

Conclusions and Summary

Overall, the needs assessment found that older adults and people with disabilities consider the Town of Amherstburg a positive place to live. The community was viewed as friendly, safe, secure, clean and pleasant. The Town and community partners have made significant efforts to improve the environment for older adults and people with disabilities including: the provision and maintenance of green spaces and trails, making the Town more walkable, provision of specialized transportation services, advancing a housing strategy, fostering the provision of healthcare services close to home with appropriate age-friendly and accessible support services, ensuring that there are a good variety of activities and social opportunities available, and keeping residents informed, including seniors and people with disabilities at community events, activities and settings. Most people of Amherstburg, consulted in this project, reported feeling respected, their opinions valued, and that seniors and people with disabilities are welcome in the Town. The needs assessment process received wide-ranging feedback including identification of existing strengths and areas that could be improved upon.

Amherstburg has limited resources and cannot afford to undertake every project identified nor is the Town bound to implement recommendations. Implementation of the features of this document and the subsequent Action Plan must be measured against priorities and annual budget considerations.

This material is summarized in the table below across the 8 Domains of Age-Friendly and Inclusive Communities as identified by the World Health Organization.

WHO Dimension	Existing Strengths	Suggested Improvement Areas
1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public spaces clean and pleasant • Green spaces, outdoor seating sufficient and well maintained • Waterfront • Walkability • FADS • Parks Master Plan • Sufficient accessible parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the interconnectivity and usability of dedicated lanes for bicycles, scooters and wheelchairs • Improved delineation and safety between roadways and active transportation networks • Continue sidewalk upgrades and maintenance • Continue to add benches in parks, on trails • Review the location, suitability

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		<p>and accessibility of washrooms in parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for businesses to improve accessibility • Incorporate age-friendly and accessible options in the Amherstburg Design Manual • Investigate options for improved lighting on paths (such as: solar lighting) • Create a master plan for each park • Reconfirm the direction, priorities and accomplishments of the Parks Master Plan as scheduled for 2023 • Explore possibilities to work with community partners for accessible community enhancements • Support the Draft Community Improvement Plan (CIP) and consider including accessibility improvements • Consider the connectivity and safety of amenities and commit to enhance services where budgets allow
2. Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good traffic signage • Information about transportation services • Accessible transportation services available via CareLink Health Transit • Active Transportation Network (CWATS) in Essex County • Communication through multiple media options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Road repairs/maintenance (infrastructure improvements) • Investigate expanded transit options especially special accessible transit • Investigate options for discounts for seniors and people with disabilities • Develop transportation mapping on what is

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigating options for transit opportunities with neighbouring municipalities 	<p>available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider creating a 'Senior Sensitive' / 'Accessible Sensitive' course/ certification for transportation providers Continue to enhance the connections to the CWATS network in Amherstburg Consider public communication about being considerate, helpful drivers (with a senior/accessibility focus)
3. Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town encourages a broad range of housing types, supply to meet needs and opportunities for people in need of specialized care. Town support for mixed-use developments with housing located near services and amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider adoption of AMO recommendations as identified in A Blueprint for Action: An integrated approach to address Ontario's housing crisis, to increase housing supply Town advocate for more affordable, accessible and senior housing options, rent subsidies and geared to income housing Advocate upper levels of government to provide grants to upgrade accessibility in private residences to encourage aging-in-place Encourage construction of affordable rental units, retirement homes Provide communication, where possible on available housing options Evaluate inclusion of additional age friendly and universal design elements through the Official Plan review

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4. Community and Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical services in the Town • Health care services available when needed • Health care services well-coordinated • Majority of respondents rating their health, including mental health as average to above average • Overall service provided to seniors and those with disabilities is average to above average • Accessible transportation services available via CareLink Health Transit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on community services / supports available • Provide a drop-in location for service information • Continue to advocate for urgent care • Advocate for additional medical services (such as podiatry, dialysis, and PSW). • Continue to support local service providers • Advocate for local memory care/dementia support and mental health supports • Advocate for additional investment of medical transportation supports
5. Social Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable activities and events • Good variety of recreation programs • Social Clubs such as the Golden Age Club • Variety of shopping options and courteous staff • Libro Recreation Centre • Sufficient information on social, educational and recreational activities • Affordable Recreation Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a variety of programs/ activities for seniors and people with disabilities as per the recreation survey • Make use of the new 'HUB' for dedicated seniors social/activities • Continue to enhance Arts and cultural programming/ events

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6. Information and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Newspaper • Town publications and web-site • Talk the Burg community engagement platform • Staffed telephones • Assistance filling out municipal online forms • Addition of a Communication Officer position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information on services, programs, activities, events • Communicate assistance is available for municipal services • Continue to communicate through multiple information formats for those technology challenged
7. Civic Participation and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming community events, activities, and settings • Volunteering opportunities available • Recognition of seniors and people with disabilities for their past and present contributions • ‘Talk the Burg’ civic engagement platform • Equal opportunity employer • Amherstburg administration provided enhanced training on accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop senior programming as identified in the Recreation Needs Assessment • Support civic participation in open forums such as Seniors Expo • Enhanced training support for volunteers • Explore possibilities for ‘membership’ program for recreation activities
8. Respect and Social Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming, friendly, courteous town • Valued input from seniors and people with disabilities • Safe and secure community • Seeking input from the community through surveys and public engagement in planning and implementation processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support intergenerational recreation and social programs • Explore the creation of a formal recognition or award program for people with disabilities, caregivers and community volunteering with nominations from the community • Re-establish the Volunteer appreciation luncheon