

Our town passed a Public Engagement Policy on Dec 12, 2016 ADM 21

This policy is a breakthrough document and amazing in its foresight.

Let's look briefly at the 7-page policy:

Page 1 Purpose: ensure an **effective engaging of the citizens** in Council's decisions that may affect them including policies, plans and programs

Page 1 The Town of Cobourg recognizes that **public input can improve municipal decision making** and leads to better decisions

Page 1 that a key element of local government is that **people should be involved in the process of decisions that affect them.**

Page 1 It will result in a better-informed community, a greater sense of ownership and **increased public satisfaction**

Page 1 Greater involvement by citizens through public engagement will result in a better-informed community, a greater sense of ownership in initiatives and increased public satisfaction with municipal programs, services and long-term plans.

Page 2 expand opportunities to engage citizens

This is a serious document, as it also says

Page 5 Staff will evaluate the engagement standards on an annual basis

Page 5 Staff will design engagement processes **Council has the responsibility to ensure staff are employing the policy**

Page 6 Identify concerns and **issues early in the process. During concept development**

Page 7 of Our Town's Strategic Plan, states under Partnerships states "5. Facilitate meaningful collaboration with Cobourg citizens"