

Budget Survey 2026: Written Comments

In the Creating our Budget survey (July - August 2025), residents were asked two questions that required written responses:

- Which infrastructure requires improvement? Please be specific as possible.(135 responses)
- Please provide any additional comments that you would like to be considered during the 2026 Budget deliberations.(115 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. If a resident commented on more than one issue in a response, their response was split and sorted accordingly.

These comments were shared with Municipal Council and staff as they began deliberations on the 2026 Middlesex Centre Budget.

Question:

Which infrastructure requires improvement?

Respondents to this question suggested the following areas needed infrastructure improvements:

Topic Area	Number of Responses
Fire and Emergency Services	3
Public Works & Engineering – Transportation	
Active Transportation / Trails / Sidewalks	23
Traffic (including road safety and traffic calming)	12
Roads (including streetlights, bridges, intersections)	53
Road Maintenance	10
Roads – Gravel Roads	15
Roads – Train Crossings	4
Public Works & Engineering – Environmental Services	
Water – Price	5
Water & Wastewater Infrastructure	4
Public Works & Engineering – Drainage	5
Community Services – Parks & Recreation Facilities	17
Broader Community Issues	
Power Outages	3
Internet and Cell Service	2
General	2
Other / Out of Jurisdiction	23

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.

Fire & Emergency Services

- Firefighters need more resources/funding and numbers

Public Works & Engineering – Transportation

Active Transportation / Trails / Sidewalks

- sidewalks needed to make Komoka walkable and safe
- Sidewalks in Delaware up all hills for safety
- Glendon no sidewalks
- Gold Creek Drive was redone a few years ago and no space was allowed for walking
- Roads/transportation - with the environmental changes, make it more appealing to bike - when repaving main roads why not pave the shoulder/put a bike lane in?
- One other issue is the biking on Adelaide. There are so many cyclists that love to bike up and down Adelaide, and groups park daily at the school at Adelaide and Medway and bike north. We need bike paths along Adelaide to make this more safe for them.
- We need more trails
- Walking and biking path from Komoka right into Byron.

Traffic & Road Safety

- There needs to be an increase in safety of roads in the area. Put safety 1st
- speed limit in subdivisions should be 40 not 50; Need a few extra 90 KM speed signs on Hyde Park Road as many drivers do 75 and 80 resulting in many cars racing to pass slower moving vehicles.
- Make both Hyde Park cross walks in Ilderton safer by installing warning lights and designating the one at the Trail...
- Calming measures, parking near Oxbow Public School. It shouldn't be 80km/h there

- road safety on Longwoods road including reduced speeds from the bridge going into Delaware village and to Carriage Rd. A traffic light at Carriage road would help to reduce speeds. Signage for school bus safety and enforcement. This is also a serious concern for speeding in our village streets as well as on Longwoods Rd..

Roads (including streetlights, bridges, intersections)

- Kilworth Park Drive street lights
- Also, pave Denfield Road as a way to ease the amount of cars on Ilderton Road and access to the other side of Ilderton; Consider more roundabouts to decrease accidents.
- crosswalk in Ilderton on Hyde Park road by heritage
- Oxbow needs repair; overused during roundabout construction.
- Glendon ... no traffic lights to get out of arena
- Roads are in poor shape in many areas of Delaware.
- Cross walk lights at Heritage Park Ilderton
- Roadwork is left unfinished for too long, and traffic is re-routed unnecessarily
- Crosswalk on Komoka road needs to be updated
- The marking of the lines on the roads. They are very difficult to see when they were down and that is generally during the fall, winter and spring times when you have rain and snow which makes seeing the line very difficult.
- For the most part, the application of tar and gravel is a waste of money. Most of the roads that have received this treatment are no better than they were before.
- Why did we spend extra money on redoing the roads on the roundabout for water main upgrade and do it all at once and why wouldn't we do a 2 lane roundabout?
- Roads, roads, roads/ traffic lights at major intersections ie Oxbow/Nairn/Komoka Rd
- Some roads, like Ilderton road, were repaved but I can't see a reason as to why as it wasn't poor condition.

Road Maintenance

- Roadside tree trimming/removal, rural road ditching,
- Better roadside maintenance - snow removal, grass/brush cutting along roadways. Currently the snow removal is inadequate and many of the roadway intersections are hazardous because of lack of visibility due to poor maintenance of overgrown weeds and bushes etc. There is an obvious priority for certain urban areas of the county at the expense of the existing communities.
- Trees on the road allowance are not being properly pruned or removed when warranted.
- Winter snow removal

Roads – Gravel Roads

- denfield side road from midway road to why 22 needs to be paved or at least tarred to reduce stones flying and road dust.
- Rural road maintenance, fix potholes on gravel roads(more regular grading OR pave the roads like surrounding townships)
- Paving of high traffic dirt roads
- Dust mitigation. Road grading. Upgrade of road either tar and chip or paving
- roads. melrose drive is not maintained to a safe standard. There are often washouts and with a high volume of transport trucks I think this road should be paved
- Please tar and gravel 15 mile road from Highbury to Prospect Hill Road. The gravel road in this area isn't able to handle the amount of heavy farm and other equipment traffic
- Quit tar and chipping gravel roads. Go back to gravel roads

Roads – Train Crossings

- Railway crossings
- Railway crossing at vanneck and Pulham road

Public Works & Engineering – Environmental Services

Water – Price

- Reduce the excessive water bill

Water & Wastewater Infrastructure

- Water for Melrose
- increase water system to the east along Longwoods
- Reconstruction of water sewer systems to prevent home flooding as it occurred in 2024!!!
- Need sewer and sewer treatment for residential parts of our communities

Public Works & Engineering – Drainage

- Municipal drains need to be maintained, especially open ditches.
- Storm drainage, specifically the Heritage subdivision in Ilderton

Community Services

- Green spaces, rec facilities, ball diamonds, soccer fields
- Need a playground in clear skies
- Paving of parking at Westbrook park was also unnecessary.
- Komoka back diamond lights for a recent ball game went out due to a documented electrical issue
- Parks, pickleball courts
- access to recreational facilities (ie pool, larger YMCA)
- I appreciate the addition of more play grounds for the smaller kids, however, there are minimal areas for older kids and teenagers to spend time. Specifically in Ilderton
- New Arena
- Sports and recreation for Ilderton
- Community areas and resources.

Broader Community Issues

- We don't even have high speed internet. It's all around us but brought to our road. This needs to be addressed
- Improved internet/ phone infrastructure
- Hydro. Constant outages

Other

Other topics included concerns about traffic calming measures (against speed bumps), infrastructure project timing, Japanese Beetles, and schools. There were also those who wanted to see reduced taxes and who questioned the need for the new municipal office. One respondent thought Middlesex Centre facilities were good – almost too good!

Question:

Please provide any additional comments that you would like to be considered during the 2026 Budget deliberations.

For this section, comments are presented as received, with no removal of duplicate responses.

Fire & Emergency Services


- Fire call volumes have been increasing creating more demand in firefighters so it's an issue that should be addressed
- There has been recent discussion regarding the potential purchase of a ladder truck... While investment in equipment is important, I believe these funds could be more effectively allocated toward supporting our frontline firefighters. We currently have a mutual aid agreement with Strathroy that provides access to their ladder truck when needed. Given this existing resource, purchasing a new apparatus at significant cost may not be the most prudent use of limited funds. Instead, our focus should be on improving compensation for our firefighters. Their commitment, skill, and availability are the backbone of our emergency response.

Building & By-law Services

- Need parking enforcement on municipal streets.
- Introduction of speed camera should be done in town as we have a lot of speeders in town and they should be penalized, however I'm not sure if this falls under your authority.

Public Works & Engineering – Transportation

Active Transportation / Trails / Sidewalks

- Sidewalk and street lights so residents can get around Kilworth safely. Also need sidewalk along Tunks so people can safely get to foodland and other businesses in the plaza.
- Construction of sidewalks and lights along Glendon need to move more quickly as it is hard to do a left out of the arena or foodland. Also not safe to walk along Glendon as there is no sidewalk and just gravel shoulder and cars are going fast. Several other areas are lacking sidewalks as well. Does not make it easy to get around and between Komoka and Kilworth.
- Many busy roads have no sidewalks and are becoming very dangerous to walk on for anyone.
- Continued improvements to side walks, wheelchair  parking access would benefit too. Thank you, for everything you are doing today.
- Side walk between Komoka and Kilworth
- Some lights in subdivision
- Sidewalk on Ilderton rd in coldstream/ poplar hill
- Some money spent anywhere other than Kilworth/ Komoka.

- Create a sidewalk or safe walkway on Ilderton road for the numerous people who walk on it in Coldstream/Poplar Hill daily who either enter the park at the Mill store house or walk for exercise
- and sidewalks to make Kilworth/Komoka safer for pedestrians to go to local businesses
- Bike path Adelaide street from Medway to Hwy 7
- Trail system in Ilderton
- More off road trail opportunities, look at extending the rail trail to London to make a regionally significant active transportation connection, that would also provide economic benefits to both communities.
- An increase in sidewalk and trails to promote active life styles. Provides many benefits for residents, specifically an expansion of the rail trail to the city of London should be a priority.

Road Safety & Traffic Management

- ... increase more safety measures when it comes to roads. Listen to the people...stop ignoring everyone who keeps reaching out to have more safety measures out in place
- For road safety, flashing LED lights around stop signs is an inexpensive and effective safety measure. This would be valuable at intersections where there are frequent accidents ie. Vanneck and Ilderton Road
- My primary concern is the dangerous situation at Oxbow Public School. The 80 km/h speed limit on a road with no traffic calming, limited parking, and no sidewalks is unacceptable. I urge the council to reallocate funds to install speed-reduction measures and make this school zone safe. Most school zones are 30 or 40 km/h, and this speed should not begin until after the school zone, heading away from Ilderton. We must act before a tragedy occurs.
- Get the county to put in an official cross walk at the Hyde Park Rail Trail crossing at Meadowcreek Drive. There has already been someone hit there and nothing was done. Install warning lights at the Hyde Park cross walk at the Heritage Drive crossing. Improve the road details so that vehicle drivers don't keep passing at this crosswalk. These may not be the responsibility of the township but they should cooperate with the county to improve safety at these 2 crosswalks.

- Please take down the school crossing signs at Heritage Park. There's no school. Put up proper crossing lights so kids/families/and people walking are safe. And in force the No Passing signs that are there before someone is seriously injured or dies. And drop the speed down to 40 through town. Cars /heavy trucks/ transports are blowing through the lights. More police presents needed.
- please remove the Kilworth speed bumps, I don't feel they are contributing to community safety, and I'm concerned they may be damaging our vehicles
- Get rid of the speed radars on Longwood road. They do nothing to reduce speed. They do the opposite.
- I think the municipality needs to focus more on Safety
- Improve current Type D Cross walk at Komoka Rd and St Clair Ave to a Type A or B cross walk due to increase in traffic. Type D cross walks are not meant for main road ways / busy streets. Keep our kids and locals safe while crossing. Maybe add a cross walk at Queens Ave where the community centre is, as this street is also gaining traffic (especially once the new subdivision takes off behind the park).
- Komoka Road & Oxbow intersection is in DIRE need of upgraded safety measures. Far too many crashes and near misses due to visual clutter and need for larger stop sign on southwest corner or lights at this intersection.
- Since Medway Rd and Vannevk bridge upgrades, traffic - especially tractor trailer traffic has increased in Lobo. Rerouting them would make road safer. Like Old River Road!!! We have no room to walk anymore
- Traffic and poor drivers need to be controlled here. Just moved from the GTA and I can't believe the difference in the drivers here versus there. Never see a Police car monitoring the roads here
- As a mother, it is shocking the lack of safe walking roads there are in this community. Paving parking lots at parks is not a priority. Road safety is and looking after our young community members.
- Traffic calming to offset growth of Ilderton.

- Economy tightness for many means that we have to be very wise and prudent in how \$\$\$ are spent and on what. Safety is of the utmost importance from fire and police care. Street safety is needed from speeding and ignoring traffic signs. Keep working at having traffic controls at the crosswalk at medical center. Observe the need to have lights at Meadowcreek Drive and Hyde Park as Hyde Park becomes more busy.
- So many people use Ilderton road to walk - walk their children/dogs or just exercise and with I believe the growth in Ilderton and north London traffic has increased - as has the speed people travel Ilderton road and some
- Kind of safety measure for people walking needs to be completed.

Roads and Transportation

- Do better planing on road construction it's to long and not adding any additional lanes to drive to London
- Making sure that the lines on the roads are visible all year round and not just during the late spring and summer time. Fall, winter and spring the roads are wet or snow covered and it is vitally important to be able to see them to ensure safety when driving. Thank you
- sideroads need help
- Addition of a crosswalk light on Hyde Park across from heritage park and near the church. There's lot of pedestrians crossing there and there's always confusion at the crosswalk path as some cars stop but not supposed too.
- Use money to maintain existing roads and cut the roundabouts that really do little to improve traffic flow. (Jefferies road for instance has 2 sets of traffic lights that still means drivers have to stop. I don't see how rushing to a stop light makes travel easier or faster !!)
- Efforts should be made to better manage the roads and service crews.
- Improving road infrastructure because of all the heavy traffic with the increased population and sidewalks to make Kilworth/Komoka safer for pedestrians to go to local businesses

- Why does it take 6 months to repair a failed culvert? Placing road blockage on Poplar Hill rd without any plans is an inconvenience. Fix the culverts and roads in a timely manner.
- It would be nice to see a plow before 4pm on snowy days... country people who have lived in community forever are now being treated secondary to the Newbies!
- Street sweepers should be deployed earlier. Lots of sand left on roads after winter. Should not be late June for the sweepers to begin work.
- Please look at gravel roads in the township and tar and chip more of them to reduce car damage because of potholes

Public Works & Engineering – Environmental Services

Water - Price

- Along with decreasing rates for ... Water
- Also friends have mentioned that they have not considered moving to our area because of our water rates.
- Ilderton water rates are too high
- Reduce waste water charges during summer watering season. The extra water used is going to trees and plants not down the drain.
- Water rates are insane
- figure out a way to reduce the cost of water services. The water bill in this county is outrageous. I don't understand why.
- Water rates are massive.
- I have less of a problem with the tax. N.B., I could not enter a negative response to question 1 ... Water rates are ridiculous, especially waste during the summer when much of the water used is going on plants and garden and not drains. This MUST be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- Water and sewer rates are ridiculous, these improvements should be funded strictly through development funds, not tax increases
- The price of water is astronomical. We are considering moving

- Water rates are very expensive and uncomfortable. Please consider reassessing and lowering the water rates. Thank you.
- Being a somewhat new resident in Ilderton after recently living in 3 other jurisdictions, Middlesex-Centre water and sewage rates are significantly more expensive, even with the minimum fees. Please consider re-assessing and lowering these fees.

Waste Management

- Large item garbage pick up day, for those who can't make it to Tri Recycling
- Need yard waste pickup or better depot hours

Community Services

Parks, Programming & Recreation Facilities

- we don't need more parks/playgrounds in Ilderton, we need more athletic facilities for kids to play outside.
- Solar lights on tennis courts and paths. Build another pickleball court for people to play on in Ilderton. Komoka seems to get all the recreational services we grew a lot and have almost none. They have had tennis court lights for years
- Ilderton - more tennis courts/pickleball
- More Pickleball courts with lights and wind control at them for evening play.
- Provide a net in poplar hill park for pickleball court
- Recreation facilities
- Ice allocation policy
- Nothing for seniors
- Outdoor community pool
- We live in Birr, retired in our 70s. We look forward to water recreation, senior exercise swimming, chronic pain warm water swimming and use times in the early part of the day.
- Would love an indoor pool.
- Recreation - outdoor heated public pool. It's not just kids that need options. And adults don't use splash pads

- It is a very difficult process as Middlesex Center covers such a large geographical area (I don't envy you the decision) but please consider building facilities and services either more central or more in outlying communities instead of areas already very close to other services (think Komoka/London). I firmly believe in recreation facilities and pools, etc are a benefit to a community and don't need to make money - they are there as a service and I get value for the taxes I pay by subsidizing these. I don't want to pay taxes and then pay for service (double tax).
- Please consider a gymnasium in the north end of the Municipality, preferably in Ilderton.

Economic Development

- Attract more businesses; instead of duplicates (need 1 grocery store, not 2 convenience stores, not 2 hairstylists + barber, not 2 drug stores).
- Ilderton needs ... more economic and business development. Eg., restaurants, shops and services
- Emphasize growth/expansion. Planning that includes a multi-use plaza, grocery store, etc.
- More non residential tax base needed
- Focus on building & supporting small businesses
- What is done to promote industrial/larger business growth in middlesex? Are there marketing dollars earmarked for this and a review of the results/success of any programs? Maybe a change-up in strategy is required.
- I live in Ilderton a growing community. Given a say i would encourage a local grocery store, one which can be walked to.
- I am a business owner in MC and I don't receive any benefits or incentive to keep my business in the municipality. There is no reason for any new businesses to start here. I am actively looking to build a new building but there is no support or resources for me to find any land or connect me with anyone to support with building.

Growth, Development & Infrastructure

- Save the farmland, stop the urban development.
- there is too much development sprawl on prime farmland.
- Before any more growth, existing infrastructure should be maintained and upgraded. Traffic calming measures in place before expansion is allowed plan for services schools and parks recreation planned for before expansion goes forward to limit what appears to be chaos when these areas are not addressed and we have people living here with out the services that are needed. Why move outthere when you need to go back to the city for all your needs.
- Do not allow development of good farm land. Once gone, will forever be gone. Encourage Environmental stewardship of lands that are nit the best for farming
- Need to control growth into farmland
- The municipality's decisions to allow development of lands adjacent to the London city boundary is disappointing.
- Stop adding more infrastructure. Or if you must, be smart about it. The roundabouts are horrendous. They do not support the infrastructure already here let alone when a no frills is built. Stop putting houses everywhere there is a spot.
- Going back to the previous question I think that the population growth should be controlled until some of the new projects underway.
- With all the increased population there will be huge increased revenue but terrible pressure on roadways. Please put funds into road maintenance and safety before the frills
- I think we need to be notified when they decide to put nee infrastructure in the area. We seem to find out after the fact. I came out to kilworh to get away from London not to be a like a big city.

Taxes & Government Spending

Reduce Taxes & Control Government Spending

- Along with decreasing rates for taxes ..

- I understand that there is a balancing act with the budget but find it difficult that taxes have been increasing at rates that make you want to move elsewhere if the past trend continues.
- No higher taxes.
- You should not have the right to increase taxes, when our farm income does not keep up to being able to pay more. Growth is not necessarily a good thing!
- cut back on waste & look after infrastructure.
- Municipality has historically ignored key items on its annual budget, despite priorities. Why even conduct a survey if in-year budget changes and capital amendments are a constant trend.
- We've noticed the township has some pretty expensive equipment, which probably doesn't get used enough and therefore doesn't get used properly. Some of these jobs would be better contracted out, to someone who works with that equipment everyday. Case in point: Hyde Park Road reconstruction.
- Focus on covering essential services adequately and reduce non-essential budget line items for the short term to balance budget - that's what most citizens are required to do on fixed income with inflation pressures.
- Tough economic and employment times for people ahead. Cost cutting of the gov should be a prime focus to make out taxes more efficiently deployed.
- To much money being spent on managers and other paid positions. Also money wasted on non essential infrastructure (ilderton arena, township office's etc.)
- Taxes are too high! / prioritize needs over wants/ spend wisely like on your family's budget.
- Survey mentioned grants as way for Municipality to generate income. The problem with that is that money comes from taxpayers too.
- Only way to reduce taxes is to reduce spending. Every line item needs to be looked at and a reduction of services needs to be expected.
- Property tax rates should be frozen for the next few years. Improve efficiency and reduce costs.

- Lower taxes!!!! Even if it means cuts to services that are already sub par
- For the love of god reduce taxes
- How efficient is it in providing outside services eg building inspection Could outside services not save money us money Mc owns too much capital equipment
- Focus on maintaining our current rates and reduce any increases in the tax levy.
- Please make very small increases everywhere instead of drastically increasing all at once, example water bills!!
- Stop funding private businesses. Better control on corporate greed
- Staff salaries and dept #s are out of control. Contracting services such as grass cutting, and municipal parking lot plowing would save huge dollars. ... Grass cutting, arena maint. and snow plowing can be contracted-- NO BENEFITS
- You do not get it yet. You can't keep up giving golden support for the areas. The cost will stop you one way or another. Need to reduce the increase to zero.
- Lived here 26 years, feel my taxes just go up and services down
- Do not increase our taxes.
- The more the taxes increase the more equipment (excavators, trucks, live bottom trailers , pickups with push bars??, vacuum trucks, paving machines.....) was there a cost analysis done between doing in house and tendering the jobs to qualified companies?? The maintenance, wages, liability were considered?
- Lower taxes, fix the roads. Stop building new offices & buying expensive equipment
- Quit spending money on buildings like the township office and road yard depots.
- Reduction or different rate for agricultural developmental fees. Way too high!
- I see very little being done in Delaware to maintain infrastructure. Makes me wonder where my tax dollars are going
- To ensure that areas to cut down on for the budget is not providing snacks, lunches and dinners to people for meetings. Have people brown bag it. It is a small amount of saving, but it makes all of us responsible for providing for ourselves in order to keep our tax dollars going to what it needs to go to and not to things that each of us can do.
- The Middlesex Center tax base is growing. There should not be a need for large tax increases.
- Instead of just always increasing taxes and rates first look where money is being wasted.
- Please be frugal with our money. It is not your money. Make wise decisions. Stick to the basics.
- Stop overspending
- You have EVERY single township employee driving around in their own red truck.. it is a complete waste.. also , way to much management and staff at the township
- Stop purchasing the best equipment and stop purchasing so many luxury pickup trucks and dumptrucks
- The taxes have increased too much.
- The county is almost half of the taxes collected there needs to be more accountability to ensure efficient delivery of services between Middlesex centre and the County, removing duplication where possible.
- Please consider contracting a police service other than OPP. Reach out to Strathroy and London. Perth South and St Mary's saved lots of money having Stratford do the policing and at the same time have a stronger police presence and increased ticket revenue.

Tax Fairness

- If taxes need to be raised for infrastructure, buildings, etc., consider raising taxes for those in the communities where they're located. In a smaller hamlet where we do not get priority we shouldn't be taxed at the same rate hike as those within walking distance of amenities. The 'water bill' that was implemented benefits the larger villages, not the rural areas. We don't all have sewers, water-management needs yet we all pay for it. Not entirely fair.

- As a rural (farm) resident, we feel our taxes have increased significantly in the past few years, compared to other, more rural neighbouring municipalities. It seems to us that growing our population in towns like Komoka/Kilworth and Ilderton does not come cheap. The priorities of Middlesex Centre seem to be with the non-farming population.
- Current property owners should not fund new development.
- As a rural taxpayer the tax increases on bare farmland are exorbitant. The properties do not use any more services.
- Feel that some areas of Middlesex Centre receive more attention, amenities etc (Komoka Kilworth), newer fire station in Colstream WAY fancier than needed (hello needed tax dollars)

Broader Community Issues

Housing

- Ilderton needs more growth in various types of housing
- Would love to see houses in the more affordable (\$400-650k) range so that younger families can move to town and have some financial freedom to spend more money in the community. Builder's have no incentive to build these types of homes when they can keep building \$1.5M homes on the same land.

Other

- We have a lot of different cultures in our villages now. I'd like to more encouragement for small businesses and volunteers from new and existing populations.
- monies for one building for the Middlesex Centre Archives Encouraging the support of the country to build a County Archives

Things are Good!

- Overall it's a great place to live.
- Keep up the good work all! :)
- Staff and council are doing a good job - happy to live in the Municipality