

# WHAT WE HEARD

Summary of Community and Social Development

Public Engagement Sessions

Summer 2022



TOWN OF STONY PLAIN COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
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# Summary of Community and Social Development Public Engagement Sessions: Summer 2022

## Background

Community and Social Development hosted engagement sessions in the summer of 2022 to gather feedback from the people of Stony Plain. The sessions were an opportunity to learn what was important to the public in building and strengthening community. The information and perspectives gathered through the sessions will help guide planning for Community and Social Development.

## Engagement Process

To reach people where they are at, an engagement booth was set up at four local events throughout the summer. Community and Social Development staff and volunteers asked for feedback at the following events:

- May 19 Downtown Celebration Event
- June 9, July 14, and August 18 Midsummer Thursday Events

## What We Asked

Questions were asked to help us understand resident's views on Stony Plain's strengths and opportunities.

- What makes a community healthy?
- What will make our community stronger?
- Stony Plain is a good place to call home.
  - Based on a scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

## Process

Attendees were engaged in conversations and a brief overview of Community and Social Development and the purpose of the booth was explained. If Attendees agreed to participate, they were allowed to answer any or all questions. In answering the questions, respondents had the option to leave their feedback on comment cards provided (corresponding to specific questions) or vocalize their feedback with staff, who then noted the information on a comment card. Individuals visiting the booth were also asked to express their agreement with the statement: "Stony Plain is a good place to call home" by placing a block in the corresponding bucket (strongly agree, agree, no opinion, disagree or strongly disagree).

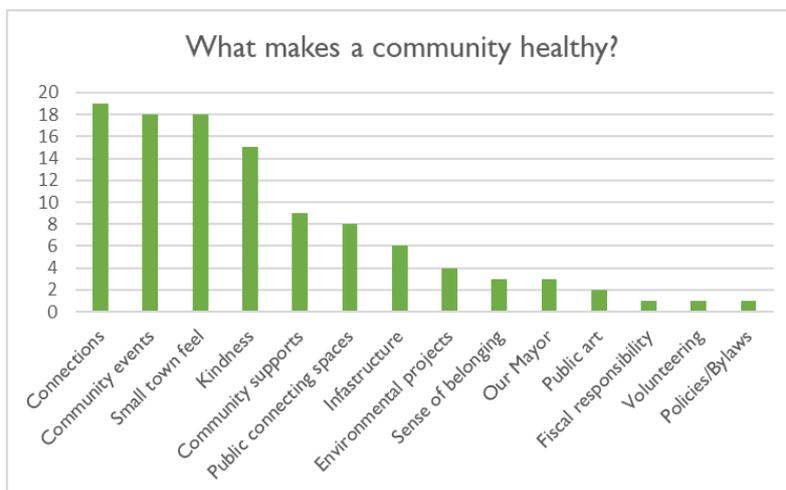
## Participation by the numbers

- 601 visits to the booth over the course of four events
- 118 responses to “What makes a community healthy?”
- 78 responses to “What will make our community stronger?”
- 389 reactions to the statement “Stony Plain is a good place to call home.”

## What We Heard

### What Makes a Community Healthy?

Events that bring people together and create opportunities to connect, such as the many programs and events throughout Stony Plain, are extremely important in creating a healthy community. Strong connections—whether it be friends, close knit neighbours, school or work buddies, are integral to the community and contribute to the overall sense of belonging. Stony Plain has a small town feel that shines through, augmented with friendly, kind people and community support – creating a draw for many. See the chart below for a complete listing of the themes that emerged from the comments received and associated frequencies.



*“Lived here for 29 years and like it very much, great place for neighbours to help each other. Keep it up!”*

*“Events that bring people together. People come together, have fun with each other and learn.”*

*“Watching out for others.”*

*“Culture of downtown. Busy streets. Businesses that attract people need attractions to draw people here.”*

*“Sharing, giving, caring, being.”*

(Direct quotes from respondents)

## What Will Make Our Community Stronger?

Residents expressed that there is an opportunity to strengthen the community through the continuation and enhancement of events, clubs and activities geared to varied audiences, and increasing the awareness of such offerings. The further development of infrastructure— whether it be roadways with traffic calming measures and clear sightlines, an array of recreational facilities and areas to play, or affordable housing for everyone—was noted as a way to strengthen our community. Maintaining greenspaces and parks and keeping the community free of litter is seen as important to make our community stronger. Also seen to be important is an inclusive and accessible community with an array of supports (for newcomers, youth, seniors, people with disabilities, etc.). See the chart below for a complete listing of the themes that emerged from the comments received and associated frequencies.

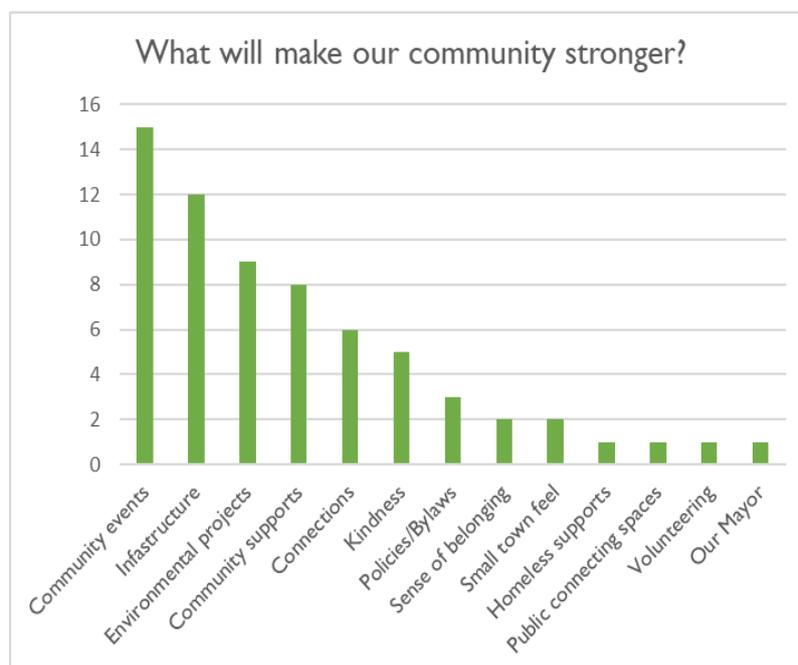
*“Access to walking trails, community events, outdoor spaces, small business support.”*

*“Having something fun to do that brings people together. Like today’s event. Having services available for those that need them. A sense of safety within the community.”*

*“More festivals. More summer events. More facilities (Rec centre) and places for young people.”*

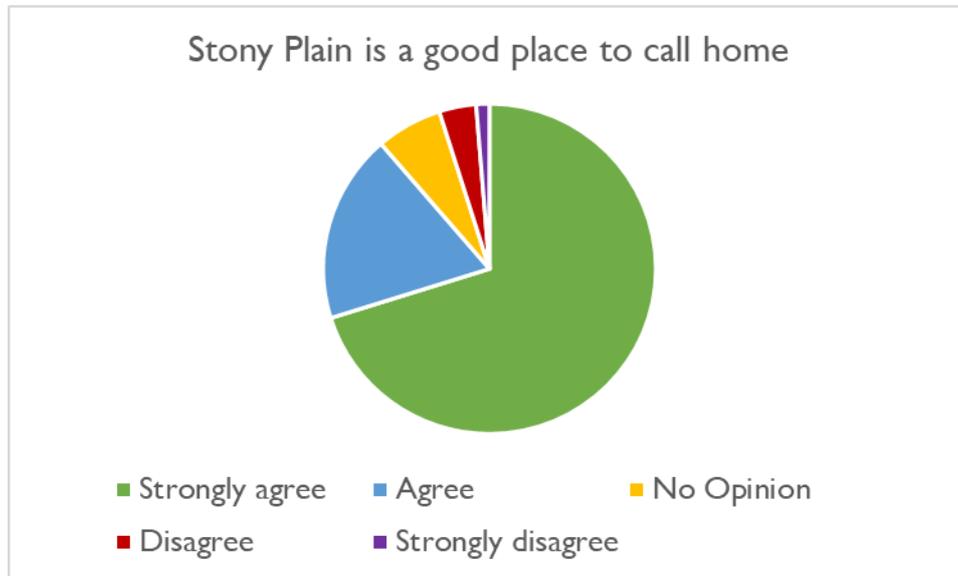
*“We are stronger when can be together, bringing people of like-mind together to share ideas & activities brings strength that is hard to break down.”*

(Direct quotes from respondents)



## Stony Plain is a Good Place to Call Home

The vast majority of respondents felt Stony Plain is a good place to call home, with 89% agreeing with the statement.



## Limitations

Residents had the opportunity to provide their input at four community events. When analyzing the data, it is important to consider the limitations of the survey. With the data being collected at a community event, there is a high likelihood that community events were considered a priority to the survey respondents.

## Next Steps

The Engagement was at Tier 1 on the Stony Plain Public Participation Spectrum whereby “we provide opportunities to collect input to be considered in community development and the decision-making process.” Moving forward, Community and Social Development will consider the feedback received to aid in annual planning, program development, event planning and the development and execution of strategic plans for respective portfolios.