

Budget Survey 2025: Written Comments

In the Creating our Budget survey (July - August 2024), residents were asked two questions that required written responses:

- If the municipality "won the lottery" and received \$250,000 in extra funds that could go to any municipal program or service, what would you put it towards? (296 responses)
- Please provide any additional comments that you would like to be considered during the 2025 Budget deliberations (178 responses)

The responses below are presented below as they were received – no edits were made – except in a few instances where the comments were of a derogatory nature or where the comments could lead to a specific individual or company being identified.

Staff sorted and combined responses on similar issues / topics. If a resident commented on more than one issue in a response, their response was split to allow for a response to each topic.

These comments were shared with Municipal Council and staff as they began deliberations on the 2025 Middlesex Centre Budget.

Question: If the municipality "won the lottery" and received \$250,000 in extra funds that could go to any municipal program or service, what would you put it towards?

Respondents to this question suggested spending the extra funds in the following areas:

Topic Area	Number of Responses
Building & By-law Services	5
Fire and Emergency Services	17
Public Works & Engineering – Transportation	
Active Transportation / Trails / Sidewalks	52
Transportation Other	3
Traffic (including traffic calming)	15
Roads and Transportation	45
Public Works & Engineering - Environmental Services	
Water - Price	11
Water - Flooding Concerns & Stormwater	8
Water Other	2
Waste Management	8

Topic Area	Number of Responses
Community Services	
Parks & Recreation	51
Parks & Recreation - Programming	14
Parks & Recreation - Pool	26
Parks & Recreation - Dog Park	7
Heritage & Culture	7
Economic Development	7
Growth, Development & Infrastructure	5
Taxes / Government Spending	17
Broader Community Issues	
Policing (Safety/Violence)	7
Seniors	5
Housing	2
Environment and/or Climate	4
Internet and Cell Service	1
Maintenance of Public Property	8
Child Care & Schools	10
Other / Out of Jurisdiction	15

As many respondents provided only a one or two-word answer, the following captures comments that provided additional insights to their answers. Duplicate answers have been removed.

By-law & Building Permits

- A licensed program that sees all dog owners of certain breeds must complete a credited course run by a credited company regarding good dog behaviour.
- Bylaw officer to police the town watching businesses being run from houses
- Bylaw officer to enforce off leash dog laws and dog poop clean up.
- Further inspections related to site conditions during home construction
- If you have bylaws, enforce them. For example there are bylaws in place regarding street parking but obviously not enforced.

Fire & Emergency Services:

- Closing Bryanston's station
- More ambulances in Komoka area.
- They are not equipped to handle the new proposed high rises in Komoka and Arva.

Public Works & Engineering – Transportation

Active Transportation / Trails / Sidewalks

- A walking and bike path connecting Kilworth to Komoka to keep all the kids/community members safe
- Bike and hiking trails along the river
- Bike lanes, cross walks, sidewalks. No safe, direct route from Caverhill to Parkview.
- Bike paths & bike lanes on Glendon, Vanneck & other busy roads.
- Create a bike path between Ilderton and Oxbow school so that some students from the every-expanding community of Ilderton could safely bike to/from school.
- Walking/bike path from Arva to ballmote, Arva to poplar hill, etc
- Separated bike path into London from Komoka.
- Side walk down Hyde Park from Bible church at Meadowcreek down to existing sidewalk by Ilderton medical office.

- Side walk down Ilderton rd in poplar hill coldstream
- Side walks along Glendon to be able to walk safely to the ymca. Foodland etc
- Sidewalks in Delaware
- Sidewalks in old komoka
- study to determine how to improve cycling infrastructure

Transportation – Other

- Inter county transportation
- More busses or times to get to London.

Traffic

- traffic management specifically the influence of London traffic on municipal roads at the edges of the city - Medway Rd., 8 Mile Rd., 9 Mile Rd., Clarke Rd., Highbury Ave., Adelaide St., Richmond St., Wonderland and Hyde Park Rd could all use traffic calming devices like stop lights and roundabouts
- eliminate 'speed bump' program in Kilworth
- Pedestrian safety & crossings
- Posted speed limits in residential subdivisions. Better and more traffic calming
- Road safety- ways to help with the increase in speeding and unsafe driving.
- Speed radar cameras
- Traffic calming measures to ensure safety on our roads

Roads and Transportation

- Improving roads
- Road maintenance
- Street lights,
- begin to bring the rural roads to the same standard as other municipalities
- Better road services to rural low density areas
- Better snow removal
- I would use it to fix/close Old River Rd. as we have many people avoiding the road closure signs and driving way too fast down an eroding street with no insurance
- curbs and proper gutters and drainage added east of Ilderton lights on Ilderton Road in the residential section

- Making more gravel roads into hard tops. For example 12 & 14 Mile East and west of Hyde Park, Siddal into Carlisle, Fernhill from Vanneck, King St. to Carlisle, Denfield south of Ilderton Road.

Public Works & Engineering – Environmental Services

Water - Price

- Improved sewer services, lower water costs.
- stop charging the Storm water fee that do not receive any services for that fee (no ditches, no sewer system)
- Water/sewer infrastructure to keep our rates down.

Water - Flooding Concerns & Stormwater

- Develop/update stormwater management plan. Then plot out bold strategy to properly deal with regular homeowner flooding issues. It is unacceptable.
- This area has been considered as high risk for flood related losses by insurance companies and we are forced to pay thousands of hard earned money towards that. It would be good to focus on some sort of infrastructure's development in those areas.

Water Other

- Rural water
- Studies to protect vulnerable ground water resource areas.

Waste Management

- Improve the quality of the yard waste depot on Denfield Road and extend hours,
- Compost program, yard waste pickup (every 2 weeks maybe)
- Expanding the recycling program to include more items

Economic Development

- A Main Street initiative to create a community shop and restaurant area rather than commercial plaza developments.
- Support for downtown core or business areas in our communities.

- Widen Ilderton rd/main st in downtown area. Increase curb appeal

Growth, Development & Infrastructure

- quit building houses and put in infrastructure to support what you're approving - it's ridiculous that i can't safely get out of my once quiet neighborhood anymore
- Growth, Development & Infrastructure Stop opposing development

Taxes & Government Spending

- In these trying times, I would lower the burden of tax payers by utilizing it towards the essential services, lowering the property tax for the residents.
- pay down any debt first then put in reserves for any sudden unexpected expenses
- reducing property taxes from homeowners

Parks & Recreation

- Pickle ball courts in polar hill with net
- A splash pad in Delaware
- Appropriate sized recreational facility for the area with a real indoor walking track, pool and workout facility that can accommodate our growing population.
- Arena/ fitness community centre
- Enable increased access to recreation on the Thames River.
- Ilderton arena upgrades
- I'm biased, but I would speed up the enhancement of our baseball facilities where needed through things like improved drainage, dugout protection, raised netting at certain backstops, outfield fencing where missing and adding electrical outlets where missing. These are things that will make it easier to host tournaments/ provincials and improve safety/ usability.
- Sports fields for children!
- Delaware Community Centre
- The Komoka Community Centre badly needs more upgrades.

- Water fountains with bottle filling stations in all parks and buildings

Parks & Recreation – Programming

- More programs towards youth.
- More rec programming at other sites
- More variety of youth programs/activities at the local centres... at Komoka Wellness Centre, Komoka Community Centre, Delaware Community Centre. For example, indoor basketball, indoor soccer, indoor badminton etc for kids to stay active during winter months.
- Programs for youth and seniors

Parks & Recreation – Pool

- Put it towards building a new pool/aquatic facility.
- To put it towards a larger budget to build an indoor community swimming pool that offers swimming lessons in the winter. To have swimming options all year around.

Parks & Recreation - Dog Park

- Expansion of the Paws in Parks program in the kilworth-Komoka area please! The only off leash areas are both in Ilderton, which is a bit of a drive. With the number of dog owners in the area, kilworth-Komoka should really have their own that is closer
- Off leash doggie area

Heritage & Culture

- a township Archives as the Archives needs a larger venue all at one building and at the same time support from Middlesex Centre towards developing a County Archive to take in the whole county. This would enable researchers to avail themselves of history which pertains to the whole county and have all areas represented in one building.
- community events, public spaces
- Or creating a nice town square area or gathering area on the main strip in Ilderton. Like where we can have a town Christmas tree etc during holidays etc.

Broader Community Issues

Housing and Internet / Cell Coverage concerns were mentioned, plus the following.

Policing (Safety/Violence)

- community policing to reduce car thefts and break-ins
- Our own police force
- Safety measures in communities

Seniors Programs

- ride sharing programs for seniors (to access health care)
- Programs for seniors

Environment and Climate Change

- More trees everywhere. EVERYWHERE.

Maintenance of Public Property

- maintain the common grounds
- I think it make our community looking better if we could trim the side of the roads and areas. I find the tall grass and weeds are getting out of control. It does not look nice coming into the area. Also if you need to pull off the road to check your vehicle you have tall weeds, and grass to walk through. This could be hazardous to you ever in the vehicle, if they have vehicle problem.
- tree trimming and forestry related issues

Child Care & Schools

- daycare and schools
- Child based programming or daycare

Other

- A rail crossing
- family doctor recruitment
- Free parking at komoka park
- More library programs for young children (from birth until school aged)
- To ensure power outages are less frequent
- Running natural gas down the remainder ten mile between Adelaide/ highbury

Question:

Please provide any additional comments that you would like to be considered during the 2025 Budget deliberations

Building & By-law Services

- An increasing problem seems to be lack of enforcement for issues that constantly come up - noise, kids riding around the Komoka Community Centre Park on dirt bikes, off leash dogs, and fireworks (although the fireworks has been better over the past couple of years.
- How would the community look if everyone put a container from <NAME REMOVED> in the yards. They should not be allowed anywhere
- Would like no parking signs installed and Enforced on mill street from main street to the united church

Fire & Emergency Services

- A fire hall for the MOST populated and highest taxed area of Middlesex Centre. Any involved fire presently in the Komoka/Kilworth neighbourhoods would result in a total loss with where the current halls are located even if someone was to be at the hall within 1-3min to start mobilizing a vehicle. It seems unacceptable given the tax dollars being paid.
- Please consider an increase in wage/money (per call) for the men and women of the volunteer fire services across the municipality. As they donate a large amount of their personal time and risk their very lives, responding to and on the scene of calls, protecting the lives and property of their neighbours (and visitors) of Middlesex Centre! Thank you.
- Fire response time has resulted in buildings burning down unnecessarily and not much else provided for our money.
- To bring back the county fire inspector instead of in house inspector
- We shouldn't be buying and increasing fire services (expensive fire trucks etc). Fires account for a significantly lower calls for services. Using large expensive fire trucks for medical calls is expensive and dangerous. Increases to Ambulance Services are required.

Public Works & Engineering – Transportation

Active Transportation / Trails / Sidewalks

- Side walks added to be able to walk to Foodland plaza.
- Add more sidewalks
- Add more sidewalks for pedestrians
- Again sidewalk from poplar hill to valley view school
- Walking trails
- Consider walking and biking trails. Make sure all road upgrades and resurfacing accounts for a bike lane
- Safety needs to be a priority - sidewalks keep children safe, and should take priority over homeowners negativity.
- Additionally, please consider a sidewalk on the Young Street hill in Delaware. So many children use it and it is very dangerous with cars coming from both directions. Visibility is low and it's a safety concern.
- Also there are no walking trails.
- For residents living in Kilworth, we would like to have a pedestrian walkway to Foodland plaza in Komoka; is there a possibility to have public transportation service from Kilworth to London?
- Glendon drive and vaneck roundabout and sidewalks/bike path to access services such as the wellness centre, shopping, library etc.
- Glendon needs sidewalks
- I don't understand why so many side roads have been resurfaced when there is no sidewalks to allow people to safely walk down Queen st in Komoka or to the Foodland from Kilworth or Komoka safely. You would think safety for everyone would be a priority and it clearly isn't.

- In Delaware, a sidewalk along Young, specifically the hill seems necessary. Many children travel that route for school and it is hazardous as cars have difficulty seeing them on the road.
- Less money spent on sidewalks in Ilderton. We are a rural community that does not need to be so urban.
- There needs to be more trails for walking, this is part of the reason people move out of London, however London actually offers way more. We are very disappointed with the municipality.
- More new wide sidewalks and boulevard trees
- Please continue to pursue opportunities to add sidewalks and improve cycling infrastructure
- Please expedite a safe way to travel between Komoka and Kilworth that does not involve needing a car. Sidewalks, pathways, dedicated separate bike lanes for example. Too many children/teens are trying to cross or crossing Glendon Drive to travel between Kilworth and Komoka which is not safe to do!
- The development in the area (Kilworth and Komoka) is positive for the community but the infrastructure such as roads and sidewalks need to be added so these new subdivisions have safe access to the shopping and community centers.
- We need hiking/walking trails in the Komoka/Kilworth area. Along the river would be great
- Ilderton needs controlled pedestrian crossings. This should be worked out with County to address these safety issues.
- Invest in photo radar and get rid of the speed bumps
- Middlesex is so large that it seems that a lot of focus goes to some of the developing communities and the more established ones get left behind or left out. Delaware is in need of a traffic controls at Longwoods and Victoria, as well as lights at Longwoods & Carriage. Traffic and safety matter much more to me than playgrounds and splash pads.
- Please consider the following for "old proper Komoka".... no sidewalks, instead, consider more street lights which would be a much cheaper install than the cost of sidewalks. Lastly, I wonder how much money was wasted on ALL the street signs for "NO PARKING" along the Parkview Public streets!! what a waste of money as people do not ablige the signs and the rumour is that they cost almost \$150 per sign and run all along Delaware Ave every 50ft!! This was a disgusting waste of money and also a horrible example of sign pollution! I love this village and have lived here most my life.. Keep Komoka with a small town feel please
- Safety should come first on our roads
- Slow the traffic to 40KMH on all side streets in Ilderton before somebody's kid gets killed. For example Stonefield Drive and Gate. Timberwalk, Mill and more need speed reductions before there is an accident or worse.
- There has been talk of a round an about at the 5 corners for many many years. Now a new subdivision in west 5 is getting one within a couple years of the area being developed. There should be a traffic light at Foodland or wellness center. Or a walking bridge for people from kilworth to walk or bike to Komoka without risking their lives.
- would like to see traffic volume & speeding issues addressed as a priority

Traffic

- Add light near the LCBO/Foodland plaza to help with the flow of traffic.
- Add more speed bumps to slow traffic down.
- an easy way to save on budget - stop the summer installation and the winter removal of speed bumps throughout Kilworth. They are ineffective in reducing vehicle traffic speed. They force residents and commercial vehicles to find ways to avoid them resulting in a shift away from main roads, (Jefferies), on to side streets, (Daventry).
- getting rid of the annual speed bump installation & removal in Kilworth. Waste of taxpayer \$\$ with very little return in speed reduction or safety!

- Furthermore, there are limited sidewalks leading to Foodland, and the intersection of Daventry and Crestview desperately needs speed bumps or more law enforcement. Too many people speed or fail to stop at this intersection, creating a dangerous situation where someone will eventually get hit. We wish we had thought more carefully before purchasing in Middlesex.
- While it could be considered positive that Komoka is expanding so rapidly, for most who live in the older homes here what we value most was a quiet, safe sense of community. It no longer has any of the calm charm it used to, and the poorly managed traffic flow contributes heavily to this issue. Personally, I think the county should prioritize fixing the intersections that don't have lights/four way stops by installing said controls, and we desperately need some sort of public transit out here so that folks don't have to be reliant on cars to get to the city if the city is gonna insist on ruining the vibe by coming out this way. Perhaps a safe bike path along the bridge out of Komoka and into Byron as well.
- 1% budget to roads, lights, sidewalks, traffic lights, snow removal, garbage pick up not to speed bumps and ongoing studies of traffic. We already know problem areas our community isn't walkable because it's not safe to walk to commercial businesses and activities without sidewalks and lights. It's hard to turn left off Tunks.
- I'd love for you guys to consider paving the awful "road" that is ten miles between Adelaide and Highbury. The base of the road is full of ruts all over it. Grading and throwing gravel down only lasts 2-3 days. And if it rains even less. This doesn't actually help the road when the base is totally destroyed. Who knows how much has been spent already just for the grading and gravel. I'd love for MY tax dollars actually be used to benefit where my neighbours and I actually live. In 2 years I've spent roughly 13,000 dollars on suspension and brakes for our vehicles. All our brakes are full of dirt and stones. Ten miles between Adelaide and Highbury is the only dirt road we drive on. Help us out here.
- Please consider paving 15 Mile Road east of Highbury
- Please consider serious improvements to the existing gravel roads. Why do so many municipalities around us have better road surfaces where once gravel was the top of choice? We have been told a gravel country road must have 500 vehicles per day to even be given consideration. Wow. This seems extreme. Heavy trucks, 18 wheeled transports, farming equipment and general vehicular use are taking a toll on gravel roads. And potholes. The occasional grader doesn't make a difference at all. Save those tax dollars. Arenas and playgrounds have been updated thank you. The new office seems to be taking forever to construct but should be done in the months ahead. Fire station is new. Some hard top roads have been ground up and refurbished, curbing has been put in place, bridge work is being done. Please...let us now turn attention to gravel roads, regardless of a somewhat curious 500 vehicle count per day.
- Please fix my road. It's an embarrassment for what I pay in taxes. 3 years of concrete barriers. Old river road.
- Stop wasting money paving roads in Ilderton that don't need it and spend this money on the ones that do. A road that's 20 years old with no physical issues doesn't need to be repaved.
- Trim the side of all roads, and streets, for safety issues. If people have vehicle problem it could be very unsafe, for the driver and passengers, and emergency people. Also for service people, doing work on the side of the road.

Roads and Transportation

- Gravel roads are not maintained in this municipality. Dust control poor (once per year not sufficient), road grading deplorable, non-existent summer maintenance inappropriate given state of these roadways. Gravel roads should be surfaced so less year-round maintenance required
- Repaving Vanneck Road between Ilderton Road and Elginfield Road with real pavement that lasts. We get a lot of heavy traffic on this road. The whole road should be labeled correctly with proper signage with weight limits. It is crumbling quickly.
- Street lights from Hydepark to Ilderton
- more asphalt in rural areas instead of tar and chip

- Try to provide more asphalt roads that tar & chip.
- While you would like to increase tax rates for infrastructure, specifically roads and bridges, you're allowing the city traffic to travel municipality roads, for example Medway Road west, such as removing the No Truck signs. There are now heavy duty trucks on the roads/bridges that tax payers contributed to repairing just to have to do it all over again in several years because of the weight of these trucks along with the amount that choose to travel daily outside of the city limits of London. Specifically Sunningdale Road and Fanshawe Park Road. How is that justified? Not only the cost, the increasing speed from all vehicles that affect the safety of the residents of your own municipality. I say no to increasing the tax rates for this careless thinking.
- Would like to know the current status of Old River Road and when work will commence on this project.

Public Works & Engineering – Environmental Services

Water - Price

- Any measures to reduce water bill, at least in par with nearby big cities
- Lower water prices
- Lower water prices
- water is ridiculously high compared to living in London (we shouldn't have to pay for 8 cubic metres of water if we use 3/month.)
- Review of the water prices
- Additionally, from an environmental standpoint, we should not be billed for a set limit of water usage. We typically get billed for 6 units but use less.
- The water bills are way more the London water bills. I was not informed of this when I moved to Kilworth!

Water - Flooding Concerns & Stormwater

- Although the recent torrential rains were difficult for many municipalities, flooding occurs frequently for many Ilderton residences even with far less rainfall. We need to see immediate bold and effective solutions.

- Being the homeowner managing a flooded finished basement with no, zero insurance coverage I would like to have our area accessed for proper drainage. EVERY major rain our yard is a lake. We have spent thousands on building our yard up, and installing a drainage system and still have issues. This is Gwendolyn Street in Birr. We are not alone, in the subdivision, several homes were flooded during the last storm and yes it was unusual but this could be happening in the future. We will be out at least 5,000.00 to fix our basement!
- Drainage is poor on a lot of properties.
- Flood and water prevention
- Please consider adding curbs and proper gutters and drainage to the east of Ilderton lights along Ilderton Road in the residential section. Currently the water doesn't even flow into the basins by the sidewalk, it flows down into laneways and towards homes. I'm on the South side of Ilderton and get a particularly large amount of the road side gravel come

Water Other

- Better sewer, water storm water management systems
- there is a leaking water main at the corner of Kilworth Park Drive & Blackburn Cres.. It has been leaking for as long as I've been here (2+ years) and I am told by neighbours 10+ years without repair. its getting worse, pools of water 100% of the time, running down the ditches to the river. This to me is \$ being dumped into the ground without benefit, which the taxpayers pay for through the water bills. Additionally, there is discussion around a 'rain tax' for the impact of rain to infrastructure - if anything screams poor fund management, it's these things. Incredible disappointment in the municipalities ability to and manage funds for infrastructure. When we see this, and are being asked if we would pay more tax - the answer is straight up no- figure out how to manage the current before asking for more.

Waste Management

- I love our garbage and recycling. Same day every week. Good job!

- Why not reduce the pickup of garbage and recycling to every other week to save tax dollars?
- My biggest annoyance since moving here has been that there is no yard waste pickup and that the denfield envirodepot is only open Saturdays 9-12 which is way too limiting. I end up having to drive 25 mins to Clarke road which itself has limited hours, or my yard waste bags sit around until there is a Saturday I can go during the limited window
- Open the gates to the yard waste yard during the summer. Opening this on Saturday is waste of money just supervising the yard. Put a camera up and record the vehicles at a fraction of the cost.
- Yard waste pickup for non-rural properties would be great. What I would pay in a tax increase would be saved in not having to pay someone to take it away.

Community Services

Parks and Recreation

- Delaware needs some sort of water park. There are camps in the area and as summer temperatures increase, it seems a necessity for families.
- DKMB has seen a huge (~18%) increase in baseball registrations year over year and is has blown away its record numbers (over 500 kids) in 2024. In anticipation of future demand from the community, anything we can do to make it easier to improve our facilities, reduce maintenance, or increase our diamond availability would be welcomed. When planning long term, locating multiple diamonds near each other makes for the easiest maintenance, among other benefits like tournament hosting ease and increased revenue generation around diamond complexes.
- as well additional smaller parks within the communities instead of updating already new equipment. The park in Komoka park is already new it did not need to be re done. I think instead that money should have gone to creating new smaller parks with the community like a swing set or a slide or benches throughout the community so kids dont have to walk across a busy street like Oxbow to go play.

- Keep green areas like parks and trails, make them more affordable and accessible to all
- There are so many places the money could go. If you could fined the money splash pads, more structure for the children
- we should consider dog waste stations
- We need more baseball fields for the Komoka/Kilworth Area. The DKMB association does not have enough field time for the rapid increase in membership they have had with all the new development. I support all the new development but that increase in tax revenue and developer fees need to be used to have facilities to keep up with the increase in population

Parks & Recreation – Programming

- Increase activities at komoka community centre for registrations for kid activities
- More recreational programs.
- please don't cut community recreation programs, those are essential for continued engagement and health populations.
- Youth activities promotion like ymca

Parks & Recreation – Pool

- A pool facility is crucial for our growing community to have access to close to home. From drowning prevention, swimming lessons, and public swimming, our community needs this opportunity in our own community so we do not have to travel great lengths to use a pool.
- As many seniors are aging in place and we are expanding with new young families we need a four season aquatic facility. Planning needs to be done to have one in the future.
- Due to the many body's of water and rivers in Middlesex Centre, it is crucial that the public has access to a local pool. Komoka would be the perfect place for a pool, indoor or outdoor. Our kids need to be able to learn to swim close to home. This pool can be used many leisure programs and most importantly promote drowning prevention and awareness.
- A pool at the Community centre would increase the use of the land and it would potentially add more business and attraction

- Middlesex Centre is in great need a public pool and it would be great if it was ran by the Municipality. I know we have the YMCA in Komoka, but their swimming programs are pool quality. This could be an indoor or outdoor pool. Our kids need somewhere they can learn to swim in our community.
- Start saving to build a pool.
- Please start saving for a pool facility. It is a great need for our communities and is something that the majority of residents would benefit from.
- Please start saving for a pool!
- We need a pool in Middlesex Centre! At least an outdoor one we can enjoy in the summer. It is very disappointing that we have to drive elsewhere for aquatic programs.
- We would like serious consideration given to an indoor pool. Population is growing and aging.

Parks & Recreation - Dog Park

- Add off leash dog area. It's social action for neighbourhoods, not dogs. The dogs get the side benefit
- Budget should be set aside for a dog park please. The area has grown substantially and continues to grow so it should warrant a dog park by now. Many dog owners want a dog park and many non-dog owners also want a dog park so kids can play safely without dogs off-leash running at them by the playgrounds. Thank you! :)
- a dog park would be nice and perhaps we could have someone other than the municipality help fund it?
- The last few years have been better but there are still some things that are needed for the area such as dog parks and some streets don't have adequate street lighting in the older areas. Consider putting a dog park where the train track used to be at the Komoka Community Centre.
- Also adding a dog park, or dog off leash permitted area in Komoka is desperately needed.
- We need to budget for an off-leash dog park as well. Perhaps we can save funds by not installing several speed bumps every year.

- Dog park in Delaware - This has been requested for over 5+years.

Heritage & Culture

- A county Archives should be a priority. We are the only County without one. Middlesex Centre Archives are doing a wonderful job but we need a full county Archive.
- Investment in Heritage and Culture

Economic Development

- Attracting new businesses to Ilderton.
- Provide more grants, and support for micro businesses within the municipality
- We need more of a commercial tax base so residential (heaviest taxes on new builds) does not have to shoulder the increasing burden. High taxes and streets unassumed for years with fewer maintenance services - not right.

Growth, Development & Infrastructure

- please avoid spending on needless or undesirable upgrades such a painting street lines in Old Kilworth, not all the re-surfacing was even necessary - spend on infrastructure needs clearly tied to climate change & new developments (e.g. rainstorm & related flooding issues) & weather events; need to fast track or minimally avoid more delays to traffic flow improvement plans on Glendon drive, such as the round at Vanneck about & closure of Coldstream - collaborate with London on future plans for the Kilworth bridge; turn down or at least delay infill & development requests until the traffic flow issue is resolved.
- Continue to project for residential growth...street maintenance, widening streets, increasing parks for the number of residents.
- Create more parks, farmland for food, decrease/stop comercialization of all areas.
- Development should pay for infrastructure
- Way too much new building going on in this small community.

- Ensure that <NAME REMOVED> properties are limited and do NOT remove any land from current agricultural use or from any potential environmental benefit.
- I am concerned about the Municipality not protecting agriculture areas. Any Commercial Development in Agriculture areas should not be allowed. For any commercial development in Agriculture areas that are still considered the public should be made aware of it at least 3 months in advance to have an opportunity to give some valuable feedback. No services (sewer, water, drainage etc.) that use tax payers money should be supplied to private entities. They have to carry the costs.
- I've read that the municipality wants to attract more businesses and industry as a way of increasing tax revenue. I DO NOT support increased development on existing farmland or mega industrial complexes like the one proposed for just outside Delaware. Most of us moved to Middlesex to enjoy a small town/rural environment, not to end up living next to industry.
- Is the amount of housing development that is being allowed sustainable for our sewage, waste water, water, power infrastructure? Are these new developments paying proper funds to keep up the infrastructure which is above what is already serving the current population?
- It has grown too fast in the Komoka Kilworth area with little consideration for village character such as a Main Street Streetscape or the impact on traffic. This is what helps create a community; supporting and building for the community we already have.
- It would also be appreciated if rural property owners could sever from their large properties to allow home development for their children/grandchildren or aging parents. It is not always realistic to build additional homes on one property.
- Land use decisions appear to be valuing the potential for tax revenue over the desires of those negatively impacted by the decisions. The need for budget revenues should not override the objections of residents opposed to land use changes adjacent to their property.
- Less commercial development, and more focus on preservation of farmland and support to local farmers.
- Make developers pay more for infrastructure upgrades as they are the ones making the profit at the end of the day
- New development should pay for itself, less staff costs
- No more industrial expansion in Delaware. Small town living is nice. Don't mess it up
- Please consider proper planning for development & consider what the residents want before expansion. While it is understood that growth may be unavoidable, please consider where to place the development, what type of development, proper traffic control, and what infrastructure is required including costs. Most residents in the community moved here to be outside the city- small town community. Would love to keep that as much as possible.
- Slow down building new houses. When considering building take a look at the existing neighborhoods and keep a similar landscape instead of piling as many houses as possible in so the developer makes as much money as possible with little concern for the already existing residents . Maintain as much farmland and green space as possible. Give the Municipality more control over its housing development so that every decision can not be over ruled by the Tribunal . If the Tribunal can overturn Council decisions then why is there even a local government ???

- So you've added how many houses? Those people should be paying for infrastructure increases along with the developers who are making millions of it. The infrastructure and facilities were fine until we added all these people. Start charging the new home infrastructure fees to be here. My kids can't bike to the park without fear of being ran off the road from people cutting through neighborhoods. It's sad to see what's come Of our beautiful little community. The developers have left an absolute mess along Glendon. Coming out at either exit in kilworth or the arena is like playing Russian roulette. But we keep building. Our schools our over crowded , we have sewage spewing in school yards - but we add. More housing. We can't get enough ice for our residents so we are forced to drive to Glencoe. Quit approving growth until in infrastructure to support it is in place. Quit asking residents who don't want it to pay for it.
- Stop the residential building when we don't have the infrastructure to support it. The schools are overflowing, insufficient sports fields, recreational facility is too small, no side walks or street lights in many areas to make walking and cycling safe. The increased traffic due to large number of additional residential units being built is too fast based on the other areas of growth to support the population.

Taxes & Government Spending

Reduce Taxes

- Cost of living is skyrocketed. Any measures to support minimizing the cost would be great
- I am retired and live on pension income. There are many others living on their retirement income. Property tax is one of the major expense going out of my income. I would request the authorities to take care of the marginalized income people and reduce the taxes.
- I feel that now is not a great time to increase property taxes with the pressure families are feeling due to our current inept federal government continually increasing our cost of living. Municipal level government needs to do what they can to not join the cost of living increase in this current environment.

- LOWER TAXES!!!!
- Lower property taxes
- Of course we are happy to see our tax payer dollars at work.... I don't just give free rein to just raise taxes and go crazy but doing it in moderation helps everyone. We like to take care of our community as we are proud of it. I think there is a happy medium in raising taxes so as not to financially strap citizens but to get the jobs done.
- Please reduce the taxes
- Should we be starting to think outside the box? Tax dollars & grants are great but if we have a big goal/need (fire truck, arena etc.) should we be looking at a fundraiser specifically for the cost to offset tax/grant dollars? Everyone is feeling the pressure of rising costs, I think we have to start getting more creative
- The inflation is outrageous. Be humane and stop charging us more
- Try and save a bit of tax \$\$'s. Between all 3 levels of government, we can barely afford to live anymore.
- We pay too much for property tax
- Why are rural property takes so high compared to Komoka/Kilworth? When there are very few services for us, only road maintenance and garbage.

Government Spending

- extend the life cycle of assets like municipal vehicles and equipment. - Do a deep dive on administrative costs. This should be run like it was a private company - ie hiring moratorium on new positions, review existing roles to combine duties & cut positions. Don't assume there is an unlimited supply of HR \$\$\$ available - inform every dept they must deliver a 7%budget reduction then negotiate to 5% if they can reasonably defend the need - Reduce / eliminate amt spent on Consulting- use in house expertise - Get a better understanding (realistic view) of the strain new housing puts on infrastructure, assets and the tax base - Identify what roads could be turned over to Middlesex County - they seem to be better equipped and more efficient at providing maintenance and services ? Playgrounds are important but assess cost vs public expectations vs child experience ?

- Again. Public services view a 3% increase of our taxes as GREAT! Considering interest rates are huge to many people. The cost of living <NAME REMOVED> are massive hits on personal budgets. You need to review your expenditures. Improvement's to park facility by your office is tone deaf. You need to wake up.
- Concentrate on what we have. Continue to support operations, scale back capital or larger projects to match the economic condition.
- Decreasing over staffing at the administrative level!!
- Establish priorities roads are number 1 capital equipment purchases must be curtailed efficiencies in labour use and equipment must be improved can we justify the services that are being contracted out---building inspection fire services---too many administrative personel all requiring offices and administrative wages frills must be eliminated efficiencies gained
- Fine infrastructure renewal via Provincial and Federal Grants only.
- get back to basics... roads, water supply and drainage.
- Get rid the useless people who justify their existence by proposing new rules and enforcing them just so they have something to do. Stop the overreach of government into the daily lives of ordinary people and maybe you would have more money to spend on infrastructure and not have to raise taxes
- I found the questions loaded. I do support increased services but I disagree that the only way to do that is by increasing taxes. Better use of funds/less waste would see money available for increased services without raising taxes
- I get that taxes pay for things and that the municipality cannot pick up the tab. How about reviewing things that have been paid for and now fall under taxes on an annual basis. Just because it was good in the past does not mean it is good for the future. Maybe decrease some funding to things that were approved in the past that are no longer needed or not needed as much.
- I think with all govt activities it is not your money and money is wasted. If all government not just municipal were spending their own money they would be more careful. If governments ran like personnel finances people would be much more careful.
- If you can afford to do a massive renovation on the township office then obviously the township can afford upkeep on infrastructure of the township
- Instead of play parks, (which we already have enough that aren't being used) please allocate our tax dollars to necessities and not frivolous extras.
- Instead of raising taxes. REDUCE COSTS!! You have what seems like 2000 red trucks driving around doing nothing on a daily basis. Reduce staff, reduce equipment, reduce management. You have too many people , doing not enough work
- It would seem reasonable to temporarily limit or reduce non-essential services and programs if there is concern regarding a budget deficit. I.e. maintaining 2 large ice rinks all summer long.
- Maybe check into outsourcing grass cutting Most likely a good tax savings here Straight express and no upkeep on the mowers
- No municipal funds should be spent to provide services to private commercial enterprises i.e: bringing water to the proposed "epic centre" on Gideon Drive. The cost for increased lanes on Gideon should not be passed along to the taxpayer.
- Question 4 should have had an option to keep taxes where they are but use money wisely. The Arva dam repair was not needed and the engineering report was wrong. The dam did not even get over half full. The water that went in the dam was from the roads not fields. The trees that were removed was a joke if you watch the unusual rain fall we just had.
- Stop purchasing all new fancy vehicles. Why did you expense for a street cleaner and tractor like equipment. It sure was slow. Plus you needed a dump truck and driver to assist. Cheaper to sub out.
- Stop spending money that we do not have, save money to repay deficits

- Stop spending money unnecessarily, such as renovating the municipality buildings. Instead money should be invested in street lights on roads that are dangerous such as Glendon. Also, the expense of a roundabout at Glendon and Vanneck which will only make it more difficult to get out of the subdivision to the east.
- stop wasting money on surveys about reports that came back from a consultation....then have a meeting...to commission another study
- The municipality should consider putting money aside for future upgrades such as larger fire trucks as the community grows. We can't think about apartment buildings of any height unless we have ladder trucks. Or maybe that's the plan. LOL
- The population in Ilderton is increasing which results in greater tax dollars generated. Would this extra revenue not support infrastructure improvements without having to increase taxes?
- Time to go back to basics - roads, water, emergency services, etc. get rid of all social programming funding
- The quantity of tax dollars received must surely have risen based on the housing growth. As a council you should have planned for that and definitely should have planned to deliver the same services without an increase.
- There is way more than enough dollars collected in taxes. It is the management of those dollars that is important and I would suggest there is too big a portion going to support things that should not be a priority or an ever increasing municipal staff and bloated departments.
- Typical of a municipal budget. You start with an increase higher and manage to get it around 1 to 3%. Need to look closer and make the reduction.
- When replacing vehicles and equipment, make better choices. Taxes should not be used to buy \$60,000 pickup trucks. Either lower water fees or increase consumption usage.
- Where can purchasing efficiencies be found? Example are you purchasing garbage bags in bulk for all facilities in the county to get a better rate per unit. Centralized supply chain management can reduce redundant admin costs, provide product consistency, and reduce per unit costs.
- Why are 4 door pickup trucks used to transport not more than 1 person to sites.

Governance

- Return to democratic ways. Have direct back and forth real life conversations with locals citizens during meetings without time limits. Stop the corruption. Listen and represent the people elected you.
- I would like to say I'm very impressed by my councilor <NAME REMOVED> and mayor <NAME REMOVED> and their open and approachable manner. They both live in my neighborhood and pay taxes as I do. I trust them to make decisions on tax increases as it relates to their neighbour's, some being seniors on fixed incomes. Please be wise and prudent. Thank you all for your hard work which is appreciated by most.

Service Inequity

- Considerations need to be based on all community members, not just specific groups, and all communities, not just the large ones. Perhaps those who use facilities that need upgrades need to contribute instead of complaining, ie the Ilderton arena.
- Yes, the population in Komoka and Kilworth far exceed Delaware but that doesn't mean we should suffer and be left behind while the rest of the towns receive new and modern amenities.
- I believe all communities should be treated equally. Give the same attention to all the parks, all the facilities and all the departments. Example: if one ball field gets upgraded, they should all have upgrades done on a cycle. We all deserve the same access to our local community facilities. I don't want to have drive to another community to use a park or a rental hall.

- Its hard to support taxes for all of Middlesex Centre when we see our village get so much less than other townships. I would rather directly support a community service than see my taxes increase and pray our families get the benefit.
- Rural areas vs settlement area Big problem for some people Just do the best that can be done to keep it fair
- Rural Middlesex centre receives poor service. Last to get snow removal and tiny garbage bins.

Government Not Listening

- If the past is any indication of future action then, honestly, it likely doesn't matter what our comments are as the decisions have already been made. This survey is only an illusion of consultation.
- Why, no one listens.
- You won't even read this as anything we say lands on deaf ears

Broader Community Issues

Policing (Safety/Violence)

- Public safety-Increase frequency of Police patrolling in all streets during night hours
- Improve safety of small communities (reduce incidence of crimes/theft).
- Crime is becoming more of a problem. I would like Middlesex to have its own police force and have budget allocated for compliance officers. Rules, laws and by-laws need to be enforced to ensure our community remains safe and respectful of others.
- I do not like what I see happening in the community. Crime is on the increase, the dog issue as mentioned earlier is really becoming an issue, maybe its time for a Neighbourhood Watch program.
- More police presence needed in Komoka to deal with petty crime and a continuing increase in traffic volume.
- Policing should be increased and should be local.

- Please consider putting pressure on county of middlesex to install an intersection/light system at Tunks Road due to the incredible amount of traffic from the plaza as well as the arena. The number of vehicles coming through that intersection is significantly more than what comes out and in of Kilworth West where they put a light that changes in the most inappropriate way!!
- Reductions in duplications of services also provided by the County should be sought (planning or snow clearing as an example), this would reduce or minimize the overall burden on tax payers.
- use more force to push the County of Middlesex to maintain their infrastructure.
- Council members should have more voting privileges as they represent the tax payer.

Maintenance of Public Property

- Garbage cans throughout the town (Ilderton). Garbage can at the post office. Garbage cans in each subdivision.
- Install cameras in parks and public places as a preventative measure against vandalism. So that it would save tax payers money being paid towards ongoing maintenance and repairs. Also make those people caught accountable towards their actions.

Internet & Cell Service

- Also, the cellular service by all telco providers in Komoka is terrible. I am pursuing this through a complaints process through CCTS. People will not move here, or remain here, if there is not reliable cellular service. This should be a community issue and get resolved!
- Additionally, cell service is really bad out here yet the telecoms are not held accountable. Where are the controls? If we are going to continue to expand at the pace we are than we need to hold telecom accountable or we need to educate those in the area which telecom actually provides the necessary coverage. I had a medical call to which I was getting results and I could not hear the Dr. Tried several times.....complained but went nowhere , too bad so sad, I had to go to my friends house in London to call the Dr to get results. Not acceptable.

Housing

- allow higher density to be zoned for more affordable housing lower development charges so new homebuyers aren't subsidizing existing homeowners services when it's the existing homeowners who bought 15+ years ago who benefit the most liberalize zoning laws to make it easier and quicker to build we as a society are overcome by NIMBYs who are destroying opportunity and quality of life for young people. we are suffering from suffocating vetocracy which prevents things from being built
- More housing in Middlesex centre. We cannot afford or find housing for single income or non big houses. Why are there no other housing options than mansions ?

Unassumed Subdivision Issues

- Middlesex centre seemed like a desirable place to live, but to be honest after moving here two years ago, we have been disappointed in the maintenance of the subdivisions, snow removal is rarely completed,
- We live in Kilworth Heights and pay property taxes but do not receive adequate services. The entry to the subdivision from the main road is disgusting, creating an unwelcoming and chaotic atmosphere. Funds should be allocated to improve the aesthetics of the new subdivision, which could become a wonderful community with the addition of trails and more infrastructure. Ideally, a bridge to Komoka Park would be a great improvement, but we would settle for a clean community with the same services provided to other subdivisions. This area feels neglected by Middlesex. In summary, we pay for services but don't receive them. There's also no snow removal for our subdivision.

Environment and Climate Change

- I would like to see an investment in clean energy like solar panel farms and using wind to provide energy to the community and have it be paid for by tax dollars .
- I'd like to see the municipality focus on green initiatives and renewable energy/infrastructure.

Other

- Public health infrastructure-walk in clinics and doctor offices based on increased number of household
- More schools- move kids from cabin to a proper building
- Schools
- We need additional elementary and high school in Komoka area.
- Child Care
- In Ilderton, we have been suffering from power loss for extended periods of time, which is not seen in other areas in the municipality- May be a hydro related issue, however municipality can also do some advocacy towards improving hydro related infrastructure.
- Change Christmas lights in the main street. We need to have new decorations for this season. Thank you
- More programs to support the safety of residents, more programs and supports to children of all ages and income groups.
- Please provide more insight on service options in consideration for the survey.
- Roundabout at 5 corners. Keep saying next year.
- Terrible treatment when calling with inquiries.
- make Komoka great again!

Out of Jurisdiction

Several comments referred to communities outside of Middlesex Centre. As such, they are not included.