



Committee Report

To: Warden Mitch Twolan
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: Kara Van Myall
Director of Planning and Development

Date: September 17, 2020

Re: September 2020 Communications in the Field

Recommendation:

The September 2020 Communications in the Field Report is for information.

Background:

The September Communications in-the-Field Reports for Economic Development and Land Use Planning - reporting on August activities and updates - are included below.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

N/A

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

N/A

Approved by:

Sandra Datars Bere
Chief Administrative Officer

Communications in-the-Field Report

There are three objectives driving economic development communications in Bruce County: 1) Attract more young families and other residents over time; 2) Attract new and expanding businesses; 3) Encourage sustainable, longer stay and off-season tourism

ECONOMIC TASK FORCE

In response to the urgent, critical needs of Bruce County’s business community in the wake of COVID-19, the Economic Task Force has acted quickly since its inception on March 26, providing guidance on the components of the \$1.75M Support the Bruce: Business Sustainability Fund, endorsed by County Council on May 12, including:

| Component | Total Available | Launched | # of Applicants * | Approximately Funds Remaining* |
|--|-----------------|----------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Emergency Business Sustainability Loan | \$750,000 | May 21 | 21 | \$360,500 |
| Spruce the Bruce Grants | \$125,000 | June 1 | 102 | \$0 |
| Tourism Special Edition “Spark” Grants | \$100,000 | June 4 | 11 | \$0 |
| Business Pivot / Adaptation Grant | \$400,000 | June 18 | 49 | \$77,500 |
| Business Safety Supplies Grant | \$250,000 | July 23 | 127 | \$69,500 |

*as of August 31

As more Municipal partners and organizations engage to also provide supports, it is important to evaluate efforts to ensure resources are spent where it makes the most sense. As such, the Bruce County Economic Task Force has been paused for now and will be reassessed.

ACTIVITIES

- Business Consultation and Inquiry numbers continue to trend high (115 inquiries and 52 consultations in August) with many new connections being made, as business owners reach out for support in the wake of COVID-19

Coming up: Launch of two new grants for tourism operators in September: FedDev grants and Ontario Tourism Innovation Lab ‘Spark’ grants

Communications in-the-Field Report

There are three general areas that will be reported monthly, including: 1) Legislative changes and other trends 2) Land Use Transformation project update 3) highlights or planning applications of interest.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

- There are no significant updates to the laws or regulations around planning in Bruce County to report on now.

PROJECTS

- Plan the Bruce projects are restarting. the Agriculture, Natural Legacy, Good Growth and Communities Guiding Principle projects will have community and stakeholder engagement activities this fall.
- The status of Municipal Modernization Fund projects is as follows:
 1. The report on best practices for the Official Plan for land use planning service delivery will be presented to October Planning and Development Committee.
 2. The consultants are finalizing the system design for sharing development information between County and Local Municipalities and the project is on track.
 3. The Review of Planning Application Fees project is underway and will be presented to November Planning and Development Committee.
 4. The project to Update the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for Local Planning Services is underway and will be presented to November Planning and Development Committee.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- Application volumes returned to historical averages with 24 new applications in August.
- Several residential projects are advancing through final approvals including: Phase 6 of the Summerside development which will provide 36 single lots in Port Elgin; and the Troon Estates Condominium for 14 townhomes in Port Elgin.
- There is an application to rezone vacant land to permit 36 townhomes in Kincardine.