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Residents give feedback on future Airdrie development

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – Airdrie residents say they want more bike paths, pathways, playgrounds and shopping with restaurants in feedback collected by City of Airdrie Planning Department in the AirdrieONE resident phone and online survey.

The survey was conducted from November 27 to January 4, 2010 to gather thoughts and opinions about the approaches to sustainable growth and development in the City of Airdrie. The survey tested various Smart Growth concepts with residents and stakeholders of Airdrie.

“The findings are a concrete indicator of what Airdrie residents want for development in their city,” says Jamie Dugdale, City of Airdrie Planning Team Leader. “This valuable feedback is essential in the development of the AirdrieONE community plan. The AirdrieONE plan will ensure that the community as a whole is moving in the same direction with regards to creating sustainable, attractive, functional communities, in line with the wishes of the citizens of Airdrie.”

All the findings will be used to develop AirdrieONE, a new community plan replacing the current Municipal Development Plan. The goal of this plan is to bring together, in one document, the goals and objectives of all of the City master plans and community based initiatives.

Other key findings from the survey with the highest ratings include:

- 73% preferred shopping be combined with restaurants and other activities with many public spaces to sit, eat or walk and parking is not right in front.
- 72% preferred parks be designed for a variety of uses (sports, concerts farmers markets)
- 61% preferred that on commercial streets, buildings should form a continuous front, resulting in alleys and on-street parking
- 61% preferred that there be more parks and open spaces that are closer to people’s homes, resulting in smaller parks and open spaces.

The following concepts had the lowest ratings:

- 43% preferred streets should encourage social, cultural and retail activity, resulting in less efficient movement of vehicles.
- 30% preferred the option to walk to stores, libraries or restaurants, and within 400 metres of townhomes, apartments and condominiums.
- 28% preferred connected local streets where traffic is evenly spread throughout the neighbourhood and there is a lot of street activity.

The public consultation to date for the AirdrieONE plan includes: internal City of Airdrie staff interviews; collecting and analyzing all other City departments master plans; AirdrieONE online and phone survey; and two community cafes hosted the last week of February 2010.

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“Our next step in the process is to interpret all the information we got back and begin to identify the various areas of agreement and areas of disagreement or sensitivity,” says Dugdale. “Then we work on understanding the sensitive areas and how to bring everything into alignment to begin formulating AirdrieONE. We will still be looking to our residents for feedback on the draft plan.”

Results are accurate to ± 4.0 percent (resident) and ± 7.0 percent at the 95 percent confidence level, (19 times out of 20) giving assurance the results are representative of the entire population. The survey was conducted by Banister Research and Consulting.

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