

## NEWTON SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

OCTOBER 17, 2017



Prepared by:



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## **OVERVIEW OF PROJECT**

The City of Surrey adopted its Sustainability Charter 2.0 in 2016. This updated Charter includes an updated vision for the City that aligns with the vision in the Official Community Plan, goals and desired outcomes for each of eight community systems, and strategic directions that will guide priority actions for focus.

In order that the Sustainability Charter 2.0 is a community vision and guiding document, the City wished to more deeply engage residents to identify and implement initiatives to meet the goals and desired outcomes. The City applied for, and received, funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) program to undertake a neighbourhood engagement project that would result in a sustainable neighbourhood action plan. The Newton neighbourhood was identified the neighbourhood for this project because of its existing active community organizations and leaders, as well as current City planning initiatives that would align with implementation of the Charter. Newton: Sustainability in Action (NSIA) was selected as the neighbourhood project.

This engagement summary is a report of the engagement activities and input received during this initial phase (2) of the project.



Eight themes from the Surrey Sustainability Charter 2.0.

## **PROJECT GOALS**

The goals of the Newton Sustainability in Action project are to:

- Raise awareness of Surrey's Sustainability Charter 2.0
- Engage Surrey's residents, in Newton and beyond, in identifying and implementing actions that help meet the Charter's goals and desired outcomes
- Increasing community social connections and social capital

## DESIRED OUTCOMES OF ENGAGEMENT

A comprehensive engagement process was designed to achieve the following desired outcomes:

- Increased awareness and excitement of the Newton: Sustainability in Action project
- Broad and diverse participation in engagement activities (including residents and businesses)
- Clear, shared goals for the neighbourhood, based on the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0
- A collaboratively created neighbourhood profile and current situation
- An action plan of initiatives and collective action ideas for implementation
- Stronger connections between neighbourhood organizations and the City
- Alignment between the City's planning initiatives and the neighbourhood's initiatives

This report focuses on the activities and input from Phase 2 of the project.



## WHAT DID WE ENGAGE ON?

The City of Surrey intends to develop a sustainable neighbourhood action plan for the Newton neighbourhood. Phase 2 of the project focused on identifying a vision and goals. However, instead of creating a new vision and goals for Newton, we wanted to align Newton's vision and goals with the City's overall vision and goals as articulated in the Sustainability Charter 2.0, and understand what those specifically mean for Newton.

## HOW DID WE ENGAGE?

Phase 2 engagement took place between August and October 2017.

## NEWTON DAY (AUGUST 19)

The NSIA project team prepared for and facilitated activities at the August 19 Newton Day at the Grove, one of a series of Newton Days hosted by the Newton Business Improvement

> A Newton Day passport for attendees to check off the stations and to enter the draw for a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate to the Newton business of their choice.

Association (BIA). The Newton Day event consisted of a walk-through station comprising the following activities and materials (approximately 60 people came through):



An aerial map of the Newton for people to identify where they lived by placing a sticky dot on their home.





A 'This means in Newton' poster that encouraged people to describe what each of the eight Sustainability Charter goals means for them in Newton.

A Wishing Tree that encouraged people, especially kids, to write down what they wished for Newton.



A goal prioritization poster that asked which were the top three goals for Newton.

| Inclusion   | Built<br>Environment and<br>Neighbourhoods   | Public Safety   | Economic<br>Prosperity and<br>Livelihoods  | Ecosystems   | Education<br>and Culture   | Health and<br>Wellness   | Infrastructure  |
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| ring dominusity that<br>surges a sense of<br>riging and access to<br>intently for all Survey<br>terms to realize their<br>otherbal. | A beautiful, accessible<br>and well-connected ony<br>of distinct and complete<br>neighbourhoods that are<br>wellkable, engaging and<br>realised. | A city in which all people<br>free, work, learn and play<br>in a table and engeging<br>amiltowneer. | Continued prosperity and<br>driving leathcode and<br>a strong, equilable and<br>diverse economy. | Heelity protected<br>and well maintained<br>ecosystems and<br>biodversity. | Access to diverse,<br>high quality learning<br>reportunities, and abave<br>arts, heritage and subust<br>experiences for all Survey<br>residents. | A community is which<br>all residents are healthy,<br>active and connected | Effective infrastructure<br>and services that meet<br>the current and future<br>needs of the city, while<br>protecting the neural<br>environment and<br>Mediotring infen goweth |
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The final station was a post card with three questions: "What are your top three ideas for making Newton a more thriving, green and inclusive community?"

#### NEWTON SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

#### ABOUT THE NEWTON SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION PROJECT

Newton Sustainability in Action is a neighbourhood-wide project to engage residents in identifying ways to make Newton a more thriving, green and inclusive community. It is one of the City's initiatives designed to help meet our shared Sustainability Charter's goals.

#### ABOUT SURREY'S SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER 2.0

Our Sustainability Charter articulates our community's shared vision, and is organized into eight inter-related community themes, each with a distinct goal, set of desired outcome statements, and strategic directions to focus action. It is the City's overarching policy document, guiding all planning and decision making processes.

| Need more informatio     |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Want to get              |  |
| involved? Visit          |  |
| MARAN CURRON CO / DOMITO |  |

Complete our survey for a chance to win awesome prizes!



|    | RESIDENTS, WE WANT TO F<br>for making Newton a more thrivi |        |                                 |
|----|--|--------|---------------------------------|
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| 0_ |  |        | _                               |
| 3_ |  | <br>   | -                               |
|    |  |        |                                 |
|    |  | ີ່ ເວັ | JRREY<br>the future lives here. |

### **NEWTON STORY CANOE**

Our Newton Day event also included a story station, the Newton Story Canoe, where people were invited to "paddle into the future" with the facilitator and describe their vision and wishes for the community. Through a series of open questions, the facilitator encouraged her canoe companions to share the future stories of their lives in Newton over the next ten years. Specifically, she focused on identifying personal goals, as well as potential barriers to achieving those goals.

During the four-hour session, the facilitator hosted 40 people: 7 adult males, 16 adult females, 10 young boys and 7 young girls. Roughly three-quarters of the adults appeared to speak English as a second language, and several spoke little English. The canoe drew several families, mostly with children under 7. A complete description of the Newton Story Canoe engagement can be found in the Appendix.



CRAFT CANO

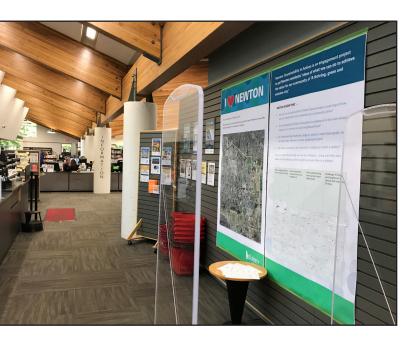
# CITY SPEAKS SURVEY

A short online survey was developed and conducted through City Speaks. The survey questions included general questions about sustainability, and sought to identify the most important Sustainability Charter themes, goals and issues, as what the most important issues relating to those themes/goals were. The complete survey is attached in the Appendix. The City Speaks survey was promoted through the promotional post cards, the City's website, and through emails directed at identified stakeholders. People were encouraged to take the survey with an incentive of a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to a Newton business of their choice. 164 people participated in the survey.

## I LOVE NEWTON WALLS

I love Newton walls were large wall-sized posters consisting of a map of the neighbourhood and information about the Sustainability Charter, questions about what people loved about the neighbourhood and what they would live to have, and an opportunity to provide ideas on actions that can help to achieve the vision of a thriving, green and inclusive community.

The I Love Newton walls were placed at the Seniors' Centre, the Recreation Centre, the Cultural Centre, the Newton Library, and at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). At the KPU, the Walls were monitored daily by students; 85 comments and 41 action ideas were provided on the Wall in the student lounge, and 24 comments and 26 action ideas were written down in the library Wall. While the I Love Newton walls generated a significant number of ideas and comments, we found that the unhosted Walls received comments that were not as relevant to the project, but rather focused on the venue in which they were hosted, or participants focused on personal desires, rather than desires for the community.





## POP-UP STATIONS

Pop-up stations were temporary, two to three hour, hosted stations set up to engage people at a popular venue. A pop-up station was hosted at the Seniors' Centre, Newton Library, Recreation Centre, and at Bear Creek Park on September 9 and 10 (55-60 people engaged in total), and at the Strawberry Hill Library on September 30 (33 comments received on the Wishing Tree). The pop-up stations comprised of a map of the neighbourhood, the goals prioritization poster, the Wishing Tree, and the post card questionnaires (although not every pop-up station included all of those elements).

## STAKEHOLDER MEETING

A meeting with the key stakeholders in Newton was held on September 13 to inform them of the NSIA project and to identify, from their organizations' perspectives, the priority themes/ goals to focus on in the project.

## KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

We worked with one of the Steering Committee members, who is an instructor of the Policy Studies 4900 class, to engage her students in this project. Five of her students participated as part of their class project assignment by hosting an I Love Newton Wall at two locations on the campus, and hosting a pop-up station at Strawberry Hill library. 85 comments and 41 stickers were filled out at the student lounge wall, and 24 comments and 25 stickers will filled out at the campus library.



## CITY TRANSPORTATION FORUM

The City held a Transportation Forum at the Newton Seniors' Centre on October 21st to update residents on transportation issues and initiatives coming up. 120 people participated. Although the forum had a very full agenda, a member of the Steering Committee was able to provide a brief introduction to the project, and people were invited to provide their input on the I Love Newton Wall and the themes/goals poster that were set up in the lobby.

## WHAT WE HEARD ABOUT WISHES AND GOALS

## WHAT PEOPLE LOVE

Newton residents provided their thoughts on what they loved in their community by filling out "I love ......" stickers and placing them on the map of Newton on the I Love Newton Walls and the pop-up stations. The main themes that arose were:

- Love everything about the neighbourhood or Surrey
- Accessibility/proximity of amenities, shops, work, library, etc.
- Walkability
- Good education
- Parks, trees and natural environment
- Recreational opportunities and facilities
- Transportation is good
- Quiet, clean, safe, friendly
- The library; librarians
- To play hockey; basketball; a lot of sports
- Bike trails
- Newton Wave Pool
- Diversity of community
- Family and friends all live here
- Good education
- Parks and pond
- The Newton Seniors' Centre





## WHAT PEOPLE WISH FOR/WANT MORE OF

### I love Newton walls

- Less homelessness
- More police; less crime; less property crime
- Less traffic
- Better transit and transportation options; light rail; longer bus and train hours; more buses
- Skytrain expansion
- Lower living costs
- Affordable housing
- More playgrounds, waterparks and kids' infrastructure
- Lower property taxes
- More resources for domestic violence
- More/better planning and city design
- Better images of Newton in media
- Reduced poverty
- Traffic calming; better traffic lights; more crosswalks
- More parks
- More safe places

- Less bullying in high schools
- A library and school in South Newton, including French immersion
- More walkability
- Get rid of sex trade
- Expanded community garden; locally grown foods and more veggies
- Free swimming
- More dog parks
- Get to know neighbours
- Improved landscaping
- More dietary and culturally diverse food choices
- Mixed use zoning in Town Centre
- More bike paths and bike sharing
- More vegan restaurants
- More trees and flowers beautification
- Equality
- Electric charging stations



### Wishing tree

- More schools
- Clean and safe for all
- More buses
- More safety
- No more gangs and drug problems
- Integrated food hub (farmers' market, processing community kitchens, garden learning centre)
- More parks, trees and green spaces
- Multicultural events
- More sports activities and arts
- Better education
- More homes
- LRT to Newton and routes to White Rock and Valley
- Interactions and understanding between cultures and groups

### Pop-up station conversations

- Safer and more sidewalks
- More parks and green space
- Diversity in neighbourhoods
- More crime stoppers
- Lighting at crosswalks
- Safe injection sites
- More buses; train on King George
- More community events
- Cleaner streets
- More inter-cultural interaction
- More funding for schools
- More activities for seniors and students
- More affordable activities for kids



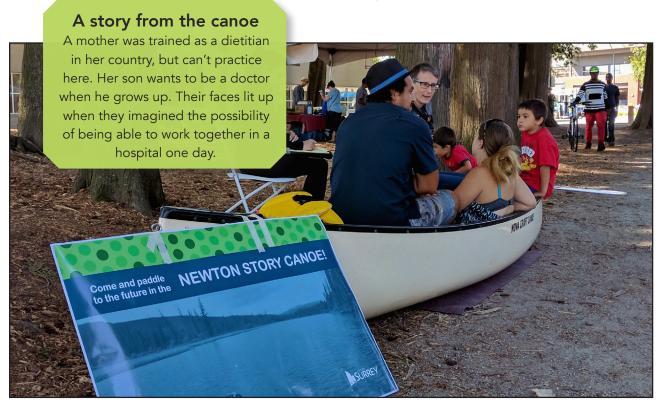
- Less homelessness
- More police and security
- Light rail
- Affordable housing/lower living costs
- Positive image
- Less bullying in high schools
- Reduced property taxes
- End poverty
- Addition to/bigger Newton library; more public libraries; longer hours
- More outdoor pools
- A "green, healthy Newton" program
- Recycling



### Newton story canoe

- Increased access to nature (and beach)
- Places to go for picnics
- Protection of the green canopy and forest diversity
- A dog park
- A fishing pond
- Someplace to go boating with family
- "Greenhouses" that were like summer inside, so you could play outside during winter
- Backyard and rooftop gardens to grow food
- A clean, safe, fun town square (similar to the one in Abbotsford)
- Communities to live and grow close to family and friends
- Opportunities to volunteer and do community service
- Affordable housing so that children can live near parents as adults
- Good career jobs right in Newton (that don't require commuting)

- Help getting work for which they were certified in another country
- A safe, affordable retirement home (not \$4000 a month!)
- More farmers' markets with affordable organic food
- Growth in cycling infrastructure (including connecting existing routes)
- Solar-powered vehicles
- Transit solutions for everyone, like flying cars
- Programs to keep youth from getting into trouble
- Opportunities to grow up and be professionals - doctor, teacher, fireman, hockey player
- Good access to education
- More comfortable, heated hockey arenas, with home-grown playing and coaching opportunities
- Welcoming, accessible, communal places to share activities like yoga, growing food, caring for animals - all operating outside a capitalist world





### Stakeholder meeting 'dreams for Newton'

- Public transportation; modal shift; LRT
- More vibrant community; community can flourish; healthier for all abilities
- Meet goals of Charter
- Safe and welcoming place for learners and connect with nature
- Citizens can advocate for themselves
- Build community; residents see their dreams implemented
- Hub for district energy



### PRIORITY THEMES AND GOALS

Participants were asked to identify the three most important themes/goals from the Sustainability Charter to focus on for Newton. As there were not enough opportunities for participants to provide their responses to this question, it is difficult to identify the priorities, and we will seek further input in phase 4. However, from the responses that were received, the Public Safety theme was seen to be a priority for Newton, and close behind were Built Environment and Neighbourhoods, Infrastructure (transportation) and Health and Wellness (recreation) and Ecosystems (natural areas and trees), and Education and Culture.

|  | Newton Day | Strawberry<br>Hill Library | Seniors'<br>Centre | Stakeholders | City Speaks<br>survey (top<br>three) |
|--|------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Inclusion                              | 2          | 2                          | 1                  | **           |                                      |
| Built environment and neighbourhoods   | 7          | 1                          | 2                  | ***          | ***                                  |
| Public safety                          | 12         | 2                          | 1                  | *            | ***                                  |
| Economic prosperity<br>and livelihoods | 5          |                            | 2                  | *            |                                      |
| Ecosystems                             | 9          | 1                          | 1                  | **           |                                      |
| Education and culture                  | 12         |                            |                    |              |                                      |
| Health and wellness                    | 10         | 1                          | 4                  |              |                                      |
| Infrastructure                         | 3          | 2                          | 1                  |              | ***                                  |

#### Prioritized themes/goals.

### SURVEY RESPONSES

93% of survey respondents indicated that they felt that it was very important (71%) or important (22%) for the City to pursue sustainability. When asked what was the meaning of sustainability, the highest ranked responses ( $\geq$ 70%) were livability, future generations, environment, quality of life and responsibility.

The top three themes and goals from Sustainability Charter that this project should focus on identified in the survey were Public Safety, Built Environment & Neighbourhoods, and Infrastructure, with the corre-

sponding most important issues for each theme. The most important issues identified within these three themes were community safety and emergency services, and transportation, although the most important issues within the other

93% of survey respondents felt that it was very important or important for the City to pursue

sustainability.

themes were natural areas, biodiversity and urban forest (in Ecosystems), and wellness and recreation (in Health and Wellness).

| Meaning of<br>sustainability | %  |
|------------------------------|----|
| Livability                   | 79 |
| Future Generations           | 79 |
| Environment                  | 74 |
| Quality of Life              | 73 |
| Responsibility               | 70 |
| Green                        | 65 |
| Healthy                      | 64 |
| Community                    | 64 |
| Accountability               | 61 |
| Long-lasting                 | 57 |
| Stewardship                  | 36 |
| Connected                    | 36 |
| Leadership                   | 33 |
| Systems-thinking             | 30 |
| Equality                     | 30 |
| Resilience                   | 29 |
| Conversation                 | 26 |
| Resource Limits              | 21 |
| Compromise                   | 11 |
| Costly                       | 7  |
| Inconvenient                 | 3  |



Top three themes from Sustainability Charter.

### Most important issues in top three themes identified

| Public Safety                           | Community safety and emergency services<br>Transportation safety<br>Emergency preparedness and prevention   | 97 %<br>47 %<br>43 %                         |
|---|---|--|
| Built Environment<br>and Neighbourhoods | Compact, green neighbourhoods<br>Urban design<br>Sustainable buildings and sites  | 69 %<br>56 %<br>44 %                         |
| Infrastructure                          | Transportation<br>Energy efficiency<br>Low emissions infrastructure<br>Water<br>Materials and waste<br>Telecommunications                                       | 91 %<br>41 %<br>32 %<br>23 %<br>18 %<br>9 %  |
| Most important issues                   | relating to other themes  |  |
| Inclusion                               | Diversity and accessibility<br>Housing<br>Poverty reduction<br>Community pride and engagement<br>Social infrastructure and innovation<br>Age-firendly community | 56 %<br>56 %<br>38 %<br>38 %<br>32 %<br>19 % |
| Ecosystems                              | Natural areas, biodiversity and urban forest<br>Water, air and soil<br>Green infrastructure   | 86 %   57 %   57 %                           |
| Health and Wellness                     | Wellness and recreation<br>Health services and programs<br>Food accessibility   | 94 %<br>44 %<br>17 %                         |
| Economic Prosperity ar                  | nd Livelihoods<br>Local business<br>Jobs and skills training<br>Economic diversity<br>Local food production   | 64 %<br>57 %<br>50 %<br>43 %<br>36 %         |
| Education and Culture                   | School system<br>Arts and culture<br>Lifelong learning  | 60 %<br>50 %                                 |



### WHAT THE GOALS MEAN FOR NEWTON

Instead of creating new goals for Newton, residents were asked what the goal for each theme of the Sustainability Charter meant for Newton. For each of the Sustainability Charter themes, a summarized description of what we heard the goals mean for Newton, from the survey, theme posters, and ideas from all input, is provided.

<u>INCLUSION</u>: Inclusion in Newton means more inclusive and diverse festivals, arts, events and food for all cultures, including more First Nations focused art and activities, and where there is equal opportunity for everyone in the community. It also means that there is affordable housing for everyone, less homelessness, and reduced poverty throughout. There are more programs for those unable to care for themselves.

Newton is a welcoming place where there are safe, accessible, communal places to get together and share activities and food such as the Grove and the Plot, to live and grow close to family and friends, and where people know their neighbours. The community is safe and clean, and residents are healthy and have access to a diversity of health programs.

> BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS: Newton is a walkable community, with access and proximity to amenities, more parks and trees, and networks for bicycle paths and routes. There is a clean, safe and fun town square, and diversities in neighbourhoods. Buildings are more energy efficient and sustainable.

> > <u>PUBLIC SAFETY</u>: Public safety in Newton means a quiet, clean, safe and friendly community with more police services, community programs and people on the street. Public perception of the neighbourhood is improved, and there are no more gangs and drug problems.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND LIVELIHOODS: Newton provides many opportunities for employment, and attracts many businesses. There are opportunities for everyone to have good career and professional jobs, including those who were certified in another country, and everyone earns a living wage. Diverse local food production opportunities exist, including an integrated food hub, and backyard and rooftop gardens.

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INFRASTRUCTURE: Transportation is one of Newton residents' priorities to focus on, and they indicated their desire for improved public transportation, including more buses, routes and service, more light rail (e.g. train on King George) and greater affordability. They would like to have more and safer sidewalks and bicycle infrastructure.

<u>HEALTH AND WELLNESS</u>: Wellness and recreation is an important component of Newton residents' lives, encompassing many different things including more activities, events and programs to connect people; more affordable sports, facilities and events; healthy local food and community gardens; more mental health support and access to health care providers.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Newton residents would like to have more schools, libraries, and multi-language courses, and more funding for school programs and extra-curricular activities. Arts and culture is important, including multi-cultural, inter-cultural and First Nations events and interactions, as well as more public art and community spaces and festivals.

<u>ECOSYSTEMS</u>: Trees, parks and green space are very important to Newton residents. The green canopy, biodiversity and wildlife corridors are protected. Riparian areas, rivers, coastline and watercourses are protected. Stewardship programs and activities educate children and get them outdoors more.

AND WELL

CLUSION

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## WHAT WE HEARD ABOUT IDEAS FOR ACTIONS (BY THEME)

Although this phase of the project was intended to focus on vision, goals and what they mean for Newton, residents were also asked if they had any ideas for action. These actions are summarized here, and will be added to new action ideas to be solicited in Phase 4.

#### I Love Newton Walls (vote counts at the Rec Centre, KPU, Seniors Centre):

- Start a walking school bus to reduce car trips
- Host a block party to get to know your neighbours
- Host a potluck using locally grown, plant-based foods
- Challenge 10 friends and neighbours to reduce their energy for 10 days

#### Stakeholders:

- Measure green bin waste
- Engage neighbourhood specific organizations

Ideas by theme (from survey and posters):

#### INCLUSION

- Provide more activities like the ones at the Grove and the Plot
- Create a community food chain enterprise that produces food, processes, cooks, serves and sells it, all with the help of Newton residents while providing them with a livelihood and good food
- Start some demonstration projects by identifying potential stakeholders for the different project sectors like community garden, clean you river, community wellness, ecosystem, low carbon-foot print and slowly engaging youths from elementary and high school students in those potential project in newton area
- Develop activities and send invitations to welcome people to participate in their community/neighbourhood
- Facilitate community engagement beyond merely providing a place in which to live

- Create more central community spaces
- Create gathering areas within the retail areas with fountains, parks, benches, music, walkways, patios, less open parking lots, more trees
- Provide more services to youth and young adults

#### BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOUR-HOODS

- Create a 'downtown center'
- Build more bicycle infrastructure
- Create more parks and playgrounds
- Fine private businesses for not adhering to cleanliness
- Create pocket neighbourhoods where people can get to know each other
- Create safe, lit pathways connecting neigh bourhoods
- Reprimand builders for poor building practices related to energy efficiency

= 15, 22, 2 = 16, 21, 10 = 8, 8, 6 = 8, 15, 4

### BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOUR-HOODS (CONT'D)

- Bring businesses and services further into residential areas to make it easier to walk or cycle
- Develop more signage for the library, recreation centre, and pool from side streets and walking paths
- Closely analyze the companies hired to work on infrastructure to ensure it is appropriate and sustainable (City)

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

- Put more police on the road
- Work with schools to promote community safety and emergency preparedness

#### ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- Make it easier to open new businesses
- Provide land to grow vegetables
- Provide more funding for the BIA
- Expand community gardens and establish a market for selling those goods

#### **ECOSYSTEMS**

- Provide incentives for community agroecology projects like the Plot, and transition options for farmers to provide them a way to make their growing systems more diverse and regenerative
- Share knowledge of plant species and let children know why they protect our ecosystem and biodiversity
- Use green infrastructure to help prevent riverside erosion
- Plant more trees and greenery

#### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- Build a library in the South Newton area
- Build a school in South Newton

- Provide more opportunities to learn indigenous arts and technologies such as weaving, dance, drumming
- Create more awareness of indigenous issues in a way that includes all indigenous people from all over the world

#### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Offer free first aid training
- Offer more recreational activities
- Expand emergency rooms and hospitals
- Have 24-hours walk-in clinics
- Develop a community wellness program through yoga and nature walk
- Provide family-oriented parks
- Build more playgrounds in South Newton

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Increase large item (garbage) pick up, or once a month free garbage drop at the City facility with the pop up garbage day
- Provide shuttle busses from Newton Ex change out to the neighbourhood
- Double lane 72nd avenue all the way down the hill, and provide a better turn signal (longer light) at 144 and 72
- Introduce a new standard for clean emissions for Newton businesses
- Develop an easy to access plan to deal with waste and trash
- Set up some sort of recyclable/waste program in every area to prevent illegal dump ing and trash thrown on the ground
- Beautify larger 4-way intersections, especially at 72nd and King George
- Create dedicated walking paths
- Increase bus services from 108th Street at 72nd Ave
- Install more EV charging stations

## **APPENDIX**

## NEWTON DAYS STORY CANOE SUMMARY



Prepared by Denise Withers http://thenlab.com/ September 14, 2017

On September 19, 2017, the nlab hosted the Story Canoe at Newton Days, as part of the City of Surrey's community engagement strategy for the Sustainability Charter. The activity featured a real canoe on the ground in the park, guided by Denise Withers, who invited Newton Days visitors to join her for a "paddle to the future".

Through a series of open questions, Withers encouraged her canoe companions to share the future stories of their lives in Newton over the next ten years. Specifically, she focused on identifying personal goals, as well as potential barriers to achieving those goals.

During the four-hour session, she hosted 40 people: 7 adult males, 16 adult females, 10 young boys and 7 young girls. Roughly 3/4 of the adults appeared to speak English as a second language, and several spoke little English. The canoe drew several families, mostly with children under 7.

In general, the majority of visitors struggled to share ideas about their future. It could be that it wasn't top of mind - or that they were reluctant to share their dreams in a casual encounter with a stranger. It may also be that they were focused on getting by day to day, rather than setting goals and creating plans.

Most seemed to enjoy life in Newton and planned to stay. Several said that they had access to everything they wanted; it was a good life. They envisioned starting their own businesses, raising families and retiring there.

Three adults expressed a desire to leave Newton, because of concerns about violence and/or drugs.

#### Specific desires that emerged in their future stories included:

- Increased access to nature (with six different people dreaming of being able to go to the beach in Newton);
- Places to go for picnics (5 people);
- Protection of the green canopy and forest diversity;
- A dog park;
- A fishing pond;
- Someplace to go boating with family;
- "Greenhouses" that were like summer inside, so you could play outside during winter;
- Backyard and rooftop gardens to grow food;
- A clean, safe, fun town square (similar to the one in Abbotsford);
- Communities to live and grow close to family and friends;
- Opportunities to volunteer and do community service (5 people);
- Affordable housing so that children can live near parents as adults;
- Good career jobs right in Newton (that don't require commuting);
- Help getting work for which they were certified in another country;
- A safe, affordable retirement home (not \$4000 a month!);
- More farmers' markets with affordable organic food;
- Growth in cycling infrastructure (including connecting existing routes);
- Solar-powered vehicles;
- Transit solutions for everyone, like flying cars;
- Programs to keep youth from getting into trouble;
- Opportunities to grow up and be professionals doctor, teacher, fireman, hockey player;
- Good access to education;
- More comfortable, heated hockey arenas, with home-grown playing and coaching opportunities, and;
- Welcoming, accessible, communal places to share activities like yoga, growing food, caring for animals all operating outside a capitalist world.



#### Here are a few, short sample stories from the event.

Two young brothers independently shared stories about wanting to go into business with each other as adults, selling cotton candy. Their cotton candy machine would exhaust more cotton candy (not smoke) so that it wouldn't pollute. They also want to live close to each other, and their parents. A young couple with two children dreamed of being able to go to a beach to play in the sand, make sandcastles, have a picnic and go swimming. But without a car, the dream currently seems out of reach.

One mother was trained as a dietician in her country, but can't practice here. Her son wants to be a doctor when he grows up. Their faces lit up when they imagined the possibility of being able to work together in a hospital one day.

A retired man rides his bicycle every day, and fears that he won't be able to do so in ten years, because there won't be enough safe routes for him. He'll miss being able to access parks and shops because he doesn't drive.

A 12-year-old boy dreams of making it to the NHL, then coming back to Newton to share his hockey passion by coaching local children.

Another young boy wants to live here in a house when he grows up, with his friends and work close by. He would also love to live some place where he could take his dog to play fetch and swim.

One young woman plans to have a career and travel the world for 20 years. She would only come back to Newton, if she could live somewhere with space, that felt like the countryside, with a lake and a yard for her dog.

Two boys and their parents would like to spend more time outdoors, playing in bigger outdoor pools, parks and playgrounds. In their future Newton, there wouldn't be any litter on the ground, so that there would be healthier plants and it would look nicer.

# CITY SPEAKS: NEWTON SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION SURVEY

- 1. How important do you think sustainability is for the City to pursue?
- 2. What does sustainability mean to you? Select all that apply.

Newton Sustainability in Action is a neighbourhood-wide project to engage residents in identifying ways to make Newton a more thriving, green and inclusive community.

We are looking for your input on how we can take the high-level goals of the Surrey Sustainability Charter 2.0 and address them at a neighbourhood level. The Charter is organized into eight inter-related community themes, each with a distinct goal and set of desired outcomes.

3. Please identify the top three themes and goals that we should focus on for Newton Sustainability in Action:

- i. Inclusion. A caring community that encourages a sense of belonging and access to opportunity for all Surrey residents to realize their full potential.
- ii. Built environment and neighbourhoods. A beautiful, accessible and well-connected city of distinct and complete neighbourhoods that are walkable, engaging and resilient.
- iii. Public safety. A city in which all people live, work, learn and play in a safe and engaging environment.
- iv. Economic prosperity and livelihoods. Continued prosperity and thriving livelihoods and a strong, equitable and diverse economy.
- v. Ecosystems. Healthy, protected and well-maintained ecosystems and biodiversity.
- vi. Education and culture. Access to diverse, high quality learning opportunities, and vibrant arts, heritage and cultural experiences for all Surrey residents.
- vii. Health and wellness. A community in which all residents are healthy, active and connected.
- viii. Infrastructure. Effective infrastructure and services that meet the current and future needs of the city, while protecting the natural environment and supporting urban growth.

4. For the top three themes and goals you identified in Question 3, please indicate up to three most important issues we should focus on for Newton Sustainability in Action:

- i. Inclusion
  - a. Diversity and accessibility
  - b. Poverty reduction
  - c. Housing
  - d. Age-friendly community
  - e. Community pride and engagement
  - f. Social infrastructure and innovation
  - g. Inclusion
- ii. Built environment and neighbourhoods
  - a. Compact, green neighbourhoods
  - b. Urban design
  - c. Sustainable buildings and sites

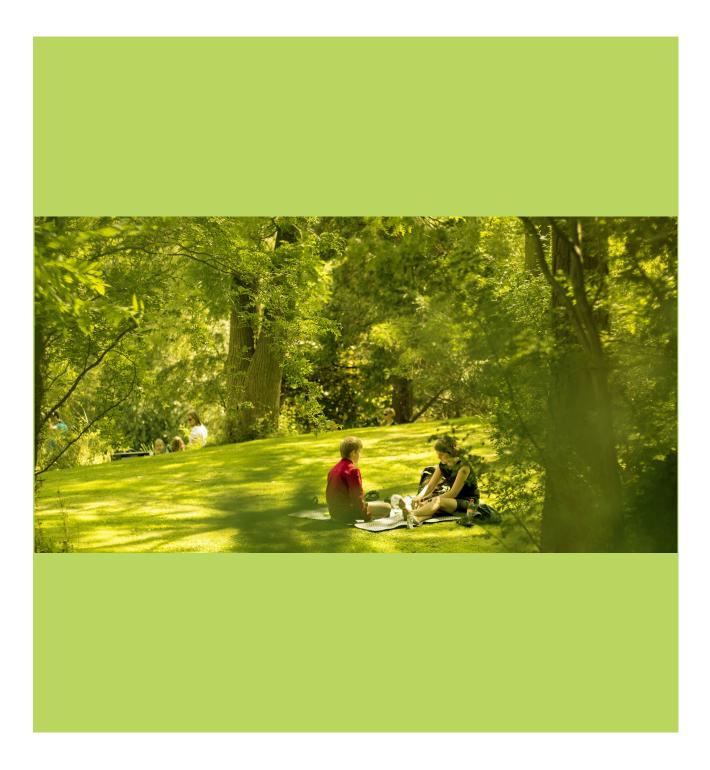
iii. Public safety

iv.

- a. Community safety and emergency services
- b. Emergency preparedness and prevention
- c. Transportation safety
- Economic prosperity and livelihoods
- a. Jobs and skills training
- b. Economic diversity
- c. Local business
- d. Local food production
- e. Innovation
- v. Ecosystems
  - a. Natural areas, biodiversity and urban forest
  - b. Water, air and soil
  - c. Green infrastructure
- vi. Education and culture
  - a. School system
  - b. Lifelong learning
  - c. Arts and culture
  - d. Heritage sites
- vii. Health and wellness
  - a. Health services and programs
  - b. Wellness and recreation
  - c. Food accessibility
- viii. Infrastructure
  - a. Energy efficiency
  - b. Low emissions infrastructure
  - c. Transportation
  - d. Water
  - e. Materials and waste
  - f. Telecommunications

5. For each of the three priority themes you identified in Question 3, please provide your ideas of how we could achieve those goals in Newton. Please indicate which themes you are referring to.

| Theme 1: |      |  |
|----------|------|--|
|          | i.   |  |
|          | ii.  |  |
|          | iii. |  |
| Theme 2: |      |  |
|          | i.   |  |
|          | ii.  |  |
|          | iii. |  |
| Theme 3: |      |  |
|          | i.   |  |
|          | ii.  |  |
|          | iii. |  |



## **NEWTON SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION**