



COMMUNITY Conversations



What We Heard

Session #1
June 18, 2026

Community Conversations: Key Themes

Over the course of the Community Conversations, residents shared what they value most about Middleton, the opportunities and challenges facing the community, and their priorities for the future. While discussions covered a wide range of topics, several clear themes emerged consistently across all tables.

What Residents Value Most

Participants spoke passionately about the qualities that make Middleton a great place to live. Residents consistently highlighted:

-  A welcoming, and close-knit small-town community.
-  Walkability and convenient access to schools, healthcare, shopping, parks, and community services.
-  The Town's library, parks, trails, pool, arena, museums, and recreation programs.
-  Strong public services, including water, sewer, fire protection, sidewalks, and responsive Town staff.

The library was one of the most frequently mentioned community assets, with many residents describing it as an essential part of Middleton's identity and quality of life.

A Shared Vision for Middleton's Future

Growth and Housing

Residents expressed strong support for:

- Well-planned neighbourhood growth.
- Supporting developments such as Northlands and other housing initiatives.
- Attracting residents working at CFB Greenwood and throughout the Annapolis Valley.

Economic Development

Participants want Middleton to become a stronger economic hub by:

- Supporting local entrepreneurs and unique niche businesses.
- Marketing Middleton more effectively to visitors, investors, and prospective residents.
- Improving Highway 101 signage and community wayfinding.
- Exploring dedicated economic development resources, including staff or advisory committees.

Community Services & Recreation

Residents value Middleton's recreation programs and would like to see:

- More programming for youth and teenagers.
- Continued investment in health, wellness, and fitness opportunities.
- More community gathering events such as concerts, potlucks, festivals, and outdoor activities.
- Additional informal gathering spaces, including opportunities such as cafés and welcoming public spaces.
- A dedicated off-leash dog park.

Infrastructure, Accessibility & Community Wellbeing

Residents appreciate the Town's core infrastructure while identifying opportunities for continued improvement.

Infrastructure Priorities

Suggestions included:

- Continued investment in water and sewer infrastructure.
- Sidewalk improvements and better pedestrian connectivity.
- Road maintenance and pothole repairs.
- Better communication regarding water shutoffs and water main breaks.
- Improved public education about Town infrastructure and municipal services.

Residents also identified opportunities to improve public spaces through updated signage, repaired community features, litter cleanup, landscaping, and park enhancements.

Accessibility & Transportation

Participants discussed:

- Improving accessible parking and accessibility improvements throughout Town.
- Addressing traffic congestion at several key intersections.

Community Wellbeing

Residents generally described Middleton as a safe community but expressed concerns about:

- Unhoused persons and poverty.
- Community safety and vandalism.
- Supporting vulnerable residents through outreach services.
- Maintaining important community assets that contribute to quality of life.

Key Priorities Identified by Residents

- ♥ Support housing development to meet current and future demand.
- ♥ Grow the local economy by attracting businesses, investment, tourism, and new residents.
- ♥ Maintain and strengthen community amenities, particularly the library, parks, recreation facilities, and public spaces.
- ♥ Invest in infrastructure while improving communication about Town services.
- ♥ Expand recreation and youth opportunities to support healthy, connected communities.
- ♥ Plan intentionally for future growth, ensuring Middleton remains welcoming, vibrant, and financially sustainable.

Looking Ahead

Residents expressed optimism about Middleton's future and recognized many of the Town's existing strengths. They see opportunities to build on Middleton's central location, strong community spirit, excellent amenities, and quality of life while preparing for future growth.

The Community Conversations reinforced a shared vision of Middleton as a welcoming, connected, and resilient community that invests in people, places, and opportunities for generations to come.