



**Agenda Item:** 14  
**Date:** February 10, 2025

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**Moved by:** Councillor Hampton  
**Seconded by:** Councillor Steinacker

Whereas, the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie held a Public Information Session regarding Commercial (C1) Central Business District/Accessory Apartment Dwellings community meeting in Chesley on 06 February 2024 as such;

Whereas, upon further examination topics discussed included Planning Framework, Community Review, Influencing Factors and Potential Options;

Whereas, community members including store front owners, business owners, chamber of commerce members, service group members, etc., received a public and transparent form to discuss and consider community concerns and viewpoints.

Whereas, it was recognized during the Public Information Session on 06 February 2024 that there is an opportunity to make improvements to the Chesley downtown and to maintain the downtown cores of Paisley and Tara via implementation of a vacant storefront tax. The goal of such tax is to reduce long term vacant rates by discouraging commercial landlords from sitting on empty storefronts, thereby decreasing the total extent externalities that vacancies create for residents, pedestrians and other local neighbouring businesses.

Whereas, be it upon consideration of community group information, evidence and discussion it is recommended that council support implementation of a vacant storefront tax. Such a bylaw should consider the following parameters: Duration the store front has been empty, is/has the building & storefront been maintained is there advertising requesting occupancy of the vacant storefront, etc.

Whereby, be it upon consideration of community information, evidence and discussion it is recommended that council support implementation of a vacant store front tax in the villages of Paisley, Tara and in the Town of Chesley.