Guiding the Town of Erin’s Future

By Creating a Community Based Sustainable Development Checklist
Population of the Town of Erin is about 11,000 with 2700 in the village of Erin and 1500 in the village of Hillsburgh. (photos - Martin Lamprecht)
Transition Erin’s first meeting was May 31, 2012. One of the first subcommittees created was the Sustainable Development Working Group.
How to begin? Ask for help from those with experience!

September 2012 - Transition Erin Community Development Workshop facilitated by Paul Young of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition

Workshop Objectives:
• To learn about how residents can engage in planning discussions.
• To exchange information regarding plans for a new development in Erin (the Solmar development).
• Explore the feasibility of establishing a community working group to advise on the development proposal.
Strategy

1. Create principles defining Erin’s criteria for evaluating development proposals.
2. Submit principles to local experts for comment.
3. Working from principles, create development evaluation checklists.
4. Work with the general public of Erin to gather opinions and disseminate information.
5. Work with the Erin Town Council and staff to have principles represented.
6. Be available to any developer as a resource for public input into proposals.
Values and Principles Brochure
Meetings, meetings and more meetings!
Meeting the Developer
Cecelia Paine, Assoc. Dean of Graduate Studies, Landscape Architecture, University of Guelph
Bus Tour
Brainstorming
Checklist (Draft)

A. Town of Erin is a Special Place

Does the development

1. Emphasize the primacy of greenspace, parks, trails, sidewalks and bike lanes?
2. Have centralized and continuous greenspace?
3. Plant mature native trees as well as young trees.
4. Add street accessories to add charm (pedestrian appropriate streetlights, benches, mature trees).
More help from the experts.
Next Steps

• Meet with both the Town and County Planner
• Rekindle interest of the community
• Assemble a delegation to present to council
• Begin research on infill for Erin and Hillsburgh
Hindsight Suggestions

- Documentation
- Pictures
- Delegate
- Use local media
- Establish relationships