



HUDSON'S  
HOPE

PLAYGROUND OF THE PEACE

# WHAT WE HEARD

## ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

JANUARY 2024

# DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN WHAT WE HEARD: ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

## DRAFT Report

Client: District of Hudson's Hope

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# Introduction

The District of Hudson’s Hope is beginning a process to update and review its Official Community Plan. An Official Community Plan is the highest-level policy document for a local government – it informs and guides how the community grows for the next 15+ years. The Official Community Plan is a bylaw adopted by Council that sets out the vision and direction that will guide the future growth and development of the District of Hudson’s Hope. It includes policies on the future use and management of lands, as well as such elements as municipal facilities and services, utility and transportation systems, environmental stewardship, economic development, arts, heritage and culture, and social health and wellness to set out a clear path to guide Council, staff and the community.

The District’s current Official Community Plan was last adopted in 2013. Generally, an Official Community Plan is reviewed, and if necessary, updated, every five to seven years. This allows the District to ensure the vision for the community is still relevant and reflects the needs of its residents, and that polices in the Official Community Plan are modern, reflect recent legislative changes, and continue to set the community up for success.

This report summarizes the input provided by the community during the first round of engagement, which occurred November 2023. The information collected and the identified themes will be used to guide the updates to the current Official Community Plan for the District of Hudson’s Hope.



# Engagement Overview

The District conducted in-person public and stakeholder engagement in order to gather input from the community to ensure that the plan serves the community as a whole. Residents were provided with a number of opportunities and ways to provide their input. The engagement consisted of an online survey, paper copies of a survey, an in-person open house, and one workshop with District Staff and Council.



November 4<sup>th</sup>  
Staff and Council  
Workshop



November 4<sup>th</sup>  
Community Open House  
38 Participants



November 4<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>  
Community Visioning  
Survey  
159 Participants

The Staff and Council workshop and community open house were on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The community visioning survey was available from November 4<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>.

Pre-engagement materials were also available on the District's website, social media accounts, in the community Bulletin, and at the Fall Sign-Up.



## Summary of Engagement Themes

When analyzing the results from the engagement activities and survey responses, the following overarching themes emerged:

- The quality of life overall in the District is good and has stayed relatively the same over the past five years, a good and safe place to raise and family, high level of community involvement with lots of activities for children and youth.
- Community members like the natural beauty, recreational facilities, community events, and small quiet town feel within the District.
- More housing, programming, and services are needed for seniors in order for them to be able to age in place and/or retire in Hudson's Hope.
- Residents would like to see more local business and employment opportunities, variety of affordable housing options, indoor recreational centre, adult focused activities, increased health care, and safer walking options (sidewalks, more trails).
- When looking into the District's future, members envision increased trees/greenery, additional trails and sidewalks that connect downtown and out to main recreational sites (ie. Dinosaur Lake), more recreational opportunities and parks, and focus on increasing tourist attractions- building upon the District's motto of the 'Playground of the Peace'.

### Draft Vision

A vision describes an ideal picture and guides goal-setting, objectives, policies, and actions by providing context for understanding what is important to a community. A vision also allows residents to look into the future, think creatively, and ask themselves how they want their community to be in the years to come.

In the 2013 Official Community Plan, the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) section set out community priorities that were identified through themes in the community consultation. One of the engagement activities from the workshop and community open house was to revisit those community priorities and to identify what still resonates with community members. From that the project team has put together the following draft vision to combine those priorities and create a vision for the District to strive towards.

"The District of Hudson's Hope is a thriving, safe, and active community that offers diverse housing and opportunities for its residents. Recreation and a high level of amenities are key to the quality of life and healthy lifestyle, with natural features that draws the community and visitors alike outdoors.

By promoting a diverse economy beyond natural resources and industry, Hudson's Hope provides economic and employment stability for residents. Hudson's Hope thrives as a sustainable community that attracts visitors from all over the region and country."



## What We Heard

### Staff and Council Workshop

On November 4th, the project team held a workshop with both District Staff and Council. Following a brief presentation on what is an Official Community Plan, and the roles of staff and council in the process, participants worked through the same stations, maps and money jar activities that were at the open house. The workshop provided staff and council with an opportunity to ask questions, provide their personal input and discuss the future of Hudson's Hope. The feedback provided from the workshop is incorporated into the public engagement responses.

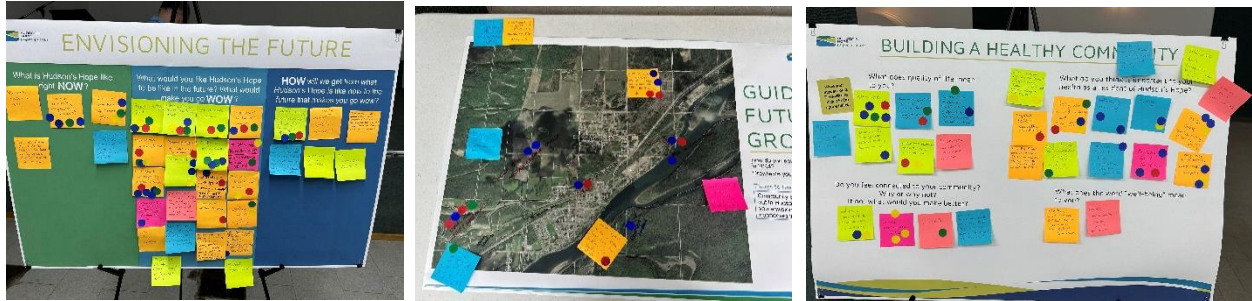


### Community Open House

The project team facilitated a community open house on November 4<sup>th</sup>, in the evening following the staff and council workshop. The community open house was held at the Community Hall and approximately 38 residents participated. The community open house was structured to provide participants with a variety of activities to seek their thoughts and input regarding the future of Hudson's Hope.



The engagement panels on display at the public engagement events provided information on the project and asked participants to answer questions on high level visioning for the future of Hudson’s Hope. Participants were asked to write their answers down by placing sticky notes, writing, or drawing directly on the panels or placing coloured sticky dots next to ideas they liked the most. In addition, the survey was available at all the engagement events in an online and paper format.



Participants were also provided four maps of the District of Hudson’s Hope. The municipal boundary was shown with the current Official Community Plan land-use designations. Two of the maps were focuses on the townsite of Hudson’s Hope, one with an aerial view and the other with the current Official Community Plan land use designations. The last map was an aerial view of two of the main subdivisions in the District. The main feedback provided on the maps was:

- Creating more connectivity throughout the main town site and out to key recreational areas through trails, ATV trails.
- Maintaining and creating more recreational and park uses.
- Revegetating around farmlands to help reduce wind and increase air quality.
- Installing berms near the downtown and out by Lynx Creek.

### Finding A Balance Budget Exercise

A popular activity that was enjoyed by all participants was Finding a Balance, or ‘money jars’. This activity is highlighted in the report as the feedback was not included in the other feedback provided by the community due to the activity’s format. The information will still be considered in the update to the Official Community Plan. The activity had participants identify which parts of the Official Community Plan they felt needed additional focus and where residents wanted additional funds to be allocated toward. It was emphasized that this activity speaks to those items that the District is responsible for. Each person was given a set amount of pretend money that they were able to allocate between different jars, each representing a different category. The jars were labeled with different categories (district administration, economic development and diversification, arts, culture & heritage, affordable housing, infrastructure etc.). There was also a



jar for 'Other', where participants could identify what other areas, they wanted funding put towards.

Category	% of Total
<b>Municipal infrastructure</b>	<b>16.79%</b>
<b>Indoor recreation facilities &amp; programming</b>	<b>14.82%</b>
<b>Parks, trails, &amp; natural areas</b>	<b>12.69%</b>
<b>Community health, wellness</b>	<b>11.54%</b>
<b>Roads and Sidewalks</b>	<b>11.38%</b>
Affordable housing	10.50%
District Administration	7.99%
Economic Development	6.18%
Arts, Culture, and Heritage	5.03%
Sustainability and Clean Energy	1.75%
Other:	1.31%

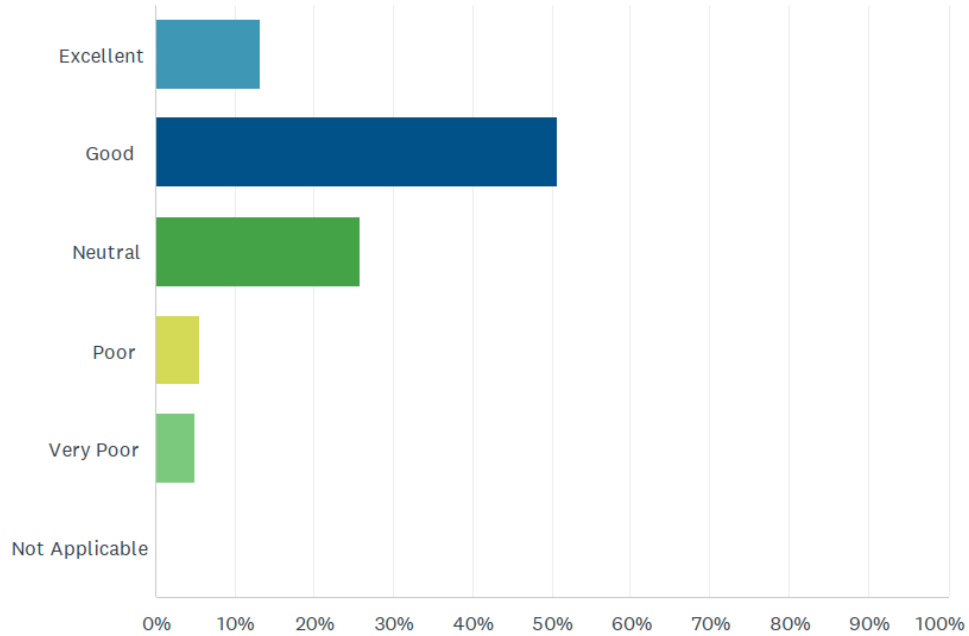


### Virtual Engagement – Online Survey

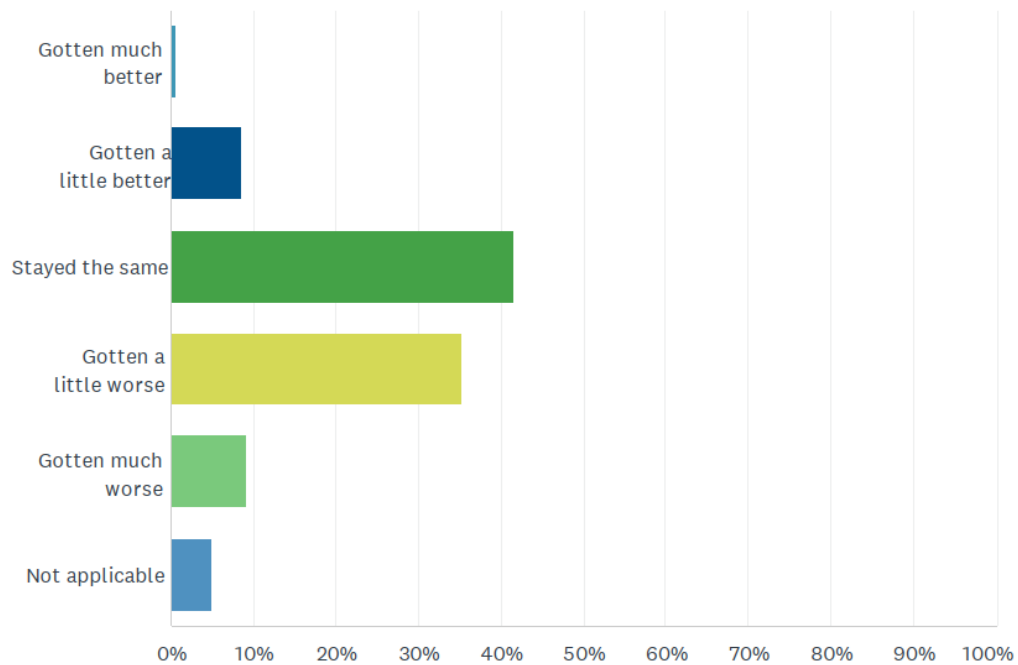
A total of 159 participants completed the survey. There was an online version of the survey, and a paper version of the survey for those not able to access the online survey. The survey contained 21 questions with a mix of multiple choice, open-ended questions, and rating scales. For some questions, respondents were asked to 'rank the following in order of priority,' and/or 'select all that apply.' The open-ended questions gave respondents a chance to share their hope for Hudson's Hope in the future, what they would like to make sure is present, what to change for the better, what they picture Hudson's Hope being like in 2044 and what are the greatest challenges that you think Hudson's Hope is facing over the next 20 years. All survey questions except the first, in which it asks where the respondent lives, were optional and not all respondents answered every question. The number of total responses per question is noted. A summary of the feedback on the main questions is presented below.

### District of Hudson's Hope: Today

**Q. In general, how would you rate the overall quality of life in the District of Hudson's Hope today?**  
(144 participants answered)

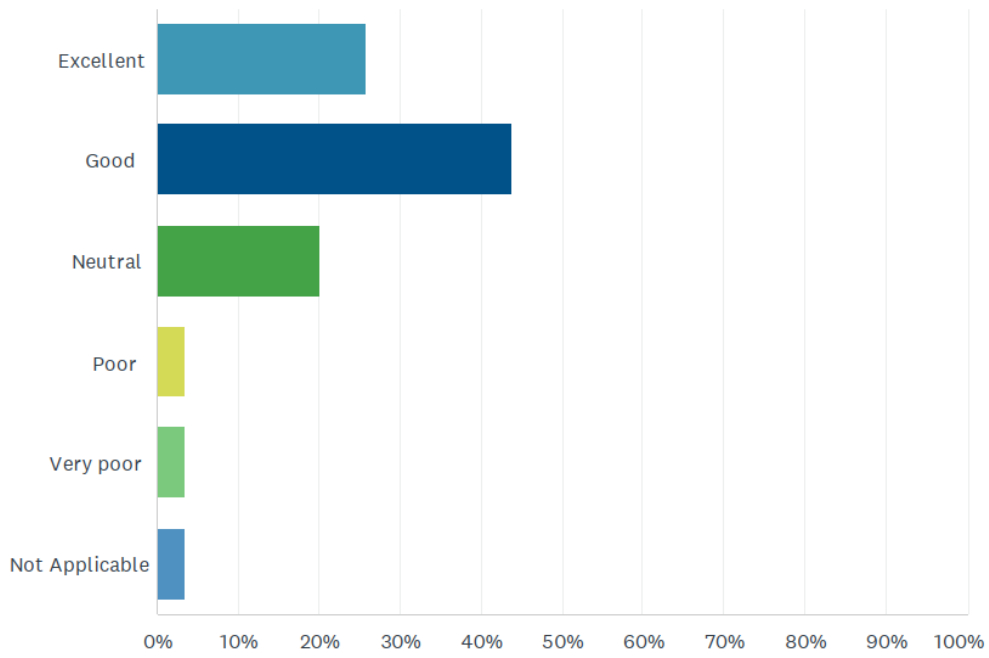


**Q. In the past 5 years, would you say the quality of the District of Hudson's Hope has:**  
(144 participants answered)



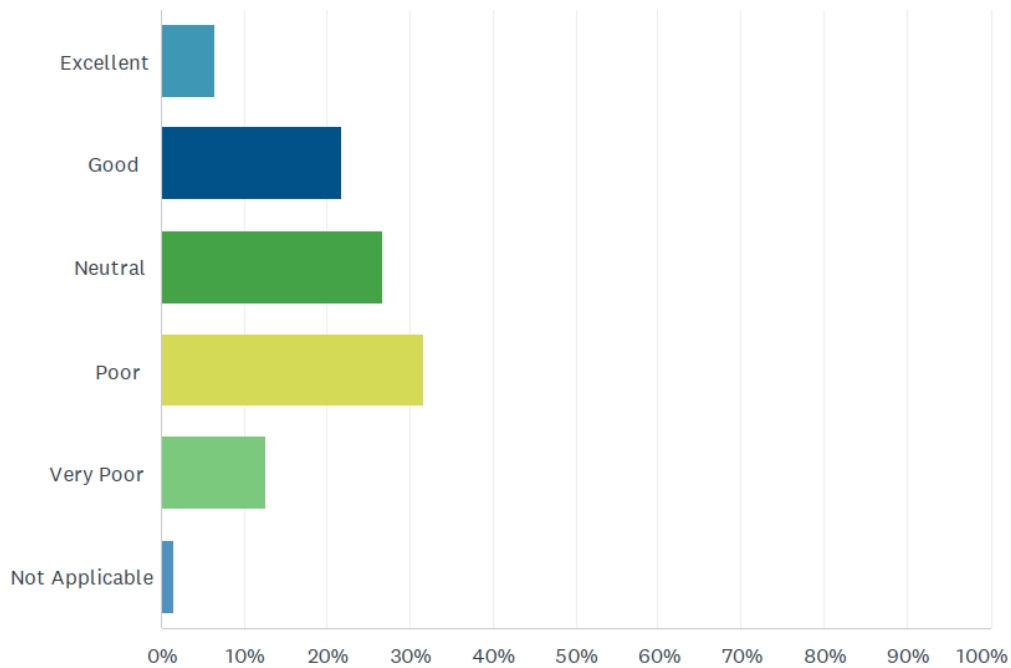
**Q. In general, how would you rate the District of Hudson's Hope as a place in which to raise a family?**

(144 participants answered)



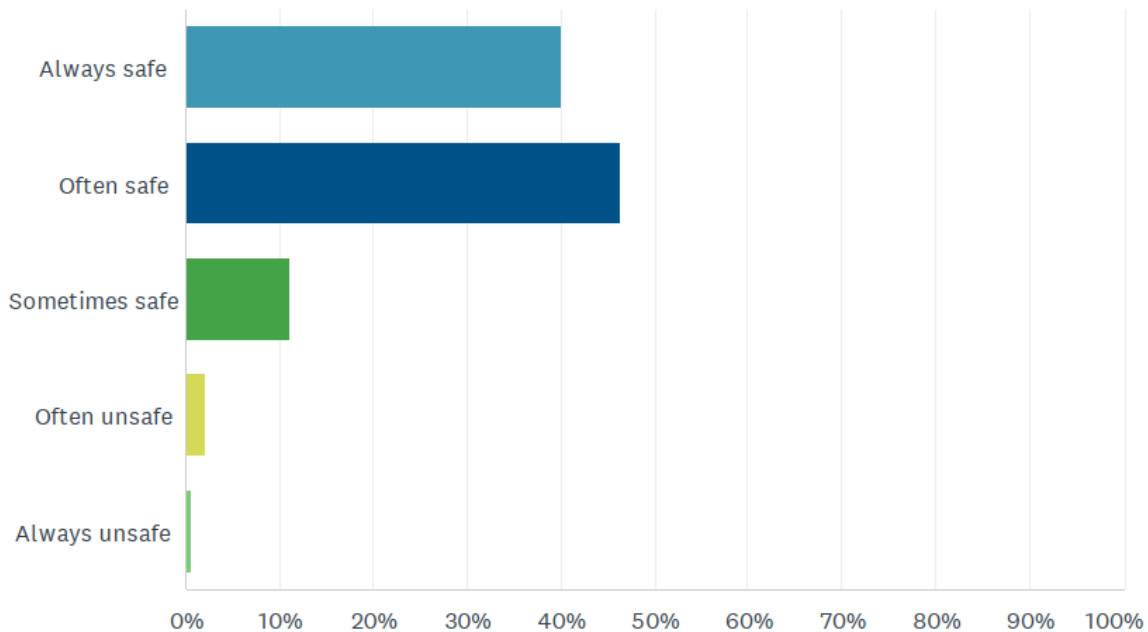
**Q. In general, how would you rate the District of Hudson's Hope as a place in which to retire?**

(143 participants answered)



**Q. In general, how safe do you feel in the District of Hudson’s Hope?**

(145 participants answered)



**District of Hudson’s Hope: Tomorrow**

**Q. What do you like BEST about the District of Hudson’s Hope today that you want to make sure is present in the future? Please describe.**

(89 participants answered)

This was an open ended question, and the main responses were the outdoor recreational activities and amenities, small town and community feel.

**Q. If you could change ONE thing about the District of Hudson’s Hope today to make it better in 2044, what would it be? Please describe.**

(95 participants answered)

This was an open ended question, and the main responses were more amenities, businesses, housing options, and employment options.

**Q. When picturing the future of the District of Hudson’s Hope in 2044, what is one word or phrase that comes to mind?**

(86 participants answered)

This was an open ended question, and the main responses were growth, peaceful, and thriving.

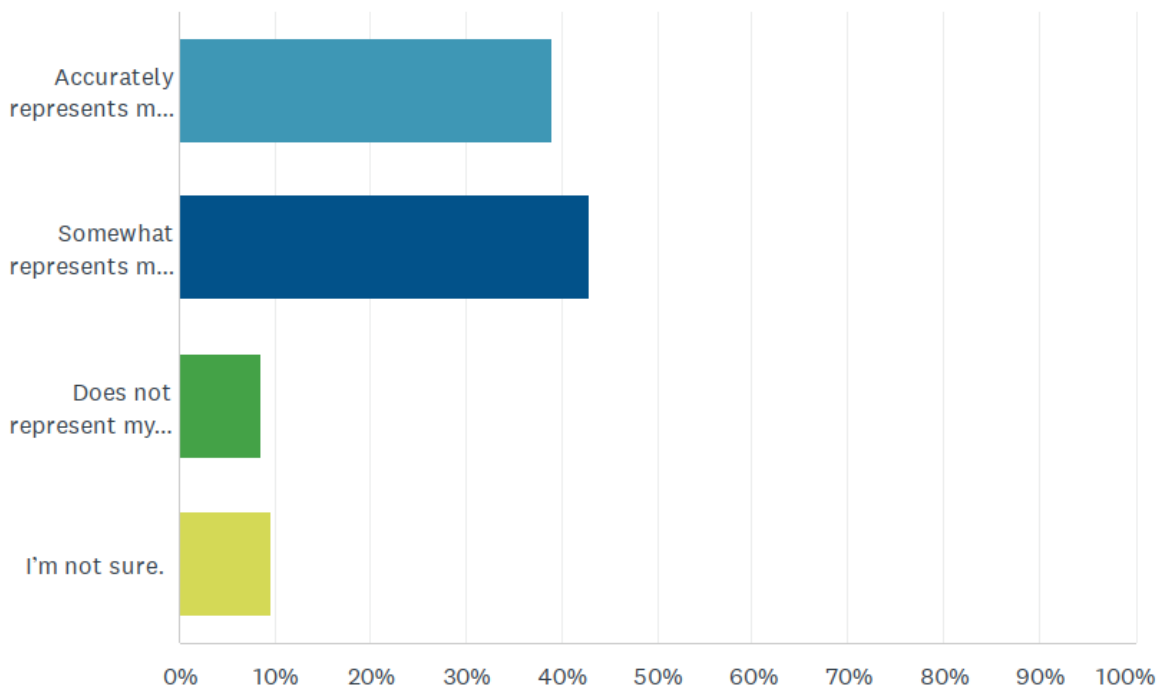
**Q. What are the greatest challenges that you think Hudson's Hope is facing over the next 20 years?**

(99 participants answered)

This was an open ended question, and the main responses were more affordable housing, services, sustainability, and economic growth.

**Q. The community priorities in the current Official Community Plan speaks to: “a community that is open to accommodate a wide range of people, including families, youth and seniors.” It also speaks to ensuring “our community is built to last,” and “we manage our environment wisely”. That it “provides opportunities for citizens and businesses,” and “our industries are a complement to our community.” In general, how well does this represent your vision for Hudson’s Hope in 2044?**

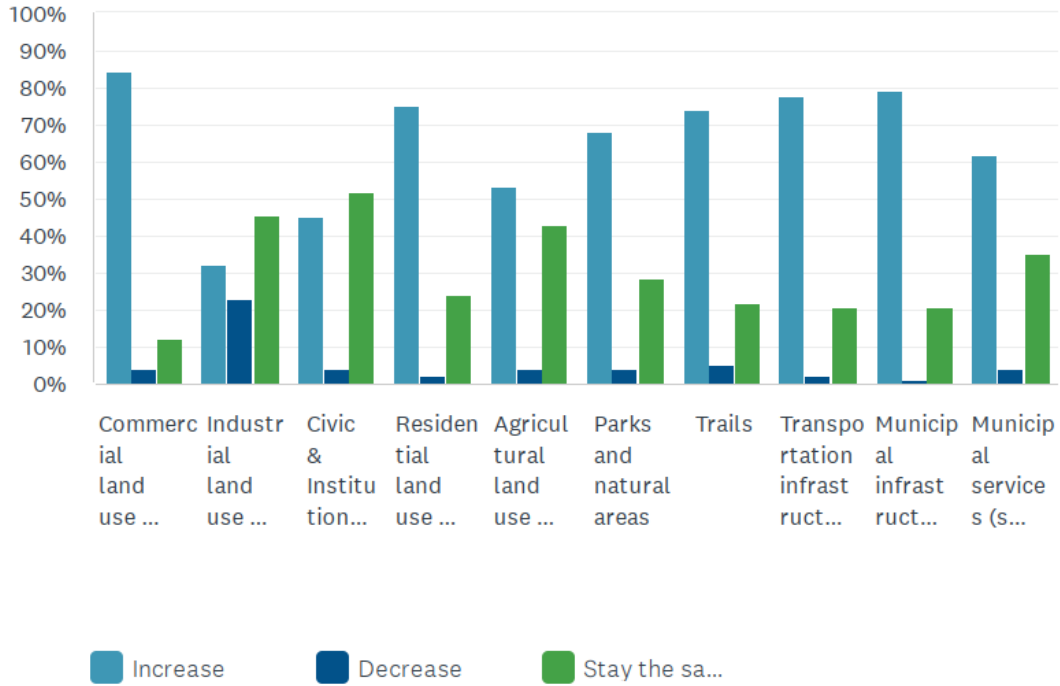
(105 participants answered)





**Q. When picturing the future of the District of Hudson’s Hope in 2044, please indicate whether you would like to see these increase, decrease, or stay the same.**

(109 participants answered)



**Q. Where would you like to see the District of Hudson’s Hope focus its efforts? Please rate each on a scale from 1-5 with 1 being the least important, and 5 being the most important.**

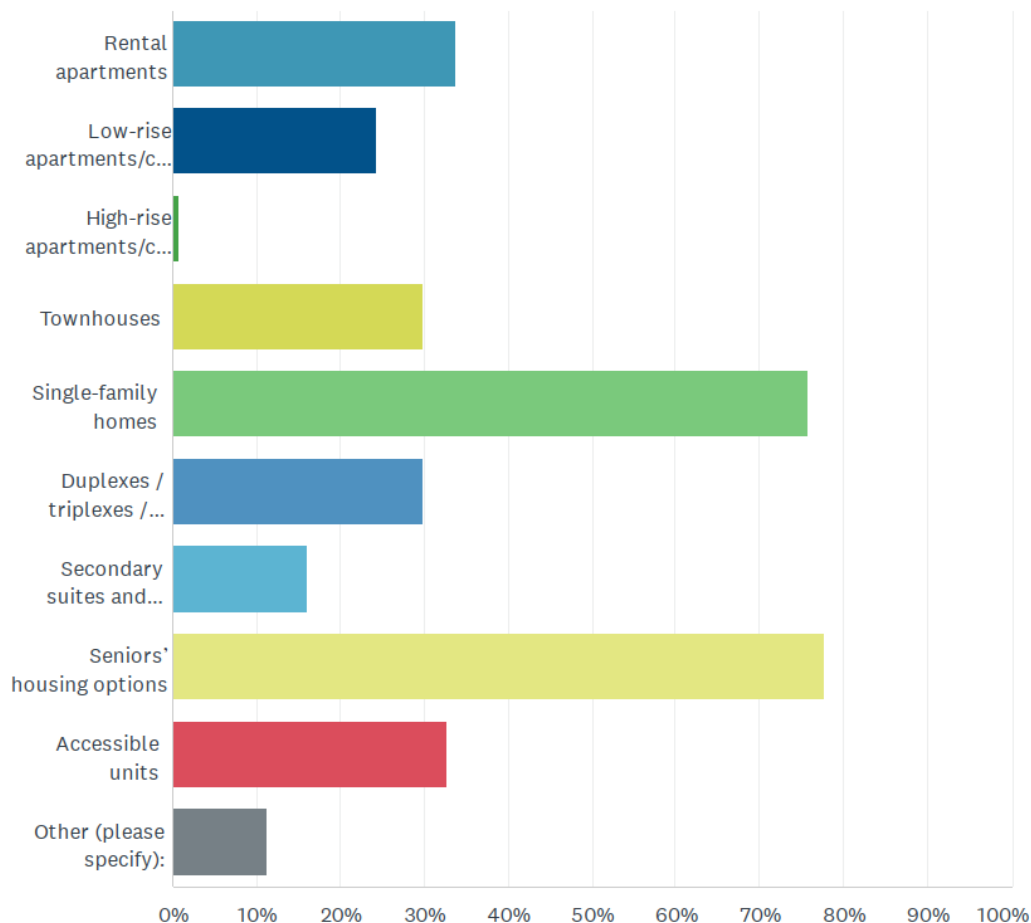
(107 participants answered)

Participants were asked to rank the 10 areas of focus. Social needs and culture, emergency preparedness, diverse/affordable housing options, parks and recreational opportunities, agriculture and local food systems are the top five areas the District should focus on.

## District of Hudson's Hope: Our Community

**Q. What type of housing would you like to see in the District of Hudson's Hope in 2044? Please select all that apply.**

(107 participants answered)



**Q. What are the most important environmental issues the District of Hudson's Hope should work to address over the next 20 years? Please use the arrows to rank the following in order of priority. (1 being highest - 9 being the lowest)**

(105 participants answered)

Participants were asked to rank a number of identified issues. The responses for each issue were added together and an average was taken. Air quality, protecting forests and wildlife, renewable energy, protection of agricultural lands, and climate change adaptation were the top five issues identified as what the District should address.

**Q. What transportation infrastructure would you like to see developed for 2044? Please use the arrows to rank the following in order of priority. (1 being highest - 9 being the lowest)**

(90 participants answered)

Participants were asked to rank different types of transportation in order of priority. The responses for each transportation infrastructure option were added together and an average was taken. Pedestrian facilities (i.e., sidewalks, crosswalks) was ranked as the highest priority for the District, followed by more regional transit options, more local transit options, cycling infrastructure, and shuttle buses.

## Conclusion

Overall, we received positive feedback from participants in how they envision Hudson's Hope in 2044, and what they enjoy in the present. It was highlighted the community is proud of Hudson's Hope and wish to see it thrive in the future. The feedback provided by participants through the engagement events and surveys will be used to form and guide the policy updates to the Official Community Plan.