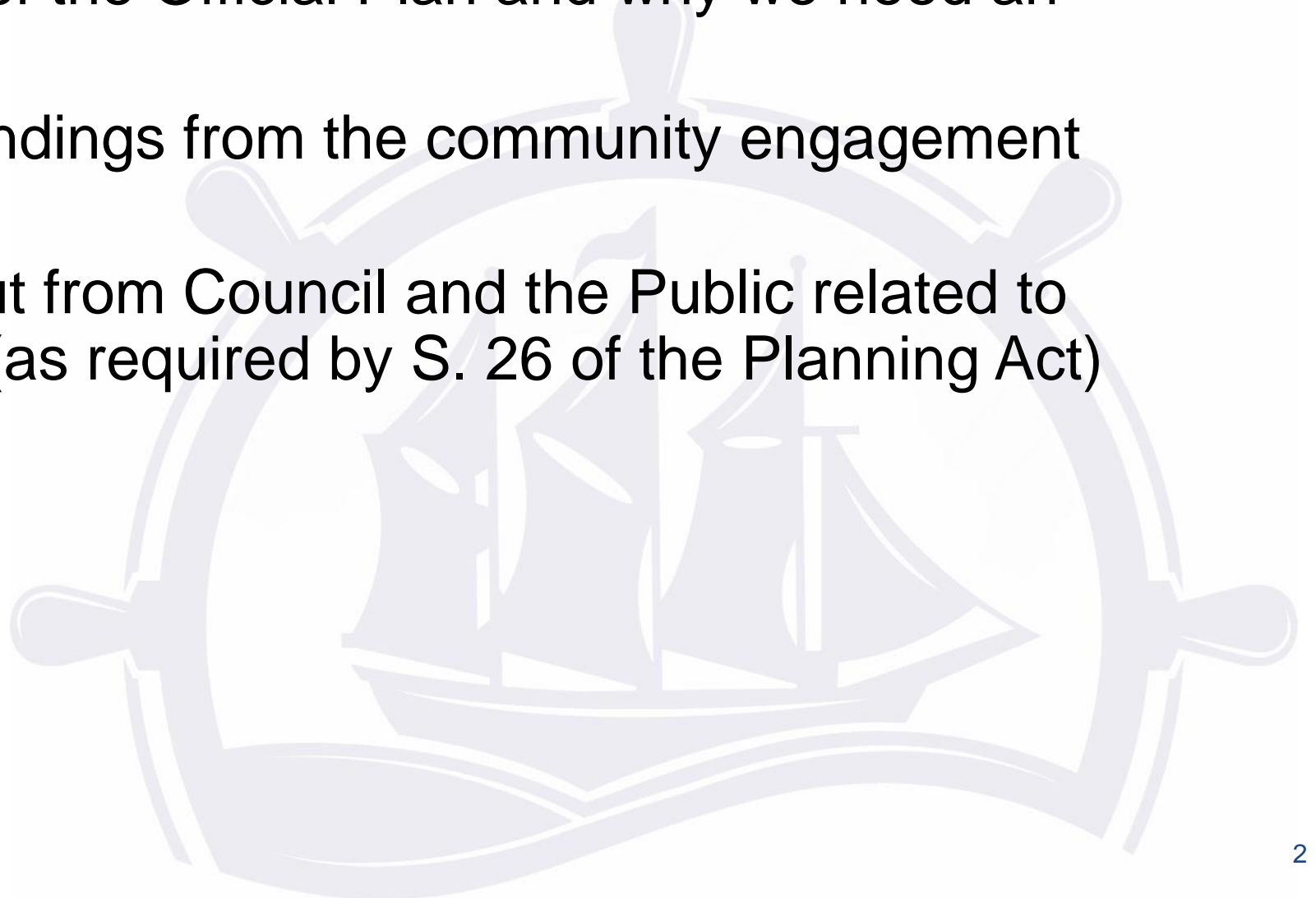


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# Purpose of this Presentation & Statutory Meeting

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- Present an overview of the Official Plan and why we need an update
- Present preliminary findings from the community engagement process
- Gather additional input from Council and the Public related to the new Official Plan (as required by S. 26 of the Planning Act)



# What is an Official Plan?

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**An Official Plan is document that contains goals and policies to guide growth, economic development, and the protection of the built and natural environment**

The Official Plan will look at:

- Creating a vision for growth
- Where new housing, jobs, shops, and industry will be located
- Planning for services such as roads, sewers, schools, and parks
- How to protect and enhance natural areas and green spaces
- Planning for jobs and economic vitality
- How to plan for climate change impacts and environmental sustainability
- Establishing community improvement initiatives
- Ways to implement the Strategic Plan 2023-2026
- Conforming municipal policies with provincial and regional policies



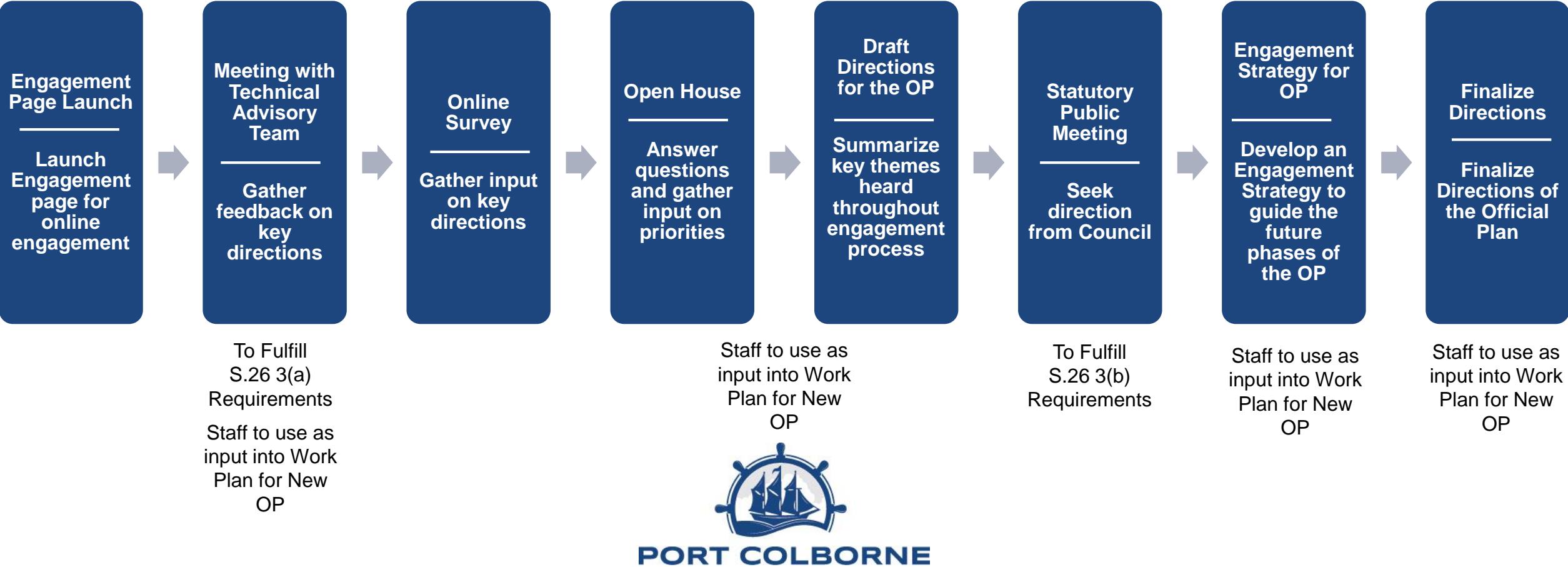
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# Project Purpose

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- Current Official Plan was approved in 2013 and **a new Official Plan is needed to respond to current conditions** and set a new vision for growth to 2051 and beyond
- **Initiate public engagement** in preparation for the New Official Plan project (meet Planning Act requirements set out in S.26)
- Engagement will inform the identification of a **vision** and directions for the New Official Plan and the preparation of a scope of work and terms of reference for the New official Plan project
- Planning staff can use this information to proceed forward with the technical work necessary to prepare a New Official Plan

# Project Tasks and Timeline



# How We Engaged



## Technical Advisory Team Meeting

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14 participants from  
the City of Port  
Colborne, Niagara  
Region, and the  
NPCA



## Engagement page on Let's Connect Port Colborne

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635 visits to the New  
Official Plan project  
page



## Online Survey and Interactive Mapping Survey

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34 survey responses  
and 151 comments  
placed on the map



## Public Open House

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Approximately 60  
visitors



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# What We Heard – The Key Themes

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## Vision



- Vibrant
- Balanced growth
- Arts, culture, and recreation
- Connected to Lake Erie
- Economic development and jobs
- parks, green spaces, and opportunities for community gathering and recreation
- Healthy and community that is accessible by all ages and abilities
- Infrastructure to support future growth
- Variety of housing types and affordable housing
- Thriving downtown with shopping and entertainment
- Walkable community with complete streets

# What We Heard – The Key Themes

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## Housing



- Opportunities for infill
- Priority for medium to high density communities with mixed-use buildings
- Promote complete communities
- Grow more housing and promote diverse housing types
- Provide a range of affordable housing options
- Promote sustainable building types

# What We Heard – The Key Themes

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## Green Spaces and the Environment



- Preserve existing natural areas, wood lots, and wetlands
- Preserve and enhance existing tree cover
- Connect residential areas to green spaces to promote connection to nature
- Plan for more trails
- Plan more waterfront access, connections and protect the waterfront
- Plan for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Plan for climate change related emergencies such as flooding and severe weather

# What We Heard – The Key Themes

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## Agriculture



- Preserve existing agricultural areas
- Allow agri-tourism and diversified farm uses
- Protect rural landscapes

# What We Heard – The Key Themes

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## Industry and Employment



- Plan for industry away from residential areas
- Plan for industry in the north areas of the city
- Separate and mitigate the impacts of quarries on residential areas



# What We Heard – The Key Themes

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## Retail and Commercial



- Provide housing near commercial centres
- Support small businesses
- Create walkable and accessible retail and services
- Locate commercial along main streets
- Ensure there are health-care services available in the community
- Promote tourism and recreation

# What We Heard – The Key Themes

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## Topics for Future Engagement



- Housing and population growth
- Urban design and place making
- Environment and natural heritage
- Jobs and the economy
- Sustainability and climate resilience.

# What We Heard – The Key Themes

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## Other Comments



- Ensure infrastructure keeps up with growth
- Leverage existing valuable assets
- Ensure the community is involved in creating the Official Plan
- Promote active transportation

# What We Heard – The Key Themes

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## How people want to be engaged in the Official Plan Process



- Online engagements
- Drop-in events where residents can speak with a team member in a public setting
- Receive updates via the Port Colborne website, social media, and City Hall News (e-News letter)
- Participants also noted desire for a transparent and open process

# Draft Vision

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*Port Colborne is a thriving, vibrant, and diverse lakefront community that is rooted in our cultural heritage and the natural landscapes of Lake Erie. Our community is welcoming, inclusive, and accessible to all ages and abilities. We work together to build a community that is walkable with a thriving downtown, complete streets, and varied and affordable housing options, while protecting our farmland. Inspired by our commitment to maintain proper infrastructure, we also plan for parks, green spaces, and community gathering spaces ensuring a healthy community for current and future generations. We have places to work and promote economic development, tourism, and arts and culture that support our community. Port Colborne is a growing community, and our Official Plan creates a strong foundation to support future growth.*

# Next Steps

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- Receive feedback from Council and the public
- Incorporate feedback received into vision, objectives, engagement strategy and work plan for the New OP as necessary
- Begin work on New OP

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**Thank You! We welcome input from Council and members of the public at this time.**



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