New plan provides redevelopment in a scale to suit Acton

boundaries designed to ensure the appropriate redevelopment and revitalization of the downtown Acton, will also protect the character and stability of the existing residential neighbourhoods, according to Town planning staff who recently presented the final version of the Acton Downtown Area Land Use Study to councillors. It was approved by Council on Tuesday.

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The study was triggered

Eastern Avenue as a tourist area, requirements of the Town's Intensification Study and the need to conform with provincial planning policies to 2031.

Tara Buonpensiero, the Acting Senior Planner -Policy, said following public meetings and focus groups they developed a plan supported "on the most part" by participants in the process. A common concern was the proposed mix of commercial and residential

New planning policies and by the failure to develop the uses permitted on the west side of Church Street and the east side of Bower Avenue. In response, the plan now allows fewer uses, including townhouse and apartments with offices on the ground floor and the statement that the Church and Bower areas will not be transitioned to a fully commercial designation.

> Other changes include a reduction in maximum height to six stories from eight along Eastern Avenue, an area once earmarked for tourist retail/

commercial development by the Olde Hide House. Now within the revised redevelopment subarea, commercial uses will be allowed on the ground floor, and townhouses and apartments are permitted.

Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary noted that plans to locate a GO Train station beside the Hide House raised additional concerns about traffic and parking for some area residents. An Environmental Assessment prepared by GO identified 200 parking spaces

around the station, an estimates 120 will be needed when train service begins – no date has yet been announced.

The Town is required to file public notice of the approval of the Official Plan Amendment that will implement the downtown land and policy review within 15 days and that triggers a 20-day appeal period. If there are no appeals, the Official Plan comes into effect. An appeal would lead to an Ontario Municipal Board hearing.



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