



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Ripley Outdoor Plaza**

**Prepared By: Michelle Goetz, Community Development Officer**

**Department: CAO**

**Date: Feb. 26, 2021**

**Report Number: BED-2021-02-9**

**File Number:**

**R04 – PLA19**

**Attachments: Original Ripley Outdoor Plaza Drawing, Drawing A from BM Ross, Drawing B from BM Ross.**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report Number BED2021-02-9 prepared by Michelle Goetz, Community Development Officer.

### **Background:**

In February 2020 the Economic Development Team brought forward a report regarding the Ripley Outdoor Plaza and our plan to move the project forward over the course of the year. Due to a number of circumstances, the project was delayed. This report outlines the path forward for the project in 2021.

### **Discussion:**

In response to the feedback, we received through our community engagement strategies for the Ripley Outdoor Plaza project, two alternate designs were created by B.M. Ross to consider. We engaged the community through a presentation to the Ripley Fire Department, letters to downtown businesses and community groups and by activating a project page on Have Your Say HK. The message we heard loud and clear, was the need for parking in downtown Ripley. The original drawing that was presented only allowed for 13 parking spaces and a large plaza. Keeping this in mind we requested BM Ross amend the design to create two new drawings that allow us to incorporate the preferred design elements from the Fanshawe College renderings we received early last year and parking.

Drawing A, provides 25 parking spaces and a modest sized plaza.

Drawing B, provides 36 parking spaces and no plaza.

Now that we have received all the drawings, we would like to go back to the community, specifically those that provided feedback originally, to ask what drawing they prefer; and move the project forward accordingly. Our engagement strategy will include:

- A survey created through Have Your Say HK
- Letters/emails with the drawings sent to local businesses and community groups; asking them to complete the survey on Have Your Say HK.
- Social Media posts
- Posters with information about how to submit feedback via mail or through Have Your Say HK.

The team has also been discussing what to do about the cobblestone four-way stop in Ripley and working with the Public Works Department, has determined that if we were to pave the four-way stop rather than used coloured concrete or another material, we would save a significant amount of money that could be used towards the parking lot for the plaza. It is our recommendation not to use the beautification money for the parking lot as that money has been earmarked specifically for beautification projects, such as; planters, benches, greenery, etc. The plaza, if constructed would also be eligible to use beautification funds.

Once the survey results are collated, staff will bring forward another report to Council with the recommended path forward.

**Financial Impacts:**

The budget estimate is \$184,000, and excludes landscaping items, site furniture, additional electrical works and subconsultant costs. We will provide Council with an update on costs once a path forwarded has been determined.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's Vision & Mission. The recommendations contribute to the goals in achieving a prosperous community, a spirited community and a vibrant community.

Projects in this report assist staff in achieving the following projects in the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan Action Plan:

V1.2 Ripley Outdoor Plaza

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Michelle Goetz, Community Development Officer

**Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer