

**From:**  
**Sent:** December 16, 2020 10:34 AM  
**To:** CKinfo <CKinfo@chatham-kent.ca>  
**Subject:** Taxation and Representation

To whom it may concern

Hello, I am originally from London Ont. Beyond school, at the time there was no work. I moved to the GTA and became a Paramedic in Toronto for thirty-eight years, long time.

My wife, a retired Emergency nurse and I decided to sell our modest family home [raised three children] and found a place in your wonderful community. [ We broke even on sale and purchase]

The people are the community. The attitudes and actions, a general understanding of one another emits a social presence I have not felt anywhere. Chatham-Kent is a safe warm and welcoming feeling and environment. A big city dark cloud has lifted . We began to support the local economic community immediately upon arrival. We have met residents ,we have volunteered.

Our property taxes exceed my O.A.S. benefit. I was going to write the Government and have them send you my check directly and any increases accordingly. That was bandied about as humour in our household. We fear it may become a reality. I saw the Services spending in Toronto, it's not sustainable. I expected a gold firetruck and police tank to be driving the streets while the homeless waved as in a parade. When the People fall there is nothing left.

We have no garbage pick-up [pay separately], no sewer, Volunteer fire and limited need of police. Carbon tax is fast becoming a reality, paying for the spending of this pandemic will begin a wave of despair. Intelligent thinking and planning and ideas will reign supreme. People must come together to solve these upcoming problems in lieu of throwing scarce resources of money at it. We are entering a new World, a new beginning, new choices.

I want to be proud of my local Government, innovative and respected.

Raising taxes is easy, please challenge your careers.

With all due respect

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
1	arenas	13 Oct 2020, 01:47 PM
2	House	13 Oct 2020, 03:33 PM
3	Anything related to entertainment should be provided by private sector. These are not necessities and should not be paid for with tax dollars. These are services rendered to only proportional audiences therefore should not be paid for by all. Example would be splash pads, areas, pools, theaters and the like.	13 Oct 2020, 03:35 PM
4	Libraries, close old buildings, continue to cancel programs that were shut down from virus	13 Oct 2020, 03:37 PM
5	Quit letting out of towners buy our property and drive the cost of housing up	13 Oct 2020, 03:39 PM
6	Across the board. Council and administration has done a great job with tight budgets but with the new private enterprise landscape with increased covid cost, unknowns, layoffs and other major impacts, their owners and employees are taking on much more risk than Public sector jobs. The public sector seems to be unaffected during this time where that needs to change.	13 Oct 2020, 03:43 PM
7	Us in the rural areas should not have to pay for sewers, streetlights, sidewalks when we don't have any of these in our town.	13 Oct 2020, 03:45 PM
8	Taxes should reflect services property owners actually receive. People living in the country lack garbage pick up, sewers, water etc but are still paying high taxes.	13 Oct 2020, 03:45 PM
9	Property taxes. I have lived in my home 2 years and they have gone up 60 dollars a month in that time.	13 Oct 2020, 03:48 PM
10	Staffing, less pay for municipal staff.	13 Oct 2020, 04:01 PM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
11	<p>Duplication of services already funded in the community such as employment services. Ontario works and ODSP employment programs sometimes compete or overlap employment services funded by Federal/Provincial governments instead or trying to dovetail/augment within our local area.</p> <p>Police services overhead/equipment expenditures. Materials and vehicles required to provide municipal policing are required but large ticket expenditures such as military style units for large crowd dispersals are overkill. Municipal police bring in specialized units from the OPP or neighbouring larger cities if these items are required.</p> <p>COVID has required less in person and more on line and working from home options and these should be more fully explored.</p> <p>Municipal staff reductions should be considered, especially in terms of higher Director/Manager designations.</p> <p>Less investment or refitting of the Civic Centre in light of our circumstances and working from home options.</p> <p>Economic development focus on supporting businesses that are here and not giving away incentives for companies to come here and then run away after leaving debts to all of us to deal with. Stop allowing cannabis facilities to move into communities, turn the property into an eyesore/dump and then disappear.</p> <p>More scrutiny when making infrastructure decisions such as arenas. Patrons want to use facilities not spend money on parking lots that are non functional. Example Lambton Kent Arena. Curbs, curves, pylons, no parking signs, just a mess. The blood donor clinic that uses this site can no longer park their vehicles in the front and due to the new parking lot layout, less spaces are available.</p>	13 Oct 2020, 04:03 PM
12	Municipal wage freeze needed during these uncertain times.	13 Oct 2020, 04:04 PM
13	Municipal managers - have more than needed and overpaid	13 Oct 2020, 04:05 PM
14	Recreational services, town staffing levels.	13 Oct 2020, 04:06 PM
15	<p>Reduce municipal staff and create efficiencies.</p> <p>Less bridge or roads maintenance for those with low traffic.</p> <p>Reduce support for hockey arenas or other sport arenas. Those who use them should pay for them, a fee, not everyone.</p>	13 Oct 2020, 04:10 PM
16	Parks and rec	13 Oct 2020, 04:22 PM
17	Council salary for starters. You did not deserve a raise after 3 months in office.	13 Oct 2020, 04:43 PM
18	<p>Not reduce services, but provide the services to the rural areas. Our garbage pickup is hit and miss after a long weekend. We also never see a police presence. And the 2nd concession is 90% unusable and is being used by trucks because the signs have disappeared. Last year our snow removal decreased to half from previous year. We are getting less services, and you want to raise our taxes.</p>	13 Oct 2020, 04:53 PM
19	My answer is not because I believe services should be reduced, my reason for answering "too high" is that I don't believe I receive the services I am paying for.	13 Oct 2020, 04:59 PM

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20	Considering we have the highest municipal property taxes in the province, I have a very hard time understanding how we would need to reduce services to lower taxes. Have you considered looking at how other cities manage budgets with much less? We have minimal amenities in comparison to other cities. I do not understand how the residents allowed the city to hike property taxes to such an insane amount while providing so little services.	13 Oct 2020, 05:09 PM
21	Police and fire fighters... equally overpaid for what they do	13 Oct 2020, 05:15 PM
22	Stop spending on bike trails that go nowhere but end suddenly.	13 Oct 2020, 05:16 PM
23	It's not reducing It's managing costs. Everyone just keeps asking for more and we allow them. This would never work in a private sector business. You can not keep everyone happy. These are part of the tough decisions that need to be made to keep us affordable in the future.	13 Oct 2020, 05:19 PM
24	Reduce staff at administrative level - push to online servicing options.	13 Oct 2020, 05:30 PM
25	Chatham Kent residents and business owners should be responsible for salting and plowing sidewalks just like most other municipalities in Ontario.	13 Oct 2020, 05:42 PM
26	Due to increased population levels and also decreased industrial levels, municipal staffing levels should also be cut proportionally. Also with the cost of living decreases, and also with so many businesses shuttering, municipality should consider staff wage reductions and or wage freezes	13 Oct 2020, 05:43 PM
27	To much road work. To much municipal workers. Amalgamating small towns into a central workforce in Chatham (people can drive to work). More tourism dollars. More open development opportunities around the lakes. More hotels. More resorts. More funding to get jobs and work in our beautiful municipality.	13 Oct 2020, 05:50 PM
28	Any services that duplicate work done by local businesses or NFPs and charities. Anything that isn't essential to infrastructure should be cut, and the municipality should look for ways to create honest, transparent public-private partnerships that ensure the community is still a good place to live, work and invest.	13 Oct 2020, 05:53 PM
29	Police services because for out line people they are never there when needed or will not do anything about the problem.	13 Oct 2020, 06:09 PM
30	reduce city employees. Since so many people were negative about a money making sports complex, I guess nobody is interested in sports in Chatham. Shut it all down. Don't waste money fixing the crap we have now.	13 Oct 2020, 06:10 PM
31	CAO, housing services, police services, reduction in municipal hr, arts and culture soending and non essential infrastructure	13 Oct 2020, 06:20 PM
32	None but also no new	13 Oct 2020, 06:22 PM
33	The whole costing process needs to reviewed department by department line by line and for a first time review it should be an independent. For example what was the cost of maintaining rotary park diamond this year and no games were played. That is not a regular cost just an example	13 Oct 2020, 06:32 PM
34	If I cannot have garbage pick up than my taxes ought to be reduced	13 Oct 2020, 06:36 PM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
35	Erie Shores, small business grants, homeless shelter	13 Oct 2020, 06:37 PM
36	Garbage pick up and arena subsidies, only essentials should be considered for 2021 budget	13 Oct 2020, 07:05 PM
37	Recreation facilities and programs. There are way too many arenas for the limited number of people who are able to use them.	13 Oct 2020, 07:22 PM
38	Rurual residents should not be expected to pay the same as the residents in the urban areas. The municipality will not provide us town water, sidewalks to walk our dogs or roads paved. Come winter it seems to take 2 to 3 days before a snow plow goes down our roads or a grader in the summer	13 Oct 2020, 07:51 PM
39	Stop whatever made our property taxes rise by over 200.00 from first and second installments to the third and fourth. Holy crap, who can afford that in the time of Covid. Especially for seniors on a fixed income. Put food on the table or pay property taxes!	13 Oct 2020, 07:57 PM
40	Police and fire service	13 Oct 2020, 07:58 PM
41	Too top heavy in employees	13 Oct 2020, 08:46 PM
42	I don't know specifically without looking at an actual budget (not the broad categories given out in the budget) but often it seems like work is done that isn't necessary, such as the "diet" on Queen St when I have never heard anyone complain about that street, or all the extra work suggested for Victoria. Staffing always seems heavy from council to everyone else and you always hear about the well paid "city" employees.	13 Oct 2020, 08:49 PM
43	Give bids to smaller companies for infrastructure projects. This would lower the overall cost as well as give a chance to a smaller company.	13 Oct 2020, 08:58 PM
44	Too high for little value.	13 Oct 2020, 09:04 PM
45	Sidewalk snow removal. Parades	13 Oct 2020, 09:07 PM
46	Salaries of administrative personnel	13 Oct 2020, 09:11 PM
47	I live in a rural area and get no services! So I feel my taxes are ridiculous.	13 Oct 2020, 09:11 PM
48	Reduce number of municipal buildings and facilities. Stop endorsing money sinks like the capital theatre. Reduce and cap police spending. Review implementation of road maintenance process; a lot of wasted money in how it is delivered.	13 Oct 2020, 09:12 PM
49	Need to find other reductions in areas such as staffing not services.	13 Oct 2020, 09:16 PM
50	The potholes in our city are terrible even in the summer. I understand we have to pay taxes to keep our city going, but it's damaging to our vehicles	13 Oct 2020, 09:37 PM
51	Garbage collection bi-weekly (would encourage recycling), decrease plowing of residential sidewalks, reduce hydro consumption at night (street lights - do we need ever light on, or is there different bulbs?), Fix things (like roads) properly the first time.	13 Oct 2020, 09:47 PM
52	Why wouldn't you list services here?	14 Oct 2020, 01:15 AM
53	Taxes are too high based on service and development dollars being channeled to Chatham vs. Other areas of CK	14 Oct 2020, 05:08 AM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
54	Anything paid to municipal ice arenas. It's it fair to spend taxpayers money to arenas which are used by some residents. Usage fees can be increased instead.	14 Oct 2020, 05:11 AM
55	Salaries	14 Oct 2020, 05:40 AM
56	Question 1 is difficult to answer - how does Chatham's taxes compare to cities the same size?	14 Oct 2020, 06:36 AM
57	All of them.	14 Oct 2020, 06:42 AM
58	Number of councillors	14 Oct 2020, 06:43 AM
59	Police Budget	14 Oct 2020, 06:49 AM
60	We live in Mitchells Bay We live on 1 of the canals. We have to PAY FOR our own gravel for our road our snow removal and GARBAGE PICKUP	14 Oct 2020, 07:02 AM
61	wasteful spending, (John D Bradley center, capitol theater)	14 Oct 2020, 07:09 AM
62	Services that don't need to be completed. (Like we do we re-do the same project several times in a short period of time??? Is there incompetent work bring done? Or get people who do nothing but sit at home to get off their rear ends and co.plete community work share programs.	14 Oct 2020, 07:10 AM
63	Tourism, economic development, Capitol Theatre, Bradley Centre	14 Oct 2020, 07:13 AM
64	During these time we must maintain a status quo. The community can not afford yet another increase in taxes. You are the experts and should know where to trim to find these saving.	14 Oct 2020, 07:15 AM
65	Buying railways, renting space / hotels for homeless (Create a fullsome long term homelessness plan) Eliminate legacy projects (arena)	14 Oct 2020, 07:21 AM
66	police, councilors salary, fire, school, erie shoreline	14 Oct 2020, 07:22 AM
67	Public works, or people that work for the city. The garages start at 7 they don't do anything till 8 done at 3 and 2 they are are back at shop. 2 hours a day do the math	14 Oct 2020, 07:22 AM
68	Reduce councillors pay. Reduce police salaries.	14 Oct 2020, 07:34 AM
69	Cut Administration wages for anyone that is paid above \$100000 per year. Quit subsidizing Charities and social services because Municipal Council should be laser focused on infrastructure maintenance and repairs. Eliminate 50% of the public sector employees and contract these services out to the private sector so they are operated more efficiently. Cut out everything that has to do with the UN Agenda 2030. Forget about subsidizing housing because that is the Provincial Agenda NOT the Municipal Agenda. Climate Change is just another scam to steal money from Taxpayers so let's concentrate more on long term economic / environmental sustainability so everyone prospers. The Policing Unit costs way too much money and so does the fire department ; get your costs in line with reality .	14 Oct 2020, 07:35 AM
70	Fire, unused rural infrastructure.	14 Oct 2020, 07:37 AM

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71	Look at the stats, we have the highest taxes around. Stop trying to do fancy projects like the arena and you won't have to ask for ridiculous amounts. Also thank you for not doing anything for businesses while we were forced to be shutdown. Deferring is not helping.	14 Oct 2020, 07:38 AM
72	Cut staff	14 Oct 2020, 07:47 AM
73	Stop spending on wants. Spend on needs only during this time. The future is uncertain and many citizens are struggling financially. Infrastructure upgrades should no longer be considered a priority unless they are a necessity. For example, work on the Erie Shore Line erosion situation is required work, however the Victoria Avenue Infrastructure Renewal Project is not required (sewer Upgrade is the only need) and residents have voiced loudly that they do not want to have to pay for upgrades that are not needed. Much of the originally proposed project (3.6M) has yet to be funded - citizens would have to pay through higher taxes. Whatever the redesign costs, it is not a need it is a want. Please spend wisely Council.	14 Oct 2020, 07:49 AM
74	Property Taxes should reflect the environment that the property exists in. Wallaceburg property taxes should be lower than Chatham's because of the disproportionate amount spent in Chatham on services and maintenance vs. Wallaceburg.	14 Oct 2020, 07:49 AM
75	The useless CK police force. These guys make too much money for very little community engagement and even less crime prevention. Put the money towards services that actually help the citizens. I've been robbed 3 times since summer 2019. The first: police didn't even come out to have a look, told me to email a statement. Never heard back. The second, the police knew who robbed the house but didn't do anything about it. The third, the police officer said he won't take finger prints, then touched the surfaces with his bare hands and said "we can't get prints from here... what are you expecting from us?" Awful that our taxes pay for these guys to get paid handsomely, get pensions, and get paid leave for corruption.	14 Oct 2020, 07:52 AM
76	Police budget	14 Oct 2020, 07:55 AM
77	police service	14 Oct 2020, 07:55 AM
78	City road workers. Police officers.	14 Oct 2020, 07:58 AM
79	Libraries	14 Oct 2020, 07:58 AM
80	Council should be looking at line by line items and determining if there are reductions available in base budget.	14 Oct 2020, 08:05 AM
81	Council should consult with other local municipalities to understand how their taxes are not nearly as high as CK yet they offer just as much or more services. Or cut some of the public works roads jobs who stand around doing nothing half the day.	14 Oct 2020, 08:08 AM
82	WAst : port hole's I 5o much patching and not enough fixing, you keep patching the same pot holes every year instead of fixing them properly .	14 Oct 2020, 08:17 AM

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83	FEW IF ANY SERVICES NEED TO BE REDUCED. COUNCIL NEEDS TO ENFORCE AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT BUDGET SYSTEM SO TAX PAYERS CAN RESPONSIBLY SCRUTINIZE HOW THEIR TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT. BUDGETS NEED TO BE PLACED ON LINE IN AN EHANCED ODF FORMAT THAT ALLOWS ANY ONE TO DRILL DOWN WITH ANY LINE OBJECT TO CLEARLY VIEW THE MONEY TRAIL	14 Oct 2020, 08:17 AM
84	Rec programs, arena usage, early years. Upper levels of management. I believe we are top heavy.	14 Oct 2020, 08:18 AM
85	Quit adding everything to Chatham. It's unfortunate that those in rural areas are forced to pay for the wants of the town with a napolean complex in the middle	14 Oct 2020, 08:18 AM
86	Stop any raises for management to high level. We're in a financial crisis	14 Oct 2020, 08:19 AM
87	Trim the upper management. Everyone knows that their are good employees but i bet anyone in CK can name a top CK employee that does not do their Job well and is just riding the gravy train	14 Oct 2020, 08:20 AM
88	Admin wages	14 Oct 2020, 08:20 AM
89	<p>There is no reason Wallaceburg needs 4 FULL TIME firefighters on site 24/7. The Industry that was once there is gone and with only 2 Factories with over 20 People operating that Idea that we have 4 workers on site making 100,000 + a year is absolutely crazy. Leamington is larger, with more industry and strictly operates on a Volunteer basis which we all know people line up to do. Chatham should be the only Full-Time in CK and we could cut over 2 Million in savings by switching one station to Volunteer. I know these are tough topics to bring up but it is long overdue.</p> <p>Another issue to be looked at. Have we ever looked at how many "MANAGER" positions there are at City hall? Between all the moving parts of the Municipality I feel this number could shock a lot of people.</p> <p>Two issues to start with, keep up the great work!</p>	14 Oct 2020, 08:25 AM
90	Layoff excess employees.	14 Oct 2020, 08:27 AM
91	Anything that is not absolutely neccessary such as Queen street road work for one. I am on retirement with very little income and trying to survive. With everything going up and the taxes having gone up a lot last time times are getting very hard.	14 Oct 2020, 08:29 AM
92	police service	14 Oct 2020, 08:30 AM
93	Too much upper management	14 Oct 2020, 08:32 AM
94	Not necessarily reducing, but being more efficient with winter road clearing. I live on a small cul de sac and have watched numerous times as a snow plow goes down my street at least two or three times after a light dusting of snow. I don't want my taxes wasted on this type of inefficient behaviour. Low traffic residential streets should not see a snow plow unless there is significant snowfall of 3 to 4 inches.	14 Oct 2020, 08:33 AM
95	Police should move back to OPP	14 Oct 2020, 08:36 AM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
96	Stuff in Chatham. Wallaceburg always gets shafted.  Low income housing.... why do I have to pay for people who do not want to better themselves	14 Oct 2020, 08:38 AM
97	POLICE SERVICE SHOULD BE CUT BACK!!	14 Oct 2020, 08:38 AM
98	Eliminate sidewalk snow cleaning. Reduce Engineers' typical "1/3 share" of Project costs.	14 Oct 2020, 08:40 AM
99	Council	14 Oct 2020, 08:41 AM
100	We need to centralize services and we can't afford to service every community.	14 Oct 2020, 08:42 AM
101	I don't think services need reduced, my road doesn't get much service but my taxes are high.	14 Oct 2020, 08:43 AM
102	Definitely not snow clearing. Can't believe you cut sidewalk clearing and are forcing residents to salt the sidewalks! Yet you want to throw our taxes away on arenas and stuff that aren't necessary. We WANT snow clearing!	14 Oct 2020, 08:47 AM
103	Demographics and where the money is need most. Victoria street and bike lanes aren't a priority right now. Expanding streets to create bike lanes as opposed to fixing them. Council's priorities are not in line with making the right choices.	14 Oct 2020, 08:50 AM
104	Fire service. Too much overtime for the fulltime fire services. Use the volunteer service when instead of calling in all that overtime. Volunteer firefighters with a full crew costs sooo much less. Also this doesn't leave the city of chatham with no fire apparatus and no crew....it takes way to long to upstaff the full time dept and mere minutes to get things rolling on the volunteer side. How many times has the city of chatham been left hanging because both full time dept are at one place. Been lucky so far that nothing has happened. Wonder how the residence of the city of chatham would feel if they knew once your crews were out to a fire in town, if anything else happened in town, response would be very late if at all.	14 Oct 2020, 08:53 AM
105	Cut back on municipal employees and mayor and councillors free perks, every penny counts.	14 Oct 2020, 09:01 AM
106	For next year, perhaps a list of services actually provided, and I could check off which ones I think should be reduced? It was extremely difficult to find on the Chatham-Kent website, but going by 2018 budget: Community Attraction and Leisure Services, John D Bradley Convention Centre	14 Oct 2020, 09:13 AM
107	Library	14 Oct 2020, 09:15 AM
108	cheaper ways of doing bridges and in some cases will take less time to construct	14 Oct 2020, 09:16 AM
109	All of them .	14 Oct 2020, 09:17 AM
110	The planning of local road construction and infrastructure maintenance needs to be revisited. In the smaller towns roads are being paved when the water systems that are under them need to be replaced. This leads to water main breaks and chopped up roads that need to be repaved more often.	14 Oct 2020, 09:21 AM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
111	high salaries;	14 Oct 2020, 09:25 AM
112	school bus fees for residents without children - or a rebate for these at the end of the year	14 Oct 2020, 09:27 AM
113	If you want to attract businesses and or new families, taxes need to be lowered.  It also doesn't make sense you have all this new construction and new residential tax base being added yet taxes continue to go up.  I'd reduce arenas and stop trying to build a new one. Raise the rates for use.	14 Oct 2020, 09:34 AM
114	residence now have to shovel their own sidewalk so that will reduce cost. put a wage freeze or even no increase is wage of municipal employees like the government did to nurses.	14 Oct 2020, 09:36 AM
115	Shave wages across the board (police, admin, fire)  Allow some culverts and bridges with low usage to become obsolete and not replaced  Really review public spaces and determine their value and usage... libraries, arenas, so on.	14 Oct 2020, 09:43 AM
116	We don't have very many services now, in our area!	14 Oct 2020, 09:47 AM
117	I dont believe services to the public need to be changed. I believe internal efficiency can be improved to initiate a cost savings to reduce taxes. I also believe that overhead spent on research is excessive and while studies are necessary, a more reasonable price could be negotiated.	14 Oct 2020, 09:48 AM
118	They are too high for the lack of services I receive. I'm in Rural Chatham-Kent and have no garbage pick up, sewer, or water and little to no police presence. The gravel road is poorly maintained. I'm ok with not having the services but shouldnt be paying high taxes for them.	14 Oct 2020, 09:56 AM
119	Curbside limb cutting, very frequent and has multiple people and vehicles.	14 Oct 2020, 09:59 AM
120	Reduce number of municipal employees	14 Oct 2020, 09:59 AM
121	Cut middle management, too many admin jobs	14 Oct 2020, 10:02 AM
122	Everything	14 Oct 2020, 10:14 AM
123	More jobs and more pekple working at more than mimimum wage. Puts back into the pot. And more money is able to be allocated towards taxes and services.	14 Oct 2020, 10:15 AM
124	divest municipal locations that are underperforming i.e. Highgate Library	14 Oct 2020, 10:20 AM
125	Council should look at cutting administration's wages. Wages of staff is way to high to operate a business model. When the municipalitys staff is our biggest employer in the municipality we cannot survive	14 Oct 2020, 10:27 AM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
126	Rural taxes are too high and rural areas do not have street lighting, garbage pick up, etc, etc  Most rural properties cut the municipal road sides that they don't do any more!	14 Oct 2020, 10:38 AM
127	It's not so much services, but the inflated numbers of staff in our municipal government. It's much higher than other areas and yet those areas are successful in managing their communities.	14 Oct 2020, 10:42 AM
128	All of them	14 Oct 2020, 10:42 AM
129	Fire Department to many Chiefs for a small community. Reduce a least 3 under utilized arenas Bothwell, Wheatley, Ridgetown	14 Oct 2020, 10:45 AM
130	All of them	14 Oct 2020, 10:58 AM
131	Biweekly garbage, division of police services cost by response time/success in decreasing crime in community, division of costs based on accessibility of service to community (ie hours of library, admin offices in community)	14 Oct 2020, 11:06 AM
132	arenas, bridges, libraries	14 Oct 2020, 11:17 AM
133	Do not proceed with the tax rate changes between urban and rural. I moved from the city of Chatham to a rural area mostly because of the lower tax rate. The rural services are nowhere near the same level as urban services so the tax rate should reflect this.	14 Oct 2020, 11:17 AM
134	Move to OPP instead of CK police.	14 Oct 2020, 11:17 AM
135	Bothwell Arena - it was slated for closure and received a reprieve. We need to stop doing this. If staff (who are the experts) say to close something, it's time. We're bleeding money in many (not all) small communities. Highgate Library. Was slated to close in 1998 and has had 22 years. Close the facility and re-allocate the staff to the busier locations (such as Ridgetown, Thamesville and even Bothwell) and beef up the hours and service in those locations. Better use of funds. More people get the benefit of these tax dollars. Ditto for Merlin Library.	14 Oct 2020, 11:22 AM

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136	<p>What are the options?</p> <p>Small areas like Blenheim used to have amazing services for taxes paid. There are less services less timely. I have helped elderly people try and navigate the downtown sidewalks in winter trying to get their mail. I have a hard time not falling somedays. I owned a downtown business in 2000's and the sidewalks and streets would be done before I opened when it snowed. I am talking reasonably normal snow not huge storms I don't expect normal services at that time. It has sometimes been days for my street and roads sidestreets in Blenheim after big snows before they are cleared. I do realize there are things like inflation... I'm talking dollar value for taxes I pay. I would just like the same services I got before amalgamation my taxes were less. My hydro was less as well. I know for a fact that Blenheim PUC electrical workers in the late 90's did not take a raise for several years to keep rates down. With amalgamation, my taxes went up and services went down. This is not an amalgamation rant. You ask what to cut like you don't want high taxes so what do you suggest we eliminate? Blenheim provided much better services for less. Be more efficient, how about looking at wasteful spending? What about the extra perks for senior high-level employees can we afford that? All I have seen is my taxes go up and services go down!!!! What about all the red tape for meetings after meetings consultations that are redundant and almost useless?</p>	14 Oct 2020, 11:34 AM
137	Suggest that staffing costs be reduced, not services. Cut salaries across the board, including police, fire etc.	14 Oct 2020, 11:38 AM
138	Administration and high paying executive positions, also review the police budget openly, they are only a catch and release force.....	14 Oct 2020, 11:39 AM
139	Anything that makes proper sense to the public	14 Oct 2020, 11:54 AM
140	Reduce garbage pick up to every second week. Cut staff at city hall (also put a freeze on pay) Stop wasting money buying new major computers when the old ones were still working fine.	14 Oct 2020, 12:00 PM
141	street sweepers , brush collections, tourists booths	14 Oct 2020, 12:05 PM
142	Living in Wheatley, our taxes are through the roof....I can't say what services we should lower because we don't have many if not any. We have our arena that's it! We're the last to get our roads plowed and garbage and recycle will pick up on certain sides of the streets some weeks....its frustrating.	14 Oct 2020, 12:19 PM
143	Police Budget needs restraints. Civic Center employment needs cleaning	14 Oct 2020, 12:22 PM
144	I do not believe any services should be reduced since the services have virtually been unchanged, with the exception of the recycling program, in Erieau since I moved here in 1996 but yet my taxes have increased 3 fold.	14 Oct 2020, 12:23 PM
145	Management and administration salaries	14 Oct 2020, 12:41 PM
146	Not it's a question of reducing services but finding cost effect ways to run the ones we have. Efficiency should be found	14 Oct 2020, 12:46 PM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
147	<p>Lower canada child benefit</p> <p>Limit the use of EI - there are jobs out there but many of them are minimum wage and people do not want to work for minimum wage. Do not give them a choice. Also people who are not capable of doing a job they were doing for health reasons are often able to do another job and that needs to happen to get them off of EI. (example - someone works in a factory that produces a lot of smoke and they have COPD - they are unable to work there but they can work in a different environment but for some reason they are collecting EI for years???)</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:03 PM
148	<p>Not sure about where to reduce, as a rural resident we do not have access or are limited to street lights, garbage pick up, police patrol, athletic facilities and municipal buildings such as libraries unlike those who live in town or the city. Our taxes went from 800 to 3500, more than tripled in 20 years. It's unexceptionable</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:04 PM
149	<p>Council expenditures and maybe we could get a nice list of all expenses so we could specifically say? You know, some more transparency....</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:08 PM
150	<p>Some of staff salaries are very well paid</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:09 PM
151	<p>In Wheatley all we get is garbage and recycling pickup. I can't understand why our taxes are so high.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:23 PM
152	<p>Those that private sector could provide, such as day camps and recreation programming.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:28 PM
153	<p>way too many Municipality of C-K employees; reduce staffing            - Mayor and Councillors are way overpaid            - quit putting funds towards Chatham only venues like Capital Theatre and a new Giant Arena Multiplex</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:29 PM
154	<p>not so much services BUT administration employees need to be reduced and the sunshine list salaries also need to be reduced and park maintenance should be done by city employees not contracted out....this would save a lot of dollars</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:32 PM
155	<p>Arts and culture.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:36 PM
156	<p>Recreation Programs - leave this to the nonprofit &amp; business sectors</p> <p>Recreation Facilities - enter into partnerships with respective community (tax dollars for facility lifecycle &amp; operations managed by community partnerships)</p> <p>Economic Development (including Tourism) - could / should be a separate nonprofit corporation - with base budget dollars and annual reporting - with a board NOT governed by Municipal Act</p> <p>Arts &amp; Culture - leave this to the nonprofit sectors</p> <p>IT - subcontract this department entirely</p> <p>Don't allow municipal staff in any department to host special events. Leave events to the nonprofit sector: this is both revenue and community development</p> <p>Stick to hard services</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:39 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
157	living in the country and you want to increase my taxes for the whole municipality does not seem fair	14 Oct 2020, 01:41 PM
158	Spending when not a necessary service, some of the public health services, eliminate some managers and supervisors Ex Ontario Works,, etc...central city Chatham paying for rural services, buying property not appropriate right now,	14 Oct 2020, 01:42 PM
159	Our taxes are too high considering we don't have garbage/recycle pick up, drains/sewage ... it's ridiculous	14 Oct 2020, 01:42 PM
160	Combine Ec dev and community attraction for less people -Reduce number of libraries and arenas 1 per ward... - reduce number of bridges -	14 Oct 2020, 01:47 PM
161	Stop useless spending. Not holding contractor responsible when things don't work	14 Oct 2020, 01:53 PM
162	Garbage collection could be reduced to every 10 days or 2 weeks. Reduce police budget, currently property crimes in Chatham-Kent are considered insurance issues, fill out the website and fight with the insurance company. Perhaps we could reduce the number of police officers and move to a honour system for self reporting Ontario Highway violations. Or look into a more affordable policing model, actually sit down and review the OPP option.	14 Oct 2020, 01:57 PM
163	Policing and the number of Municipal staff.	14 Oct 2020, 02:08 PM
164	all	14 Oct 2020, 02:08 PM
165	The amount of administrative employees in different departments. It seems like there is always postings for jobs that are unnecessary and can be eliminated.	14 Oct 2020, 02:26 PM
166	Less money funneled into the Capitol. They need to be held more accountable for what they are spending. Providing things like snacks and drinks for the staff in the staff room for example is an expense that could go.	14 Oct 2020, 02:47 PM
167	council should not consider reducing any services. I am also not asking that my taxes go down. I do NOT want them going up. I pay almost \$4000 a year. Although I live on a farm, my property was assessed as residential because my lot is severed from the farm. I live on Northwood Line. It is a gravel road. When it snows, my road does not normally get scraped/plowed the same day. Sometimes, it is the next day and sometimes, I have waited a couple days. I do not have garbage pickup where I live. I have to pay for garbage pick up which is \$800/year. It is that or drive 19km one way to take my garbage to the dump. We do not have city water. We do not have sewer hook up. We do not have an option for cable. The services I have are very limited. I pay for policing, but the zone I live in means the officer who is to patrol my area, comes from Ridgetown, which is 23km away. Council is considering raising my taxes so that I pay the same amount for policing that someone in Chatham pays, yet, if they call police, there are, on average, 7 police officers working the city of Chatham. I also live in an area that has a volunteer fire station. The fire hall on Maynard Line is 9.5 km away from my house, so fire response is also limited compared to Chatham and Wallaceburg where the stations there have full-time firefighters. I am not saying that taxes should not go up at all. I am saying that MY taxes should not go up. They already have from last year.	14 Oct 2020, 02:49 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
168	Police budget.	14 Oct 2020, 03:10 PM
169	Pls consider Wheatley, as a priority vs ignored	14 Oct 2020, 03:20 PM
170	Fewer Councilors, fewer management positions, smarter use of resource decisions, more efficiency and effectiveness to deliver services,	14 Oct 2020, 03:40 PM
171	reassess property values...taxes seems to be over inflated.Tilbury should not have to pay as high taxes with nothing to do, even chatham is using our arena..make sure town workers are working instead of cruising around...	14 Oct 2020, 03:50 PM
172	Reduce expensive rural lifecycle projects! Do not invest heavily in shoreline protection to keep status quo along the lake.	14 Oct 2020, 03:57 PM
173	I don't think anything needs reduced. Would be nice to have a police officer patrol the town. Help cut down on theft	14 Oct 2020, 04:24 PM
174	I don't know	14 Oct 2020, 04:34 PM
175	I would need to see a list of what is bring spent in order to answer	14 Oct 2020, 04:49 PM
176	Too much money wasted on police services.	14 Oct 2020, 04:52 PM
177	Garbage collection only needs to be every other week	14 Oct 2020, 05:04 PM
178	Most importantly the police budget is out of control- way too expensive. Same with Fire Department. There is no need to have more than 1 Fire Chief or more than one Deputy Chief. Number of libraries, weekly garbage collection, arenas are the other areas.	14 Oct 2020, 05:26 PM
179	Eg:When CK council makes a statement saying taxes could be raised by 5% every line in the budget should have to deal with a 5% cut in funding. That would keep taxes the same and each part of our municipality would have to figure out how to operate with 5% less funding	14 Oct 2020, 05:32 PM
180	I live in a rural area, without streetlights, sidewalks, infrequent police visibility, or sewers. I should not be subjected to a tax increase to pay for services I do not receive so that the urban residents can receive a tax cut.	14 Oct 2020, 05:34 PM
181	Community leisure, convention centre.	14 Oct 2020, 05:40 PM
182	Reduce the number of council members, hold the police budget until they show an increase in officers in a small communities across Chatham-Kent.	14 Oct 2020, 05:49 PM
183	Rural communities do not get the amenities of living in the city of Chatham but yet our taxes are high. We have garbage pickup and poor snow removal at best. What else are we getting for our taxes?	14 Oct 2020, 05:51 PM
184	Administration salaries. They are not in line with most private enterprises.	14 Oct 2020, 06:07 PM
185	Avoid non-essential spending such as twin pad arenas and rainbow sidewalks. Maybe garbage could be reduced to bi-weekly since recycling has reduced the amount of garbage immensely.	14 Oct 2020, 06:09 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
186	Not sure, but I live in the country and I pay the same taxes as someone living in Blenheim with all services and I have only gas. No water, no garbage pickup and no sewer! Also I here you want to raise the rural taxes , ridiculous!	14 Oct 2020, 06:12 PM
187	Just lower them please	14 Oct 2020, 06:15 PM
188	We are rural and receive hardly any services yet our taxes continually go up.	14 Oct 2020, 06:18 PM
189	During covid, layoff municipal worker instead of wasting tax payer dollar.	14 Oct 2020, 06:23 PM
190	I think you need to cut back in staff we are way over managed with supervision that doesn't have enough experience to do there jobs and that starts right from the top	14 Oct 2020, 06:33 PM
191	That is up to council to decide consider I am unaware of what money is being spent and where. All I know is my property taxes of \$4980 yearly for my home on a dirt road with no street lights or garbage pick up is unacceptable.	14 Oct 2020, 06:40 PM
192	I live in Merlin. Our sidewalks are not cleared or maintained, we have no beautification, properties are allowed to fall into horrible shape and we have no police presence so stunt driving and speeding is a huge issue. The taxes we pay do not reflect the lack of services and conditions in Merlin. In my opinion we pay alot for nothing. Not sure what services you would reduce to fix this.	14 Oct 2020, 06:44 PM
193	LOL Wheatley has no services	14 Oct 2020, 06:55 PM
194	Municipal workers. Since they can't seem to do much besides sit in the arena	14 Oct 2020, 06:55 PM
195	I need to know my options with money allotted	14 Oct 2020, 06:55 PM
196	getting rid of city council.	14 Oct 2020, 06:56 PM
197	All services should be cut or find cost savings	14 Oct 2020, 07:04 PM
198	sidewalk snow removal and trails upkeep	14 Oct 2020, 07:08 PM
199	You have FAR too many employees given the level of services provided. In particular you have 250% greater administrative support staff vs. private industry. Stop trying to fix the lake problem and DO NOT provide permits for properties that are clearly in the new flood plane. Finally why have a number of Municipal employees dedicated to drainage act work when most of the engineering is contracted out.	14 Oct 2020, 07:25 PM
200	Should look at the distribution of work for parks and recreation Policing and Fire Department	14 Oct 2020, 07:30 PM
201	Pay reductions. Frivolous spending reductions.	14 Oct 2020, 07:33 PM
202	Police that are charged with a criminal offense should not be paid until outcome of trial. Health insurance plans should have a deductible. Step up speed traps to collect more money, it's not always about reducing, it's also about reevaluating to see how more can be done for less.	14 Oct 2020, 07:37 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
203	Street sweeping and bridge cleaning. Especially as it is constantly happening during rain fall. Increasing municipal garage fleets and space also shouldn't be happening, especially during a pandemic.	14 Oct 2020, 07:43 PM
204	Time to let go of the Capitol Theatre. It is lovely but we can't afford it. Stop trying to push for new arenas in Chatham.	14 Oct 2020, 07:57 PM
205	Some roads are being repaved when it's not needed. Reduce the amount of people working for public works. There's no need for 5 men to be standing around watching 1 man do all the work. This is very expensive and not financially responsible. I see this quite frequently of public works people standing around. I've seen them do it on work in my front yard, at my parents and doing road work.	14 Oct 2020, 08:01 PM
206	Public Works is underworld. Waste management only picks up downtown Wheatley when called by residents and business owners. Pay them for once every 8 weeks service we are getting.	14 Oct 2020, 08:12 PM
207	I need a list from which to cull.	14 Oct 2020, 08:20 PM
208	Too many staff employees in arenas and summer parks. Why have the tractor go to parks in summer when there is no baseball teams playing there. When we had COVID Windsor decreased there staff more than what Chatham Kent did and they are a city can not understand that. Plus vehicles to workers keeping trucks for there use after working hours. The staff workers should use there vehicle to drive to work than pickup vehicle where municipalities vehicles are located in one area. The companies like Fed ex and other delivery services do not bring there employers trucks home to use. They have to go to there place of business and pickup the vehicle to do deliveries. I can understand fire dept require trucks and also police department but even those vehicles should not be top of the line luxury vehicles. The municipality would save a lot of money just right there alone.	14 Oct 2020, 08:30 PM
209	Should provide list so we can choose one	14 Oct 2020, 08:40 PM
210	Roads and bridges. Police. Municipal service centres.	14 Oct 2020, 08:43 PM
211	None	14 Oct 2020, 08:48 PM
212	Non-essential services, including subsidization of operations of certain establishments that should be able to feasibly operate on their own (ex. John D Bradley Convention Centre, Capital Theatre, etc.).	14 Oct 2020, 09:07 PM
213	Our number of municipal employees should be more in line with the population of CK	14 Oct 2020, 09:12 PM
214	Police, fire	14 Oct 2020, 09:16 PM
215	Our taxes are high enough none need to be cut. For where I live I get less than 1/4 of the services a person in the city gets	14 Oct 2020, 09:54 PM
216	Police services	14 Oct 2020, 10:09 PM
217	Possibly reducing municipal jobs. Streamlining some of those jobs which are above the average pay grid.	14 Oct 2020, 10:31 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
218	I feel my taxes are too high because I live in a rural area where we have no garbage collection or recycling. When I add the price of just garbage collection yearly which is over \$800 to our taxes it just seems really expensive. Plus we still have to take our recycling to the depot in Valletta.	14 Oct 2020, 10:37 PM
219	Social housing, library, police and fire services.	14 Oct 2020, 10:39 PM
220	Cost of policing is out of line and they need to stand firm at 0% for 5 years. All services need to freeze. Covid is killing business and people of Chatham cannot afford to have the highest millrate in the province any longer.	14 Oct 2020, 11:12 PM
221	Little cuts to police they have big job but Chatham has more crap than other major city's in Canada also somebody needs to be more careful on spending for services I've seen city snow dump trucks with 1/2 worn out tires getting brand new Michelin tires like nothing. I drive for a living I wouldn't do it with my money so why do others do it with our money	14 Oct 2020, 11:13 PM
222	More spent in rural area than CHATHAM getting the most. CHATHAM Kent seems to put all to the city of CHATHAM on the back of rural!	14 Oct 2020, 11:31 PM
223	Wasting m On upgrades to Chatham	14 Oct 2020, 11:32 PM
224	Stop wasting money on unsustainable projects.	15 Oct 2020, 12:01 AM
225	Not sure	15 Oct 2020, 12:11 AM
226	Reduce the price gouging of your contractors. Stop increasing our taxes but removing services, for example snow removal.	15 Oct 2020, 12:17 AM
227	Cut down the amount of municipal employees. You usually see one person working and the others standing around.	15 Oct 2020, 12:53 AM
228	Restructure, eliminate management positions, stop poor investments such as new arena, focus on bringing new industry back to the municipality.	15 Oct 2020, 04:26 AM
229	Too many employed in management roles	15 Oct 2020, 07:03 AM
230	First responder vehicles and wages	15 Oct 2020, 07:27 AM
231	workers wages	15 Oct 2020, 07:52 AM
232	police services and CAO administrative costs	15 Oct 2020, 08:17 AM
233	Our taxes are higher than our lambton county neighbours. Time to cut the number of employees instead of services as well as consultants.	15 Oct 2020, 08:21 AM
234	I think efficiencies could be found within the operations budgets. I see much over staffing. Municipal wages are far above the local median wage. The Police Act can be changed and started right here in C-K. C-K is not an efficient corporation.	15 Oct 2020, 08:27 AM
235	Being better prepared when determining projects- money is lost through error and poor decision making	15 Oct 2020, 08:28 AM
236	Considering the taxes we pay in Erieau without the use of volunteer hours the work would not get done in a timely fashion. Reviewing who is doing the work and how it is done Marigot make more efficient use of time and money.	15 Oct 2020, 08:49 AM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
237	None	15 Oct 2020, 08:58 AM
238	Out in our area.....we don't need garbage pick up every week....bi-weekly would work fine	15 Oct 2020, 09:06 AM
239	Each department needs to get back to the basics. They need to explore any extras that do not include the basics.	15 Oct 2020, 09:16 AM
240	Number of vehicles running around; Reduce size of vehicles to be what is needed not what is wanted; buy reliable vehicles; eliminate jobs not essential that have changed due to COVID-19; reduce staff numbers in general starting with number of levels of supervision. Start from zero and justify each item in budget.	15 Oct 2020, 10:05 AM
241	Reduce the number of councillors. And do a review of staff requirements and get rid of over staff areas . Sell unused railway track . Close under used arenas , pools ,	15 Oct 2020, 10:09 AM
242	I fully understand that taxes are an inherent part of living in a community. In order to offer up a service that could be reduced I would first off need to base the amount of property taxes I pay on services provided. This is simply not the case the property tax is calculated on sale value of your property instead of services rendered! Case and point I moved across town to a nicer property and pay significantly higher taxes and receive the same amount of services I did at my old address? It is my opinion if you're going to justify the tax model as is, more services should be provided to the property owners that carry a higher tax amount. If this was the case I could probably check the I feel I pay an adequate amount of property taxes for the services I am provided.	15 Oct 2020, 11:02 AM
243	Unnecessary sidewalk repairs . Also believe policing gets too much money . Big expensive suvs that cost lots to operate .	15 Oct 2020, 11:16 AM
244	Your wages, to start with. The number of people it takes to do anything is another.	15 Oct 2020, 11:30 AM
245	arenas, rec programs	15 Oct 2020, 11:34 AM
246	cut back on social services - ex. homeless shelter. we didn't have one before, don't need one now.	15 Oct 2020, 11:34 AM
247	bridge roads budget, muni vehicles, libraries, arenas. get out of nice to have programs like day camps and let private businesses run them	15 Oct 2020, 11:38 AM
248	Library's and any other seldom used service	15 Oct 2020, 11:39 AM
249	Far too many managers and employees connected to community services plus way to little productivity	15 Oct 2020, 11:49 AM
250	unknown	15 Oct 2020, 11:54 AM
251	reduce your staffing levels. Council ALWAYS threatens to reduce services, they never look at the overhead in buildings or staffing. Start there first, quit trying to scare the taxpayers.	15 Oct 2020, 12:00 PM
252	My location, rural/small town Chatham-Kent, already receives reduced services compared to the City of Chatham.	15 Oct 2020, 12:00 PM
253	Eliminate clothing and auto allowance for senior police. They are paid enough to afford a car and they are already given a uniform. The 35 million dollar budget is just a little high for depressed region.	15 Oct 2020, 12:01 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
254	Most rural drain and creek crossings should be low cost culverts. Single chain of command for all emergency services.	15 Oct 2020, 12:30 PM
255	Lower the council, city employees and police.	15 Oct 2020, 12:32 PM
256	Reduce the administration so all areas can have an Service desk available more than a few paltry hours a week	15 Oct 2020, 12:35 PM
257	We are servicing bridges in the area that have alternate routes. These bridges serve maybe one family. Why should millions of dollars be spent for benefit of one or two families.  Fire chiefs do not all need their own personal vehicles. 5 chiefs each with their own vehicle for response is ridiculous when only one is on call at a time.	15 Oct 2020, 12:38 PM
258	Reduce police force and fire department. And reduce the size of Chatham Kent Council we do not need 17 Councilors for one hundred and five thousand people who live in Chatham Kent way too many. The city of Windsor have 10 for two hundred and eighty five thousand	15 Oct 2020, 12:38 PM
259	I live in Merlin we pay taxes like we get services from other areas of ck. Our park is still closed yet we still pay for the year. We should either get services like we pay taxes or get a cut for not receiving them	15 Oct 2020, 12:44 PM
260	Police budget	15 Oct 2020, 12:46 PM
261	Reduce size of council, obtain quote to use OPP instead of current police services.	15 Oct 2020, 12:49 PM
262	What are the service options?	15 Oct 2020, 12:55 PM
263	Reduce policing and firefighter costs...they consume nearly 70% of the overall budget. That is ridiculous. The police don't appear to protect our community and turn the other check for so many issues going on daily throughout the municipality. I see vagrants roaming through recycling bins/trash cans throughout neighborhoods looking for bottle/cans for deposit return, I see many pushing shopping carts throughout the municipality and leaving them abandoned or taking them to their apartments...they should be charged with theft but the police drive right by them! Some other minor cuts could be "positivity day" which appears to have turned into "positivity month" and costs taxpayers for municipal employees dressing up in nonsensical costume. It is embarrassing.	15 Oct 2020, 12:56 PM
264	Less services to rural areas and decommissioning of roads and bridges that don't get much use.	15 Oct 2020, 12:58 PM
265	Road works	15 Oct 2020, 01:03 PM
266	Locate areas of overspending and frivolous purchases, like the poorly chosen led streetlights, the railway to nowhere, trips to China. Encourage construction projects that hinder downtown to complete quickly by imposing fines.	15 Oct 2020, 01:15 PM
267	Internal expenses, wages, over staffing	15 Oct 2020, 01:16 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
268	Pay per use services at recreation / entertainment venues It seems that economic assessments or environmental assessments, etc take up a huge part of our tax dollar and often those funds are directed to local companies who have our best interests at heart. This is quite frustrating Shop local when it comes to CK purchases rather than leaving the community for things	15 Oct 2020, 01:25 PM
269	Stop supporting losing endeavours. i.e. Capital Theatre	15 Oct 2020, 01:37 PM
270	staff reductions, they make twice as much as the average working class person do i.e. secretarial. Could also combine departments to reduce staffing also.	15 Oct 2020, 01:57 PM
271	Staffing salaries...police, fire etc. as well as all employees should be fixed or cut.	15 Oct 2020, 01:58 PM
272	One big waste of tax dollars is continuing to install a Walking/bike Path from Kiel Drive to Prairie Siding and back to Kiel drive, I think Money would be better spent on fixing our roads, and putting side walks where they are needed around town, not out in the middle of nowhere where very few people will use them, I cant believe the stupidity behind this idea.	15 Oct 2020, 02:03 PM
273	many seniors especially are living on fixed income and taxes have jumped so high in the last 20 years and they have lost so many services. They don't have extra money to pay someone to shovel their snow off their sidewalk and many are not able to do it on their own..Just one example	15 Oct 2020, 02:07 PM
274	Community events Unnecessary infrastructure improvements (e.g. bike path on Victoria Avenue) Support for the Capital and Bradley Convention Centres	15 Oct 2020, 02:25 PM
275	Tree removal streets cleaning during summer month too much time on ball diamonds in summer	15 Oct 2020, 02:41 PM
276	Being in Wheatley, the fact that consideration is given to expanding recreational offerings in Chatham proper (35 minutes away) and reducing recreational services in Wheatley is not right. In addition, we live in a newer developed cul de sac, where I believe we pay a higher tax rate then others in a similar sized home and, our winter services seem to be readily overlooked.	15 Oct 2020, 03:03 PM
277	Personnel costs. Stop hiring people. Learn to do more with less	15 Oct 2020, 03:13 PM
278	Mayor and Counsellors take a Pay Cut instead of a pay raise.	15 Oct 2020, 03:23 PM
279	Leave the social/issues to the province.  These are not local issues and can not be fixed on a local level.  I am not saying these services are not need. However this is not the reason property tax is collected.  Ex. Affordable housing, homeless shelters etc..  I also believe economic development has a very high budget and where that money is spent needs to be made more public	15 Oct 2020, 03:25 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
280	Cut remote municipal offices & number of ice arenas.	15 Oct 2020, 03:42 PM
281	council is too large. eliminate some positions and take a pay cut.	15 Oct 2020, 03:42 PM
282	Municipality staff....place a hiring freeze and downsize the number of city staff.....too many for the C-K population	15 Oct 2020, 03:46 PM
283	Cut libraries, remote Service centres and arenas.	15 Oct 2020, 03:51 PM
284	FTE's	15 Oct 2020, 04:01 PM
285	reduction in number of buildings and properties municipality owns- recommendation to sell ; reduction in number of Council members	15 Oct 2020, 04:53 PM
286	Redundancy within municipal departments, could become more efficient with staffing.	15 Oct 2020, 05:16 PM
287	Cute back road, green space etc. maintenance, reduce municipal staff, show more fiscal restraint in many areas	15 Oct 2020, 05:27 PM
288	No service should be reduced; staff should be looking at cost reductions. Now that there are so many employees working from home; wages should be reduced as the cost of having to travel to work, lunches etc.. their wages should reflect this change and if they are working from home they get to get tax rebates. It also makes it harder for tax payers to do any business with the municipality as not everyone has the internet or computers; there area also people that do not want to do thing on line.	15 Oct 2020, 05:56 PM
289	Lockdowns must end to ensure families can afford to pay taxes and feed children. Businesses and schools remain open.	15 Oct 2020, 06:08 PM
290	Curb cleaning, snow removal/salting frequency	15 Oct 2020, 06:32 PM
291	Manpower. Sick of seeing 6 men staring at a hole with one man doing the work.	15 Oct 2020, 06:38 PM
292	You don't have to lower taxes just redirect more funds to the rural community. We get next to no services in our area. Roads are full of pot holes all the time, we get new gravel every 3 years but just a sprinkling, the dust control is minimal as within 24 hrs. of spreading it, the dust is back but now salty and oily and sticks to everything	15 Oct 2020, 06:43 PM
293	Garbage pick up, roads- waste when two trucks being driven to same location. Many wasted minutes with roads department	15 Oct 2020, 06:53 PM
294	Municipal buildings, arenas, minimize curb washing, snow removal and salting...don't know how many times I've seen a plot out scrapping the road with no snow...ridiculous waste of money	15 Oct 2020, 07:00 PM
295	It's not a question of reducing services. Services should be expanded without a tax increase to provide more equitable services across both urban and rural	15 Oct 2020, 07:12 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
296	<p>Collect garbage once every 2 weeks.</p> <p>Have the police pressure the Ontario government to change the police act so cops can be suspended WITHOUT pay. Chiefs have been asking for that option. Taxes have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to police that were subsequently found guilty.</p> <p>Tight control of overtime for hourly employees that are paid O/T. I worked in large offices for over 30 years and saw many an employee "stretch" their work out in order to work O/T.</p> <p>Don't fix bridges and roads in cases when only a few people are impacted.</p> <p>Shift the rural/urban tax table back in more favor of urban. Several years ago it was shifted to favor the rural taxpayers (farmers) Many urban residents have been hard hit with the pandemic and should have some tax relief with the table shift.</p> <p>Sell off unused land and buildings.</p> <p>User fees for all sports and recreation. In cases where disadvantaged people can't afford the fees there are often service groups that will assist.</p> <p>Change the pension plan for new employees to defined contribution. In the private sector the days of defined benefit pensions are gone. Pension costs contribute a large portion of the benefit package.</p> <p>Start the budget process with a ZERO increase target. It can be done.</p>	15 Oct 2020, 07:31 PM
297	Arenas	15 Oct 2020, 07:48 PM
298	Police and fire department, seems like everyone makes over 100,000 dollars a year	15 Oct 2020, 08:14 PM
299	Police	15 Oct 2020, 08:50 PM
300	Provide the important basic services and cut out the frivolous spending on vanity projects	15 Oct 2020, 09:00 PM
301	Some of everything. See municiple trucks on side roads a lot with guys doing nothing	15 Oct 2020, 09:18 PM
302	Being a rural based tax payer seems unequal to the urban centres when it relates to amenities.	15 Oct 2020, 10:13 PM
303	Scrap the double pad arena	15 Oct 2020, 10:34 PM
304	The police service budget is extremely high for services that aren't used.	15 Oct 2020, 10:58 PM
305	Identify where there is any wasteful spending- duplicate jobs, I'm looking to read this survey so that I can come up with some better feedback, ideas, how other cities are saving.	15 Oct 2020, 11:22 PM
306	Building new attractions instead of investing money into what we already have. Review municipal budgets and staff load, appears to be a large amount of money going out to employees who do not work hard.	15 Oct 2020, 11:35 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
307	No service cuts Reassess all residences and businesses fairly, so that too high goes down and too low goes up.	16 Oct 2020, 03:33 AM
308	Reduce size of municipal payroll including cutting council in half. Eliminate wards and have ALL Council candidates run at large like the mayor.	16 Oct 2020, 06:11 AM
309	Maintaining of low use roads and bridges.	16 Oct 2020, 06:28 AM
310	It seems we have an over abundance of employees working for the Municipality as we witnessed during the redevelopment during covid	16 Oct 2020, 06:36 AM
311	Services delivered not to quality expected at that high price.	16 Oct 2020, 06:54 AM
312	Everyone sucking the Life out of the system needs to reduce, the tax dollars only go so far. Government Workers & Service People need to realize they are living off the backs of HARD Working honest people, who can no longer give them more than what they are actually making! Reduce your wages to compare with Ours!	16 Oct 2020, 07:06 AM
313	Defund police - reallocate funds to more specified community organizations. Waste removal - reduce to every other week Make people from rural properties pay equally as those in town.	16 Oct 2020, 07:14 AM
314	We don't need weekly garbage pickup. Every two weeks would be enough.	16 Oct 2020, 07:25 AM
315	Beautification projects. Unnecessary road work (Queen St. project) Overhead, reduce Grants Employee roster	16 Oct 2020, 07:32 AM
316	Firefighter Overtime	16 Oct 2020, 07:41 AM
317	Snow clearing	16 Oct 2020, 07:47 AM
318	too many employees.	16 Oct 2020, 08:08 AM
319	employees driving around in new pickup trucks with nothing to do	16 Oct 2020, 08:11 AM
320	20% cut of administrative staff	16 Oct 2020, 08:11 AM
321	remove all redundant processes!!!!!!!  In the times we are in many services can be moved to online self-serve.  replace protectionism and entitlement with common sense processes.	16 Oct 2020, 08:13 AM
322	Outsource non key functions Freeze all hiring Reduce headcount by at least 30% No more Defined Benefit pension plans for staff Sell assets- ie: The senior rest home	16 Oct 2020, 08:15 AM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
323	Get rid of the On Demand Bus Get rid of the 311 phone service Get rid of some of the council members Garbage collection every other week	16 Oct 2020, 08:21 AM
324	less pay for all.....	16 Oct 2020, 08:26 AM
325	Any related costs that provides no benefit to my family, redirect spending to ensure that rural communities are treated in the same manner as Chatham city residents. Reduce administration, there is no longer a need to have multiple layers of management to oversee the spending of rate payer dollars. An example, the millions of dollars approved for a trail in Chatham, where in my small town we have no trails ... if it's good for Chatham, then we want ours too. We've been ignored for too long.	16 Oct 2020, 08:27 AM
326	Administration costs, salaries, and overall O&M expenses	16 Oct 2020, 08:29 AM
327	Get rid of Capital Theater	16 Oct 2020, 08:32 AM
328	Our services are already reduced due to the road closure	16 Oct 2020, 08:34 AM
329	Too many departments and staff, look at what services could be combined. Wages are too high.	16 Oct 2020, 08:41 AM
330	The council needs to stop funding white elephant projects and focus on getting all the basic infrastructure back to a reasonable standard. Fluff is nice but when residents keep complaining about black/brown outs, cable, telephone and other services going out and that the number of people who are ignoring the local by-laws/building laws and getting away with it because they have a family connection to the council. The issue is deeper than just the money	16 Oct 2020, 08:43 AM
331	My objection is the amount of taxes paying in rural communities and not receiving the services to justify that so either improve our services or adjust our taxes accordingly.	16 Oct 2020, 08:59 AM
332	Administration staffing costs  Snow removal (make sure those who are subcontracted actually work instead of sitting in parking lots at night on the clock doing XXXX XXXX - I know of a couple that stop in late-night places for drinks, smokes, etc while working for hours on end)  Get rid of the officers that are just soaking the clock while still getting paid when they should actually be fired.. like XXXXXXXX XXX XXX XXXXXX.	16 Oct 2020, 09:02 AM
333	50% cut to all municipal departments	16 Oct 2020, 09:14 AM
334	Align taxes to services provided. I am in a rural area with not even garbage pickup yet I pay similar taxes to those in the city. Either keep rates the same and provide the services, lower my rate to reflect the difference or raise urban only taxes to have them on par.	16 Oct 2020, 09:18 AM
335	Municipal workers. Too many supervisors on job sites. 2 people working, 2 people standing around.	16 Oct 2020, 09:27 AM
336	Social services.	16 Oct 2020, 09:30 AM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
337	Council needs to cut back not give away money just because fire, police ask for it.	16 Oct 2020, 09:36 AM
338	reduce the amount of bike lanes in areas where they won't be used	16 Oct 2020, 09:36 AM
339	Equipment and buildings owned by city	16 Oct 2020, 09:40 AM
340	Tax on groceries	16 Oct 2020, 09:40 AM
341	policing, to many police are getting paid to stay at home, or a desk job because they can't actually do the job so they hide them. waste of money, get rid of them.	16 Oct 2020, 09:43 AM
342	Excessive alterations to Victoria Ave project, considering there is already a projected 3.6million shortfall. Fix the Sewers and be done with it. Lamp posts that got approved with a pricey cost and offer less lighting than normal light post aren't necessary. Create one bike lane, many if it can be afforded, scrap the speed bumps and everything else. Keep the charm.  We all know this project will be over budget and come from tax payers, many of which don't support the changes!	16 Oct 2020, 09:44 AM
343	Whatever overspending	16 Oct 2020, 09:54 AM
344	Administration staff	16 Oct 2020, 10:13 AM
345	Cut the number of Fire Chiefs Close under utilized arenas Reduce Police Budget Let the YMCA run all programming	16 Oct 2020, 10:15 AM
346	Wages paid to municipal workers.	16 Oct 2020, 10:32 AM
347	Roadside mowing could be reduced. I do not feel there is any need to cut multiple swaths from the road inward. I understand the need for visibility issues, but it is being overdone. A new arena is not needed. I often see our local arena empty on weekend days, yet a new arena is being considered. Staffing within the municipality is top heavy - supervisors, managers, directors, general managers, etc. I have never worked anywhere else where there have been so many "managers".	16 Oct 2020, 11:09 AM
348	Reduce social services, increase the taxes on farms, reduce government employees and expenses, reduce services and reduce expenditures outside major cities (rural area)	16 Oct 2020, 11:14 AM
349	Underused facilities (i.e. Arenas etc) could be made available for reduced hours to save budget	16 Oct 2020, 11:43 AM
350	Public Transit, Fire. I live where I have Harwich taxes and city taxes. Living on Communication Rd I don't feel public transit should have anything to do with my taxes since there is no bus stop within 4kms. As for city fire again this is something where we are a long ways from a fire hydrant.	16 Oct 2020, 12:23 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
351	Police services	16 Oct 2020, 01:25 PM
352	Staffing cuts as some are working from home. Most of the services haven't returned to normal and can't see it changing over the next budget year.	16 Oct 2020, 01:28 PM
353	Council income.	16 Oct 2020, 01:42 PM
354	Inner city public transit. Transfer that money out to the rural areas ie Libraries Street sweepers/leaf pick up: transfer that money out to the rural areas ie. Libraries Municipal jobs: the pandemic showed who is necessary and who is not (then transferred them to LTC) Transfer those jobs/wages to LTC for good.	16 Oct 2020, 01:45 PM
355	We in rural areas , where population is less dense and do not get the benefit of all services at the same level should not be taxed the same as the urban areas	16 Oct 2020, 03:12 PM
356	Spending hrs in baseball parks with a tractor ..when there was no baseball this summer	16 Oct 2020, 03:48 PM
357	Council shouldn't lower anything in Highgate as we have very few services to begin with.	16 Oct 2020, 03:58 PM
358	None. Balancing the distribution of the tax burden is more appropriate.	16 Oct 2020, 04:19 PM
359	I like the proposal of equalizing the cost of service (police) for rural and urban residents.	16 Oct 2020, 04:43 PM
360	Reduce erieau/erie Beach taxes	16 Oct 2020, 04:55 PM
361	Mayoral and councilors wages to start.	16 Oct 2020, 05:12 PM
362	<p>Chatham-Kent should look at reducing the number of full time firefighters. Wallaceburg should become a volunteer based department similar to Dresden. Cap fire and police salaries accordingly. Offer more time owing than overtime allowances.</p> <p>Reduce the number of managers and people in administration in Chatham Kent. Every organization seems to be very "top heavy" meaning a lot of administration and managers. Please look at consolidating departments and take this matter seriously as Chatham-Kent pays more property taxes than many surrounding areas in Ontario.</p> <p>With new home builds going up in Chatham-Kent and property values increasing similar to other cities, shouldn't that help supplement property tax increases?</p> <p>Close bridges ( force people to drive further) and eliminate ones that open to a permanent fixed type.</p>	16 Oct 2020, 05:20 PM
363	Library services	16 Oct 2020, 05:53 PM
364	Municipal staff who gets paid way too much for doing nothing at all.	16 Oct 2020, 06:07 PM
365	Staffing	16 Oct 2020, 06:37 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
366	Management who have many assistants under them. ( I tried to rent a hall and it went to 4 people, then rented in Lambton county) And it was cheaper. 2 guys sitting in service truck to flush water lines. To much dead wait. Had to ask someone about getting weeds cut on our road, when CK trucks drive down here every day .	16 Oct 2020, 06:40 PM
367	Property taxes are a lot higher in Chatham, than most south-western cities, and there are a lot less amenities!	16 Oct 2020, 07:56 PM
368	cuts across the board, including staffing	16 Oct 2020, 08:25 PM
369	No new arenas, no more money going to capital theatre, etc.	16 Oct 2020, 08:31 PM
370	Municipality staff who sit around at empty arena or at a campground all summer	16 Oct 2020, 08:39 PM
371	adding bike paths, etc. get rid of covid police	16 Oct 2020, 09:00 PM
372	Bus	16 Oct 2020, 10:06 PM
373	Police services	16 Oct 2020, 10:50 PM
374	Too many managers	16 Oct 2020, 11:14 PM
375	Their own salaries	17 Oct 2020, 12:38 AM
376	cut # of municipal employees	17 Oct 2020, 08:21 AM
377	Reduce non value added activites. Reduce costs. Refuce taxes	17 Oct 2020, 08:22 AM
378	Not sure but we have the highest taxes and fewer services like not much for kids within a budget	17 Oct 2020, 09:20 AM
379	Or, equally important: what could Council do to raise revenues?  Consider selling water access fire roads to adjacent property owners. Serves the purpose of reducing the costs to maintain those roads (which have very low usage - in 16 years, I have never seen the one near our property used) and increasing revenue for the Municipality through the sale. Although the revenue is a one-time revenue, the costs savings are ongoing. Also, this reduces the Municipality's liability should someone access the water via these routes and become injured due to lack of upkeep or other actions / non-actions on the part of the Municipality.  Consider scaling back on projects that do not have strong / broad public support - e.g. bike lanes	17 Oct 2020, 09:55 AM
380	1. Change employment contracts for high paid employees. 2. Open up more contract services to competition from more bidders. Ie. Drainage engineers bidding on drainage projects should have to bid for their services prior to getting the job.	17 Oct 2020, 09:57 AM
381	Fire services	17 Oct 2020, 10:56 AM
382	Transit, put on hold any new municipal building	17 Oct 2020, 11:07 AM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
383	Why does garbage need weekly pickup. Every 2 weeks should be adequate. I've never believed our small population needed its own police force when we duplicate facilities already in place with the OPP. Why do we have snow plows out scraping streets with no, or barely any, snow and with spark flying off the blades - where is the supervision?	17 Oct 2020, 11:14 AM
384	Stop decriminalizing hard drugs. Stop paying people over minimum wage to sit on curb. Stop blowing money on the capital theatre and other frivolous bs.	17 Oct 2020, 11:25 AM
385	Instead of reducing or increasing taxes the municipality should look at marketing and bringing in industrial business to bring a better tax base.	17 Oct 2020, 11:38 AM
386	Wrong follow-up question. What services should be provided based on what I'm being charged. For example, paying for sewers when my entire neighborhood has only ever had individual septic systems.	17 Oct 2020, 11:46 AM
387	Internal grass cutting	17 Oct 2020, 01:09 PM
388	No reducing.. Look at bringing in business and industry to create a broader tax pass.	17 Oct 2020, 01:27 PM
389	Purchase more snow plows. Hire more teachers. Stop paying public health lactation consultants so much. Deal with the homeless.	17 Oct 2020, 01:46 PM
390	Not services...administration salaries, and wasted reports...you have a lot to do	17 Oct 2020, 02:38 PM
391	I think we need to reduce the focus of arenas. These services should be scaled back to focus on a more balanced approach to recreation.	17 Oct 2020, 06:51 PM
392	Bike paths, widening streets.	17 Oct 2020, 08:21 PM
393	Excessive roadside mowing. Grass will only grow so high and then stop growing. the repeated mowing is costly, wasteful and not needed. Mow intersections for visibility and leave the rest until end of September. You are destroying habitat as well.  Dredging of ditches and drains over and over again. Poor drainage practices in many areas. Drainage superintendents need an education in best practices for soil management and water flow through native vegetation rather than stripping banks and having erosion fill in the ditches again. TOTAL WASTE	17 Oct 2020, 09:52 PM
394	Don't reduce anything...I live in the country and don't get and services without having to pay extra on top. Taxes are ridiculously high. I can have the same property in Essex with garbage pick up and paved road with my taxes a third of what Chatham is	17 Oct 2020, 10:41 PM
395	The number one employer in Chathamkent shouldn't be the municipality.	17 Oct 2020, 10:56 PM
396	I am unsure if it's council or just the mill rate. I am a senior living in Prestancia area, in a 4 row condo w/a postage stamp sized front yard paying over 3000/yr in taxes. Something is wrong with the way properties are assessed	17 Oct 2020, 11:31 PM
397	Public library	18 Oct 2020, 06:13 AM
398	Fleet services, why are we competing with local businesses on this! Stop contracting work out such as curbs and sidewalks and grass cutting! Building maintenance department needs an audit.	18 Oct 2020, 07:59 AM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
399	Since I live in the rural area there aren't really any services you can take from me.	18 Oct 2020, 08:40 AM
400	Give each service/department the task of reducing their budget by a certain %. Look a wants & needs. Fulfill the needs but prioritize the wants.	18 Oct 2020, 08:46 AM
401	We pay too much in Tilbury for The very little services We get and uptown business area is pathetic. Rent too high for anyone to want to open a decent business. Snow removal is ridiculous especially for streets with cul-de-sacs that rarely get done. Seems when Tilbury combined with Chatham-Kent many things went downhill.	18 Oct 2020, 09:43 AM
402	Police Budget, Administration in City Hall , Sunshine club wages	18 Oct 2020, 12:06 PM
403	Rural communities have no where near the service responses that the cities and large town have. We should not be taxes the same or higher ever or even be considered for a higher imposition. City of Chatham should bare the brunt of tax increases as police,ambulance and special services are a much higher demand than rural always.	18 Oct 2020, 12:37 PM
404	I don't believe this is the question that should be asked as it assumes the current operating model is as efficient as it can be which I don't believe is the case. There have been no proof that the municipality is currently operating as "lean" as it could or should - since they serve the tax payers should that not be the first assessment before asking for an increase? The next question should be - are the funds collected being distributed as they should be. In this case I would say you need to look at the most expensive and most "targeted" programs, those likely being serving only a certain area and for a limited number of people.	18 Oct 2020, 12:37 PM
405	Transit, arts and culture, social services	18 Oct 2020, 01:25 PM
406	municipal staffing	18 Oct 2020, 01:43 PM
407	Eliminate "Wish List" items and those from special interest groups such as bicycle lanes.	18 Oct 2020, 02:25 PM
408	Perhaps, take away payment to volunteer fire people. This is supposed to be a volunteer position and if those who are on the volunteer fire department wish to be on the Chatham-Kent fire department full time they can apply for a position like everyone else.	18 Oct 2020, 05:09 PM
409	Increase taxes to large corporations	18 Oct 2020, 05:14 PM
410	Look at other ways, other than reducing	18 Oct 2020, 07:48 PM
411	Down size top management	18 Oct 2020, 08:33 PM
412	any service that is also offered by private or other non-profits	18 Oct 2020, 08:38 PM
413	There are way too many employees. Additionally, Council should be cut in half.	18 Oct 2020, 09:01 PM
414	I live in a rural community of Chatham-Kent. . We have poor roads, poorer road maintenance, higher property taxes than other county. We have got nothing to lose.	18 Oct 2020, 09:32 PM
415	Reduce number of municipal buildings, arenas, garages, service centres, libraries and look at fire and police services and cost reduction	18 Oct 2020, 11:57 PM
416	bike paths eriau homeowners	19 Oct 2020, 10:45 AM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
417	Upper level staff at the Civic Center. we have too many "Experts" that do nothing we can see because we're always contracting "experts" to do the actual work. ie: traffic engineers, bridge maintenance. We also have too many in the human resources department. We have more "specialists" than major factories with 5,000 do.	19 Oct 2020, 12:46 PM
418	Paying less to multiple consultants only for nothing to be done. Really looking at overtime budgets for all departments, including police specifically special constables and support staff.	19 Oct 2020, 02:14 PM
419	Reduce the amount of libraries, arenas with low usage	19 Oct 2020, 02:15 PM
420	Staff, operational expenses (they have been and can continue to work from home). Duplication of services - if the provincial government offers the service, why does the municipality also have to offer it?	19 Oct 2020, 02:39 PM
421	Poor question. Reallocation of tax levels is a better idea where those with greater services (urban) pay more and those with less services (rural) pay less.	19 Oct 2020, 03:18 PM
422	cut mayor salary	19 Oct 2020, 04:02 PM
423	Council should consider not taxing rural ratepayers more. If we don't actually receive the service, we shouldn't have to pay.	19 Oct 2020, 09:38 PM
424	Fire department. Their budget is massive and it needs to be cut and the money needs to be allocated to our EMS / Paramedics. We need more ambulances.	20 Oct 2020, 07:06 AM
425	arenas, recreation programs, subsidized farm taxes	20 Oct 2020, 10:24 AM
426	do not reduce services Utilize moneys granted from the government in a way that would have a positive impact on all residents of Chatham-Kent	20 Oct 2020, 10:49 AM
427	Administration, HR, Police, Fire, Tech Services etc.	20 Oct 2020, 10:56 AM
428	Reduce the number of councillors and municipal employees.	20 Oct 2020, 10:57 AM
429	Close down some libraries, close down unneeded roads and bridges that only benefit a few individuals, and close down underutilized arenas	20 Oct 2020, 12:51 PM
430	Library's	20 Oct 2020, 02:50 PM
431	I feel we could save a considerable amount by reducing the higher paying jobs within the Fire Service. When we amalgamated all the fire stations under the Chatham Fire service the reduction of leaders didn't get reduced. Currently each hall in the volunteer sector has a Chief (\$10,000.00) plus calls and meetings, Deputy Chief (\$5000.00) plus calls and meetings and last but not least 3 Captains@ (\$2500.00) plus calls and meetings! If the fire is one of somewhat importance there is always an individual from the big brass in Chatham attending so the need is confusing!	20 Oct 2020, 03:03 PM
432	reduce municipal staff	20 Oct 2020, 03:17 PM
433	Only completed maintenance work on Victoria avenue. No upgrades as bike lanes and roundabouts	20 Oct 2020, 08:00 PM
434	No reductions should be made Utilize government grants to the maximum and bring in industry to help support	20 Oct 2020, 08:10 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
435	It's not about reducing services. It's about making sure that the services that are offered are actually available.	20 Oct 2020, 09:55 PM
436	property tax not a service but too high for this area as we are not Toronto or a huge manufacturing center.	21 Oct 2020, 12:30 PM
437	Don't charge more for police and fire in the country should be the same as towns and cities.	21 Oct 2020, 12:43 PM
438	I am rural and we paid too much. Where I live if I want to bring my garbage to a dump I have to drive almost to Chatham from north of Wallaceburg. So I pay over \$800 a year for garbage pickup. Will never see a police car go the house. I live on the county line I see no Chatham-Kent or Lambton police cars.	21 Oct 2020, 12:46 PM
439	Make taxes fair across the board. Certain areas have higher taxes but less services available to them.	21 Oct 2020, 12:55 PM
440	No services except to reduce municipal staff.	21 Oct 2020, 12:56 PM
441	Nothing out my way they don't do much anyway	21 Oct 2020, 01:13 PM
442	Technology should provide the Municipality with the opportunity to move many services online and reduction of front line service is not the only means to lower taxes.	21 Oct 2020, 01:19 PM
443	Bus to lake every summer. Always very few on it, not cost effective.	21 Oct 2020, 01:36 PM
444	Keep rates relative to the services received by the property. Why does it make sense for someone in Camden township to pay for garbage pickup when they don't get any use of the service? Policing is far substandard in the rural areas, so why pay the same amount as Chatham residents do?	21 Oct 2020, 01:41 PM
445	Council, civic centre, arenas, pools, libraries, 311, police	21 Oct 2020, 02:00 PM
446	grass cutting	21 Oct 2020, 02:19 PM
447	Administration costs.	21 Oct 2020, 02:38 PM
448	Rebuilds that are not necessary due to COVID expenditures. Less consulting fees.	21 Oct 2020, 02:40 PM
449	staffing	21 Oct 2020, 03:17 PM
450	Community Human Services, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	21 Oct 2020, 03:50 PM
451	I don't have a budget in front of me to choose from so I can't say. It's not really a fair question.	21 Oct 2020, 05:33 PM
452	Property Tax	21 Oct 2020, 05:53 PM
453	EarlyON, bike lanes, too many studies on things, amalgamate municipal buildings and increase work from home	21 Oct 2020, 06:35 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
454	The only new infrastructure I would support is a new civic center, this one is too costly to maintain. No new programs unless provincially mandated. Increase user fees for parks and recreation facilities. Time to seriously consider privatizing Parks and Rec, and Culture	22 Oct 2020, 06:19 AM
455	I think services in outside of the City of Chatham are high for the services that are received. The City of Chatham services need to be reviewed and cut to reflect more equity across the whole municipality.	22 Oct 2020, 08:17 AM
456	snow remove from sidewalks.less council members. less workers.	22 Oct 2020, 08:22 AM
457	Parks and gardens dont need to have flowers planted, posters dont need to be hung on flagpoles, medians dont need to be manicured and the amount of money wasted on these services could go to much more needed items	22 Oct 2020, 11:06 AM
458	dont know	22 Oct 2020, 11:52 AM
459	No services should be cut until a line by line budget review has been completed.	22 Oct 2020, 12:15 PM
460	freeze or lower your staff salaries and provide garbage collection to all your residents	22 Oct 2020, 12:36 PM
461	reduction of municipal work force	22 Oct 2020, 02:29 PM
462	Put a moratorium on new hires. See what jobs can be consolidated.	22 Oct 2020, 03:06 PM
463	policeing arenas library	22 Oct 2020, 03:55 PM
464	Seasonal road care ie grass cutting. Administrative costs and trim the mid and upper levels of office staff	22 Oct 2020, 05:24 PM
465	Welfare, government housing	23 Oct 2020, 12:17 AM
466	reduce staff, better supervision, accountability	23 Oct 2020, 12:15 PM
467	Hockey arena	23 Oct 2020, 03:40 PM
468	All services should take a cut, instead of just a few.	23 Oct 2020, 03:53 PM
469	Police services, we have low crime historically and it could be better spent on things that are often forgotten like child care/services or housing	23 Oct 2020, 04:35 PM
470	The price of property taxes	24 Oct 2020, 03:41 AM
471	Pay of municipal employees	24 Oct 2020, 08:40 AM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
472	Not building arenas, nothing frivolous. When I don't have extra money I don't ask someone else to foot the bill for my wants. Needs only. Cut out the extras. No increases. People have less money to work with in their budgets. Municipality needs to stop with increases. Increases drive people away. You already get more tax dollars flowing in when new houses are built and assessments on homes go up. Don't double dip into people's pockets by increasing their taxes as well. Perhaps cut some unnecessary jobs. People want to use arenas then increase user fees, others shouldn't have to pay for other people's wants.	24 Oct 2020, 08:48 AM
473	Policing	24 Oct 2020, 09:36 AM
474	Current services are fine, but rural residents who don't enjoy all these services are still paying too much compared to what we used pay before the c-k amalgamation.	24 Oct 2020, 10:15 AM
475	Not sure if the Economic Development committee is of value . It would be interesting to check what it has cost over the time to what has been achieved	24 Oct 2020, 12:19 PM
476	PUC expansion	24 Oct 2020, 01:28 PM
477	welfare	24 Oct 2020, 07:45 PM
478	we already have minimal service in our rural area... suggest no leaf pick up in town and cities	25 Oct 2020, 07:00 PM
479	Reduce higher level of management	27 Oct 2020, 08:16 AM
480	leaf pickup, side walk clearing, over paying municipal workers	27 Oct 2020, 11:03 AM
481	Leaf pick up, brine application, putting garbage railroad gravel on rural roads and grading it 5 times a year destroying rural residents vehicles, municipal staff reduction, municipal worker salary reduction, garbage pickup, paving 1km of road in 15 different locations each year instead of paving large sections at a time, street sweeping,	27 Oct 2020, 11:20 AM
482	We do not have garbage pick up, nor sewer lines. Perhaps a closer look at the "Need List" and the "Want List". Many people are on fixed incomes and with the pandemic issues, many people are struggling.	27 Oct 2020, 12:35 PM
483	I believe too many overpaid managers and overpriced studys that could be done by voters not by overpaid consultants	28 Oct 2020, 09:46 AM
484	Remove the fringe tax in the Lynnwood subdivision.	28 Oct 2020, 10:13 AM
485	Wages of public employees. Too many employees being paid to do nothing.	28 Oct 2020, 10:18 AM
486	NO SERVICES CUT - CUT WAGES AT THE TOP	28 Oct 2020, 10:26 AM
487	police fire department works department	28 Oct 2020, 11:47 AM
488	Why do you have to cut services? Cut some fat off of the top. Become more efficient. We don't have many services in the rural areas as it is.	28 Oct 2020, 03:24 PM
489	over time police and fire	28 Oct 2020, 03:40 PM
490	Snow removal on sidewalks. Property owners responsible.	28 Oct 2020, 03:46 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
491	Country property should not pay for City services.	28 Oct 2020, 05:46 PM
492	The number of Council members should be reduced. The number of high management positions should be reduced.	28 Oct 2020, 07:55 PM
493	Close arenas that are under utilized Fire Services reduce number of chiefs to many for small community Look at police budget Let private enterprise deal with all Recreation Services Programming	29 Oct 2020, 07:50 AM
494	Find efficiencies in public works by outsourcing more services to private contractors	29 Oct 2020, 12:14 PM
495	I live in Charing Cross and we just have basic services so not sure what could be cut now . If serviced were increased to what Chatham gets only then would the taxes be right,	29 Oct 2020, 12:40 PM
496	Snow plowing only when needed	29 Oct 2020, 02:00 PM
497	Recreational facilities that are only utilized by a fraction of taxpayers.	29 Oct 2020, 02:04 PM
498	There are no services that should be reduced but as a resident of a private street there are services we don't get that we still pay for	29 Oct 2020, 02:16 PM
499	Total number of 'white collar' employees. Very top heavy.	29 Oct 2020, 02:20 PM
500	The wages city employees are making and the number of positions that could be streamlined	29 Oct 2020, 02:26 PM
501	sreamline civic workers	29 Oct 2020, 02:30 PM
502	High level management. City handouts	29 Oct 2020, 02:31 PM
503	1/ Sell municipal buildings and lease back (other govts do it including Federal). 2/ Introduce modest budget cuts ie 1.5 percent over each of 5 years to municipal dept budgets to seek efficiencies 3/ Stop issuing building permits on known flood areas. 4/ Focus on existing infrastructure maintenance vs entertaining new projects 5/ Introduce efficiency incentive/reward program within the administration 6/ Improve the functionality of the municipal web site 7/ Show leadership by rolling back council and management wages 5% (I am aware of the tax changes that impacted council earlier which is why I didn't suggest 10%).	29 Oct 2020, 02:33 PM
504	Salary overhead of our council, either by monetary or headcount reduction. There's no reason for our taxes to be amongst the highest in the province when we have among the lowest average salary. Our artificial housing prices are being driven by retirees with existing liquidity and capital earned elsewhere. If you want to retain youth and build a community with better career type jobs, the cost of living for young families trying to SAVE for the future needs to be addressed.	29 Oct 2020, 02:44 PM
505	sidewalk plowing, leaf pick-up with the vacuum truck, close some arenas, etc	29 Oct 2020, 02:47 PM
506	Take a little from everywhere. Dont even think about an arena. Leave that up to the private sector. Reduce taxes to bring in new business, which will bring in more jobs to generate more taxes. Lower tax rates on rentals would also be a good thing to lower the cost of rent.	29 Oct 2020, 03:01 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
507	too many sunshine employees	29 Oct 2020, 03:02 PM
508	That is pretty hard to answer since I don't what is spent where. Since amalgamation, my property taxes have gone up an average of 4% per year. I live in a rural area, so no garbage pickup, no street lights, no sidewalks, a longer wait for emergency services, no water or sewer systems, no transit service and I know living rural is my decision. However, the services since amalgamation has lowered. After snowing, a snowplow has not done the road before we leave for work (it was done before), we have to call to get our gravel road graded (never did before - it was done on a rotation basis). The ditch banks used to be cut, the ditches cleared of falling trees - none of that is done anymore unless we call and then usually nothing is done. Just my view and my opinion.	29 Oct 2020, 03:12 PM
509	This is a hard time with Covid19 and business all across CK struggling to just make ends meet, yet council spend money on bike paths and other nice to have projects that could be put off for at least two years until we get past this pandemic. I also believe that council and staff should consider a staff freeze as well as salary freeze for two year in order to allow working people catch up. Many small business only made 50% of less in their income this year and usually that 50% is need to pay expenses. The last thing we need is a tax hike again in 2021.	29 Oct 2020, 03:45 PM
510	Property taxes people can't afford higher taxes with income cuts because of Covid-19	29 Oct 2020, 03:56 PM
511	We don't have garbage pickup and we don't have city water we don't have street lights we don't have sidewalks but you want to put or taxes up for what we don't have. The city has everything and their taxes will go down I don't think that is fair.	29 Oct 2020, 03:59 PM
512	Employee wages	29 Oct 2020, 04:04 PM
513	Size of council, any arts funding, public transportation, no money for places like wallaceburg, Blenheim, Dresden, tilbury, bothwell	29 Oct 2020, 04:05 PM
514	Do not reduce services. Provide services equally across Chatham Kent including Wheatley.	29 Oct 2020, 04:52 PM
515	Number of municipal employees	29 Oct 2020, 05:27 PM
516	how about finding savings with in the different departments worked for city for 30 yrs so so much money wasted no one held accountable	29 Oct 2020, 06:01 PM
517	I live in rural Chatham Kent. My taxes are too high for the services I actually receive. We have no water service. Our road is poorly maintained year round, but especially in the winter.	29 Oct 2020, 06:03 PM
518	1. Take back the council pay increase. 2. Have a professional audit. Actually follow auditors suggestions.	29 Oct 2020, 06:11 PM
519	Councillors Salary	29 Oct 2020, 06:25 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
520	Reduce your fleet of pickup trucks that every supervisor seems to have. Cut the leaf curb side pickup machine in ridgetown nobody else has it. Thoroughly analyze the service cuts made because of COVID and dump the ones less needed. All departments should be tasked to produce cost savings equal too 10% of their 2020 department expenses.	29 Oct 2020, 06:41 PM
521	Eliminate, privatize and reduce all non essential services like arenas, community centers, drop in centers, parks and recreation, lawn maintenance, waste, garbage and recycling, libraries, transit, fire department, public health, etc.	29 Oct 2020, 07:00 PM
522	Not reduce services but find efficiencies within these services	29 Oct 2020, 07:14 PM
523	Everything	29 Oct 2020, 07:24 PM
524	All the useless sidewalks and bike paths that were put in last summer that I have never seen anyone on	29 Oct 2020, 07:35 PM
525	Salaries and efficiency needs to be looked at. Buildings that hold municipal services need to be reduced. Why are there so many? I am not talking about the rural communities, but the ones in chatham.	29 Oct 2020, 07:40 PM
526	Any salaries of town workers	29 Oct 2020, 07:44 PM
527	Urban Recreational, library in urban	29 Oct 2020, 07:45 PM
528	Wheatley should pay less because there is minimal police presence.	29 Oct 2020, 07:49 PM
529	Rural property tax.	29 Oct 2020, 08:01 PM
530	I would suggest first looking at staffing levels, wage freezes and productivity savings before jumping right to service cuts.	29 Oct 2020, 08:07 PM
531	Living on the 1st concession Line in Wheatley. Property taxes are already \$4200+ for a few street lights, tar and chip road that can barely fit 2 cars coming at one another, during winter control we have a snow pole/salt truck come Down the very minimum, with blowing snow sometimes the road is impassable, live close too a pollution plant, smell Cavendish, and a mink farm down the road occasionally. And now someone has purchased the 88 acre lot behind us for future development. Why should I be spending such high property taxes and have a roadway coming towards me, in front and now possibly beside and behind me with this development possibly going in not too mention when if I have too go anywhere too get some of the amenities chatham Kent has too offer I have too drive. We have no parks in this area for children too play in. Rural areas should be lower tax rates especially with what we have too deal with down in this area. We can't have a development in this area and still pay high taxes that I pay. I feel it's very unfair and if you'd like too talk more here is my name and number; XXX-XXX-XXXX XXX XXXXXX	29 Oct 2020, 08:09 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
532	Other then snow removal and garbage what other services does the municipality provide residents? Taxes seemed to be based on popular living areas... Prestancia have some of the highest taxes in Chatham and receive the same services as lower priced living areas.	29 Oct 2020, 08:31 PM
533	The amount of city workers	29 Oct 2020, 08:39 PM
534	Shouldn't look at reducing any services, but re evaluate services-being more effective in use if services and allocation of staff. Seem to be top heavy on management and supervision aspect and not enough employees on front line implementing our services.	29 Oct 2020, 08:40 PM
535	I live in rural Chatham Kent. We have no services at all. All we have is if we're lucky we might get our road graded There is nothing to take away to make it cheaper.	29 Oct 2020, 08:55 PM
536	Consolidation of Municipal facilities such as service centres, libraries, etc. Close arena's with low usage	29 Oct 2020, 09:02 PM
537	Deal with police corruption and stop the stealing of money, direct funding from socially liberal social programs into lowering taxes and cultural preservation efforts	29 Oct 2020, 09:19 PM
538	All for rural community members who don't have any services	29 Oct 2020, 09:43 PM
539	Too many councilors and too much management. Service quality has already dropped 50% over the last few years while taxes have increased.	29 Oct 2020, 10:07 PM
540	User pay fee - area and residents that don't get or USE the service should not pay for services that are not provided in their area or don't have in their area. Sport complex. Parks. If you live and stay in your small rural town why pay for your city extras	29 Oct 2020, 10:14 PM
541	The use of consultants for simple decisions the councillors could make	29 Oct 2020, 10:21 PM
542	I don't know, but paying more than \$8000 per year in property taxes in Dresden is pretty outrageous	29 Oct 2020, 11:00 PM
543	Wages	29 Oct 2020, 11:13 PM
544	no raises	29 Oct 2020, 11:31 PM
545	The ones that have no benefit to me in a rural community	30 Oct 2020, 05:17 AM
546	I don't know.	30 Oct 2020, 05:55 AM
547	This is a stupid question... especially when we don't know what we are paying for. You should provide a list. Also, chatham-Kent has not improved in any way for a long time. Many events are canceled and yet our taxes still go up. How does that make sense.	30 Oct 2020, 05:59 AM
548	I don't believe any services should be reduced. However people living within the towns of CK that receive better or more services should pay more than rural properties with minimal services. Provide rural properties with same services and then tax everyone equally.	30 Oct 2020, 06:41 AM
549	Council should consider providing the same services to all areas, i.e. leaf pickup to all of Wheatley not only certain streets.	30 Oct 2020, 06:57 AM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
550	Council should stick to their responsibilities roads, policing, garbage collection and quit buying or investing tax payers money on things that should be run by individuals ie capital theater, railroad	30 Oct 2020, 07:06 AM
551	Reduce the level of Public Service Employees and any employees who make over \$100000 per year. Focus only on infrastructure and eliminate any charitable involvement.	30 Oct 2020, 07:14 AM
552	Overtime for public works employees, raises to public works	30 Oct 2020, 07:15 AM
553	Winter road salting, brush pickup and shredding	30 Oct 2020, 07:18 AM
554	Single chain of command for all emergency services. Culverts vs bridges for most drain and creek crossings. Quit purchasing unnecessary items such as railways. Reduce size of council. No more white elephants such as theatres, convention Centers, arenas.	30 Oct 2020, 07:21 AM
555	Libraries, rural road grass cutting (when not needed) , Arts and culture, the crazy idea we need an arena large enough for an OHL team, the type and way bridges are built in C-K!!!	30 Oct 2020, 07:24 AM
556	Top heavy paid municipal employees.  All the extra "perks" OW recipients receive.... also, they can be put to work within municipality to earn what they are given... too easy for them to "free load"	30 Oct 2020, 07:26 AM
557	Garbage pick up, and we never see cops anymore	30 Oct 2020, 07:44 AM
558	My opinion is less about reducing services rather than there could be more efficient methods to deliver on existing services.	30 Oct 2020, 07:51 AM
559	System efficiency needs to be in place, in any organization there is always gain available without cuts, spending money on double engineering and hiring outside people to do the work of staff	30 Oct 2020, 08:04 AM
560	None- improve efficiency and productivity. Reduce payroll for senior staff and admin. When it comes to justifying pay rates and # of positions required, the municipality has historically compared to much larger centres like London and Windsor which is not an equivalent comparison. London is 4x larger and Windsor is 2x larger than ALL of Chatham-Kent.	30 Oct 2020, 08:07 AM
561	The fee for schooling should be able to be allocated to other private schools if we do not have children enrolled in the public system.	30 Oct 2020, 08:14 AM
562	decrease wages across the board	30 Oct 2020, 08:15 AM
563	services cannot get any lower in Wheatley	30 Oct 2020, 08:16 AM
564	Snow removal and property taxes	30 Oct 2020, 08:20 AM
565	Policing and Municipal Staffing	30 Oct 2020, 08:24 AM
566	Rural areas should not have to pay for transit and should be fairly assessed on road work and services.	30 Oct 2020, 08:35 AM
567	None. Reduce operational waste and bloated workforce.	30 Oct 2020, 08:36 AM
568	I Live in Wheatley...not many services available other than the necessary ones, ie. garbage collection, snow removal, recycle..how could you reduce any of this?	30 Oct 2020, 08:44 AM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
569	I would cut wages of council and not have so many representatives from each riding	30 Oct 2020, 09:00 AM
570	Reduce the number of hockey arena's owned and maintained by the municipality throughout Chatham-Kent and consolidate into two or three main locations  Reduce service centres in CK. Centralize call centre services and make all services and payments on-line or at the Chatham-Civic only	30 Oct 2020, 09:24 AM
571	All social services.all taxpayer funded freebies	30 Oct 2020, 09:29 AM
572	all the services the city of chatham receives that others in the municipality do not get while paying the same taxes, like garbage service, postal service and the same snow removal services, police services.	30 Oct 2020, 09:33 AM
573	Cancel supplying water to green houses in Leamington.....they are not CK territory and will only drive our water costs higher for CK users.....let Leamington look after their own greenhouses.....would sooner water supplied to those well owners who have had their wells destroyed and with CK turning their backs on them.....	30 Oct 2020, 09:33 AM
574	I'm not aware of what opportunities there are. That's their job.	30 Oct 2020, 09:53 AM
575	police	30 Oct 2020, 09:56 AM
576	We do not get many services in the country. It takes time for police or fire to even get out to us.	30 Oct 2020, 10:17 AM
577	hydro is too high	30 Oct 2020, 10:18 AM
578	eliminate municipal employees who are not contributing to the source.	30 Oct 2020, 10:24 AM
579	Have less Councillors. Each township/town, etc should have the same number. i.e. Blenheim 3, Raleigh Township 3, city of Chatham 3, Dover 3, etc. Right now there are so many more in Chatham so the City of Chatham is overloaded with Councillors. We are all joined together, so one place should NOT have more than another place. It does NOT be about representation by population!!	30 Oct 2020, 10:48 AM
580	Recreation (summer programs, pickle ball, etc) programs exist through local companies . Too many empty Arenas, too many empty libraries, too many empty service centres.	30 Oct 2020, 10:58 AM
581	This is hard to respond to without reviewing the budget. The Economic Development Corp might be a place to start. If we were to look at the industry that has been brought in (tax dollars collected) versus what it cost to run the Department, are they earning their keep?	30 Oct 2020, 11:02 AM
582	Whatever services are the least used.	30 Oct 2020, 11:13 AM
583	Your taxes should be based on services received. Rural has no benefits ie. garbage pickup etc	30 Oct 2020, 11:27 AM
584	The internal cost of running the municipality is out of control. When the county jobs are considered to be gold plated, and the work effort on these jobs, is considered extremely easy, there is a problem	30 Oct 2020, 11:34 AM
585	Do not go forward with construction on the Civic Centre.	30 Oct 2020, 12:31 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
586	Police Services - they spend way too much money, and demand more every time budget comes up. We are not their personal ATM.	30 Oct 2020, 01:11 PM
587	Recreation facilities	30 Oct 2020, 01:28 PM
588	Police budgets need to be addressed and available for public. Also a reduction of municipal employees at Civic Center- still far too many. Stop wasting money on these bike trails -what happened to the railroad property we were going to use a bike paths. I very rarely see people using these bike path lanes. Also spending money on the Rainbow Crosswalk....really???	30 Oct 2020, 01:29 PM
589	Police fire and municipal road crews	30 Oct 2020, 01:32 PM
590	Local municipal offices. Close or greatly reduce offices. C Kent is not that big that people cannot drive to Chatham. Also increase ice hockey fees and do not build the newly proposed one. Finally you have far too many admin staff at your Chatham municipal office. Private industry eliminated most of their admin positions 15 years ago.	30 Oct 2020, 01:51 PM
591	Police, fire	30 Oct 2020, 02:46 PM
592	Consolidation of arenas. If not being used to capacity, then close them. This isn't about Chatham winning. It's about CK winning.  Sell of surplus buildings. Many buildings left underutilized since amalgamation.  Need to have a good hard look at every staff position. What do they do.  Build a new arena Get rid of the old broken ones that aren't efficient.  Calendars distributed by travel and tourism. Huge waste of money. Nobody uses calendars any more. Very old school.	30 Oct 2020, 03:07 PM
593	Policing.....? Streetlights, none Housing services, don't use Child care, dont use Library, don't use Trees, ....	30 Oct 2020, 03:10 PM
594	Recreational	30 Oct 2020, 03:11 PM
595	Police service Arenas Municipal Employees Fire Services Library Services Secondary Road Service Municipal Side-walk Services.	30 Oct 2020, 03:54 PM
596	Municipal Staff.....wway too many employed!!	30 Oct 2020, 04:28 PM
597	Budgets set for departments spending	30 Oct 2020, 05:19 PM
598	Councilors and wages to start	30 Oct 2020, 05:46 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
599	I do not feel it is services that need to be cut as much as cost savings being found within the municipality. Things like bulk purchase or paper, pens, paper clips, staples other office supplies used. Setting up work from home for employees. Reduce upper management positions when you need more front line workers. Review contracts vs staff doing the jobs	30 Oct 2020, 06:38 PM
600	Do not penalize departments for being under budget in a year by reducing next years budget. Allow surplus to help reduce the following years tax burden but give departments that come under budget the same allowance the following year. Have departments use lean concepts to find efficiencies, it's amazing what a number of small items can amount to over the whole municipality.	30 Oct 2020, 07:16 PM
601	Reduce Chatham area fire dept budget Reduce number of Chatham proper councillors. Sell Bradley Centre Repurpose twin pad budget Eliminate "Director, Engineering and Transportation Services" position and repurpose salary/ benefits	30 Oct 2020, 07:39 PM
602	By your question I'm assuming it's all about reducing services. I think we are top heavy. A lot of mtce public works used to do is contacted. When we merged all wages went to highest, service in some former towns etc was set higher than others and I feel it's now time to equalize services across-the-board. (ie) Chatham have all sidewalks plowed in winter, others have just downtown, some have leaves picked up, etc. Our small communities have budgets reflecting the larger communities. If services are reduced in my community any further our taxes will be 30% more than it should be. I think we should designate commutor roads. That is roads that connect communities. Winter control and mtce standards could wisely higher on these roads than the others. It would allow people to know the best way to get from, ie Blenheim to Ridgetown or Blenheim to Chatham etc. Have each department use budgets more wisely. In most cases if their budget is x, they feel they better spend or it will reduced next year. Bad management of money is our culprit. Bigger was supposed to be better, well here bigger means higher taxes.	30 Oct 2020, 08:08 PM
603	We don't have sewer hookup, street lights, garbage pick up, no sidewalks...it should be reduced.	30 Oct 2020, 08:43 PM
604	I'm a rural resident and pay for some services that I don't receive from CK and consider my taxes high for what I do get	30 Oct 2020, 09:09 PM
605	Reduce the number of municipal employees and managers working in the civic building.  Stop the three tier system for first responders. It makes no sense sending out a service when it os not required.  Also, prioritize police calls for service. If it Is not a police matter tell the people so. It is a drain on resources costing taxpayers.	30 Oct 2020, 09:12 PM
606	It seems like our taxes go up but the services are reduced, so reducing more services will not lower our taxes or stop them from increasing. Erieau used to have garbage pick up twice a week... now it is once a week and limited amount that can be put out.	30 Oct 2020, 09:17 PM
607	Unnecessary things. You took away sidewalk plowing but then waste money in areas like arenas and sports. Terrible. Taxes are so high in Chatham, it's ridiculous.	30 Oct 2020, 09:25 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
608	We hardly need the street cleaner. it only does where there are curbs of which there are hardly any or on one side only. Stupid waste of money. I have seen the salt truck and plow go by on a bare street. that salt ends up in Rondeau Bay. Garbage pickup could certainly be once every two weeks. Our huge container has a small kitchen catcher bag in it. garbage collectors should not pick up obvious bags and boxes that should be in the recycling.	30 Oct 2020, 09:28 PM
609	Less services to outlying areas	30 Oct 2020, 09:40 PM
610	When is the municipality going to address the policing budget to stay status quo or reduce their budget when they continue to pay for officers that have been off for misconduct or other offences and are still getting paid. IE: 4 times over 100000\$ a year adds up.	30 Oct 2020, 09:41 PM
611	Police and Fire budgets are way to high for a community of our size.	30 Oct 2020, 09:50 PM
612	Administration/city jobs should be cut and pay freezes should be considered.	30 Oct 2020, 11:12 PM
613	Fire and police, parks, garbage pickup, street lights, mayors pay	31 Oct 2020, 07:13 AM
614	Police budget. Municipal employees. Way too many	31 Oct 2020, 07:19 AM
615	The number of people working at job sites ( filling potholes ). Why do you need two trucks and 4 to 6 people filling holes. All trucks have safety lights !! Stop giving everyone a truck or car to take home at night they are company units not personnel units.	31 Oct 2020, 09:07 AM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
616	<p>This is a very leading question. It assumes that the only way to cut taxes is to reduce services. I think you could reduce management and administrative positions by 10% easily and not affect services provided. I suspect that there is lots of room for efficiency improvements as well as being a little more frugal with the tax payers money. For example, in our first year here we saw a street sweeper once. This summer we saw the street sweeper a half dozen times. I would like to see more actual workers and less administrative support.</p> <p>However, if we can only reduce taxes by cutting services, perhaps would be worthwhile issuing a survey to all residents with all the services listed and allow each resident to rank their top 20 (or so) in order of priority to them. This multi voting process would give the municipality and council a good idea of where the money should be spent.</p> <p>We moved to Chatham in January 2018 from Kincardine. We sold our \$255000 house and bought one for \$250000. Our taxes went from \$2400 to \$3500 and our water almost doubled. Our 2020 final bill was for \$3795 (including education). I see the fine folks in Toronto pay half that.</p> <p>Looking at the 2020 Budget pie chart (Average Household Contribution to Municipal Services), I recommend taking 10% off policing and Infrastructure and Engineering Services, and prioritize the important functions within those divisions.</p> <p>With respect to policing, we seem to spend a great deal of money for the level of crime I see reported in the police blogs and local papers. The police seem to have the best cars, uniforms, guns, EDWs, buildings, pay and benefits, etc., but our poor teachers have to bring in their school supplies. With respect to infrastructure, maintain/replace what we have with cost control always in mind (e.g., the original Victoria street plan had all the unnecessary bells and whistles). Approve new infrastructure if the business plan supports it and can be done on the approved capitol budget.</p> <p>Bottom line for me is that the municipality needs to be more fiscally responsible and limit average tax increases to the annual CPI.</p>	31 Oct 2020, 11:57 AM
617	Staff levels. The focus is always on connecting service levels to staffing levels. Of course there is a correlation assuming staff are all working efficiently. But they aren't.	31 Oct 2020, 12:08 PM
618	Rationalize Muni staff with proper LEAN process (XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX attempts are this we're not properly resourced & was a waste of our \$) - done properly with proper levels (Master Black Belts etc) would save on HR expense as it streamlines flawed, counter productive and unnecessary processes in every department of Administration.	31 Oct 2020, 02:41 PM
619	Reduce operational costs	31 Oct 2020, 05:08 PM
620	Too much middle management. Lean it up. You don't need so many people to manage the services we do have	31 Oct 2020, 10:06 PM
621	Not reducing services but finding savings within all areas of the budget. A great example was the grass cutting reduced this past year so in hot months the grass was cut less. Others would be only necessary renos to City Hall, reducing costs of arenas by closing alternate days to reduce staffing and maintenance.	31 Oct 2020, 10:56 PM
622	Too many people riding around in Chatham-Kent trucks, then going to the same location, then doing nothing Lighten up the top end	01 Nov 2020, 06:40 AM
623	less administration in all departments. fewer full time staff contract out more services such as roads	01 Nov 2020, 09:35 AM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
624	The taxes on farm land are rising faster than farm income. Farmers who farm with no till and cover crops could pay a lower rate as they are providing help with carbon sequestration.	01 Nov 2020, 11:18 AM
625	Fire/police budgets should be scaled back, especially Fire services. Public works services should be privatized and contracted out. The city admin, has the largest number of employees in the municipality; should these be scaled back? Outside consultants are expensive and not always necessary.priority given to local businesses for contracts and tenders, within a reasonable small cost differences. IE, Hamilton is doing this now.	01 Nov 2020, 11:23 AM
626	Decrease grass / yard maintenance and gardening of public space. Decrease financial support of events / parades, etc. Consider decreasing staffing levels and move toward online services.	01 Nov 2020, 12:52 PM
627	Living in country we have no amenities and are taxes have increased that are affordable	01 Nov 2020, 03:57 PM
628	Cut administration costs. Too many making too much money.	01 Nov 2020, 04:59 PM
629	Administration is far too high within the municipality. Future planning should also be considered with projects and road repair so that you fix all items at once	01 Nov 2020, 05:45 PM
630	Should reduce funding to the city of Chatham for services that are exclusive to the city. Smaller rural Communities pay for services we never get to use.	01 Nov 2020, 07:12 PM
631	You should lower the taxes because you already charge to much for our city. No cuts should be made.	01 Nov 2020, 08:17 PM
632	Full time fire fighters in Wallaceburg! Or actually utilize their volunteers, instead of calling in overtime full time with EVERY call!	01 Nov 2020, 09:12 PM
633	Staff reductions through attrition. There are jobs that can be eliminated and not filled when they become vacant. Recently work was done on my street 7-8 staff show up only 3 actually working. Others stand around watching. Close Wallaceburg arena and use Walpole and Dresden. Close Ridgetown arena and use Blenheim. Although saving will only result if staff are let go not reallocated. Drop all non essential spending such as supporting groups and services. If they can't make on their own they are not needed.	01 Nov 2020, 09:50 PM
634	Full Time Fire Service	02 Nov 2020, 05:49 AM
635	Reduce staff. Don't build the new arena.	02 Nov 2020, 09:32 AM
636	That big arena they want to put in they need an addiction centre and homeless shelter and more affordable living	02 Nov 2020, 09:59 AM
637	reducing taxes for rural households - do not have the services that in town households have	02 Nov 2020, 10:35 AM
638	low traffic rural bridges, consolidate arenas & libraries	02 Nov 2020, 02:39 PM
639	Cultural funding	02 Nov 2020, 03:20 PM
640	I wouldn't reduce services, but reduce wages	02 Nov 2020, 03:54 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
641	councillors', mayor's and bureaucrats' salaries, outsourcing	02 Nov 2020, 05:14 PM
642	I guess I would need to see a list of all services to decide	02 Nov 2020, 08:29 PM
643	Employee have a benefit package that is extremely expensive, why should I have to pay for it!	03 Nov 2020, 12:30 PM
644	Maintenance and number of culverts. Given the disparity between urban and rural mill rates, something rural has to give.	03 Nov 2020, 02:27 PM
645	Human Resources, leisure, projects within the city of Chatham,	03 Nov 2020, 03:13 PM
646	We could start by reducing the number of councillors next election. The most common reason given for the number of councillors in CK is our large area. Timmins has an area of 2978.83 sq km and has 8 councillors. Sudbury has an area of 3228.35 sq km and a much larger population. They have 12 councillors. The salaries may not amount to much compared to the total budget however every little bit helps.	03 Nov 2020, 03:53 PM
647	The cost of Policing. And Emergency services. 100k for ens workers with little to no education is way to much	04 Nov 2020, 07:48 AM
648	police	04 Nov 2020, 11:25 AM
649	rural property taxes	04 Nov 2020, 11:51 AM
650	Library, recreation, bridges	04 Nov 2020, 10:31 PM
651	Fire Department - we don't need full time Fire people	05 Nov 2020, 09:35 AM
652	A better question would be "what services do we pay for in the rural areas that are not provided to at an acceptable level?" Policing, winter maintenance etc.	05 Nov 2020, 11:59 AM
653	Staffing levels need to be adjusted down to reflect value for services received. Contracting out services should be seriously considered to reduced management overhead	05 Nov 2020, 12:07 PM
654	Ever since we became one municipality our taxes have doubled and in most areas have tripled. The services provided have not increased but have stayed the same with very few upgrades. The rural areas of the municipality are being left behind as council would like all services to be in the city. The small towns will then be no more.	05 Nov 2020, 12:46 PM
655	owning railroads theatres and too many people on the payroll contract out work more economical	05 Nov 2020, 06:06 PM
656	too much employee s being payed to do nothing	05 Nov 2020, 09:05 PM

## QUESTION: What services should Council consider reducing in order to lower taxes?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
657	<p>Revisit staffing and building infrastructure needs with the mindset of developing efficiencies and reductions.</p> <p>Staff reductions in certain areas with the intent to ensure staff are held accountable in their roles. Develop metrics to track performance. Noted Examples are with Parks and Rec and Public Works staff ....too much doing too little.</p> <p>A cultural shift to work from home as experienced by numerous corporations may facilitate a reduction in office space requirements and the need for less building infrastructure.</p> <p>Privatize municipality's involvement in certain areas such as Service Ontario, etc.</p>	05 Nov 2020, 09:31 PM
658	welfare	05 Nov 2020, 10:02 PM
659	Transit bus. Goes by my house twice daily with few to no riders on it. Snow removal on many sidewalks through out the municipality	05 Nov 2020, 10:28 PM
660	We are getting very little service, poor roads, no garbage pickup, all expenditures are on us.	06 Nov 2020, 09:43 AM
661	Living in a rural area, I feel that we do not receive the same level of coverage as a resident in the city. Since there isn't the same equity of service, that is why I feel my taxes are too high.	07 Nov 2020, 10:05 AM
662	Why are our taxes in Chatham Kent higher then the rest of other farm area.	08 Nov 2020, 07:12 AM
663	Parks and recreation bicycle paths walking trails and colour cross walks	08 Nov 2020, 08:10 AM
664	Reduce the amount CK employees. The more employees we have the less things are being done.	08 Nov 2020, 08:14 AM
665	I live in a rural area and get very little service as it is.	08 Nov 2020, 09:08 AM

## QUESTION: In what services should Council make a greater investment?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
1	human services- shelter, recreation services, bike lanes, affordable housing	13 Oct 2020, 01:50 PM
2	Fire and EMS services should be buffed up. A greater importance on helping people in need or people dealing with mental health crisis including those who may be chronically addicted to harmful substances.	13 Oct 2020, 03:54 PM
3	More Police present in smaller towns. A 45 minute wait is not acceptable . Ever night seems like nascar in Wheatley	14 Oct 2020, 06:36 AM
4	Homelessness, Safer Injection Sites, Low Income Housing, Youth Programming, Local Sports, Public Health	14 Oct 2020, 09:09 AM
5	Sewer water roads and bridges.	14 Oct 2020, 09:21 AM
6	Affordable Housing	14 Oct 2020, 09:57 AM
7	a) Additional walking and biking trails (ideally creating a network throughout the city from end-to-end), additional road diets, other traffic calming measures particularly around schools and high traffic residential areas, more bike lanes, implementation of "smarter" intersections, whether roundabouts or other inspirations from around the world that decrease the speed of traffic while improving pedestrian and cyclist safety. b) Additional general funding for infrastructure maintenance to allow for better long-term investments rather than shorter term fixes. Examples: replacing 100 year old bridge and intersection with roundabout near Merlin Road and Queens Line. c) Any support you can give to increasing access to high-speed internet throughout the municipality, particularly in rural areas. Either in conjunction with SWIFT, TekSavvy, or just on our own. Some places in the world have resorted to creating their own municipal ISPs (usually with good success) to help get internet to hard-to-reach areas, but with our own local ISP already in place (TekSavvy) it makes sense just to contract them directly. If done in chunks with "lower hanging fruit", ideally the average cost can be driven down.	14 Oct 2020, 10:24 AM
8	Help to support veterans, the homeless and the disabled. To increase Welfare to \$1800.00 a month per person. And to cut the police budget by 20%.	14 Oct 2020, 06:16 PM
9	Services should be offered outside of Chatham proper, more of the smaller communities do not benefit from services offered.	14 Oct 2020, 08:15 PM
10	Emergency services	14 Oct 2020, 09:23 PM
11	Roads,	15 Oct 2020, 07:29 AM
12	Community services I.e. new arena/community centre.	15 Oct 2020, 04:46 PM
13	Infrastructure	15 Oct 2020, 05:02 PM
14	Recreation such as bike paths, community arenas, pools, etc.	15 Oct 2020, 06:01 PM
15	Trees and public transport	16 Oct 2020, 02:10 AM
16	Infrastructure such as bridges and road. Our roads are behind in repaving.	16 Oct 2020, 07:30 AM
17	You should use the tax increase to MAINTAIN current levels of service instead of looking for cuts.	16 Oct 2020, 09:02 AM

## QUESTION: In what services should Council make a greater investment?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
18	Public Health and Community Engagement initiatives that increase the overall health of the community - such as increased recreation facilities, better use of local food, etc.	16 Oct 2020, 09:18 AM
19	Community and Social Services, Housing, Library and Education	16 Oct 2020, 09:43 AM
20	Public health	16 Oct 2020, 12:21 PM
21	Better public transit for rural areas..more library hours for rural areas...transportation to municipal recreation and hospitals for rural areas...	16 Oct 2020, 01:10 PM
22	K	16 Oct 2020, 01:13 PM
23	To clarify, I don't believe it's too low, but poorly allocated. Greater investment is needed in longer term, sustainably focused community that will benefit our children and our children's children. Tree canopy, native gardening (stop mowing every open space!), Greater focus on the arts, spend less time and money assessing everything and learn from similar cities (adopt their policies)	17 Oct 2020, 06:23 AM
24	Seniors living and affordable housing	17 Oct 2020, 06:32 AM
25	add low cost recreational facilities such as outdoor skating rink pickle ball courts on arena surface during summer outdoor summer rinks for ball hockey	17 Oct 2020, 10:08 AM
26	Infrastructure; bike lanes; walking/park paths, more parkland. Creating a "liveable" municipality instead of just an agricultural/post-industrial one, which is what currently exists.	17 Oct 2020, 10:20 AM
27	Library	17 Oct 2020, 01:22 PM
28	Employment and social services	17 Oct 2020, 01:24 PM
29	Business Incubator support for student business @ St. Clair + Ridgetown Colleges	17 Oct 2020, 02:57 PM
30	Libraries, trails, addiction assistance	17 Oct 2020, 07:23 PM
31	Arts and culture. Roads and infrastructure.	17 Oct 2020, 09:15 PM
32	arts & culture, infrastructure, mental health resources, public transportation	18 Oct 2020, 11:18 AM
33	fix all our potholed streets	18 Oct 2020, 11:49 AM
34	Infrastructure (roads and old existing sewers and water lines), parks and recreation, addition dog park	18 Oct 2020, 05:31 PM
35	Police and Fire/EMS services enhancements, Roads resurfacing, Full-scale entertainment complex with Restaurants, OHL Arena, Sports arena and Hotels	19 Oct 2020, 12:05 PM

## QUESTION: In what services should Council make a greater investment?

No.	Contribution	Posted at
36	<p>1. Phrasing of sentence is problematic; cleverly denies you are wasteful with the funds you currently receive or at the very least could not be more efficient. Stop trying to reduce services.</p> <p>2. Improved health services - more clinics in the area, more doctors taking new patients.</p> <p>3. Health clinic providing abortions - local residents should not have to go to Windsor or London to have a procedure.</p> <p>4. Defund the police.</p> <p>5. Improve recycling services - more items should be recyclable - and keep these provincially funded.</p> <p>6. Garbage pick up could be reduced to biweekly if 5 and 7 are implemented.</p> <p>7. Provide green waste pick ups at certain times of the year ( see Windsor for reference).</p> <p>8. Salary reviews for municipal employees (particularly those at the top), to cut waste and eliminate redundancies.</p> <p>9. Repair Memorial Arena with money that was already earmarked for work to be done in the city</p> <p>10. Fix road in Erieau. This is tourism money being lost and PEOPLE LIVE HERE.</p> <p>11. Don't close bridges. This is a terrible idea. This is a community with rivers and creeks running through it. You should be looking to INCREASE the number of bridges (The Black Bridge, for example)</p>	20 Oct 2020, 01:06 AM
37	I think taxes are actually about right, but not how they're spent. Waaaaaaay too much on farmers bridges and the municipal engineering department. Seems as though most of their work is contracted out and yet we have GMs and Directors and a ton of staff. If we're spending all that money on their salaries, why are we also paying for it to be contracted out. Put that money elsewhere in the municipality. Like the crumbling infrastructure. Clearly, the engineering department isn't taking care of it.	21 Oct 2020, 07:50 PM
38	road repairs/infrastructure	28 Oct 2020, 11:55 AM
39	Community policing, bylaw enforcement, infrastructure - eg better lighting and restrictions in higher incident prone areas	30 Oct 2020, 07:42 AM
40	Rural road repair/re surfacing!	05 Nov 2020, 06:21 PM



## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
1	If you increase user fees ensure that those who can't access recreation services because of income have the same or better access to services than they do now. The bridge utilization and the opening of bridge questions did not provide enough information in order for me to be able to make an informed choice. The decision isn't as simple as "if more than x number of people use it, it shouldn't be cut". Citizens are more sophisticated than that. Provide us complete information.	13 Oct 2020, 01:57 PM
2	We need to invest in affordable housing for community members and solutions to help homelessness, mental illness and addictions in our community members to return our communities to the great small towns they can be again	13 Oct 2020, 02:55 PM
3	Why are bridge replacements the responsibility of all Chatham-Kent residents even though most rural bridges are only used by people living in that area. But as per a recent report - street lighting is only area rated to those that receive the benefit. I don't understand why we have area rated services and non area rated services. There are bridges, for example, that I will never in my life use, and only benefit those in close proximity to the bridge but they are not area rated and if Council considers closing one (that only serves a few residents for example McDougall Line Bridge) those few residents make some noise and the bridge stays, but all Chatham-Kent residents pay for that huge expense - I don't see the current system as fair! Council needs to consider what is best for all of Chatham-Kent - not just rural, not just urban and not just a few that make noise - they need to make some hard decisions and do what is right for ALL of CK.	13 Oct 2020, 02:55 PM
4	Quality of life no matter where you live in CK cannot be compromised. We are rural/urban community. This is not news. Our small communities are what puts CK on the map and makes CK a places to put down roots. If we want a balance of a high quality of life and financial sustainability in this context, we need to focus on service innovation, not closing or reducing hours of services to smaller areas. Get creative!	13 Oct 2020, 03:09 PM
5	Save money through a reduction in Council members	13 Oct 2020, 03:11 PM
6	Moving to Chatham has been disappointing. We regret moving here from Windsor. We pay equal taxes to other houses but are stuck in a home owners association that none of the 60 houses want - multi built it and left. We get no recycling or snow removal. We have come to the city to undo this mess but no action. St Lawrence home owners association wants value for our large tax dollars or a discount given our lack of services and street lights	13 Oct 2020, 03:44 PM
7	Council needs to consider that Covid has also hit the residents of Chatham Kent extremely hard, those who had any savings prior to the shut down no longer do. If council decides to take more from it's residents, they are leaving their people with even less to support themselves, local businesses and the very services Chatham Kent wants to provide as recreational. In addition the cost of living has increased but wages have not, the first expenses to go are those considered non essential, like recreational activities.	13 Oct 2020, 03:48 PM
8	Public sector needs to share in the pain of this pandemic and not "get ahead" of private enterprise employees or owners because of working in a government job vs private sector.	13 Oct 2020, 03:48 PM
9	Increase ambulance coverage above bare minimum.	13 Oct 2020, 03:49 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
10	I don't understand why you would even think about spending that much money to convert a bridge that is already there. Are there ongoing costs with having a swing bridge that are perpetual? Stop letting people from Toronto coming into our city driving up our house prices and property taxes. Are bridges and arenas the only area you will be deliberating about budgets? What about all the other issues that we may have as a community? If you are going to do an online survey about budgets and spending, shouldn't the survey include a bit more than just these two items?	13 Oct 2020, 03:50 PM
11	This survey was awful. Where's the context? E.g. 400 cars per day sounds like a lot (assumed 400 cars / 12 hours) to not be quite so "low" utilization. Trying to compare to, let's say Baseline Bridge? Langstaff Bridge? St Clair in Chatham? Can't compare. So how can any answer in here be honest and in good faith? (You did this for London libraries giving examples of their service levels).  Then the rest is simply asking questions about service levels in certain facilities. If one doesn't use those services, they shouldn't be able to determine the service level within per se. Eg. I should say "I don't use libraries, and could care less if they exist" or "I don't use libraries, but I see value in the community as they are" or "I don't use libraries, but view them as important milestones that should funded to best serve those who use the service" or something of the like.  I am not paid to make these surveys, but I am sure the municipality has someone. Without context, my entire result should be tossed because it is inaccurate and could quickly swing one way or another as actual information becomes available.	13 Oct 2020, 03:57 PM
12	We need more business /manufacturing here to provide jobs so people can actually not travel back and forth to windsor to work	13 Oct 2020, 03:58 PM
13	I believe it is very important to maintain current service levels at almost any cost. If anything, services should be expanded and never outsourced to private interests or "small business" owners with their own special and self interests. This council and others in the past seem to cater to what the "small bussiness" owners, wealthy, and well connected individuals believe and want. It's wrong. They are not the people who struggle day to day to make a decent living for their families. Their not the ones who need help and rely on services. Why should they be the ones making these decisions? This community does not have much to attract any new citizens, especially younger ones. It just feels like it's a mad dash to please the already established wealthy class in this city as everything is cut back further and the community continues to decline.	13 Oct 2020, 04:11 PM
14	Many services can be placed online. Taxes are very high for our area. We have had many new homes built and many new people join chatham kent. But yet our taxes keep climbing. Local businesses should be sought after in partnership to create a new sports complex. We keep doing short term fixes. Covid restrictions just pointed out the short falls on an extreme level but each administration keeps looking small picture. We do not have the jobs to support our community long term. Big box stores will not keep the community afloat. Outside money is what is driving our housing market and inflating the numbers. We need to attract new innovation to our area and fast. Other communities are passing us by.	13 Oct 2020, 04:13 PM
15	Facilities or arenas should be paid for by the users; we need more diversity for sport facilities, not just hockey arenas, but with a fee for usage. More efficiency for municipal staff and reduced staff. Farmers should pay their fair share of municipal taxes, as they the roads, bridges and other facilities as much as everyone else.	13 Oct 2020, 04:20 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
16	I get the sense that council is always looking to fund Chatham's needs ahead of the rest of the municipality	13 Oct 2020, 04:35 PM
17	Renting ice continues to be a cumbersome task in CK. The process needs to be streamlined to maximize same day or walk in rental traffic. Someone should be able to very quickly check ice availability on-line, decide to rent, check a waiver box, select insurance, and be triggered to pay via visa or debit, then that rental shows up on the computer of the worker at the rink. Currently, you can only rent by contacting CK Monday - Friday. The last minute \$100 ice was a great idea last year, and could be utilized even more, if people had the ability to book same day on-line over the weekend. The process to rent ice still requires a few emails back & forth, permit signing and scanning, and phone call to pay via Visa. All that to rent 1 hr of ice. It's been brought up several times over the years at various meetings, and still nothing useful has been done by CK to make renting ice easy & quickly for people to do. I realize staffing the rink is a challenge if no ice is committed to early enough. But we should be able to book part time help on weekend time, and promote walk up rentals.	13 Oct 2020, 04:49 PM
18	Suggestion, drop the "tax modernization" idea. It is beyond unfair to force residents to pay even a little for services they do not receive in their area. It's hard to believe this is even being considered. One of the main things people consider when purchasing a home is: what services are offered, and how much are the property taxes? People paying higher taxes to live in certain areas made that decision all on their own, it is not the responsibility of those who chose to live in low service areas to pay for the services of others.	13 Oct 2020, 05:11 PM
19	I have lived in 3 different provinces, and 5 different cities in Ontario. I am completely mind blown by the property taxes in this city. I will never be okay with paying almost 2% in property taxes when we don't even have a proper Rec centre. My son's play hockey in Tilbury most of the time. Why am I paying 2% in taxes, and then driving an hour to other cities to play hockey? Then I have to drive my kids to Blenheim for swimming lessons. We have the saddest mall I've ever seen, and it occupies the downtown core. What on earth does our 2% pay for??? I have paid at most 1.0% everywhere else I've lived and had access to incredible Rec centres, large museums, beautiful downtown's, incredible shopping. The city doesn't even mow the lawns quick enough. I am DISGUSTED that we pay so much for so little.	13 Oct 2020, 05:19 PM
20	Please just remember people are struggling here, advertising in Toronto, Kitchener etc. has only caused prices here to become out of control and the only people benefiting are real estate sales people....	13 Oct 2020, 05:21 PM
21	My thoughts are we need to manage costs not always look at reducing. Services can not keep asking for more examples police, fire administration in the Municipality. Private sector went years without raises. If people leave quit so be it.	13 Oct 2020, 05:25 PM
22	I think a zero percent tax increase is not a priority however appreciate the consideration of finding way reduce a big increase. I like the idea of reducing libraries and reinvesting into a stronger one with more services. I'd like more investment into crime prevention, addiction services and a permanent municipal homeless shelter.	13 Oct 2020, 05:30 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
23	<p>Question 10nshould have an option to respond with 0. Question 11 should have option of long term tax savings.</p> <p>Reduction in staffing at the municipality needs to be examined as population in area has decreased as well as industry had moved on.</p> <p>Municipal employes should also be mandated with wage reductions and or wage freezes to be comparable to average wage levels of other industries on the area.</p> <p>The high taxation rate in our area is it sustainable into the future. We will experience more people exiting the area to spread that offer a more reasonable taxation level vs services available.</p>	13 Oct 2020, 05:54 PM
24	Taxes are far to high for property. Services are limited. Libraries are good but really we only need one. A good one. Others can be repurposed into shops or tourist buildings for businesses to bring people to Chatham Kent. Also the shoreline of Chatham Kent is our issue. We need to invest in and use our beaches for locals and tourists. Hotels and development should be encouraged. Restaurants. Resorts. Trailer parks and attractions. Prior to living in Chatham Kent I was living in korea. The countryside tourism is very profitable and we can mimic things here with deregulation and easy finance options for tourism businesses. Local dollars are good but we need more tourists to support the local economies or all small towns will die.	13 Oct 2020, 05:57 PM
25	I think that if ever there were a year for council to make a zero or negative increase a reality, this is it. The tax rate is unsustainable for local business owners, and other municipalities are starting to look more reasonable for business expansion. The economy has been hit hard, and this is not the year for 'would likes' in the budget. Get lean, do not compete with local businesses/organizations, and make sure the process is as transparent as possible.	13 Oct 2020, 05:59 PM
26	This survey is far too simple. Show us a survey with where dollars are spent by department and the budget figures. For example, Let us comment on the cost of roadside grass cutting (a complete waste of money by the way) and what it includes etc, then we can make informed choices.	13 Oct 2020, 06:20 PM
27	You have to remember that people live outside the city limits. We also need things and do not want to drive to Chatham every time we need to read a book or pay a bill.	13 Oct 2020, 06:21 PM
28	I wish you would hire someone to go out and generate business for this city. Factories, warehousing places, things to boost our economy. Putting this all on residential is killing us.	13 Oct 2020, 06:22 PM
29	No tax increases, lower prices on building permits to grow service and industrial building.	13 Oct 2020, 06:32 PM
30	There was no "increase/restore service hours" option for libraries. The "touch points" - transit, libraries, service centres and policing - should be increased outside the city. Save some money and makes a GHG emissions reduction without causing much inconvenience by making garbage pickup biweekly except in high density neighbourhoods, and asking everyone to put garbage and recycling out on one side of the road except on arterial roads, cutting VMT for the trucks by up to 40%.	13 Oct 2020, 06:35 PM
31	Please do not cut services in smaller communities. This is where people met, services are rendered understand how a smaller community may function. We also need more police presence in rural areas and affordable housing . Perhaps lower taxes for businesses would bring more small buisness to smaller villages.	13 Oct 2020, 06:46 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
32	I feel like there are other places to cut budget spending.	13 Oct 2020, 06:49 PM
33	I feel most of the questions were useless. You were asked to make decisions when factors to make the decision weren't available. If this is an information base used by council no wonder things are screwed up. A lot of the questions were missing simple options for example under library what about adjusting hours or days open ,arenas do you need ice October 1 to March 30 , do ball diamonds need worked on even if no one played the night before. Small changes can save money and spur creativity	13 Oct 2020, 06:50 PM
34	Cut out everything that isn't essential and user must pay full prices instead of tax payers footing the bill. Taxes in near by Lambton county are half of what we pay!	13 Oct 2020, 07:14 PM
35	We need more alternative transportation (e.g., bike paths) to reach key areas	13 Oct 2020, 07:14 PM
36	Seniors need to have libraries in small towns as so many are not able to drive & could walk to get books or return books. Chatham seems to think they should get everything, not every parent can afford going there for sports leave the arenas.	13 Oct 2020, 07:15 PM
37	Sell off or privatize arena and recreational facilities. Too many people are not able to use what is here.	13 Oct 2020, 07:36 PM
38	After the year we have had. Please reduce taxes. There are so many people who can't afford a increase. We don't want people leaving.	13 Oct 2020, 08:03 PM
39	It would be nice to see chatham kent deamalgamate. The smaller communities were much farther ahead before. And the opp was in place. More reliable and trusting officers. I have no desire to go to chatham anymore XXX XX XXX XXXXXXXXXXXX XX XXX XXX XXXXXXXXXXXX XXX XX XXXXXXXXX XXXXXX XX. Industry is gone, and it is turned into a retirement town now with a bunch of new canadians imposing. Our family owned a good section of land on the river in town. Used to be a nice area. Not anymore. Its gone down hill.	13 Oct 2020, 08:06 PM
40	for libraries in small rural towns ie Thamesville , Merlin why not go back to the library mobile?	13 Oct 2020, 08:16 PM
41	If possible an extra ambulance added to service as well as an increase to local volunteer fire departments would be beneficial	13 Oct 2020, 08:35 PM
42	In lieu of Covid 19 and not being able to have ice times for drop in activities like stick and puck and public skating ... there should be some level of family Ice rental option for a fraction of regular cost if ice time is left unused and unrented by adults. Some useage and fees collected seem better than none.	13 Oct 2020, 08:36 PM
43	More services should be provided online in a more user friendly way. Culture services can be provided in the community and online. Libraries provide more than books and act as vital community hubs.	13 Oct 2020, 08:39 PM
44	Start thinking of smaller communities and less about Chatham	13 Oct 2020, 08:49 PM
45	Employ a bylaw officer responsible for each ward. Too many things go unnoticed or unchecked. Fines would bring in extra revenue, that would offset the wages of the bylaw officers. I realize many things go unreported, as people feel nothing would be done about it anyways. Many bylaws, such as cars parking where they shouldn't, is a waste of a police officers time. This is where bylaws should be enforced. Dogs barking. People burning things in town. (fires) etc.	13 Oct 2020, 08:54 PM

## **General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget**

No.	Contribution	Posted at
46	Priority should be given to small businesses as the pandemic has hurt them the most. There should be a contingency to help our small business owners that already exist and to promote our community as family friendly so that more small business will want to come to our municipality. Infrastructure is an ongoing item but it needs to be dealt with using a long term solution and not just putting a bandaid on it until next time. This costs the tax payers more money in the long run	13 Oct 2020, 09:04 PM
47	CK Council has always been a train wreck. CK is the armpit of Ontario and property taxes are a joke compared to what services you receive. A family member lives in St Clair Twsp, bigger lot, on a main road for half the price with excellent service. Chatham first attitude is getting old! Just get it over with and tarp and chip all of Wallaceburg's roads, looks like that's the way it's going! Looking to move out of town and not look back!	13 Oct 2020, 09:12 PM
48	Amalgamation happened over two decades ago. Make hard decisions and bring us into a stronger future.	13 Oct 2020, 09:19 PM
49	There were no questions related to the salaries of administrative personnel. That is where the excessive spending is. There is lots of money in the system. Appropriating it to personnel with excessive salaries is the problem.	13 Oct 2020, 09:19 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
50	<p>Truthfully, I don't think this questionnaire is fair. You're targeting a few areas within an array of departments throughout CK which take a minimal percentage in comparison to other departments. I think when budget cuts need to be analyzed, every department should contribute to a cut in order to keep services across the board going for everyone in the community. It's quite mind blowing to see which departments seem to continue receiving new programs, services and new accessories. I would rather see other underappreciated departments receive that funding or attention.</p> <p>Since Covid-19 started spreading within our community, I've been curious to see how money is being distributed since certain services were not being provided. Somehow, more money still flew out the window and those departments were not employing staff or providing public services to the communities in CK. It's public knowledge that the municipality received funds from a provincial level to balance the accruing debt. I can imagine that the emergency shelter has something to do with this, which I understand its need but I also believe there could be a more permanent long-term solution rather than renting spaces; i.e. Bradley Centre and wherever it is now.</p> <p>Covid-19 has been entirely unprecedented. No one expected this to happen and nobody knows when this will "end." Our communities are suffering. Our communities need essential services for mental health stability.</p> <p>1) Recreation - I can't recall the prices of all the programs offered but activities are needed for children, adults and people with disabilities. I do recall it being overpriced and my husband and I opted for a YMCA membership instead. I think a monthly membership to include more activities per person or household would be a better use of all the arenas.</p> <p>2) Arts and Culture - the only place this is offered is in Chatham. It's not even offered in the surrounding communities. People from other communities are paying taxes for the population in Chatham to have easily accessible arts and culture programs. Although we're not far, I'm not driving all that way after a long day at school to have an evening art class. Especially in the middle of winter.</p> <p>3) Libraries - Why do you always target the library? It was one of the only questions in the survey that was so specific regarding the options of which CK may take with them. The comparison you made with London and its locations and population is an unfair assessment. You're comparing a very condensed city with easily accessible public transportation to rural CK with minimal and expensive public transportation. Not to mention anyone with a disability that is unable to travel or feels unsafe to travel. I would rather see amalgamations with buildings and departments vs. the closure of libraries, their services and for their amazing staff to lose their jobs. The library is always underappreciated. Since Covid-19 started spreading in our area, my family and I depended on CKPL. We were able to utilize their resources for entertainment and educational purposes. It helped us with homeschooling and it's now helping us with art and STEAM kits. I think they need to be more appreciated and internally promoted rather than consistently cutting down to meet the needs of everyone else.</p>	13 Oct 2020, 09:21 PM
51	Properties with no services in rural areas should not have high property taxes. We have hydro, that's it. No water, gas, dsl cable for internet, no garbage pick up and we live on a dirt road. Why are our property taxes almost \$4,000 per year! It's insane. We have friends who live in town who only pay \$500-\$800 more and have all those services.	13 Oct 2020, 09:21 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
52	This is an opinion but it seems Chatham residents don't like to leave Chatham but rural residents are expected to potentially give up services such as pools and swimming lessons, libraries, arenas (if not repurposed) and will have to drive further to access services. As a rural resident we had to pay thousands of dollars for water access, we don't have garbage pick up, no municipal sewer or septic and it seems we are always fighting to keep services in our rural communities and we pay the same taxes.	13 Oct 2020, 09:35 PM
53	Hyperlinks to more information or data on the information would be appreciated	13 Oct 2020, 09:36 PM
54	Get rid of the potholes	13 Oct 2020, 09:42 PM
55	Please increase walking & cycling routes along by the river. Put some parks by the river and some swans. We have a river but cannot experience it.	14 Oct 2020, 05:19 AM
56	Community engagement is a great idea. I was excited to see and participate in this survey. I was however disappointed by answer options and lack of comment fields. In most cases multiple choice options were misleading and steered towards what seemed to be a preconceived plan. The general theme in this survey is how to cut services to save taxes. Based on this survey there doesn't seem to be a plan to stimulate growth and revenue to offset tax burdens. Reduction of some services and elimination of infrastructure may be counter productive to growth and development in our communities.	14 Oct 2020, 05:27 AM
57	Population is getting older can't afford a raise in taxes	14 Oct 2020, 05:45 AM
58	The questions you ask in this survey not sure are going to help you in the way that they are worded or that you can't comment on why I answered the way I did. A lot of what you ask is not a yes or no answer. Comparing Chatham to London for libraries is not fair London urban where Chatham rural. I wish you'd spend more \$ on traffic lights since lots not working 100% and I use traffic lights more than a library every day. As far as usage fees the problem is that some will not be able to afford to use that service then which also isn't fair.	14 Oct 2020, 06:45 AM
59	I know people that pay close to and over \$10,000 in taxes and are not living in mansions....and for what? Maybe we should focus on bringing in businesses instead of having property owners foot the bills for everything. Taxes in Chatham are getting a little crazy.....not sure how our local government fails to recognize this. What do we have in Chatham that would make it worth so much to live here?	14 Oct 2020, 06:51 AM
60	we seem to have to many county workers driving around with little to do.	14 Oct 2020, 06:56 AM
61	More detailed accounting needed, when proving information to the public regarding budget discussion. I would be in favor of hiring a full time accountant just to track the expenses for the public interest.	14 Oct 2020, 06:57 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
62	<p>My concern is that Blenheim residents along with other communities should have sidewalks salted and cleared by municipality</p> <p>The sidewalks are municipality owned and maintained when needing repair</p> <p>Too many seniors and disabled can't shovel and maintain sidewalks the cost of salt alone is expensive for residents</p> <p>I live on a corner lot on disability 835.00 a month how am I suppose to pay for salt and hire snow removal? The cost of hiring a municipality law enforcer in each community would be equivalent to cost of a plow running up and down the sidewalks</p>	14 Oct 2020, 07:03 AM
63	<p>Why should the smaller communities pay for things we don't get and</p> <p>Have to pay out of our pocket for things city people get for free The low income property owners are suffering. Not everyone who lives in mitchells bay are rich.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 07:10 AM
64	<p>I would agree with some closures BUT not for areas with access to one branch of the library of, one arena, etc. I do not believe that families should have to travel far for their services - example Ridgetown, Blenheim, Wheatley, Tilbury, Wallaceburg, etc. should not have to travel into Chatham for library or arena services.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 07:14 AM
65	<p>Library question. You don't necessarily require more hours but better more useful hours.</p> <p>Some of the libraries have very odd hours .</p> <p>So either increase or make them more useful in the hours that are kept for the client base that use them.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 07:17 AM
66	<p>Do not make rural residents subsidize Chatham anymore. Do not "level" or "smooth" or "adjust" base rates so that farmers pay more. We don't have sewers or paved roads or street lights. We don't make as many police calls for service and many of us have long response times due to the previous closure of local police branches. Do not take away the library; it's the only community service that we have. Cut your bloated levels of staff. I'd be interested in how many municipal employees that we have to pay for in a small municipality of 105,000.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 07:20 AM
67	<p>Need more sports services, especially soccer fields in Chatham only. Too much money is being spent on arenas and sports complexes etc in areas outside of Chatham that are not used enough or there are not enough people. Chatham needs to have a sports complex built or twin pad arena built, but shut down arenas in bothwell, wallaceburg, ridgetown, etc</p>	14 Oct 2020, 07:28 AM
68	<p>Garbage services were not mentioned. The service provided in Tilbury East is inconvenient only open on Saturday from 8 to 4. Difficult for residents who work weekends and very difficult for seniors to access. I do not support tax equalization that would increase taxes for rural residents when the services we receive are no where equal to residential services.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 07:29 AM
69	<p>To identify areas where savings could be made, ask municipal staff for their input. No one knows more about a job than the person doing that job.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 07:30 AM
70	<p>Questions found on the survey are the same questions discussed every year . Surely there is more to discussed. Every service provided comes at a cost. While every services can not stand on its own, it should be considered a luxury at the cost of the tax payer. Look to justify licensing and permit programs and their costs. Eliminate that which not make sense i.e.. Dog tags, backyard burn permits. Yet ensure consistent service across your reach. A tough task I ask of you but know you are up to the challenge.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 07:38 AM
71	<p>Just to reiterate that taxes are far too high for living on an unpaved road with no refuse collection</p>	14 Oct 2020, 07:38 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
72	Layoffs should be considered for programs/services not being provided as they are originally intended until pandemic is resolved.	14 Oct 2020, 07:40 AM
73	Taxes are too high ; the reality of the world is you do not spend what you do not have . Let the Federal and Provincial Government's operate unethically BUT the Municipal Governments need to be fiscally responsible and accountable no matter what their CAO desires.	14 Oct 2020, 07:40 AM
74	In my view the Municipality is on a collision course with a train. The city needs to start to think about the people that still live here. A new arena is NOT what we need, what we need is jobs! Not the job for life working or ( putting in time) for the city , but real working jobs. The city can save so much money by reducing waste, if the supervision in these garages can't do their jobs replace them with some one who can. Stop buying vehicles just because they are 20 years old. If they are in great shape keep them. The Municipality is more then just CHATHAM!!	14 Oct 2020, 07:41 AM
75	The answer is not shutting small communities down. aka less libraries. It seems like all decisions are based on Chatham, maybe we need to be separated and make our own decisions.	14 Oct 2020, 07:44 AM
76	Why were there no questions on road repair and not just tar and chip but proper repair and holding contractors responsible when a road falls apart a few years down the road in stead of just paying to repair it again at our costs. How about you start to have (supervisors) check on municipal workers not working or just driving around wasting gas I have seen on multiple occasions multiple workers sent out to a job to do what one person could do in half the time and both in different vehicles	14 Oct 2020, 07:51 AM
77	DO NOT increase rural taxes to lower taxes in Chatham. We get no services already - no garbage pickup, no street lights, never see a police car any more. I think you're going to have an uproar if you increase our taxes by 200\$/100 000\$ assessment. That is just not fair.	14 Oct 2020, 07:56 AM
78	Squandered money everywhere you look in this municipality. Property sale income loss of an old school to get it into the hands of a property development friend. Please tell me when anyone sold a property in this market climate at a loss... I'll continue waiting.	14 Oct 2020, 07:57 AM
79	Please do not support new spending on expensive upgrades like a new arena or spending an unknown amount of dollars for left hand turn lanes that traffic does not support A need for (based on the Municipality's own traffic study) \$225,000 on bike lanes and \$750,000 on fancy street lights for Victoria Avenue. Common sense spending PLEASE! Our residents cannot afford it!	14 Oct 2020, 07:57 AM
80	Please consider placing a crosswalk on Margaret Avenue midway between the bridge and the Hospital And continuing sidewalks on both sides of the street. The residents who live here are at risk when trying to cross the street and we pay an extremely high level of property taxes. We should be able to comfortably and safely cross a busy street.	14 Oct 2020, 07:57 AM
81	Unnecessary spending has to stop..not everything should be about chatham.	14 Oct 2020, 08:00 AM
82	Lower taxes please.	14 Oct 2020, 08:07 AM
83	reduce police budget reduce administration staff reduce cut that ck budget down by 5 percent.	14 Oct 2020, 08:10 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
84	During deliberations please take into consideration the effect of cuts on marginalized populations. I often work in the library in the evenings (pre-COVID, to work without interruptions from children) and am not marginalized but have observed first hand the importance of the library to people who otherwise would not have computer or internet access, a warm place to sit for a few hours, or someone to ask for help. Libraries and library staff deliver a lot more than book recommendations. I thought about these people a lot during lockdown.	14 Oct 2020, 08:11 AM
85	This survey is very skewed to reducing taxes in very low lying fruit and VERY outlying community focused. I believe staff is directing tax reductions to suit their recommendations.	14 Oct 2020, 08:12 AM
86	I don't agree that policing is equal in chatham- kent and saying this i don't Belueve we should All pay equal taxes for this service. Services in the out lying areas are compromised and although frustrating, I do understand.	14 Oct 2020, 08:12 AM
87	The concept of increasing the rural taxes is obscured. We do not get the same services as the bigger residential areas and should NOT have to help pay for those services. That is a Ludacris idea and should not even be considered. Would you pay for a meal that you are not allowed to eat? Clearly unacceptable!	14 Oct 2020, 08:14 AM
88	This feels like the sdh all over again. If something outside of Chatham is used marginally less it will be the first to close despite Chatham already being over saturated for many amenities.	14 Oct 2020, 08:21 AM
89	I am also hoping that Council continues their discussion surrounding tax rates between city and rural residents. I understand that it may be an 'inconvenience' for the City to have different tax rates across the CK but that goes with being part of a large Municipality. I don't see how those in 'Kent' should pay the same taxes as those in Chatham when it comes to police services, street lights and horticulture. We certainly don't get the same level of service as those in Chatham so why should we pay the same ?? Thank you.	14 Oct 2020, 08:21 AM
90	Listen to what your voters want, you were elected to represent us.	14 Oct 2020, 08:23 AM
91	Top heavy admin	14 Oct 2020, 08:25 AM
92	We need to maintain, open and add to all our cultural assets - they are major economic drivers as well as being vital to our quality of life.  Why no questions on supporting Tourism and small businesses?  Why no questions on paving rural roads where there are diversions because of shoreline erosion?  Why no questions on getting high speed Internet to isolated rural areas? Universal broadband is vital in this time of covid shutdowns.  Why no questions on keeping schools in smaller communities?	14 Oct 2020, 08:25 AM
93	Freeze taxes in this tough year of 2020. Everyone is hurting right now. Maybe freeze the police budget. It is very high every year.	14 Oct 2020, 08:33 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
94	This is eye-opening but without seeing actual numbers it's difficult to respond to some of these questions. Would closing a small library branch save \$50,000/year or \$500,000/year? No idea. And maintaining our existing network of bridges & culverts is bankrupting us. Nobody was ever guaranteed the shortest-possible route home for life -- rural residents included. Let's stop promoting that idea. People will still find their way to the store.	14 Oct 2020, 08:35 AM
95	A controversial tax change proposing the elimination of service charges in some areas of Chatham-Kent is the worst idea ever. An idea like this is only brought forth to keep the top heavy structure of our municipality. This tax change will snowball the size of each department thinking they will have more money to work with in reality it will increase our debt load. Please run this CK better. Reduce the debt. Run it like a viable business, and stop comparing us to other bigger municipalities when justifying projects.	14 Oct 2020, 08:44 AM
96	PEOPLE WANT CUTS NOT TAX INCREASES!!	14 Oct 2020, 08:45 AM
97	put more services in 1 building to save money . like pool, arena, library, municipal services etc. one location per town with recreation services also located in one spot.	14 Oct 2020, 08:45 AM
98	Don't ever close any of the bridges or change the moveable bridges to fixed!	14 Oct 2020, 08:47 AM
99	The tax increase is way out of line especially at this time	14 Oct 2020, 08:50 AM
100	We need to invest in CK to promote the growth of the population.	14 Oct 2020, 08:50 AM
101	Plesse don't increase rural taxes for services we don't receive. We don't have street lights, policing can take up to an hour a police officer if needed, especially at night. I know it helps urban tax payers but why shoulx we pay the same taxes and receive less services!	14 Oct 2020, 08:52 AM
102	Please reduce our taxes. We pay way too much!! We cannot afford to subsidize unnecessary things like arenas . We need snow removal from sidewalks! I know this is all going thru deaf ears because you do not care about seniors and disabled as you ignored us last budget and cut sidewalk plowing and try to make us salt. Terrible that you just don't care	14 Oct 2020, 08:53 AM
103	Stop hiding behind closed door meetings or not opening up chambers. You'll would spend on a consulting firm but won't use the Bradley Center for a meeting,	14 Oct 2020, 08:57 AM
104	Do not INCREASE Rural tax ... in order to DECREASE Urban tax. Why increase Rural residents' taxes ... with NO increase in the level of services provided (ie - police, lighting, waste management) ... these 3 minimal services will NOT improve !	14 Oct 2020, 08:59 AM
105	Our community is vastly different from most.... we are huge geographically. Mostly rural settings with not much to offer in terms of transportation from rural to city or visa versa. You can't be closing arena and libraries without some form of reliable transportation. That's just one problem here....quit trying to compare us to London or other locations....we are nowhere near the same in services.... start looking at cutting from the top of the city administration....we are too top heavy and we the tax payers at the bottom are getting tired of carrying the load and not getting the level of service we deserve.....	14 Oct 2020, 09:08 AM
106	Do not reduce snow removal on sidewalks because if that occurs the homeowner will need to pay someone to remove snow so it is not cost saving to the tax payer	14 Oct 2020, 09:12 AM
107	An increase in taxes is OK. It is to be expected. This way everyone contributes equally.	14 Oct 2020, 09:13 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
108	What are you doing with all the money generated by the wind turbines you invested the taxpayers money in? Council should never of agreed to let them be built. I hope you never make a monstrous decision like this again, without consulting the residents. Really sad you don't support the people who's water wells have been ruined from the turbines. Get rich quick schemes don't usually work out in the end, be better than the XXXXX XXXX days.	14 Oct 2020, 09:14 AM
109	do not make rural property owners pay more for less services. Who came up with that lame idea	14 Oct 2020, 09:21 AM
110	<p>We could have one main library in Chatham, and dropoff/pickup spots in other communities. So when the library in a smaller community closes, rather than forcing those people to Chatham to get books, they could reserve online like they do now, but pickup in their local community, without it having to have the same level of staffing (salary/hours.)</p> <p>At the start, a clear breakdown of what services are offered would be nice. I feel no one is going to say "lets have less firefighters to save money", but the fact that 40 hours or less was the "best case" usage for an arena seems silly to me. I'd much rather have my money go towards a 24/7 rec center with self service activities (walking track / gym / courts) than an ice rink that's used 25% of the time it sits there.</p> <p>Now is also the time Chatham-Kent needs to realize it is a geographically diverse area, and the costs to maintain it mean we don't get as many parks / splash pads / theatres / entertainment. Financially, you shouldn't be driving around in a new car with a new phone if you can't afford it, and when we have one of the highest property taxes in the province, perhaps it's time to get back to basics.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 09:29 AM
111	lower taxes	14 Oct 2020, 09:29 AM
112	Reducing Municipally funding resources only hurt our most vulnerable citizens. Not funding these items (ie. green infrastructure and libraries) will only hurt future residents and drive young families away from CK.	14 Oct 2020, 09:42 AM
113	Wallaceburg river area is a very underutilized asset. It would be nice to see the area upgraded and used for public use. Some of the public use ideas could be a permanent Farmers Market area, park with space for outdoor music events, playground and gardens.	14 Oct 2020, 09:51 AM
114	Seniors are maxed out with current property taxes now. Please no further increases.	14 Oct 2020, 10:04 AM
115	Reduce the police budget	14 Oct 2020, 10:06 AM
116	Please watch spending on project that wont make a good return in the long term. And investment IN the city (or cities) would be better for residents than projects outside of the city with no return (bike paths in the county). Also projects that cost the city money to maintain because of group recognition. (The lbgf sidewalk cost 5000 a year compared to a regular sidewalk at 2000 a year) thank you kindly	14 Oct 2020, 10:22 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
117	<p>a) Please add the option for "No opinion", "N/A", "Neutral", etc. for applicable questions. There are some services I don't use that I have no opinion on (i.e. arenas and related services) so I would rather not influence the opinion one way or the other for something that doesn't directly affect me. I would also suggest adding an (optional?) ranking question that allows the user to rank the different categories of services in order of importance for how money is allocated.</p> <p>b) For Council: for harmonizing the property tax structure, perhaps it would help ease the pain of rural residents by phasing in the simplified taxes over a longer period of time like 5 or 10 years? i.e. make the change, but then either provide a rebate or discount that diminishes over time.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 10:27 AM
118	I feel the services are about as good as can be expected. I really do not know what or where should be changed. As far as cutting services you won't make any body happy where you cut. As far as the library's you have to cut at the less used ones.	14 Oct 2020, 10:32 AM
119	NOW is the time to do things differently! As a community, we've needed to divest of infrastructure/services that are underperforming; especially if the money can be re-allocated in better ways. Think outside of the box!!!! Have the will to make the difficult decisions! It's not about how many votes council will lose, it's about making the tough decisions for a better CK.	14 Oct 2020, 10:32 AM
120	Please look into cutting wages across the municipality. We need to cut the fat and have more accountability for the staff. We are the employers and yet our taxes go up, our services get cut, and staff gets another raise. There has to be a cap set for municipal employees.	14 Oct 2020, 10:34 AM
121	Road maintenance must be a priority - too many 3rd world roads in Wallaceburg	14 Oct 2020, 10:36 AM
122	Good Luck!! Now is the time for change .....	14 Oct 2020, 10:39 AM
123	Reduce the overhead in the staff compliment. To fat at the top!!	14 Oct 2020, 10:45 AM
124	Please understand that in my area of Chatham Kent is rural, and has no street lights, sidewalks, or garbage collection. We rely on our own lighting, walk on municipal grass, at side of road, and pay for our own garbage collection. We have no municipal water, or sewerage systems. Our police service is extremely limited, to non existant. We cut all municipal grass surrounding our property. The cost of garbage collection alone, is over \$600.00 annually, which we pay ourselves. I feel that raising our rural taxes is unfair, and unjust to rural Chatham Kent residents. Our taxes are already well over \$3000.00 yearly, and would increase the penalty, for choosing to live in rural ChathamKent!	14 Oct 2020, 10:47 AM
125	Housing sales are soaring. Housing prices are soaring. What is being done with extra money being brought in with these sales? There should be a 0% tax increase for the next year and possibly future years. I am well aware of nearby communities who opt for a 0% increase and yet their services remain intact. Lower your staffing - there's no need to have such a FULL "house" so to speak.	14 Oct 2020, 10:48 AM
126	Wheatley is taxed heavily and left to fend for itself and beg for investment from the municipality. We need water front investment. It is a disgrace to see the state of our harbour and water front!	14 Oct 2020, 10:49 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
127	<p>Council needs to look a repurposing some of the under utilized arenas ie.. Bothwell, Wheatley and Ridgetown</p> <p>Fire Department is to top heavy not sure why we need so many Chiefs for a small community. Give more control to each Station Chief</p> <p>Need to look at cost savings in the Police Budget</p> <p>Get rid of Rec Programs let the YMCA deal with this huge cost savings</p> <p>Cultural Centre why is it needed when we have the Capital Theatre?</p> <p>Divest under utilized park lands that are not being used.ie Tupperville Park</p>	14 Oct 2020, 10:57 AM
128	Your library question is not accurate and seems misleading. The small centres outside of Chatham have libraries that serve those communities and drags your per capita out of line. However, eliminating one of those libraries and raising the number of people served by the remaining libraries is unfair as you have just taken away the ability of that community to reasonably access library services.	14 Oct 2020, 11:05 AM
129	The libraries are doing great work. Please continue to expand your innovative programming (seed library, play packs, curriculum for youth org etc) so that these resources will be used by more residents and community groups. We aren't like London-measure us against a similar county. Ie- Huron County has 12 library branches for around 60k people, or 1 library per 5k. They also take better care of their roads.	14 Oct 2020, 11:16 AM
130	Talbot trail solution is needed Now!	14 Oct 2020, 11:18 AM
131	Council needs to make decisions for the good of CK as a whole. This may mean that under utilized and accessed services/programs in smaller communities may need to close. Amalgamation happened a long time ago - we need to stop being so protectionist and make smart decisions.	14 Oct 2020, 11:22 AM
132	Please do not raise taxes. Lowering would be great but at the very least, maintain rates with a 0% increase. It's hard enough trying to keep personal finances in check these days.	14 Oct 2020, 11:24 AM
133	It is past time for Council to make some hard decisions and close some low-functioning or low-producing services. As a taxpayer, I'm frustrated to see money being wasted in every small community when many services are available close by (within 10 km). I live in Blenheim. I have to drive to Chatham for many things as do people from Highgate, Bothwell, Merlin, etc. Services in those areas need to be reduced and moved to a more central location . Unpopular? yes. Necessary, also a YES.	14 Oct 2020, 11:28 AM
134	<p>I answered NO to closing roads, but still had to answer the following 2 questions that pertained to closing the roads. If you answered NO, you should not have had to answer the other 2 questions. Answering them, made it seem that I would agree to closing roads.</p> <p>For the 2021 budget, all area charges should remain and they should not be equalized amongst all tax payers. The rural community should not have to carry the urban residents.</p> <p>Rural community do not have the same level of police, fire or ambulance services as those in the urban setting. We do not have street lights, so why should we pay for them. WE do not have horticulture, so should not have to pay for it. We do not have transit, so should not have to pay for it. We do not have garbage pick up so should not have to pay for it.</p> <p>Chatham-Lent is 90% rural by area, but only 30% of the population live in the rural area. 30% of the population should not be supporting the other 70% of the population for services that the 30% does not use.</p> <p>Why not have the wind turbines actually pay the taxes for their actual worth. This would bring in more tax dollars for CK .</p>	14 Oct 2020, 11:39 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
135	Some of these questions, e.g. about bridges, almost forecast an inevitable closure. The library questions fail to take into consideration the geographic nature of CK as compared to London.	14 Oct 2020, 11:43 AM
136	Time for council to be reduced, too many councillors who are not informed enough to make decisions on all wards in CK. Also time for this mayor to stop his photo ops and make some tough decisions regarding the administration of this municipality. The Administration is not in charge, you are. Council is being hoodwinked by this administration to the benefit of Admins own agendas.....And do not tax rural residents for services they do not receive.....	14 Oct 2020, 11:45 AM
137	I think the property taxes in Chatham are outrageous	14 Oct 2020, 11:59 AM
138	I think we need to really think about how to bring people together and foster a sense of community. I think we already have a decent sense of community. Let's build on this let's make sure we are not exclusive; my children were athletic and played various sports. Not all children are nor can all parents add organized sports to their budget or time management. The arts are also important to be supported for those inclined. The theatre was a misuse of public funds. It should have been mostly privately funded. I don't think the whole of Chatham kent was ever going to use the theatre it is too expensive for most budgets. No one addressed parking, out of town visitors do not come away saying wow what a beautiful theatre and city... It is beautiful. They say where are we supposed to park to go see the show, they get treated badly by area businesses for parking in their lots. I've been at dance competitions and hear out of town people talk about how unfriendly Chatham is because of this issue. WE ask them to come but don't bring a car? I would have loved to see 75% or more of the theatres' shows but it is not affordable to the average or low-income member of our community. So to tax every person for a service they probably can't use is not a fair use of public funds. We have to think about what will benefit the most and maybe the less fortunate and lower-income should get more consideration. We could have mentoring programs for youth it could be trade-related or environmental related we have wonderful parks and nature areas that could have all kinds of conservation work. Youth could be part of changing the future. Maybe when covid is less of a problem we could have retired seniors do some mentoring maybe cooking, sewing, photography, handyman stuff. Again we have to be inclusionary our elderly and our youth need to be addressed. Maybe have open classrooms free or small fees in libraries and fund for supplies for the volunteer teachers. It could be painting anything... it seems like communities are most directed toward adults 20-65. I would love a class with a plumber on how to deal with everyday problems and simple fixes. More community more inclusive useful meaningful stuff. I teach fitness at the Blenheim senior centre and our seniors are a vibrant valuable part of our communities and our youth are our future.	14 Oct 2020, 12:05 PM
139	I know you must have the Dike Road and the people who lived there on your minds too. I suggest they be bought out BUT at what they paid for their places and no more!! (and even less in some cases where people just bought at inflated prices! ) People should never have built there. EVERYONE knew it was a dike road and the water could make it flood!! WE as the rest of the taxpayers should not be responsible for peoples stupidity!! One person built a brand new home just in the last few years in the really low spot where they were beside ruined houses still sitting there. It's like what the H is wrong with you????!!	14 Oct 2020, 12:10 PM
140	Why are we worrying about changing movable bridges into fixed bridges??? Do these bridges not work...are they falling apart? Why does Wheatley have to take the brunt of the inflation costs for everything that happens in Chatham?	14 Oct 2020, 12:26 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
141	Based on municipal workers that work for chatham kent; chatham kent is the lowest for wages, benefits, etc. In the surrounding area. Compared to windsor, essex, leamington.	14 Oct 2020, 12:29 PM
142	I feel like some of these options are unfair to those who do not live in Chatham. If they were to close our arena or library in Tilbury I would not want to pack up my toddler and baby and drive half an hour to Chatham for a half hour/ hour program and then drive an about half hour home. There is already less programs for us out here. We have to drive to Chatham or lakeshore for most things like dance, music lessons etc.	14 Oct 2020, 12:32 PM
143	<p>Please consider the cost to tar and chip all gravel roads in the municipality. The current maintenance is awful, and the operators don't seem to understand how to maintain gravel roads properly. The level of dust in rural areas significantly degrades the quality of life.</p> <p>Additionally, the approach taken to drainage is concerning. Most superintendents seem to favour clear-cutting banks, spraying chemicals all over everything, and then expecting grass to hold the bank. Some superintendents recognize the flaws to this approach, which include destroying habitat, increased erosion, reduced tree cover, removal of badly-needed wind breaks, etc. Add to this how ugly our municipality looks in areas where everything has been clear cut. It's a shame, and I ask that you please reconsider the typical approach and budget accordingly.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>	14 Oct 2020, 12:41 PM
144	Fix railroad tracks in Thamesville	14 Oct 2020, 12:42 PM
145	There needs to be different Line items to cut then recreational services that are going to impact the health and well being of our residents. We need managers of our facilities to start thinking outside the box and get things happening in CK especially our small communities — work with the user groups to get things done! Share ideas!	14 Oct 2020, 12:44 PM
146	Remember all of Chatham-Kent when making decisions please!	14 Oct 2020, 12:48 PM
147	Any increase in taxes should be reflected in addressing infrastructure issues in our municipalities. Flooding is a huge issue in Tilbury and until the infrastructure is addressed - it will continue to be.	14 Oct 2020, 12:53 PM
148	We need to figure out how to take advantage of and increase community engagement. Figure out how to reduce liability (sign waivers, limit/cap liability amounts - think outside the box) Arenas and other facilities could be staff-augmented by community volunteers/members. Turn canteens into business opportunities for students. Invest in technology to take advantage of and utilize economies-of-scale - e.g. A smartphone app could be used to make booking facilities easy and convenient (and automated), An app to bid on under-utilized capacity (ice-time) or to co-ordinate volunteers.	14 Oct 2020, 12:56 PM
149	Reduce staff	14 Oct 2020, 01:07 PM
150	N/A	14 Oct 2020, 01:08 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
151	<p>I strongly believe that we have a huge need for a true indoor sports facility. Not only do you have many places that it could be built but those places have been sitting empty, abandoned, or cleared and ready for development.</p> <p>Ontario Semi-Pro Football ...nfcfootball.ca already has 8 other teams and I think Chatham is in a unique position to create a new and very competitive team. We have many very profitable and secure businesses in Chatham that would be amazing potential sponsors.</p> <p>Another great sport already established in Chatham is our Havoc Rugby team. They would greatly benefit from this project as they would also be able to call this sports facility home.</p> <p>Other sport would also benefit from having a place to host indoor matches throughout the winter.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:09 PM
152	<p>Comparing Chatham-Kent to London on the Library question is unfair. London has excellent public transportation within a defined municipal area. Close one of their libraries and their public transit can take their citizens on to the next library. Chatham-Kent's public transit is minimal at best and our geographical area does not allow public transit to properly allow access for all residents to a library in a timely or convenient fashion should you close one.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:12 PM
153	<p>We need some more information to give answers to these types of questions. Maybe show us some \$\$\$ figures first?? Otherwise people blindly answer questions based on personal feelings instead of facts and real numbers! Yes I mean YOU! The one reading this, why wouldn't we show where \$\$ is going when we're talking about where \$\$ should go?? We're only allowed to address questions you deem appropriate??</p> <p>Come on now!</p> <p>Sincerely, A concerned taxpayer</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:18 PM
154	<p>I believe that the ratio of supervisor(s) to front line workers is out of balance. The need for many, many "head of departments" is too heavy. Perhaps more work could be done 'in house' rather than by outside consultants. Also, perhaps the department 'heads' could pull their own weight rather than shift the work onto the front line workers.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:26 PM
155	<p>Taxes have not come down since we been paying for over 25 years Used to go down the older the house got . But the tax rate keeps going up . Every other community near us , taxes are lower .Dont thing our services have gotten better .</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:28 PM
156	<p>Rural residents are fed up with the whole urban vs. rural mindset here. The latest proposal to raise rural residents' taxes while reducing city residents' taxes is preposterous. The municipality really needs to start remembering that there is a LOT more to Chatham-Kent than just the city of Chatham. Come on already - get over yourselves and start treating everyone fairly in this municipality. Agriculture is one of the main businesses in C-K. How about we start supporting rural residents and agriculture instead of the constant tax raises for very little services!?</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:39 PM
157	<p>I support the closing of rural bridges to keep taxes at maintainable levels.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:41 PM
158	<p>quit wasting tax payer dollars on the ridiculous Victoria Avenue project and concentrate on fixing our roads and city streets.....look to our outlying areas and towns and consider their needs.....USE COMMON SENSE</p>	14 Oct 2020, 01:43 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
159	The council needs to be mindful that most citizens do not receive increase in wages yrly but they have a mindset, that the citizens have endless amounts of money...Stop spending tax payers money like we are a rich community...It is disrespectful.	14 Oct 2020, 01:50 PM
160	Instead of taxing businesses in Chatham Kent until they leave the municipality for a better run local government, why not increase the tax burden back to the agricultural sector. Its very tough for a farmer to relocate the field outside the municipality. If the Audi Q7 with FARM plates is any indication they can likely shoulder paying they're fair share.	14 Oct 2020, 02:01 PM
161	Difficult keeping everyone happy good luck.	14 Oct 2020, 02:20 PM
162	Budgets are high, service level is moderate. Snow removal needs to be evaluated as other neighboring communities are way more efficient.	14 Oct 2020, 02:33 PM
163	I don't feel that is fair to charge us for services we don't get such as garbage pick up etc. I feel that we were better off before amalgamation. Taxes were sure lower!	14 Oct 2020, 02:37 PM
164	XXXXXX XXXXXX XX XX XXXXXXXXX XXXX XX XXXXXX who does not understand that the arenas, parks and recreation department are services, not businesses. How much money does the municipality get back in restitution from other services such as policing or pothole patching? Keep our kids active, healthy and off the streets	14 Oct 2020, 02:40 PM
165	Too many libraries and arenas for population. Thanks	14 Oct 2020, 03:05 PM
166	I've lived in Chatham for over 25 yrs now and am tired of the lack of a progressive way of thinking which in my opinion continues to hold this town back. We need commitment to improved public transportation and recreational facilities that maximize usage and safety. Every decision seems to be made years late and in a vacuum instead of taking the big picture (ie. skate park in an isolated location, disconnected paths or bike lanes, embarrassing arena conditions with bad ice and too high of rental fees). I've coached just about every sport here for over 20 years and we missed out on bringing visitors to town via hosting tournaments, provincials, etc because of the poor state of our facilities and lack of vision for putting together recreational complex (ie. exactly why the YMCA and college couldn't combine their efforts is a mystery)	14 Oct 2020, 03:06 PM
167	Wheatley is always neglected	14 Oct 2020, 03:28 PM
168	Please remove subjective ideas from questions - the survey is not a true survey if it is persuading people top answer a certain way.	14 Oct 2020, 03:49 PM
169	Build a new arena in Chatham. Keep Wallaceburg Bridges (Base Line, Train, Walking, McNaughton, specifically) movable. Stop reinvesting in low use rural bridges. Plant more trees. Stop unfair subsidies through taxation and grants - farm tax should be 25%. Consolidate municipal buildings.	14 Oct 2020, 04:03 PM
170	I would explore expanded services at Libraries and/or merge with Municipal Services or Recreation. Multi purpose buildings and wrap around services for people outside of Chatham	14 Oct 2020, 04:05 PM
171	I find that our tax dollars seems go to chatham ...we wait for surveys to be done ...2 years since we were flooded still nothing done	14 Oct 2020, 04:07 PM
172	I would like council to consider making bike paths more complete I feel Chatham lacks a means of outdoor recreation	14 Oct 2020, 04:13 PM
173	Quit hiring your friends and family for kickbacks	14 Oct 2020, 04:30 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
174	We live in a rural area. We have very little services but pay large taxes and we are not willing to pay for the services in towns etc. There is no equitable distribution based on services.	14 Oct 2020, 04:40 PM
175	I am in favor of Rural area tax increases and a decrease to Urban residents as has been discussed. It's time for the rich farmers to start contributing to our tax base. We are severely over taxed, as I know coming from a similar population base, and paying half the taxes with double the services. (Lakeshore/Tecumseh area)	14 Oct 2020, 05:00 PM
176	The taxes are so high in this community we are literally driving people away. Tough decisions need to be made for all of Chatham Kent. If the residents in Bothwell for example want to keep a library and arena then they should pay for it out of their pockets. Sick of Chatham taxes paying for the services of communities that unfortunately are in a population free fall how does a community of 800 or less people need these services? It's insane. Make a hard line on police and fire as well they eat the largest part of our budget. Time to look hard at cuts!!!! No more increases.	14 Oct 2020, 05:34 PM
177	<p>It is very unfair to compare the CK public library system to that of London. They are an urban area we are not.</p> <p>These comparisons seem like bribery. You agree to cut services and we'll lower your property taxes.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 05:38 PM
178	Poorly written survey. Most frustrating part: municipal workers who run recreational facilities should be responsible for creating reasons for those facilities to be utilized. A lot of those people employed by the municipality make you feel like you're causing them problems instead of treating you like a customer. Better people in these positions would create more revenue.	14 Oct 2020, 05:42 PM
179	<p>There are low income people who pay property tax and in some cases it is a struggle. Example- I am on ODSP I am allowed less than \$850 per month for shelter. Even without a mortgage my shelter bills are over \$900. Now my taxes have gone up slightly. I also have to pay for help to maintain the boulevard which is not even my property.</p> <p>I'd rather see some other service cut back to have lower taxes so I can actually afford food and other bills.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 05:49 PM
180	Taxes in rural communities are too high and those living in rural communities would not ever access or use a new arena in Chatham. This should not be in consideration in the budget. If Chatham wants an arena then those residents should pay with their taxes. To be honest we reside in CK but use many services outside of our community because of convenience. It's too far to go to Chatham when our neighbouring town outside of CK has all the services we require. I feel like our community members have to advocate for everything our little community has (what limited we do have).	14 Oct 2020, 06:00 PM
181	If you intend to increase rural taxes please complete another survey asking rural residents which services they receive (we do NOT have garbage collection) and which "city" services (like garbage collection) they would like to see. Then base your increase on the additional services needed, not just some random number you pulled from a hat to cover any Pandemic shortfall we may have, by unfairly taxing rural residents after giving yourselves a nice raise you could have easily declined.	14 Oct 2020, 06:01 PM
182	I strongly oppose the change in the allocation of police costs. Rural areas are under services already compared to Chatham. Rural officers are often alone. Chatham officers blink & they have backup. Same applies for ambulance services. I saw first hand the 45 minute wait for an ambulance during an afternoon.	14 Oct 2020, 06:15 PM
183	Do not raise the rural taxes to cover services we don't have	14 Oct 2020, 06:16 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
184	I'm wondering if there are any other areas of consideration that could help reduce the budget besides the ones mentioned in this survey.	14 Oct 2020, 06:19 PM
185	Rural areas and the smaller towns do not have as much police services and a few other things. Everything seems to go to Chatham first. I do not agree that these areas should pay more and get less services.	14 Oct 2020, 06:22 PM
186	Cut police budget and increase social assistance. Airport to offer flights to places!! Tear down mall and build plaza. Buy extra ploughs for sidewalks.	14 Oct 2020, 06:26 PM
187	Less staff lower taxes , seeing c-k trucks traveling down gravel roads wasting time ,fuel, totally disgusted ,with tax payer money.	14 Oct 2020, 06:32 PM
188	I recently heard about the possible elimination of the different tax rates based on services. I do NOT agree with this. I live outside of Chatham in Louisville and we do not have the many services that other areas have and enjoy. We don't have garbage pickup, streetlights, timely police response or full time firefighters to name a few services. Because of this we should definitely pay a lower rate of property taxes. Thank you.	14 Oct 2020, 06:36 PM
189	I found it hard to answer some of the questions without more info	14 Oct 2020, 06:47 PM
190	I find this survey to prepare to intimidate and manipulate deceive people we need to be able to have input from people that aren't afraid to tell the truth within the Chatham Kent staff including management this survey is very intimidating and very very deceptive to the actual problem s within the system if you would really like to know how people feel about Chatham Kent ask the people to do a survey on how they really feel about the amalgamation itself I'm sure the the will really be told	14 Oct 2020, 06:50 PM
191	Consider decreasing the wages for policing, counsel etc. increase the wage for health care workers and designate money towards sports especially for children in poverty.	14 Oct 2020, 06:52 PM
192	In closing Libraries, remember that the Highgate Branch serves a more senior population who do not have access to transportation or knowledge of the internet. Please do not close our branch.	14 Oct 2020, 06:53 PM
193	Great survey, thank you for letting me give my input!	14 Oct 2020, 06:53 PM
194	The smaller towns need to be helped out and considered. Beautification and green spaces are important and are severely lacking in CK. Chatham-Kent could save a boat load of money by reducing the amount of grass cutting that is done. Certain areas along road ways and unused areas should be allowed to return to natural state, a habit that surrounding municipalities have adapted and support. Not only is it beautiful but it helps in many, many ways by encouraging pollinators, birds, animals, reduction in snow drifting, better air quality and wellbeing.	14 Oct 2020, 07:03 PM
195	Budget should be based on services provided to each municipality. If you don't have police, town water or transportation why should you have to pay for others. If council would like to provide equal accessibility and availability then maybe we would consider higher taxes. But when you can't get an officer for 2 hours or your garbage picked up on the regular the mighty City of Chatham can pay for their own services. Do not keep putting increases on the little guy in the corner	14 Oct 2020, 07:03 PM
196	Wheatley has no Police not enough street lights etc. People in Wheatley do not need our taxes raised to make Chatham a better place to live. We have nothing in this small town.	14 Oct 2020, 07:05 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
197	Other questions are needed about quality of life changes in Chatham Kent. Activity based exercises, such as more walking/biking paths. More child and adult equipment in parks to promote exercise. More natural and creative children equipment in parks. People of all ages should have access to these outdoor/indoor activities to promote residency in our area. As far as the survey is concerned, I found the questions too general, not knowing what the amount of money is now being spent in these areas.	14 Oct 2020, 07:13 PM
198	I have noticed that there have been some road improvements and I am happy about that but would like to see more roads improved.	14 Oct 2020, 07:14 PM
199	You might want to revisit the questions you have asked, and provide options for people to input what they would like you to investigate. For instance, we would like you to keep library locations open, but investigate what hours each location should be open and customize service levels accordingly, especially in communities where the library also doubles as the municipal office or another municipal building. Get creative.	14 Oct 2020, 07:28 PM
200	It is ridiculous how poorly all HR work has been during this pandemic. I have looked at 12 similar sized municipalities in Ontario-t Chatham Kent and we have had the LOWEST layoffs of ANY of the 12 comparitors. Using summer student positions to boost the total number of layoffs claimed! WHoever is the Direct of HR should be fired for complete incompetence given the lack of a sound recommendation for layoffs of staff. Hydro revenues for C Kent are down. Servie fees eg areanas and rental of factilites is down. Money BUILT into the budget for spending coming from the local Casino is zero. Overtime is being paid to municipal employees when our largest employer-Enbridge-has reduced all non union wages by 3-5%. Over 4,000 taxpayers are behind in paying taxes. Taxes clearly will now go up, unless we borrow more money, more than inflation. Need I go on?	14 Oct 2020, 07:34 PM
201	More emphasis should be put on improving recreation facilities to encourage younger people to use and maybe retain these people in future to build tax base. The fire and police departments are over paid for the services they provide	14 Oct 2020, 07:42 PM
202	Bring back the free tree program. One tree per household in CK	14 Oct 2020, 07:46 PM
203	Our libraries and the services they provide to our community are invaluable in CK!	14 Oct 2020, 08:04 PM
204	Our taxes are already quite high for this area compared to other communities. Many are struggling as a result of the current pandemic, including myself. Therefore, increasing the amount of taxes during this time is going to make things really tough on those already having a hard time. Do we really need to invest in recreational facilities if many cannot be used to their fun potential?	14 Oct 2020, 08:07 PM
205	Consider a freeze on municipal wage hikes and benefits!!!	14 Oct 2020, 08:08 PM
206	Rural services are no where as good as Chatham city. Reduced level of service, less level of tax.	14 Oct 2020, 08:20 PM
207	This municipality is too large to offer services in one area and not in all. Decreasing services in smaller communities doesn't help. Especially in the Wheatley area where we are more likely to travel to a neighbouring Windsor-Essex community for services than going to Chatham. It's frustrating to watch our tax dollars be used in areas that we do not frequent.	14 Oct 2020, 08:24 PM
208	I feel that wallaceburg does not get the support that chatham does even though we are supposed to be part of chatham kent. We are forced to pay chathsm kent taxes but do not benefit	14 Oct 2020, 08:46 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
209	<p>It's very hard to answer such general non-specific questions. I think more info is required to answer in an informed way. Why would the option for arenas be repurposing and the option for libraries be closure? The savings are not described... I feel that these questions will only tell the Municipality what they already know: no one in Wallaceburg will want to make a moving Bridge fixed, no one in Highgate will want their library to close.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 08:53 PM
210	<p>Well this survey only wanted comments in two areas. First question and very last question. Unbelievable!</p> <p>For the question about arenas, well the arenas you are asking about getting rid of ice time in some location. The only one that I would agree to this is the one in Chatham as there is two arenas in Chatham one could have ice and the other not.</p> <p>One more thing on arenas. The staff seem to think we need a new arena and all bells and whistles and that we can close arenas that are not in city of Chatham. They have stated before that there are some arenas can close and the citizens can go to Chatham new or used arena for hockey or anything else. I say NO why can't citizens of the city of Chatham go to surrounding areas to play hockey or figure skate. What is good for some citizens is good for all citizens.</p> <p>One final thought, there is too many staff working at arenas, as the municipality vehicles are used too often in one municipality for sure.</p> <p>I thought there is one break in morning and one in the afternoon.</p> <p>As I was employed for many years and did not take a break sometimes every hour on the hour to Tim Horton's for coffee.</p> <p>Also, have two trucks go to same place.</p> <p>For a little over ten years I see a lot of infrastructure being done with new sidewalks and paving. I would e-mail one councillor about putting curb on our street and he finally got the curbs done from Canal street to our driveway but did not do the rest of the residents curb o the whole street of Boniface.</p> <p>In our area the replaced some curbs that had nothing wrong to them but maybe a crack. The infrastructure should start with areas that need curbs or sidewalks.</p> <p>Yes one more thing, we seen Richmond street coming from Tilbury was finally paved, while my husband and I drove to Chatham and seen the work that was being done and the new pavement. I said to my husband I will give the municipality two to four weeks and they will be ripping up this brand new paving.</p> <p>Guess what! It happened less than four weeks and they had to did up street at McDonalds.</p> <p>We pay the engineers working for Chatham good money.</p> <p>So pleased check and double check work you are approving so tax payers are not throwing our tax dollars away for work that should be done right in the first place. Mistakes are more than one occasion have had to be redo and it should not happen a lot.</p>	14 Oct 2020, 09:25 PM
211	The library question is ridiculous. That is the only place where you compare CK to another community - and London and CK are FAR from comparable. It feels like you're trying to use that comparison just to get the answer you want and you want people to say that you want to close library locations. Keep libraries open!	14 Oct 2020, 09:46 PM
212	There should be a 0% increase in taxes over the next however many years with the amount of new housing being built and families moving in, that should cover it	14 Oct 2020, 10:01 PM
213	I don't see any questions about waterfront erosion and how the municipality plans to move forward with lands and properties at risk of flooding.	14 Oct 2020, 10:10 PM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
214	A complete review of each department is required, including an accounting of all staff and their responsibilities. Making a decision for a department as a whole without knowing the details of who and how that department runs is irresponsible.	14 Oct 2020, 10:18 PM
215	Really look at opening facilities to assist addiction, mental health and homelessness issues. In the downtown cores of many municipalities within Chatham-Kent. Don't let the "not in my backyard mindset come into play with where they are located. They are and have been extremely needed. It's not new. At all. Possibly using monies received due to COVID 19? It was 5 million dollars correct? Along with the monies received for addiction services that I just read about. Put more focus on mental health services!!!! It will not "just go away" on its own. It will definitely work to save monies in the long run. That and reducing high paying municipal jobs as I mentioned earlier. Thanks!	14 Oct 2020, 10:46 PM
216	O% across the board.	14 Oct 2020, 11:17 PM
217	Please put up full traffic lights at the Corner of Murray and Reume in Wallaceburg This is an extremely busy corner with a school nearby! Also Our police are way over funded we need to redirect much of their funding to mental health drug rehab and other social services.	14 Oct 2020, 11:18 PM
218	Library's are a joke from past now everything is online keep a few as museums close rest build out infill structure of future past was great but future is were we all have to go.	14 Oct 2020, 11:24 PM
219	I do think that Chatham should not get a new arena. I am not supporting that with my taxes. I would like to see my road Park St in Wallaceburg get repaired as it is very rough ride and there is a park as well as a tennis court in this street.	14 Oct 2020, 11:37 PM
220	Rural areas especially the Wheatley area has not been given enough consideration. Many residents feel we need to be placed in the municipality of Leamington. Thank our two councillors who try to advocate for Wheatley in area! So tired of supporting thins that Wheatley does not benefit one bit. Why isn't council putting pressure on our provincial government to stop ignoring our precious resource Wheatley Provincial government? Also those facing high water levels. So so sad and disappointing!	14 Oct 2020, 11:44 PM
221	Bike trails? The trail around the river, down to Pain Court and the Prairie Siding bridge didn't happen. Shocking. An interchange at Charing Cross. Where did these ideas go? If you close a bridge in town to save money, that's the last straw for my family.	15 Oct 2020, 12:33 AM
222	Closing Clearville Park to camping would be a tax savings. Camped there for one season, nothing but a party park with campers drinking and carrying on sometimes till 3 in the morning. We sold at a great loss and will now consider looking at Wheatley or Sturgeon woods, both properly run. Or selling the park and putting the money to an arena.	15 Oct 2020, 04:09 AM
223	This survey does not provide you with information, it is skewed to show the results wanted by survey owner	15 Oct 2020, 04:33 AM
224	Please keep in mind that the pandemic has affected everyone and any increase in property taxes will almost certainly create hardship for many property owners.	15 Oct 2020, 05:44 AM
225	Add bike lanes	15 Oct 2020, 06:44 AM
226	Doesn't cover important issues	15 Oct 2020, 07:33 AM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
227	This survey is a joke, want to reduce taxes quit wasting money, too many staff doing same job with no improvement in service (arena Managers) Should be 1 manager overseeing all arenas. a manger for each arena and he just does what' been done for years. Ice time given to local sports after 8 instead of higher paying renters, can't get ice time on line at last minute, have to go through rec dept, waste of ice time. Too many sunshine club members in fire dept, time to go back to volunteer fireman, works just fine in other centers, no accountability they cheat the system to get overtime and brag about it, Eliminate the 24 hour shift, most fireman have 2nd jobs because of it, BIG rip off to citizens, considering we have maybe 3 structural fires a year. PUC Workers drive out of their way to take break and lunch from job site, not getting much work done. Reduce the number of councilors, waste of money, more referendums on things, (ie STUPID MASK BYLAW)	15 Oct 2020, 08:10 AM
228	I agree with the initiative to reduce the number of tax rates but I don't feel taxpayers should have to pay for services that are not available in their area.	15 Oct 2020, 08:21 AM
229	specific questions were asked about changes is recreational services. I appreciated the statistics regarding library services. Would have appreciated seeing the similar statistics and specific questions for police services and CAO administrative costs.	15 Oct 2020, 08:26 AM
230	Perhaps if our ice costs were more in line with neighbouring counties, we might have better usage of our arenas. Families are struggling right now , so now is not the time to add additional costs to young people's recreational activities. As for facilities to play pickle ball, there are many churches and school gymnasiums that could probably be used instead of closing an arena. Also,please stop trying to close libraries. Many older adults count on the small local branches.	15 Oct 2020, 08:29 AM
231	Administration is pulling the strings. Council IMO has become rubber stamp for admin projects and spending. Take a drive around our towns and villages. You keep avoiding road and local infrastructure projects and each year they're not done, is costing more money the next year. Our small communities citizens are losing pride in their community due to a perceived lack of interest by the hierarchy.Thus we all reason our taxes are too high. I could go on but its upon deaf ears. XX XXXXXXXX XXX-XXX-XXXX	15 Oct 2020, 08:40 AM
232	Our employee level is too high. We need to be more efficient in this regard . When you see several employees at a site and most are standing around looking at 1 doing the work - that is a huge problem.	15 Oct 2020, 08:43 AM
233	In rural area where I reside there is little and poor municipal services. There are no streetlights, sidewalks or bike shoulders. I am forced to drive down middle of road through most of summer as trees and brush are not maintained and would scrape my car should I stay in my lane. There is little police presence. People who reside in towns and city have a much higher percentage of services and have faster access to them. To even consider that rural tax should go up and urban taxes be lowered seems to be a consideration made by those who dwell in those areas and have little to no experience with the municipal services or lack thereof in rural areas. If any thought is being given to increases it should be to those who receive the most services. After a lifetime of residing here, an increase to rural taxes will likely result in my choice to move elsewhere upon retirement. It just doesn't make sense to pay more for less  Thank you for the opportunity of offering feedback	15 Oct 2020, 08:43 AM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
234	Better work ethic among staff.	15 Oct 2020, 09:10 AM
235	We DO NOT SEE POLICE IN OUR AREA, at all! We DO NOT have the same advantages the city of Chatham has!!! .....and you'd like to raise rural taxes!!! NO!!	15 Oct 2020, 09:17 AM
236	Review use of consultants. Review use of printing, do we always need to have the glossy	15 Oct 2020, 09:23 AM
237	Maybe look at saving on consultation fees for a couple years and just do the work.	15 Oct 2020, 09:35 AM
238	Don't build new arenas. Use efficiently what you have. The words are Chatham-Kent, not just Chatham.	15 Oct 2020, 09:36 AM
239	<p>I feel that bridge closures can help us save quite a bit. There are many alternate routes within the Municipality that can be taken. It seems to be costing us quite a bit trying to maintain these bridges. And when a bridge is out people use the alternate route anyway for months while it's in repair.</p> <p>I feel that Municipal employees should have a wage freeze this time around (I am an employee, FYI). We make a good amount already and with the large amount of people who lost their jobs this year, it's not the best time for this. I realize that unions have it in their contracts, but non-unions this is achievable. From what I know, our wage increases end up being approx. half the Tax increase - not fair at all.</p> <p>I would like to see my water bill go down, specifically my delivery and waste charge. I am paying \$53.50/month (\$642/year) in charges. My water use/waste average per month is \$12. To me, this is not fair at all and potentially some sort of dynamic charged based on what you've used should be implemented? Just a thought!</p>	15 Oct 2020, 10:02 AM
240	<p>Do NOT fight Mother Nature, millions can easily be spent trying to win but in the end it's useless.</p> <p>Eliminate supervisory levels, using technology instead; reduce number of staff before any tax increase. Maintain legacy approaches no longer acceptable.</p>	15 Oct 2020, 10:11 AM
241	Keep sidewalk snow removal the same , keep taxes lower , get company or sponsorship for parks or city buildings to raise funds .	15 Oct 2020, 10:20 AM
242	I saw no comments reading police services. It seems like crime is increasing in most areas in Chatham Kent. In the community I live in we see very little police presence. It would be very helpful to have regular patrols. Having to wait 45 minutes for police to arrive is unacceptable.	15 Oct 2020, 10:26 AM
243	What is not always known are the mandatory costs, as well as police and fire budgets	15 Oct 2020, 11:03 AM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
244	<p>I think that property taxes and the community in which you live in should be closely connected. Understanding we are part of a municipality that services a very large area. I would like to feel the that property taxes that I pay are staying "closer to home." Helping to maintain/ provide services and potentially update or upgrade the current community in my own ward.</p> <p>I feel this survey is far to broad to answer fairly and accurately when it comes to your own particular community yet is still directly connected to the money that comes out of my pocket.</p> <p>More feed back on answers could help clarify some responses and add additional view points and or information.</p> <p>I believe also that online surveys like this are useful and could be used more frequently by council members in their own wards regarding different issues.</p> <p>I would like to see it better communicated to the public that the surveys are available. Thanks</p>	15 Oct 2020, 11:32 AM
245	A multimillion dollar public works garage should never have been decided upon during a time when the Municipality is looking to make cuts in other departments and making claims of 'lack of money'.	15 Oct 2020, 11:41 AM
246	My taxes are higher than a comparable house in many other cities. I will once again ask, where is all the tax money going from the windmills? The city does NO servicing for them, yet the money continues to go into some unknown hole in Chatham.	15 Oct 2020, 12:04 PM
247	I believe one of the biggest issues we have is mismanagement by our municipal government. ie. 1) buying the CSXT rail line (6m) , Chatham theatre (34m+) , supervisors driving high end company vehicles and numerous cases of municipal employees sitting around and doing nothing.	15 Oct 2020, 12:07 PM
248	Re-evaluate arena usage in Chatham-Kent! Rural arenas, such as Bothwell, are the same cost to rent as Thames Campus (which seems ludicrous). And rental rates are STEEP compared to neighbouring Lambton County arenas. People can't AFFORD to rent from rural arenas in Chatham-Kent, and their hands are being forced to utilize facilities outside of their own town. Perhaps providing cheaper options for ice rentals in rural CK may actually increase usage by local leagues and private rentals. Further to that, has it been looked into at how many requests are denied to utilize these rural rinks because of "staffing resources" and other various reasons? I can think of multiple occasions from acquaintances wanting to rent the ice but are told there isn't anyone to work at them! Lost revenue!	15 Oct 2020, 12:25 PM
249	Rural areas that do not benefit from sewage treatment, garbage pickup and minimal fire and police coverage are paying far too much. Sewage treatment csts should be decoupled from water	15 Oct 2020, 12:36 PM
250	Please do not cut the # of library branches. It is ridiculous to compare rural CK to urban London that also has a much better transit system.	15 Oct 2020, 12:43 PM
251	Take a look into the management and the money allocation for the arena in Bothwell. There is some inaccuracies in the numbers being presented to council for the Bothwell, Dresden and Ridgetown arenas. Eg. Bothwell arena should not be paying for the Bruner centre to be cleaned. This is not new but it has never been dealt with properly.	15 Oct 2020, 12:44 PM
252	Accountability for all municipal workforce	15 Oct 2020, 12:51 PM
253	The Bothwell arena needs to be closed cost to much to maintain when it is hardly being used	15 Oct 2020, 12:57 PM

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No.	Contribution	Posted at
254	Amalgamation did not save Ward 6 money. It cost us money and Sevices. In all wards. The smaller towns /wards have lost money, services. Our communities managed themselves very well pre Amalgamation.	15 Oct 2020, 01:02 PM
255	It is high time to reduce the council size as this has been brought up many times. We do not need 17 counsellors and a Mayor for a population of approximately 105,000. That is roughly 6,200 people per counselor which is ridiculous. Even London only has 15 for a population of 405,000. I have payed property taxes for 23yrs and have never contacted my counselor for anything and I'm sure there are plenty more then me that have never contacted one either. Do the right thing and reduce council.	15 Oct 2020, 01:05 PM
256	The closure of Talbot Trail has been a problem with my wife getting to work. She has to leave 10 min earlier because the 2nd concession is unsafe. For our farming operation we have to travel the second concession is not wide enough for equipment and the extra traffic. I have to stop when meeting cars or cars can pass It seems that too much money is spent on surveys and studies. It is dangerous situation and needs to be addressed soon then later.	15 Oct 2020, 01:20 PM
257	Bridges are necessary for use in the country by farmers. Closing any bridge severely impacts farming families and makes travel along roads more hazardous for equipment operators and the general public.	15 Oct 2020, 01:21 PM
258	The whole focus on Chatham as the hub is ridiculous.  The smaller communities have had no attention paid to them suffer tax increases just like those who benefit from services / programs in the city.  If the bridges are closed and a new area is constructed or a multi use facility is constructed and either is in Chatham you will have very angry and disappointed rural community members. Chatham Kent is the area we live since the "wonderful" amalgamation not Chatham. Urban councilors and city staff don't seem to remember that when topics are being discussed. I'm pretty sure we pay taxes at the same rate as those in the city and our gains are far less. The rural community outside of Chatham was made a mockery of when the "community" was combined. No attention has been paid to those who actually keep the community going... meaning farmers. You want to close bridges and make use go through greater tasks to continue farming to feed the city. This just doesn't make sense.  Instead of focusing on the "almighty" hockey players that don't need the massive complexes focus on those people who need community infrastructure to keep their livelihoods moving and keep you people fed and clothed.  Sewers, water, roads, etc should be top priority rather than worrying where Jenna is on the new 311 fb promotion.  I just don't understand the priorities of the community councilors anymore. Thankfully we have a councilor who fights for things we need in our community... Kudos to Mark Authier!  Get back to basics and refocus on those things that actually keep the community moving forward.	15 Oct 2020, 01:41 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
259	rising costs seriously affect seniors means, some have raised children on their own and worked low paying jobs to feed and house them so pensions are not the best but do own a home. We do not mind doing our fair share but let it be fair!	15 Oct 2020, 02:03 PM
260	WE SHOULD NOT HAVE A TAX INCREASE IN THE RURAL AREAS AS I KNOW THE POLICE AND GARBAGE WILL NOT BE IMPROVED FROM WHAT IT IS NOW I HAVE TO TAKE MY GARBAGE MYSELF TO THE KENT CENTRE AREA, THIS IS A STRAIGHT TAX GRAB !! I VOTE TOO !	15 Oct 2020, 02:11 PM
261	All of the county ( original kent county) has lost most of their amazing services since amalgamation. It seems you have NO problem making us from the small towns have to lose all our services and arenas and libraries. We had MUCH better service BEFORE we became chatham kent. Now all that matters is chatham. I am sick and tired of having to waste gas to drive to chatham for so many services. and I am fortunate to be able to do so when many can not due to not driving or no car or just can't afford it .. SUPPORT small towns. It is NOT all about chatham all the time..Our small towns were amazing before and now you take it all away.. and make us suffer. NOT all of us want to drive to chatham all the time for everything. I remember when I never had to leave my small town for anything..	15 Oct 2020, 02:13 PM
262	<p>Question 18 regarding the library is inappropriate. One cannot compare CK with London....the latter is mostly urban while half of CK is outside Chatham. One could argue that Chatham, with one branch for 50,000 residents is under served. No doubt the smaller, rural branches are over served on a per capita basis but they also have reduced staffing and hours of operation. Regardless, I must give an answer before proceeding. A really stupid question as all the facts are not presented.</p> <p>As far as bridges are concerned, the Thames is no longer open to large recreational As several years ago the Kiel bridge was made a fixed bridge. Moreover the bridge at Prairie Siding has not opened for years. What bridges are you enquiring about...on the Sydenham? Be specific. Also, do you want to get rid of bridges for farmers in the rural communities? Some may have little traffic but individual livelihoods are impacted...be specific.</p> <p>Too many of these questions are vague. A really unfortunate attempt to gauge public opinion. How much did you pay a 'consultant' to do this? Start by saving that money. If it was a staff person, cut their salary back to what they are worth, obviously less than they are paid.</p>	15 Oct 2020, 02:14 PM
263	<p>Question 17, related to Library Services, was a misleading question and demonstrates that the Municipality does not value Library Services, as they have already decided, based on the wording in this question, that they would like to close library branches.</p> <p>Chatham-Kent Public Library should not be compared to London Public Library. CKPL is a rural library system and LPL is urban. CKPL does not have the same transportation, geography, open hours, or staffing numbers that LPL does. Comparing these library systems, especially without context, is ridiculous.</p> <p>I am extremely disappointed in the Executive Management Team for putting this question out to the community and showcasing to the entire Municipality how little they value libraries. Perhaps if you had considered asking for input from people who work in libraries and those who use libraries, you could have written with a less biased question.</p>	15 Oct 2020, 02:16 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
264	how come we never see our mayor on local television trying to get more business in Chatham-Kent, like you see in Windsor or Toronto?.	15 Oct 2020, 02:16 PM
265	Dresden seems to be left out. No police, no senior center, high gas prices compared to the rest of Chatham Kent, Countryview line from Center side road to Prince Albert side road is terrible. Countryview road was repaired from 40 Highway to Bear line last year with less then half the houses on it and not nearly as bad condition. Lost our casino. And so on.	15 Oct 2020, 02:26 PM
266	I am strongly against all rural residents paying the same rates as urban residents for services such as police, garbage and horticulture. We don't have garbage/recycle pickup like city people. We have to transport those items to transfer stations ourselves using our own gasoline. Some rural areas very rarely see a police car. No frequent patrols like Chatham. In some cases, police will take much longer to respond. We have no regular street lights either.	15 Oct 2020, 02:30 PM
267	The budget process needs to be more transparent and the municipality needs to prioritize needs (nice to have like a new arena) over wants (critical services).  There's a lot of monies in the budget that could be reallocated to needed projects as opposed to frivolous ones. For example how much money and effort did it take to put through the proposal for a new arena when we have an aging populations and fewer kids.	15 Oct 2020, 02:30 PM
268	I would like to see council back at city hall	15 Oct 2020, 02:50 PM
269	I assume we have to cut expenses due to covid. My answers reflect this.	15 Oct 2020, 03:22 PM
270	It's time to show the contributing members of Chatham-Kent a return on their tax dollar. We need to start seeing our tax dollars as an investment rather then a donation to a charity not decided on our own.	15 Oct 2020, 03:34 PM
271	More funding for grass route sports. Maintain bridges	15 Oct 2020, 03:47 PM
272	I am assuming there will be more consultation regarding the new property tax rates in urban and rural areas. On the point of libraries ... in Medicine Hat Alberta the Shortgrass library system has closed or reduced hours at some smaller libraries in the region (southeastern). They have a volunteer corps of drivers (lots of retired teachers) who get paid mileage only to courier books from/to the main library in MH to local libraries for pick up and return. Drivers get paid mileage only. It works well, saved money and yet maintained library services to smaller communities. Books in the main library can be viewed, checked-out and renewed online at the MHPL website.	15 Oct 2020, 03:47 PM
273	taxes are to damn high!	15 Oct 2020, 03:48 PM
274	Start saving money somewhere and stop always increasing taxes	15 Oct 2020, 04:01 PM
275	I don't think the COVID19 pandemic and its challenges should scare Council into thinking it has to pass a zero increase budget. People want worthwhile investments into the community - a zero increase budget is pandering and Chatham-Kent residents are smarter than that.	15 Oct 2020, 04:04 PM
276	Have an independent non partisan firm examine all municipal jobs to see if they are needed or can be condensed.	15 Oct 2020, 04:46 PM
277	thanks for your consideration and asking for citizens input; need to make some tough decisions to reduce # of buildings the municipality owns and runs	15 Oct 2020, 05:02 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
278	Appreciate all that you do. I do however have grave concerns about council make-up i.e. self serving voting for one's ward versus the good of the municipality overall. Needs to be reconstructed.	15 Oct 2020, 05:03 PM
279	There will be upset people regardless of your decisions. Rely on community consultation to best understand the specific needs of each area, rather than wide brush stroke solutions across the entire municipality.	15 Oct 2020, 05:21 PM
280	Close small town libraries and use a hybrid model for libraries with a mobile unit.	15 Oct 2020, 05:32 PM
281	I have attended every budget meeting for way too many years and these are the same questions that are always brought up and the municipal (staff and council) also use the same stance that if you want taxes to be reduced we have to reduce service. Staff and council must find ways to reduce cost of doing business. Private companies have to find savings almost daily but we still need to provide the same service or better or we will not stay in business. Please stop the threat of reduced services and find the savings that are required.	15 Oct 2020, 06:10 PM
282	Keep schools open!	15 Oct 2020, 06:14 PM
283	I would like to see a system of off road bike paths throughout the city of Chatham and all of Chatham-Kent. Systems such as those in Windsor & Essex that utilize shared asphalt pathways, decommissioned railway lines, etc.	15 Oct 2020, 06:19 PM
284	During this time services need to be minimized to save taxes	15 Oct 2020, 06:40 PM
285	Would love to know library usage. Seems to be going the way of the newspaper.	15 Oct 2020, 06:44 PM
286	There strongly needs to be an online method to book ice time at our arenas. This has been discussed before- it is not difficult. What IS difficult is getting someone to talk to in a reasonable time re ice time. Many groups/individuals would book an hour ice time for family/friends (post COVID) if it could be done online. Again- this is not hard to do, obviously SOMEONE doesn't want to make it easy, or it would have happened years ago. Always been a problem in Wheatley. Residents paid for the arena, let the residents use it. Let's get council meetings moved around the entire municipality so councilors can see the areas that they are making decisions about. How can you vote when you have never been there? Mr. Mayor- you promised this right after your election- another promise that fell by the wayside. Major expenditures, and decisions on water/sewage should not be made until the C-K plan has been finalized. Housing is in desperate need in Wheatley and other areas, take care of that. We don't need fancy things to make Chatham-Kent great, we need responsible leadership and necessities.	15 Oct 2020, 07:03 PM
287	With the uncertainty of the economy services need to be minimized as much as possible	15 Oct 2020, 07:05 PM
288	I would like to see more tax dollars go to the rural community. I feel we pay a large amount of taxes but receive very little services. In our particular area, we don't have water, garbage pickup, sewers, bus services, sidewalks, paved roads (actually mud roads). What we do have is poor maintenance of the roads and roadsides. Anything you would do for us would be an improvement.	15 Oct 2020, 07:05 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
289	<p>If examples of current user fees were provided I may have thought differently. There is a need to keep costs at rates similar to other communities of a similar population. User fees should cover the cost of facility rental, staff and supplies, not be set up to make a profit.</p> <p>Chatham-Kent must remain attractive to current residents as well as others looking to move here. The best way to get taxes down is to have more people living in Chatham-Kent.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	15 Oct 2020, 07:06 PM
290	There should be no tax increase for 2021. Many urban residents have been hard hit with loss on income. I concentrate on urban because from my observations the rural community hasn't missed a beat. The tax table needs to be shifted back toward rural in order to give urban taxpayers a small break.	15 Oct 2020, 07:38 PM
291	There has been some poor decisions by council in the past such as the railroad, the capital theatre, the Bradley centre and I'm sure there's more. Council needs to look more closely at these things instead of going along with administration. At the end of the month Chatham public works will no longer have a garage to park their snow plows, backhoes, dump trucks and other equipment in but yet fleet is building a brand new shop, who was the mastermind behind this one?	15 Oct 2020, 08:36 PM
292	We need more centre based daycares in chatham kent. I've been on the waitlist for 2.5 years.	15 Oct 2020, 09:06 PM
293	I live in a rural area and get no services other than snow removal ,I feel my taxes are too high now so I am not for tax increases year after year to keep a large number of municipal employees on the payroll while the private sector has to adjust its employment numbers around the success of of its business. Taxpayers are treated like a never ending money pit and we can't afford to keep going down the same path .	15 Oct 2020, 09:13 PM
294	How can you ask these questions without more information? Are canteen services municiple run or private contract individuals? Everyone says there is not enough ice time, so which arenas are the low hours ones? City owns the Bradly centre, why not set some of that up for sporting events like pickleball, badminton etc? Tennis courts by McGregor always in use already. How many farmers will be affected by non use of a bridge to get thier crops off? We are a rural riding. Obviously some city people who do this survey don't know that. Rec use of the Thames has been down for years. Because of the Lacroix bridge, boats can no longer get to Tecumseh Park, and there is no parking at Keil Bridge for boats. What other bridges are you talking about. Wallaceburg can not be changed. You need to put a lot more information with these surveys or the results mean nothing.	15 Oct 2020, 09:33 PM
295	Stop brush pick up. Save money instead.	15 Oct 2020, 09:42 PM
296	Please keep the small Library open in Highgate, we are a senior community not all of us drive. The Library and variety and post office is all we have left here.	15 Oct 2020, 09:47 PM
297	Comparing CKPL to London PL is not an equal consideration. Population, square KM and population dispersion make ALL branches equally important. This service is more important than ever. Covid 19 has brought this to light. Thank you.	15 Oct 2020, 09:48 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
298	<p>I don't feel closing library branches in rural communities but offering longer hours elsewhere is a good option. There are many elderly people in rural communities that do not drive once the sun goes down or don't drive period.</p> <p>Regarding bridges, farmers need some to get from home to field and for a city slicker to have a say on closing them, isn't right.</p> <p>Also, Your questions need a small comment section so people can explain why they are unable to answer or clarify their answer. As many answers are wrote out to make a person choose a certain answer.</p>	15 Oct 2020, 10:18 PM
299	<p>Do not use 2020 as a normal year to base decisions for budgeting. Unfortunately it is business as 'unusual'. We need to attract people moving out of Toronto that are bypassing ck to get to Windsor / Essex. We need people and we have more land to offer than anybody. As far as services that have user fees they are for some reason viewed as deficit operations . They are not as they should be viewed as a cost of any municipal service. At the very least they all have the ability to recoup. The services that have no revenue centres are rarely reviewed . For example arenas especially smaller market arenas are like wheel barrels... if you don't push them they won't move. You can't expect to raise rental fees when supply exceeds demands and expect occupancy rates to increase as a result especially for your bordering arenas who have relied on business in there business catchment territories which have traditionally relied on outside non residents for their sustainability . The most expensive hour of ice time is an empty one. During these challenging times one must think better inside the box. For example if you are going to have some of the highest hourly ice rates and low number of rental activity then one must think like a carnival operator. For example for some of the under performing rinks sell icetime in 1.5 hour increments for the same hourly rates now set... then watch this value added thinking increase ice usage. There is a privately owned four plex arena in Montreal where you could not buy an hour. It was all 1.5 hours. Less floods results in, less energy costs, less equipment wear and tear and the arenas will fill in those unused hours. That is just one example and/ or idea. This could help bridge the gap until we garner more population growth especially young families. We have to market ourselves in the Toronto area and make ck the hot place to move to. That's number one.</p>	15 Oct 2020, 10:19 PM
300	I suggest that you look at the payroll for Chatham-Kent and review where jobs could be combined to save money. Do the number of employees that work for this municipality justify the population within Chatham-Kent.	15 Oct 2020, 10:29 PM
301	Cut backs in your office	15 Oct 2020, 10:40 PM
302	Should consider whole Municipality not just the City of Chatham	15 Oct 2020, 11:05 PM
303	<p>I wanted to view this survey.</p> <p>Need to educate myself more to give feedback. Allow to read prior to taking the survey or can always come back after reading up or thinking of ideas to submit.</p>	15 Oct 2020, 11:34 PM
304	Cuts backs need to occur at a municipal level. The amount of tax dollars being paid out to municipal employees is astronomical. The sunshine list alone proves this. Chatham - Kent needs to looks at the whole of chatham kent. Too many funds are being spent on staffing and purchases to directly benefit chatham alone.	15 Oct 2020, 11:47 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
305	Re bridge rationalization: Chatham-Kent needs to be moving in line with the rest of the province of Ontario by providing walks, public transport and bike lanes that optimize the 'walkability' (low fuel emissions) in the city if it hopes to continue to attract a retired and young population.	16 Oct 2020, 02:17 AM
306	Property taxes are way too high compared to similar sized municipalities. Farmland taxes have increased too much in the last 10 years. I feel CK is over-staffed and some services could be reduced. An excellent example is arenas since our population is older fewer arenas are needed.	16 Oct 2020, 06:21 AM
307	You were elected to represent the interests of the citizens of CK. The time of never ending tax increases and wasteful spending is over. Start doing the job you were elected to do!!!!	16 Oct 2020, 06:28 AM
308	Over spending in the Municipality has to stop. Combining services could be possible, since the COVID emergency half the services are not feasible, or needed in our Municipalities structurally functioning. Job sharing for the top heavy civic employees could save the taxpayers a lot .	16 Oct 2020, 06:46 AM
309	Winter road control is excellent and should be maintained at current funding levels.	16 Oct 2020, 07:03 AM
310	Stop looking to eliminate, reduce government wages. Look at the waste of the individual services. There is a lot of waste everywhere, improve the efficiency of the people so they do more than fill a few holes in a day. I see city workers hiding in the Cemetery quite often. I personally do the job of 4 people, why can't someone living off my back do the same!!!!???	16 Oct 2020, 07:19 AM
311	Too much focus on arenas and not enough on outdoor spaces in general. The people who play hockey are actually a minority of the population. Far more people use Parks and trails and playgrounds and would appreciate a more landscaped cleaned up downtown than play hockey.	16 Oct 2020, 07:32 AM
312	My request would be quit worrying about tax increases and fix the infrastructure. The cost will only go up the longer it gets pushed back. Eliminate low usage programs.	16 Oct 2020, 07:38 AM
313	Our tax rates should be decreased by 4 % each year for the next 3 years. At that point we discuss a freeze. Why is council unwilling to make hard decisions for the benefit of the community? Put the money back in peoples pockets and they will spend it in the community.	16 Oct 2020, 07:41 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
314	<p>I believe the first question is misleading and too broad for a survey of this nature. I am a rural resident. I don't feel I receive a service level commensurate with my tax bill each year. We have no sidewalks, no garbage collection, no recycling collection. There is an idea before council to increase our taxes to pay for services we don't receive to relieve the tax burden on urban residents who do receive these services. This is totally wrong. If our taxes increase because you want to have one tax percentage for everyone in CK, then I expect you to provide garbage collection and sidewalks outside my house. If you cannot provide that, how do you justify making me pay taxes for services I do not receive. I think, if this tax proposal goes through, you will have many residents reconsidering whether they should remain residents of Chatham-Kent.</p> <p>You cannot use a broad brush to paint this amalgamated community as you have a diversity of circumstances to deal with. If you do want to use a broad brush because you think it would be more efficient, perhaps amalgamation should be reversed so communities can provide the service levels that are relevant and appropriate to their communities.</p>	16 Oct 2020, 08:11 AM
315	cap wages. review all budgets it should just be needs not wants.	16 Oct 2020, 08:15 AM
316	1. Design options for bridges needs to be addressed. 2. Policing costs need addressing.	16 Oct 2020, 08:19 AM
317	Cut! Cut! Cut! You could have laid off during covid but you even kept librarians! What are we stupid? Any real business would have cut immediately- You are not a support group for your employees, you are an employer with first and foremost responsibility is to the taxpayer. Why don't you consider lowering the interest charged on late taxes, for those who are having trouble?	16 Oct 2020, 08:22 AM
318	The services provided need to be done in a much more efficient manner. One example is cutting the ditches in Shrewsbury; the municipality is responsible for doing this and might do it once per year. When it was done on our street municipal staff wasted the time and gas to cut our ditch which has been consistently cut by us and our neighbours and was not in need of being cut! Redeploying expensive municipal staff to Riverview Gardens and causing lower paid PSW's from Bayshore,etc. to lose their jobs was just another example of city hall staff protectionism.	16 Oct 2020, 08:30 AM
319	The questionnaire is very wordy and some questions can be interpreted differently which will affect the outcome of the survey.	16 Oct 2020, 08:31 AM
320	<p>Basically I was asked about closing a bridge? Seriously, with all the other cost savings opportunities out there, closing a bridge...Chatham needs to rethink community engagement, arenas, services, libraries are provided out of necessary and it's apparent that there is a lack of passion, leadership and ideas to better the community experience and make them viable ... the consistent challenge when government runs anything. Involve private enterprise, involve the community and stop making all decisions based on a few thousand dollars of savings per year when facilities are existing and paid for. Reduce the strong desire to prioritize sending all the funds received by the tax base or federal provincial governments directly to the City of Chatham ... the city gets everything, we get the bare minimum.</p> <p>Or if rural communities are a hassle, let us explore leaving Chatham and join with another municipality that would not ignore us</p>	16 Oct 2020, 08:36 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
321	<p>Regarding replacing canteen services with vending machines . . . replace canteen services with self-funded catering.</p> <p>In general, I am amazed at the lack of initiative to replace in-person services with online services in CK. Please get with the times in the utilization of technology!</p> <p>Given the recent meeting on "Tax Rate Modernization", it is becoming more apparent that constituents are less and less consulted, or at least aware, of high-impact decisions being made by council and administration. I always believed that elected officials are representing their "constituents", rather than representing special interest from "administration". The lack of transparency, and apparent haste to move forward, is proving otherwise.</p>	16 Oct 2020, 08:38 AM
322	Do not add extra taxes to rural payers !!! We do not use or have the amenities city people do.	16 Oct 2020, 08:48 AM
323	<p>I encourage council to listen to administration on proposals they bring forward during budget. They are paid to provide accurate information and recommendations to council based on research and facts.</p> <p>Council should not go into a budget session thinking that their job is to cut taxes (which typically must require service reductions and cuts) rather to maintain the great level of service we currently enjoy.</p> <p>Council must also raise the farm taxes to the 25% of residential rate. There is no longer a need to protect farmers from losing their farms because of taxes and land values. All are now mega million dollar operations that can afford to pay their fair share and not continue to be subsidized by the balance of the rate payers</p>	16 Oct 2020, 08:51 AM
324	If you choose to close the libraries in the smaller communities you should bring back either the bookmobile service or the book request service where seniors and others could pick up their orders at a service location in their community. Municipal offices should remain open but they could be reduced to one or two days a week. Instead of absolutes look at compromises that can be undone if we recover.	16 Oct 2020, 08:52 AM
325	Do not close any bridges as traffic would be more of a nightmare . Do not feel like i get much for the taxes i pay, snow removal in winter is unacceptable. Need more police presence in the city of chatham as people do not obey traffic rules because they know they can get away with it.	16 Oct 2020, 08:54 AM
326	Some questions were not really yes or no answers. Taxes are toooo high in rural areas. Municipal employee wages are toooo high.	16 Oct 2020, 08:59 AM
327	Lower our taxes...	16 Oct 2020, 09:12 AM
328	High property taxes strangle the local economy and result in capital flight to lower tax jurisdictions	16 Oct 2020, 09:23 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
329	<p>Your question about Library changes is VERY concerning. You simply cannot compare branches per capita between a rural community like Chatham Kent and an urban community like London.</p> <p>The fact you used London as an example actually seems to indicate you have already made a decision and are attempting to justify it. Frankly it is shameful and dishonest. I challenge you to rewrite this survey and compare Chatham Kent per capita branch coverage (and library circulation numbers) against other rural communities like SW Middlesex or Lambton. I'm sure you already did that comparison, and you saw that CK is the MOST efficient when comparing like for like library systems, which is why you chose to not share that information with the general public in your survey. It would undermine the decisions this council apparently has already made.</p> <p>Now I recognize the importance of finding efficiencies, and quite frankly, small branches like Highgate are tempting to be looked at for cost savings. I would even support (or at least not actively oppose) such closures provided some system was put in place to service the elderly or those without transportation who live in that community. I just wish you could be HONEST with the ratepayers in this city instead of being deceptive.</p> <p>So in closing, let me re-write that question for you:</p> <p>In Chatham-Kent we have 11 library branches with a population of 105,000 or a library for every 9,500 residents. SW Middlesex has 15 library branches for 71,500 population or a library for every 5,000 residents. Would Chatham-Kent be better served by having longer hours and more services across its branch system in order to better service the community despite the increased cost or do you feel our current level of Library service is sufficient and a great example of efficiency when compared against other rural Library systems?</p>	16 Oct 2020, 09:24 AM
330	I find the comparison of London Public Library to Chatham-Kent Public Library incorrect. London does not serve rural communities in the same capacity as Chatham-Kent does. We would be more comparable to Stratford, ON. In budget, population diversity and rural connections.	16 Oct 2020, 09:27 AM
331	Well I don't necessarily support a decrease in taxes, it would be nice if they didn't rise every year.	16 Oct 2020, 09:32 AM
332	THINK BEFORE ACTION	16 Oct 2020, 09:41 AM
333	I feel to reduce the budget there are too many white collars employees that other white collars can handle both jobs. Too many wasted meetings per week.	16 Oct 2020, 09:46 AM
334	Question #17 is misleading. How can you compare a rural library system with an urban one? Shame on you for being purposefully deceitful. Gather stats from other rural libraries facing the same challenges as CKPL, then make an educated decision.	16 Oct 2020, 09:46 AM
335	Be more transparent, I watch the council meetings and it's clear that votes get swayed, councillors are treated differently if they disagree or stand for the voice of the people. Why are back door conversations used to push issues, it's all public record .. we pay for it!	16 Oct 2020, 09:48 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
336	cut the number of seats in council.	16 Oct 2020, 09:49 AM
337	You are taught at a young age how and where to ride your bike. Bike lanes are not needed. You are as taught when driving to watch for everything which includes bike on the road. Need to get the e-bikes off the streets since anybody who has one seems to thinks they have they obey the traffic laws.	16 Oct 2020, 10:11 AM
338	Investment in people and quality of life (arenas, rec facilities/programs, community centres, waterway access, etc) is extremely important in making CK an attractive place for families and business. Some may seem underutilized but there also seems to be no current desire or coordinated effort by the municipality to try to maximize utilization either. -Having lived both in Chatham (urban) and now in rural CK I would not support the proposed "equal" distribution approach to taxes across all residents. As a rural resident with no garbage pick up, no access to high speed internet, no basic utilities like water/wastewater service, no natural gas, and drive primarily on gravel/mud roads which increase costs and wear and tear on vehicles, it is very hard to justify that I should be paying the same amount of taxes as someone in town who benefits from all of these services and amenities. The services are not equal between rural and urban residents and the taxes should continue to reflect that.	16 Oct 2020, 10:21 AM
339	Council needs to be more frugal on spending quit catering to the Minority	16 Oct 2020, 10:23 AM
340	has council or administration ever considered the use of digital countdown at stop lights? There is not enough time to cross the streets particularly for older people. The way kids use the don,t walk signs some is going to get hurt or killed!	16 Oct 2020, 10:39 AM
341	Lower the taxes. It's not a sin to come in with a zero increase every once in a while. How about a reduction in taxes. Do a better job.	16 Oct 2020, 10:40 AM
342	I found some of these to be leading questions. For example, when talking about the library branches, libraries per number of people was highlighted using London as a comparison. However, London is more densely populated so geography is different. Since Chatham-Kent is spread out, closing library branches would impact people who don't have regular access to a car. Libraries are important for people who are socially isolated, have income security issues, etc. I don't find it ethical to pose questions in such a leading manner.	16 Oct 2020, 11:01 AM
343	While these questions have been posed as if they have simple answers, they do not. We are answering these questions based on the very limited knowledge we have about certain services and their usage. My answers might be different if I were more informed about the usage of, for example, certain arenas, municipal centres, libraries, bridges, etc. For instance, if the cost is relatively low to keep a small library open that services a fairly high number of patrons, I'm in favour of keeping it open. However, if the cost is high and patrons are low, then maybe it should be looked at for closure. It's not as simple as just answering, "are you in favour of closing libraries to save money". The question about libraries also leads respondents to a certain answer unless they really think about it. Comparing libraries in CK to libraries in London is not comparing apples to apples and the stats for London shouldn't have been included in a survey about CK services. There are so many other factors at play than simply the ratio of libraries to citizens.	16 Oct 2020, 11:19 AM
344	Taxes must be reduced, make the difficult decisions now so that we can thrive in the future.	16 Oct 2020, 11:19 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
345	Would like to see more initiatives on road safety, children's recreational activities and preventing crimes	16 Oct 2020, 11:46 AM
346	There is no mention of the potential tax increase for rural residents and land owners. As a resident in a rural community, I feel I pay the appropriate taxes for what I receive from the Municipality. I do not receive: Hydro, Water, Sewer, garbage nor do I want too. I feel any increase to rural taxes based solely on levelling the pay between urban/rural is unwarranted. Urban residents pay higher taxes based on the services they receive from the Municipality.	16 Oct 2020, 12:10 PM
347	In my opinion if Wallaceburg and Chatham Kent wants to grow you can not be shutting things down. I think every district in Ontario needs a spending watch dog and stop the gouging by contractors just because it is a government contract. They should also be held responsible when the job is not satisfactory. Just my opinion.	16 Oct 2020, 12:20 PM
348	Reduction in services is not acceptable - we need to invest more in our community especially libraries - reducing them is ridiculous.	16 Oct 2020, 12:25 PM
349	Put in bike lanes whenever repaving a road.	16 Oct 2020, 01:07 PM
350	Highgate library is needed in Highgate. We still have an elderly population that relies on reading and for those that do not have internet our library is well used for computer usage as well as reading of books	16 Oct 2020, 01:15 PM
351	A lot of these expenditures seem to be based on usage within the city of Chatham not the smaller towns or rural areas (other than the bridges). I realize more people live there but I don't think rural CK needs to prop up the city of Chatham	16 Oct 2020, 01:22 PM
352	If you cut library service to rural areas without providing public transportation for people to access library services that would be cruel to ppl with transportation challenges. Libraries are also access centres for people to use municipal help desk..and internet service...also vital for ppl doing home schooling. Hours are already limited. And your proposal to have municipal service accessible online would be not served if you took away library internet access. Raising rates for rural areas has been mentioned. Would a raise in rural rates mean better public transportation..full time fire fighters..faster police response and full time library access??? Most likely not...	16 Oct 2020, 01:25 PM
353	Please reduce police budget as they continue to abuse power.	16 Oct 2020, 01:32 PM
354	If decreases are to be made in services, please consider the per capita usage before cutting things like libraries and arenas. In Some CK towns, these are the ONLY services that the residents see the Municipality helping out with (ie. Bothwell arena, - which was built by Bothwell businesses BEFORE amalgamation and should NOT be decided on by the city, Highgate Library - one of the highest PER CAPITA libraries in CK). Here's a novel idea: Start at the top (Exec/Non-essential wages) and work your way down instead of picking the low hanging fruit that rural area residents depend on. Either that, or cut property taxes WAY down in rural areas if you're going to steal away what little services we have access to.	16 Oct 2020, 01:56 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
355	I live on talbot trail in the closure. I am less than satisfied of my services with regard to garbage and recycle. I am quite concerned about the lack of information regarding when the road closure will be dealt with and its impact on my property value. I am very confused as to how the greenhouse at coatsworth rd and talbot got permission to build all the way down to the road , so that the option of redirecting the road was off the table as opposed to totally relocating it altogether resulting in the loss of property values . And why it continues to allow building permits on the lots on the water side.	16 Oct 2020, 03:34 PM
356	The fear with this surgery is if you live in the smaller communities outside of Chatham, it will be those services cut first. Those arenas and library's closed only to save the people living in Chatham itself higher taxes. Meanwhile, their local services will remain open and available to them within their city limits. Why do the "suburbs" outside of Chatham have to suffer and loose out, only to support the greater city centre.	16 Oct 2020, 03:53 PM
357	Ward 3 does not have hardly any services as it is , yet Chatham Kent council keeps wanting to move everything out of the area or cut it completely.It's time that the powers that be quit having so many employees in the 100,000 dollar club.	16 Oct 2020, 04:10 PM
358	I would support infrastructure costs to repair damaged roadways in the city. This is badly needed.	16 Oct 2020, 04:21 PM
359	We need more snow clearing machines to clear snow off sidewalks and people to man them in the event of a bad winter. We need a clear signal to the real estate board that couples on ODSP should be able to afford their own home. We need to slow the pace of construction of houses for outsiders in order to preserve our rural economy.that being said we need to invite boutique style franchises to settle into chatham we need to solicit the province to ban check cashing usurers and pressure the Feds to allow people easy access to opening bank accounts despite poor credit. Maybe special accounts that restrict credit applications but allow people to deposit and withdraw daily.	16 Oct 2020, 05:13 PM
360	Windsor went without a property tax increase for years. Please work to either maintain a 0 percent increase or a slight decrease for Chatham-Kent residents. We should not be known across the region as having the highest property taxes.	16 Oct 2020, 05:27 PM
361	I am concerned that we are missing line items for a number of budget items. Council needs to look at everything not just the totals for each group, each type of expense. During these critical times waste needs to be reduced so we can support the needs of our community as a whole not just the wards we live in. We need to be Chatham- Kent not just the individual communities that we used to be.	16 Oct 2020, 05:30 PM
362	Police and Firefighters salaries for the most part are in the 6 digit range. They are paid very well for this area. I think it's time to place a freeze on their salaries and start giving a wage increase to the nurses. They work tirelessly, are overworked as well as underpaid. During this pandemic that all you hear is how our HCPs (nurses) are "heroes". They received only a 1% wage increase while COLA is hovering around 2%. Pass on the wage increase of what the police and firefighters would have received and give it to the nurses. From the tone of this letter you can see where U stand with this subject. The less you do, the more your paid. This goes for all the so called office "clipboard" carriers that walk around the hospital hallways that are overpaid. Time to thin out office staff and give the money saved to the front line workers "nurses".	16 Oct 2020, 06:49 PM
363	libraries in small communities (such as Highgate)are critical as we have no public transit to other nearby branches (such as Ridgetown). SAVE OUR LIBRARY PLEASE!	16 Oct 2020, 07:38 PM
364	Perhaps a free or reduced CK Transit fee of you go to the library to the library in locations where the public library will be closed	16 Oct 2020, 07:40 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
365	I think there needs to be a lot more community input before council decides on these matters. Public meetings would be a good start.	16 Oct 2020, 08:20 PM
366	Closing bridges in CK is not the best option for rural residents. Bridge usage should not be the primary data considered when making bridge closure decisions, especially since CK residents have been traveling less in the last 7months due to Covid-19. More research needs to be done on the best cost-effective replacement options. Closing rural bridges would force many farmers to drive their large machinery on busy highways, which puts more drivers at risk than necessary. Farmers should not have to detour to get to their field, which they pay property tax on to maintain the bridges they require.	16 Oct 2020, 08:36 PM
367	Please keep Highgate library open, as we have nothing else for the kids to enjoy without having to drive anywhere!	16 Oct 2020, 08:44 PM
368	We need more amenities like bicycle and walking paths, road repair, manhole covers, recycle pickup in rural areas. As per the discussion about raising rural property taxes, this should not be done unless all rural properties can expect the same services as the urban center ex. Police services, garbage collection, and recycling.	16 Oct 2020, 08:48 PM
369	I see a. Huge disparity between Chatham surrounding towns	16 Oct 2020, 09:11 PM
370	Please do not raise rural taxes to match the Chatham taxes, we do NOT have the same level of services particularly policing, it's non-existent	16 Oct 2020, 11:00 PM
371	No tax increase please. It is difficult for seniors to afford to stay in their homes in CK. There needs to be more accountability from departments who consistently ask for yearly increases instead of looking for cost savings. Too many employees at city hall!	16 Oct 2020, 11:26 PM
372	Before shipping Qs, it would have been ideal to give high level Sunday of what current budget looks like. Movable bridges would make sense only if we invested in revitalizing the Thames and downtown. User fees should be raised for those who can afford it - subsidies should be in place for those with lower income. Libraries are a safe haven for many vulnerable people - please do not close locations, we are more rural and disperse than London so it's not the best comparator. Invest in the library being even more than it is today.	17 Oct 2020, 06:31 AM
373	Can you imagine a place where we don't take care of our poor kin? And we don't open our community to new people from abroad? These poor used to be the engine of economy not the establishment. How they seem to be reviled and looked down upon as a burden. Why is that? Why are Canadians having less children? Is it because we no longer have the capacity to care for more than a few? What conservative diabolical social theory is now at play to save money?	17 Oct 2020, 07:04 AM
374	Excellent idea to prepare a survey for us. Highly suggest a longer survey that covers other aspects like police and fire coverage. Remarks boxes for all survey questions as well.	17 Oct 2020, 07:07 AM
375	I am hoping my comments help CK become a more progressive community. I feel we are stuck in the past; resistant to change.	17 Oct 2020, 07:07 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
376	<p>Do NOT touch libraries or arts and culture programs/facilities and animal services. In fact, start supporting Theatre Kent and bring back CK CAT.</p> <p>We can save a lot of money by thinning the municipal staff, lowering their salaries, and stop sending out big equipment constantly to mow down the ditches and shoulders of the roads, to a ridiculous number of times, creating dangerous road conditions as a result of leaving dirt all over the roads.</p> <p>Last, but not least, get the crazy fiasco finished downtown, and the old Y, and maybe collect some taxes there!</p> <p>Only idiots would have put up with that situation for over 11 years.</p>	17 Oct 2020, 07:49 AM
377	The survey was more focused on reducing certain services, rather than the budget as a whole, so the question of learning more about municipal services is redundant. It did let me know that Council is considering closing the bridges, arenas, and libraries.	17 Oct 2020, 07:50 AM
378	<p>I can't believe the people that wrote this survey know anything about asking questions. Many of these were leading - especially the library question. Our libraries - and urban/rural mix - should not be compared to a large urban Center.</p> <p>Please do not close any libraries - if anything I would want the municipality to fund them more.</p>	17 Oct 2020, 09:09 AM
379	Some questions were hard if services don't pertain to you like #16. I would like to see more activities that people can go to without having to pay such high costs for them. Like Windsor has a springs park where parents only pay \$5.00 for an hour I believe. Thank you for all your work and dedication	17 Oct 2020, 09:34 AM
380	I would support selling off water access fire roads to adjacent homeowners if there were alternative sources of water for firefighting available. The issue of keeping these roads open for personal water access for a small number of individuals who do not have waterfront property has hit the media multiple times and seems to be taking up an inordinate amount of time and energy. In addition, these accesses are not being used for their purpose (fire) and are expensive to properly maintain	17 Oct 2020, 10:01 AM
381	There should be comment section. Some of the questions are vague, with more details required. In regards to moveable bridges, can they not just remain stationary as opposed to be converted? Is the conversion necessary? What are the actual facts of usage?	17 Oct 2020, 10:01 AM
382	Libraries are essential in CK. Comparing our rural community to London is an apples to oranges comparison. Don't reduce library services. Libraries enrich lives and communities.	17 Oct 2020, 10:06 AM
383	Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I feel the wording of some questions is misleading - for example, the question regarding libraries. It compares C-K to London, which has much more public transportation and many very densely populated areas. Using a comparison of libraries per population is like comparing apples to oranges - people in London can access those services much more readily in there than in C-K. If you eliminated the library in Blenheim, for example, it's next to impossible for those without their own transportation to access another library in the municipality.	17 Oct 2020, 10:28 AM
384	Enjoy not listening to any of the recommendations to eliminate wasteful spending in this municipality	17 Oct 2020, 11:30 AM
385	We think that short term reduction in some services to get back on track and hold the line on tax increases. Our municipal taxes have got way out of hand. If Chatham has referred itself as the place for retirement, then the taxes should be reduced so that people on a fixed income can afford to live here. We moved from Windsor two years ago and were shocked at the property taxes. They more than doubled on a smaller property here.	17 Oct 2020, 11:32 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
386	I would like to see more comparisons to other municipalities and private sector companies in areas such as wages, cost of services per resident, and asset management - for example the life cycle of vehicles. The ratios of management to workers would be nice too.	17 Oct 2020, 11:32 AM
387	Need more places for young families	17 Oct 2020, 11:50 AM
388	This survey was lacking in forethought. There was little room for input of ideas other than the very narrow, unimaginative range offered and not all follow-up questions made sense. (For example, how does asking Question 10 make any sense when replying negatively to Question 9?) Et pourquoi un questionnaire d'un gouvernement municipal servant une zone désignée pour des services en français n'est-il pas offert en français? If you need help with either of these problems, please ask.	17 Oct 2020, 12:02 PM
389	Leave our libraries alone. There are many people who use the ones in small communities. Think about people who don't have a vehicle and are not able to go to other libraries or the children and the programs that the libraries offer.	17 Oct 2020, 12:50 PM
390	As a rural kent resident that lives in a house on a 2 acre lot that does not generate any income, I have not seen only two services change/be added in our area in the 43 years I have lived at this location. I live on a dirt/gravel road that was better maintained in the later 1970's then it is today in 2020. Instead of gravel for the road we receive dirt/sand mixed with a low grade gravel per say. When we travel on the rural roads in former Chatham township I have noticed the roads there are provided with actual gravel. The dirt/gravel on the road provides a unsafe environment for citizens that ride bikes or walk and the vehicles themselves on the road. One can not set on the front porch because of the dust storm that is made when vehicles pass. And you travel to Lambton county were taxes are lower most all rural roads are pavement or asphalt. The road in the early 80's was widened to provide for it to be paved. It is a highly traveled road for being rural. That was the first thing that took place in the 43 years I have lived here. The second would be that a natural gas line was put through so access to natural gas was offered to the rural area! When services like highspeed internet, paved roads, garbage pickup, police services, fire services, municipal water and sewage are offered to all citizens of Chatham - Kent then perhaps you can look at city and country residences paying equal taxes. Until that happens I will not be willing to agree to a tax hike to the rural citizens at all. We pay more than our share of taxes now and receive very very little services compared to the city dwellers which many pay the same or less taxes.	17 Oct 2020, 01:22 PM
391	I believe this survey has inherent bias to it. There should be greater context given to the questions as it does not give citizens a true picture, and appears that municipal staff are looking for justification for recommendations they want to put forward. Many of the questions are not black and white, but appear as such here.	17 Oct 2020, 01:30 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
392	<p>Living in the country on a small residential lot with dirt/sand/stone on the road which required over the years several vehicle window replacements I disagree with you leveling the taxes across the board in Chatham-Kent.</p> <p>No paved roads. No municipal water or sewage. No garbage pickup or leaf removal. No street lights. No sidewalks. No safe biking or walking on road. No policing on road. No access to convenience of at all.</p> <p>Raising rural taxes is discriminating. Not everyone in the country is a commercial farmer. Please remember that when considering the 2020 tax increases.</p> <p>We have lost enough in Chatham-Kent and had many citizens move. If you raise taxes you will be seeing even more people move from Chatham-Kent.</p>	17 Oct 2020, 01:52 PM
393	<p>Arenas are vital. Please consider the downstream effects of reducing ice in smaller towns.</p> <p>I feel that people who make decisions on bridges should be directly involved. I hope that bridge reduction would not create a larger wait for aid from emergency services such as fire and EMS.</p>	17 Oct 2020, 03:11 PM
394	<p>Adding relevant stats about current usage of services would be valuable for people adding input on which minimum level of service is acceptable. Knowing how many arenas get more than 20 hrs/week usage, for example. We do get context on one question, but it only serves to bias the question. Library funding leans towards reducing funding. 2 options to reduce, and one option to leave funding the same with a reminder that it comes with no tax savings. The statistic about libraries servicing London's population vs. C-K's isn't a useful comparison as our population is far more unevenly distributed; we require more libraries to have enough people within a reasonable distance of one. The space you put the London stat for libraries could be used on every question to provide the relevant context data. Best wishes!</p>	17 Oct 2020, 03:17 PM
395	<p>Thank you for the work you do for Chatham-Kent. Hard to please everyone when making decisions.</p>	17 Oct 2020, 03:20 PM
396	<p>You have done ZERO to attract families. The old Wheels Inn facility brought families from out of town. All facilities were utilized including the general public.</p> <p>Years back then the conversion of a lift bridge to a non-contracting bridge stopped sailboats and larger boats to spend the weekend downtown. Your temporary money-saving decision permanently harmed boating tourism.</p> <p>You lack creativity and have little knowledge of how to think outside the box.</p> <p>The white elephant "the capitol theatre" is ridiculous. You have a perfectly good smaller theatre in which people are instructed not to use.</p> <p>If you decide to build an arena, build one which is multifunctional where larger names could play and other functions. Humm let's think the Budweiser Centre maybe this will help in your ideas. Just think how wonderful it would be to attend attractions in Chatham-Kent and not have to go elsewhere...I know this is possible, but then again, I think outside of the box</p> <p>Being a visionary is blatantly not your forte.</p> <p>I guess I'll forward to paying higher taxes to gain nothing once again.</p>	17 Oct 2020, 03:39 PM
397	<p>I am absolutely opposed to changing the area ratings which would increase rural property owners taxes for services that we receive far less. I am not interested in paying equally. Please don't pass this motion</p>	17 Oct 2020, 03:50 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
398	Smaller communities like Tilbury rely heavily on library services. Local schools and seniors use these services daily. There should be no changes to library services as there is already limited resources in these smaller communities.	17 Oct 2020, 04:48 PM
399	Providing a list of services that the municipality provides for the very first question in this survey would be most helpful.	17 Oct 2020, 07:00 PM
400	I think more focus should be on keeping the capitol theatre and kiwanis centre both open and used more. So many uses for them. We need more for the "not sports" kids in Chatham.	17 Oct 2020, 07:52 PM
401	Please give the libraries more funding, we need them and the services they provide to our communities. They are essential.	17 Oct 2020, 08:24 PM
402	I think closing services in smaller communities is just reinforcing a Chatham centred model and doesn't create a more cohesive community.	17 Oct 2020, 09:22 PM
403	Another area that should really be cut back on is the overworking and repeated grading of the gravel roads. The road gets packed nicely and then they come and work it again, making it sloppy and dusty. Think of the miles and miles of roads and the tons and tons of gravel that are used in maintaining these. Please get smart on this costly item. Money saved here could be used for health care or environmental issues.  Thank you for the opportunity to have input in the budget process. We realize it is a challenging area.	17 Oct 2020, 10:01 PM
404	Focus on bringing more businesses to the area and stop trying to unload additional tax burden on rural residents who already have reduced services. Maybe consider switching garbage service to a bag tag system.	17 Oct 2020, 11:02 PM
405	Librarys: Chatham its self has 1 library. Most of Chatham Kent towns only have 1 library in their town so why close one in a town so that people in that town cannot access any other besides going to a different town? What if they cannot get to another town to acces a library?? Stop closing stuff to save money and create a higher levek of mental health concerns becasue we have nothing to do in the towns!!!  Arenas: We have 3 In Chatham, fix them up and use them as needed! Again what if people cannot get to a futher one! All of them get used for skating and/or hockey. Maybe allow more skate time and they would get used more! Or add different rooms so yo can play floor hockey and other sports mentioned but keep the ice unless its not getting 100% used!  Transit: We have a bus system but it XXXXX XXX on keeping a scheduled and to be honest if I miss the time, I have to wait 30-45 mins for the next one!  Bridges: Chatham bridges do not open anymore so boats do not come though but Wallaceburgs WAMBO is a great attraction and if the bridge is closed, then WAMBO would be cancelled. Save money to create more mental health again coz there's 1 less thing to do again??? Its not worth it. I do not see how spending 3 mil is saving home owners money!	18 Oct 2020, 05:31 AM
406	Keep Highgate library branch open please.	18 Oct 2020, 06:09 AM
407	Do not lessen services in small communities so Chatham can remodel the municipal building	18 Oct 2020, 06:40 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
408	Maybe the only bridge that should be thought about getting rid of is the black bridge as it is only pedestrians are the ones that use it.	18 Oct 2020, 07:06 AM
409	This survey reminds me of the school yard bully! He will pick on the departments that do not need to be closed like libraries! And municipal office employees! Taking their lunch money! How about looking at the larger departments and make cuts there first before you start cutting our services!	18 Oct 2020, 08:09 AM
410	Rural residents are fed up with everything being closed and moved to Chatham. We're tired of hearing Chatham residents subsidize rural residents. We have NO services yet we're always expected to give up more. Based on the questions it's still being considered to take away our arenas, library & now the municipal centres. You're also considering closing/not repairing bridges. Let me guess - they won't be any in or around Chatham. They'll be rural ones causing residents to endure longer travel times & distances to live. Has the impact to farmers been considered? The taking away from rural residents needs to stop - we have nothing left to give.	18 Oct 2020, 08:56 AM
411	Do the various service departments have suggestion boxes and are the people really encouraged to use them. The people actually doing the services are the ones who have creative ideas. Encourage everyone to think out of the box. Quite often a crazy suggestion opens conversation and leads to better ways of doing things.	18 Oct 2020, 09:02 AM
412	Keep the libraries as is. Thankyou	18 Oct 2020, 10:08 AM
413	Decrease the number of council members and county workers	18 Oct 2020, 10:21 AM
414	Please, please, please keep Highgate's library. Remember, you own the building. Thanks.	18 Oct 2020, 10:43 AM
415	Council need to listen and follow what Sulman and especially Michael Bondy say for the benefit of residents, the rest are just a bunch of head nodders!	18 Oct 2020, 11:59 AM
416	Uneccessay bike paths, top heavy administration , Less public and community events , due to covid should reflect less police budget,Condo completion to collect much needed taxes , Virtual world should be utilized more reducing costs ,	18 Oct 2020, 12:19 PM
417	Do not increase rural taxes to support cities and large towns. People move rural in order to lower their taxes realizing the services are also lowered. We have to drive everywhere to get what we need and response time is higher when services are required. We know this. We should not have to have higher taxes to support city infrastructure. That should be resigned to residents living within city limits.	18 Oct 2020, 12:46 PM
418	While I think this survey is a step in the right direction and I further realize that you can't have it too open ended, some of these questions are very leading. It appears that we are at a crossroads with respect to our financial position in this municipality - if this is the case then I would suggest that administration and council both look beyond the normal thoughts of "more services = more taxes" and "less services = less taxes" and look at the overall operations and costs of the municipality itself including wages and how the money is being spent.	18 Oct 2020, 01:08 PM
419	Please try to lower municipal taxes they are very high for the area we live in and the services provided.	18 Oct 2020, 01:31 PM
420	we are not in favour of equalizing payments for services between and rural and urban ex. policing	18 Oct 2020, 02:18 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
421	Priority funding should be given to police, fire, EMS and infrastructure. Only after these items have been fully funded should any other funding be considered on a must have basis.	18 Oct 2020, 02:38 PM
422	Perhaps, take away payment to volunteer fire people. This is supposed to be a volunteer position and if those who are on the volunteer fire department wish to be on the Chatham-Kent fire department full time they can apply for a position like everyone else.	18 Oct 2020, 05:11 PM
423	I don't think property taxes should be municipal wide based. They should be based on the small community they reside in.	18 Oct 2020, 05:20 PM
424	Salaries listed in paper for municipal staff and others seem very high and get too much in way of perks and or pensions	18 Oct 2020, 05:24 PM
425	Stop wasting our tax dollars on unnecessary issues like an 18 million dollar proposal to update a municiple building and start focusing on making Chatham-Kent better, clean the streets up and invest in drawing entrepreneurs and big industry to create JOBS!!! Then in return you will have more tax dollars to utilize, use your brain. Maybe go through and clean up your roster, could save hundreds of thousands of dollars simply right there.	18 Oct 2020, 05:46 PM
426	Residential taxes in the municipality have historically been kept too low and commercial an industrial business's have born the brunt of the taxes. Chatham-Kent is now a predominantly residential municipality and taxes should be reflective of that fact.	18 Oct 2020, 06:03 PM
427	You can't compare London libraries to Chatham kent libraries. Those living in the city have access to bus service to frequent their libraries. Closing small town libraries where children walk and many people do not have transportation. To get them to another town or the city. Closing a library in a small town, stops children from getting that book to read, and may have parents who can't get to the library in that next town the child will be the one who suffers. With Covid we stay in our homes a lot more and that book is a lot of comfort.	18 Oct 2020, 10:43 PM
428	Tax modernation review should not allow increase to taxes in areas where services are not being performed. Eg. No garbage or streetlights or policing by municipality then As a Citizen, I should not have to pay taxes on services I don't receive. More bike trails in east side of Chatham like major streets such as grand avenue and king street would be great. Department reviews with transparency are needed to target improvements in streamlining processes to increase customer service and timelines. More use of Technology for online and citizen services, applications and information as to what is happening in departments including projects. Thank you.	19 Oct 2020, 12:08 AM
429	Have more municipal employees work from home to decrease municipal assets carbon footprint	19 Oct 2020, 01:11 AM
430	The comparison to the London Library is misleading.	19 Oct 2020, 08:13 AM
431	Property taxes should be based on available community resources not solely based on mpac estimate. If city of Chatham has multiple resources those taxes should always be higher than say a small - not a lot of resources town - like Tilbury. Taxes are too high in small communities. People are struggling to buy property let alone pay the taxes on said properties. We're paying higher taxes than bigger communities like Lakeshore.	19 Oct 2020, 09:22 AM
432	The questions were a little difficult to have a yes or no with no comments, so we just did the best we could do with the way the questions were put to us.	19 Oct 2020, 12:00 PM
433	Switch from Property to Council tax for all people who have either a house or rent to provide more for the council to do as they need as in the UK	19 Oct 2020, 12:10 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
434	Regarding library services, comparing Chatham-kent to London libraries is a very poor example. CK serves a rural population and does not have a similar transportation system in place. The geography of CK is no way comparable to the city of London.	19 Oct 2020, 12:39 PM
435	It's not fair to compare a large urban library, such as London to us in a rural/urban area with poor transportation services. We actually need more hours in our smaller branches, not less, in order to serve the local communities. No where in your survey do you mention staffing levels at the Civic Center or Policing Services! Where are the statistics on that!	19 Oct 2020, 12:54 PM
436	It needs to be about cost savings not one persons convenience.	19 Oct 2020, 02:43 PM
437	Many of these decisions are to be made on behalf of kids in CK who will in all eventuality consider returning to CK in the future. If we have closed bridges, arenas, libraries, pools etc., they are not returning as these items do not 'reopen' once closed. Perhaps selling our 15% equity in North Kent Wind would cover any tax shortfalls in the near term while restructuring our antiquated tax system to reflect actual services provided.	19 Oct 2020, 03:35 PM
438	This survey was much smaller than I expected, not comprehensive at all.	19 Oct 2020, 03:58 PM
439	<p>#17 compared C-K's library system to London's. Is London used as a comparable municipality for all of our services? That does not seem to be fair to our Library system, which it is worth noting is a very good one.</p> <p>It seems a shame to shut the bridges to larger boat traffic. I can remember many years ago during the summers when the downtown docks would be full of boats on the weekends, many from the United States. That kind of activity would be a great benefit to downtown bars and restaurants and likely go a long way to helping revitalize our downtown. However, if the costs of \$10-30 million are accurate, that should be weighed against possible spending in the community that will be lost. There haven't been many boats in downtown Chatham for years, so by restricting large boat traffic, would we lose much in revenue? Should we be doing more to encourage boaters to come to Chatham to spend their money here, or is the cost of the moving bridges prohibitive?</p> <p>With bridges being so expensive, I wonder if we have more than we need. How do the number of bridges in Chatham-Kent compare to other similar size rural/agricultural municipalities across the province?</p> <p>One service that is not mentioned in the survey is public trails. I am a dog owner, and I walk in Maple Leaf Cemetery which I think is a fabulous mix of trails, history, and nature. If possible, improving and expanding our system of trails would be great. Trails are used by a wide range of people for a variety of activities: biking, walking, jogging, dog-walking. Some Communities across Ontario have trails that connect and run through the majority of their towns. This provides benefits in terms of transportation, health, and green areas for wildlife. I hope we can develop a bigger linked system of trails throughout the municipality.</p> <p>Is it possible to see more tree-planting initiatives as part of our future development? Every time I travel out of our municipality I am struck by the degree to which other areas have much more tree cover.</p> <p>Would outdoor skating rinks be more cost effective than arenas? Would an outdoor skating rink in the big parking lot downtown help downtown businesses?</p>	19 Oct 2020, 08:14 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
	I have lived most of my adult life in Chatham-Kent though I came from other parts of the province. I still believe this municipality is an awesome place to live. I hope to see us progress by improving our infrastructure and services to provide citizens with a range of activities and options. Social, fitness, and nature activities will help attract new people to our municipality. People should see C-K as a fun, active, place with many possibilities for enjoying nature. With new people, new businesses should come.	
440	Do not raise service fees for rural residents just to save the urban residents money. If you are going to tax us more for garbage and policing, I want to actually have garbage pickup and see a police car patrolling. If that is not going to happen, don't ask me for more money.	19 Oct 2020, 09:43 PM
441	Wondering why the area usage across the Municipality would not be equal rather than being concentrated at a few? If arenas were used equitably then the smaller rural communities would have more of an opportunity to capture the economic spin off that comes with it. If the issue is that there is too much ice time available then possibly an arena within the city limits can have the ice removed which would result in rural arenas being utilized more. With COVID, several of the Municipal Service Centres were closed for months and residents were forced to find an alternate way to pay their taxes and access services they required. Will be interesting to see if the patronage returns to prior COVID levels. Possibly some tax savings available by not staffing/maintaining all these centres.	19 Oct 2020, 11:00 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
442	<p>The "Other" option in the gender section is insensitive. Further consultation should have been done when composing this survey (for example with Pride at Work Canada - who likely would have helped you for free) to be inclusive to those that do not identify as Male or Female. Also, not sure how it is a relevant to budgetary questions for municipal services.</p> <p>This community needs investment, and that starts with government. You would be doing your constituents a disservice by cutting services under the guise of possibly lowering property taxes \$100 a year. You can do better.</p>	20 Oct 2020, 01:36 AM
443	More budget needs to be given to our over worked EMS / Paramedics. We need more ambulances on the road and available.	20 Oct 2020, 07:11 AM
444	<p>Chatham-Kent is a broad municipality and it must be understood that levels of service cannot be equal for residents no matter where they live. Residents in smaller communities cannot expect to have the same levels of service as those that live in urban centres. This is the case no matter where people live. Just because we are an amalgamated municipality does not mean that there should be the same access to all services in Bothwell as there is in Chatham (just an example). The reality is that geographically we are not spread that far apart and residents who choose to live in smaller more rural communities may have to drive slightly farther to access some services. This is true of those who live in Chatham and may have to drive to London or Windsor for some amenities. It's a simple question of geography and population levels. Council trying to keep all things equal is unsustainable and all residents suffer from this type of thinking. Amalgamation happened a long time ago. Let's move it with the good of the whole community in mind.</p>	20 Oct 2020, 10:32 AM
445	<p>Please consider utilizing the moneys received from government grants to offset any closures or tax increases.</p> <p>Taxes should not be equalized across Chatham-Kent. City and rural amenities vary to greatly to even consider increasing taxes in our rural communities.</p>	20 Oct 2020, 10:56 AM
446	<p>CK's mayor and councillors are overpaid for the "work" they do.</p> <p>Our taxes keep going up, but we see no improvements in our area. Nothing. We're planning on moving out of CK in 2021. Taxing us to death. We've been here since 1984,,, our property taxes are unreal!</p>	20 Oct 2020, 11:10 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
447	<p>I suggest Council take into the consideration the big picture every time it decided to invest in the rehabilitation of a road, a bridge, or a building that is only utilized by a few individuals. We face great challenges due to our small populations and vast geography, so the benefit of the "whole" has to come first. I know it can be hard to tell someone that they have to drive an extra few kms because of a road or a bridge closure, but the fact is that we are not tens of small municipalities any more; we are one big community that has to do with its limited resources and overwhelming infrastructure.</p> <p>I would also like for Council to really think about its targets and what it means to achieve them. For example, Council wants Chatham-Kent to be a leader in environmental sustainability, which is great! However, strategic steps have to be taken to invest into this bright future, which will allow return on investment at a later date. In other words, it's great for Council to have visionary goals, but real steps like allocating funding need to be taken; not just talk.</p> <p>Thank you for making it accessible for residents to have input on the 2021 budget through this survey.</p>	20 Oct 2020, 01:04 PM
448	Good Luck with the 2021 budget process!	20 Oct 2020, 03:15 PM
449	No tax increase!	20 Oct 2020, 08:07 PM
450	<p>When reviewing the library services, why would Chatham-Kent be compared to London? How do C-K's arena services Etc. compare to London's? Having lived in London, there is no comparison between the two communities based on the geographical and the municipal infrastructures. Urban vs. the rural C-K community. Essex County would have been a better choice for comparison. C-K services are spread over the whole Municipality, providing gathering places where there is limit if any transportation from one community to the next. Whereas with London, reasonable transportation is available to the whole community without isolating any aspect of the population and excluding them from community resources. I doubt that C-K will be enhancing the transportation infrastructure based on where this survey is going. At the very least, the library locations provide a gathering place for each community within C-K for all seasons. Enhancing library services as they exist would benefit the community. Arenas are seasonal, expensive to operate / maintain and limited to a small part of the community.</p>	20 Oct 2020, 08:13 PM
451	<p>Rural taxes should not be raised to be equitable to the city taxes          City dwellers have multiple amenities as opposed to rural residents Example street lights , side walks , pavement, municipal Water          Hire less city and township workers and make them accountable for working</p>	20 Oct 2020, 08:44 PM
452	Invest in tree planting on all streets... I see mature trees cut down but never replaced.	20 Oct 2020, 09:12 PM
453	The questions you ask cannot simply be answered in the framework you have given based on the size of Chatham Kent, and the equity issues that each question exposes. A town hall, or two minimum, in each of the wards would be more revealing to all councillors. An arena closing might well be a severe blow to the economy of a smaller ward while a bigger ward might well be able to deal with it more reasonably.	20 Oct 2020, 10:11 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
454	A large portion of our community do not have the income to pay for services for themselves and their family. Arts, culture and libraries are the LAST free amenity and should be preserved in order to continue to make these families feel part of our community. When cut off, many turn to substances to fill the void of not belonging - we have a terrible substance abuse problem here in CK and this EXACTLY where it starts - diaconnectedness.	21 Oct 2020, 06:52 AM
455	It would have been helpful to have a document (or link) before entering the survey that outlined the services provided in more details. A deeper understanding may influence answers. For example, what are "recreational services"? What does that entail? Where are the movable bridges and is there any way to promote tourism to increase use making it desirable to keep them or does it make more sense to fix them all? I would not want a library closing in my area, especially if I am in a smaller town and it would mean any sort of drive for access. However, what are some of the smaller libraries like? Could they be replaced with a mobile service that visits the area one day a week and still offers some programing? I appreciate being able to take part in this survey, but in general would like to have more detailed information available to me. For what it's worth I did try to find some information on my own, and our website is not intuitive or user friendly. I would also vote to allocate some funds (or simply an intern's time) to improve the website.	21 Oct 2020, 09:10 AM
456	Large expenditures should be a referendum example two pad arena which WE DONOT need.	21 Oct 2020, 12:36 PM
457	House prices have gone up. You will make more tax money that way.	21 Oct 2020, 01:06 PM
458	We need our infrastructure, bridges and roads in the rural setting maintained, to support our farming business. The number of vehicles per day should not be the most important factor in making these decisions!!	21 Oct 2020, 01:22 PM
459	Sell the Civic Centre, Rent office space at the Downtown Chatham Centre, the municipality should be a renter not an owner. What is Entegrus worth? Look at a spin off of even a portion of Entegrus, lots of pension funds out spending big money for a piece of a regulated utility. The dividends we receive aren't enough. Spin off of even part of it could fund the cost of much needed community/recreation centres in all C-K communities. Entegrus should not be out buying other utilities with our money. Why doesn't council ever talk about these easy options to save millions of dollars?	21 Oct 2020, 01:27 PM
460	With property values rising every quarter residents face the very real possibility of no being able to afford the taxes on their homes. In 12 years with the same employer my salary has not kept up with inflation even though I have been employed with progressively more responsibility. At the same time municipal taxes have tracked with inflation or at times higher. I'm farther behind than I was a decade ago.	21 Oct 2020, 02:08 PM
461	Regarding the increase to rural properties tax amount over policing. The stats do not support the increase. In fact their should a decrease based on the stats showing coverage and usage.	21 Oct 2020, 02:47 PM
462	More police presence in small town and villages. Review parks in small villages and consider enhancements. Erieau is a tourist area and park is sadly under serviced. Other parks in community area are very nice.	21 Oct 2020, 02:50 PM
463	Ec Dev should not be promoting out of town competing commercial properties on its website. Have brought this forward multiple times without any results. Makes community appear ridiculous by sending leads to other communities!	21 Oct 2020, 03:27 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
464	It might be savings to maintain fewer grass fields in the summer months or reduce the number of times they are maintained. Also reviewing reducing the number of roads that are serviced during snow removal both in town and rural.	21 Oct 2020, 03:34 PM
465	Continued investment in recreational activities and bringing in more retail establishments is required.	21 Oct 2020, 04:08 PM
466	Didn't learn very much except it sounds like the council want to change certain things that most people are not that concerned with. The roads around Chatham certainly need repairing so maybe they should start there.	21 Oct 2020, 05:59 PM
467	When I said no to user fees for some questions it was not because I deemed them not worthy I think they are high enough already and you want everyone to be able to participate. As for bridge closure..where? which one? you can't expect people to just say oh ok and not know what they are talking about. Its not fair. As for the moveable bridge yes it is costly but if Chatham would accomadate the boaters and use the amazing riverfront maybe it could offset some of the cost. Chatham does not take advantage of the river at all. The only reason I said yes to the alternative use of the arenas is because ours it sitting empty and our kids are having to go elsewhere...why? Is it because less kids are playing or the fees have pushed so many parents to the point they can't afford to put their kids into the game. As for the food when you are watching a game you want a hotdog or fries now it only needs to be a limited offering but I think it should still be available. Was not sure if the municipile office was closing too or just offering certain things online. I don't want it to close you need some human contact. Finally the library of course leave them all open!! We need to encourage our kids to read at every opportunity and the rest of the population as well with everything going to pot and the upset all around the library is free and you can go anywhere with a good book surely we don't need to send people out on the bus to get to a library.	21 Oct 2020, 06:01 PM
468	The only issue that matters MORE than any others is having a HOME...Housing, housing, housing!!!!	21 Oct 2020, 06:22 PM
469	Reduce spending on non-essentials and studies. Stop giving extras through OW. CK has a high rate of heart disease - invest in recreation, keep youth wanting to stay in CK. Cut spending on arts, EarlyON, librarys, craft kits, as there are other means to for people engage with those activities without using tax dollars. I have kids. I buy them books and crafts, and play with them, the municipality shouldn't have to foot the bill. I live on a cul se sac that rarely gets snow removal - guess what - I shovel it ! CK can't afford a tax hike. Counsellors should take a pay cut too.	21 Oct 2020, 06:49 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
470	Too much money spent with these bridges. Who is running whatever department is in charge of the bridge work. Why is so much engineering work farmed out? We have well paid engineers on staff I'm told and yet little of it is done in house. Why do we have sink holes along Grand Ave. near the Courthouse in Chatham? Why are basements flooding anywhere in this municipality? There is a good answer that isn't being voiced. I'd love to hear it. Money is being allotted in the wrong places here. I'm from a much higher taxed area, so the taxes here aren't obscenely high, per se, in my opinion, but I definitely think they are not well spent. The police force in this municipality is grossly over staffed. I wonder why that wasn't even mentioned in the survey? The fire department in Chatham is also obesely over staffed. Do we truly need that many people making that much money with very very low incidents of fire or emergency? Seriously? Trim the fat. Hire more EMS staff who seemingly work harder yet get paid half the wage of police and firefighters. Put the money in better community services that actually get used. Too many bridges are being maintained that too few people use. Too many police with no education in how deal with societal issues with no rationale. Hire educated staff and reduce the number of meatheads. Too many fire fighters with no return on investment. We need another survey to address these money pits.	21 Oct 2020, 08:12 PM
471	Comparing London's library capacity to C-K's is unfair. Obviously one is rural and one is urban. Distance, rural internet, etc. public transit, etc. are not comparable.	21 Oct 2020, 09:05 PM
472	Only allow major funding requests to be submitted during the budget process. Too often we have major requests that occur shortly after the budget is set and administration recommends taking the money from strategic reserves. This needs to end!	22 Oct 2020, 06:29 AM
473	I live in Dresden and I am disappointed with police coverage. It is rare to see a police car in the town or outlying vicinity. I live near the cemetery and can view traffic activity. Every night there are cars driving in the cemetery after dark. The back of the cemetery is known to be a drug location. Since there is basically no policing, maybe this cemetery should have gates that close off at dusk.	22 Oct 2020, 08:26 AM
474	no more capital move house funds that waste millions of taxes	22 Oct 2020, 08:33 AM
475	Keep all library branches open but reduce hours if required to have zero tax increase. The comparison of the library system in London to C-K isn't a fair comparison. Try something that is more believable. People in rural areas must go to local towns or Chatham for all their services. This becomes a real time consumer, an insurmountable expense for some, and that doesn't even touch the amount of driving and it's effect on climate change.	22 Oct 2020, 10:25 AM
476	The local newspaper often has articles concerning bike path creation. I am left with the impression that council cares only about possible new residents who may possibly decide to live here based only on the availability of extensive bike path creation, at the expense of more complicated street configurations, not to mention the allocation of funds better spent on regular street maintenance. Were I deciding to move here, the existence of numerous bike paths would be far outweighed by the quantity of man hole cover pits that currently populate the city streets.	22 Oct 2020, 11:12 AM
477	I Think if we look at the little things that the municipality is waiting money on it would add up to huge savings. Like I said at the start of this survey. For example I watched three men and two trucks one with a boom lift take about two hours to put up signs on the light posts. I am sure our tax dollars could be spent more wisely.	22 Oct 2020, 11:21 AM
478	property taxes are ridiculously high. We need property tax lowered.	22 Oct 2020, 11:57 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
479	this survey is useless because nobody knows where the money is being spent except the individual departments which do not give a line by line costs to council.	22 Oct 2020, 12:29 PM
480	If this questionnaire is any indication of the types of decisions this municipality is making with respect to its budget, then there is a significant problem. You are asking questions for which the answers should be evident and you are not focused on how you can significantly reduce the tax burden on your ratepayers. I live in Port Alma on the Lake Erie bluff and honestly don't know what Ward that I live in so I am guessing it is Ward 2-South Kent. I am extremely disappointed in 1) not having garbage collection for the high amount of taxes that we pay, 2) not having a concrete plan for protecting the bluff and expecting \$ from higher levels of government which will never happen 3) not having a plan in place to re-open or re-route Talbot Trail and not upgrading the concession road which is currently being used as an alternate route to address the higher traffic levels, and 4) not having any enforcement of the 60km speed limit especially during the tomato hauling season.	22 Oct 2020, 12:46 PM
481	It is impossible to please everyone. I guess my concern is equal property tax for similar houses. But some consideration for older people who do not have big income, just at the minimum range.	22 Oct 2020, 12:59 PM
482	It seemed pretty light in content. There must be much more info the public could help decide on(?)	22 Oct 2020, 02:18 PM
483	this survey has nothing to do with the equalization of taxes between rural and urban	22 Oct 2020, 02:42 PM
484	In looking at Libraries I understand the need or want to close some of the smaller branches. HOWEVER, before a branch is arbitrarily closed a community impact study should be done. At the same time, how many people from the community would step up to have a library similar to Erieau (all volunteer run). All smaller Libraries, including Erieau should have the same amenities as full service libraries, for example Wi-Fi, decent desktop computers with the same software as the larger branches. If Covid has taught us anything, it is the need to have access to the internet. There are many students in the rural areas that have issues accessing internet / Wi-Fi.	22 Oct 2020, 03:27 PM
485	disapointing questions,,,this survey very poorly done.	22 Oct 2020, 04:09 PM
486	I live rurally and many if not all of these so called services are not available to us our children or grandchildren based on location. I detest paying any of my taxes towards further benefitting chatham proper residents	22 Oct 2020, 05:31 PM
487	Considering the aging of our local population and the relatively low level of health more should be done to encourage walking, running and cycling in the community.	22 Oct 2020, 05:32 PM
488	Unrelated to this specific survey , I would like to comment about Chatham's current growth spurt . We have deforested Ontario to create farmland and grow food . Now we are covering this farmland with relatively low density housing developments . At this point in history ,don't you think that we should be looking at where the puck is going and perhaps develop progressive strategies such as "Geo-thermal Infrastructure" at a time when it is cheaper and easier to install than to retrofit? We have unfortunately seen too many missed opportunities to change our approaches for a better ecological future in the building of new schools etc. We could have learned a valuable approach had we invested more interest and questions in how the Ursuline sisters developed their new homes.	23 Oct 2020, 11:55 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
489	Your information on libraries is biased toward reducing library services in our community. See Colin Pritchard's letter Chatham This Week. Between -2500 and -2001BC Egyptians built their first libraries, between -600 and -501BC there were public libraries in Athens. When the libraries were destroyed after the fall of Rome, Europe entered the Dark Ages. We need BOOKS to preserve knowledge!!!	23 Oct 2020, 12:52 PM
490	Provide a little more info on each topic. eg. Some librarys are not being under utilized .	23 Oct 2020, 04:01 PM
491	Whatever you decide please attempt to leave Chatham with better/more services not less/worse.	23 Oct 2020, 04:46 PM
492	We have too many People on the CK payroll. This business model is not sustainable. If service is needed, we should be contracting it out, rather than increasing our long term costs. We should pay our Staff based on living in CK, not what a comparable job pays in London or Toronto. This is especially true for Police, Fire and equipment.	23 Oct 2020, 06:07 PM
493	I think it's borderline offensive that there is a real suggestion on the table to have rural communities pay more for policing services, when we are not serviced equally. I know firsthand that I do not feel as safe in my beloved rural community any longer, after phoning 911 in a panic while a man was actively trying to assault me, many weeks ago and still never having seen the face of an officer (aside from when I proactively dropped off a statement to the station), only two brief emails with very little communicated about the incident. The incident and lack of follow up is something I actively discuss with the counselor I was already a client of. I already had particular feelings about it - and then I heard about the proposed tax changes. I'll pay for as many damn street lights as the counsel and the Financial Services feels I should pay for, but it is a slap in the face for those area rates to be removed when I don't even feel I could get assistance in my community if I needed. I sincerely hope the area charges for police services are voted to be left intact. I'm all for the 'vision of transparency' the report boasts supporting, but not at the expense of taxpayers who have always wondered why their safety seems less valued, or for them to pay more to have the same concern. The priorities are not in line on this one.	23 Oct 2020, 06:13 PM
494	Seeing the potential for rural tax to raise and city residents to lower makes me so upset with the municipality. As a resident of CK who lived in both country and city, this makes no sense. No garbage or police ever past my house when living in the country. I feel bad for all rural residents who this may impact. Its disappointing out municipality it considering negatively affecting some and positively affe ting others... shows who gets more preference in CK	24 Oct 2020, 08:46 AM
495	No increases in taxes please. Don't increase taxes to give certain interest groups things. Get a bare bones budget. If someone wants to use extra services such as arenas, pools, etc they need to pay for the services not every tax payer. How often is it necessary for a bridge to open? Probably never for most bridges. Having bridges that open is a huge waste of tax dollars. Unnecessary.	24 Oct 2020, 08:55 AM
496	I believe the municipality is extremely over staffed and believe that it should be very seriously looked into	24 Oct 2020, 12:44 PM
497	Notice no survey on increasing rural taxes to fund service levels that are not provided to rural residents as noted in recent media and council articles. Why not?	24 Oct 2020, 01:33 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
498	<p>For the number of chatham-kent employees I do not believe we are getting good value for the cost.</p> <p>Administration is very poorly run and it appears they are second rate at the best, every time a issue comes up they need to hire a consultant to solve their short comings . council should be on top of this problem.</p> <p>We have way to many counselors for the size of our municipality a better formula would be only two from each district including the city of Chatham which would bring our total down to 10, two from the north, two from the east ,two from the south, two from the west, and two from central</p>	24 Oct 2020, 08:14 PM
499	<p>Social programs during this covid-19 period should be kept to a minimum. Snow removal was greater than needed last winter. Something should be done about our ever increasing and excessive policing/fire costs. Having police, fire trucks and Ambulance arriving at the same call is excessive and redundant in most cases.</p>	25 Oct 2020, 12:29 PM
500	<p>Foremost, I hope we didn't spend too much money on this survey. I have issues with the high taxes we pay for the services we get- namely a dump to take our garbage to ourselves once a week and a dirt road that sees little maintenance. Police services must be maintained in rural areas .It is very frustrating to see tax dollars consistently spent in urban centres...It is a sad statement to our municipality when they are the largest employer!!!</p>	25 Oct 2020, 07:13 PM
501	<p>I live in a rural area and there is talk of raising our taxes and reduce the taxes for urban areas with regards Policing. This is a mistake ,we rarely see any signs of Police ,Fire dept. is volunteer , no garbage pick up,poor Paramedic service,little or no lighting on the roads or intersections and secondary roads are unpaved.To top this off any drainage work my responsibility . Not much of a return on over Five Thousand dollars of taxes</p>	26 Oct 2020, 02:21 PM
502	<p>The option of ) kms for bridge closure inconvenience should have been an option.</p>	27 Oct 2020, 11:09 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
503	<p>You have not addressed any issues regarding rural residents in this survey. How can your only tax reductions revolve around closing bridges, is this the biggest problem in Chatham Kent? There were 61 municipal employees on the sunshine list in 2019 not including CK Fire or Police Services, and CK is the largest employer in CK, do you think there might be some internal savings and restructuring that could be implemented within the municipality instead of closing bridges? Roads is the only area of your budget that needs a drastic funding increase and new management. We are paying 7 Roads Supervisors over \$100,000 a year to supervise... what do they supervise? The black coal mine gravel road I live down? Applying brine and grading the road when it doesn't need to be done? Cutting the ditch banks once a year AT BEST! Paving 1km of road in 15 different towns to keep town residents satisfied that at least something was done for them each year instead of just paving an entire road and not paying to move paving equipment around to 15 towns? That really does sound like a lot of supervising, its a good thing they all have nice new trucks to drive around to each location in, avoid the gravel roads though, wouldn't want to get the new municipal trucks covered in black dust and stone chips. Chatham Kent needs to take a hard look at themselves and not blame bridges for your budget shortcomings. Why don't you look at increasing services for rural residents like adding garbage pickup or paving new roads, there is obviously a big problem if we are talking about reducing infrastructure spending rather than increasing it. I guess it all boils down to CK becoming an "age friendly" community, how did we get there? How did we lose all the jobs and incentive for young people to live here? I think it's safe to say your tax rate has destroyed any hope for businesses here therefore diminishing any jobs for young professionals. How did the tax rate get to where it is should be the question, not how to reduce it. Maybe we can tack this assignment onto someone that is busy "supervising", my guess is though CK would hire someone to do a 1million dollar study and do nothing with the results, hopefully that's not what you do with the comments from this survey.</p>	27 Oct 2020, 12:05 PM
504	Not enough information was provided on this survey to make a good judgement call.	27 Oct 2020, 12:47 PM
505	There seems to be a lot of homeless people in CK. I would like to see more money spent on this issue. More money spent to help people get homes and maybe a grant program or something to make renting an apartment easier.	27 Oct 2020, 08:57 PM
506	We need to invest in our community for business attraction and retention.	28 Oct 2020, 09:26 AM
507	Rather than leading choices with the use of multiple choice ask a question and have the person give their thoughts not a leading answer that can be used by budget committee to increase whatever they like.	28 Oct 2020, 09:54 AM
508	property tax assessments unfair	28 Oct 2020, 11:54 AM
509	More financial detail to support some of the questions would be good.	28 Oct 2020, 11:58 AM
510	<p>Consider the people that don't have the luxuries that you do. The people that can't jump in their car to go to Chatham for things. The people that need service in their small communities and can't afford to go to larger centres often.</p> <p>I do think that service levels need to be reassessed across the Municipality. Especially if the tax modernization plan is being considered. Services vary greatly across the Municipality and it will be very hard to convince people that have to drive to the dump, get rid of their own yard waste, etc.. to pay more to still not get these services.</p>	28 Oct 2020, 02:02 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
511	I answered no to the canteen question because of JR Hockey, in particular the Maroons. We should have a better canteen and licensed option for games.	28 Oct 2020, 02:07 PM
512	You have to look at more than arena's, libraries, pools, and bridges to save taxes. Let us have input on all of the services. Garbage pickup, street lights, policing etc.	28 Oct 2020, 03:37 PM
513	DO NOT raise the cost of policing in the over taxed rural areas where we wonder what does a police car look like!	28 Oct 2020, 03:46 PM
514	You are stepping over dollars to pick up dimes. You focus on the canteens at the arenas, while the CK Staff budget runs wild. Close arenas and charge extra for play fields, so you can hire more Police to keep the graffiti off of the vacant buildings. The Kids can't afford to participate in your CK. Soon the Residents will not be able to afford to retire here either. Are swing bridges, rural libraries and ball diamonds really the best that you can do ?	28 Oct 2020, 06:02 PM
515	Do not increase taxes to rural residents who are not receiving specific services, and decrease taxes for residents in Chatham who use those services (police, garbage collection, wastewater services) more frequently. Increased taxes should be spread equally among parties with the exception of those who cannot access services due to availability in their area.	28 Oct 2020, 08:06 PM
516	Council decisions should reflect what is best for all Chatham-Kent residents, and not those who scream the loudest. This will require strong leadership and is the only way we will progress as a community. Maintaining all services of the past will not move us forward. Please start the movement by right sizing Council representation from 18 representatives to 9.	28 Oct 2020, 08:36 PM
517	Nothing in this survey touched upon the proposed equalization in tax charges across the municipality with regard to rural vs urban. I am totally against this as there is no comparison in the services that are provided in each. In the case of police services, we live in the country and never see police presence. There are people down the road that drag race all Summer long and we have never seen police there to stop it. People drive by our house at 100 km/hr and we never see anyone get stopped for speeding. We have no street lights, sidewalks, public transit, sewers, water services or any of the amenities that urban dwellers enjoy. We chose to live in the country and go without these services in order to pay lower taxes. The only ones benefitting from this proposal are municipal employees who calculate the taxes and urban dwellers. The municipality is largely rural and to expect the residents in these areas to pay the same tax rates as urban areas is an outrageous proposition.	28 Oct 2020, 08:49 PM
518	Council needs to quit catering to the minority. Council should be setting policies and quit medaling in the day to day operations of the Municipality Reduce the size of council to many for a small community	29 Oct 2020, 07:58 AM
519	Libraries need to be open longer hours. Raised bridges should be able to contribute to tourism. If none of the boats using the bridges are representative of tourists, I would be in favour of converting to a fixed bridge. I see nothing in this questionnaire regarding the environment. We need to find ways to save habitat for all species of wild creatures. Tax breaks for properties that use land wisely such as replanting woodlots, restoring wetlands or restoring natural habitat should be provided. These natural habitats can do much to mitigate flooding and to help with the reversal of the downward trend of creature endangerment. Unless we start doing something major now, we won't have a fit municipality to pass on to our grandchildren.	29 Oct 2020, 09:19 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
520	There are major savings to be found by embracing more progressive technologies in road maintenance and bridge construction while adhering to but not exceeding regulatory standards	29 Oct 2020, 12:27 PM
521	It is my understanding that this council would like to even out taxes across the board. I would be all for it everything being equal. However, we don't see nearly the amount of police outside of the city for example. Also , it would be nice to have street lights. Visitors and delivery people complain all the time how hard it is to find my house at night. If we were to get the same services that Chatham now enjoys like street lights and sidewalks and garage pickup it might be fair. As of now, all I see is a council catering to the cities . I strongly disagree with having to pay the same amount of taxes when we do NOT or CANNOT receive the same privileges .	29 Oct 2020, 02:28 PM
522	police and fire NO overtime and full day work for municipal workers	29 Oct 2020, 02:35 PM
523	Residents of Chatham Kent are struggling to get ahead, an increase in taxes is just not doable for most. Recreation is great but not as necessary as learning, and road maintenance. We need to find a balance between providing some services, but finding ways to make living in Chatham Kent more affordable.	29 Oct 2020, 02:36 PM
524	We feel that council does not give areas outside of Chatham enough consideration with regard to spending and is too quick to close/shut down services other than in Chatham.	29 Oct 2020, 02:43 PM
525	Focus on getting people outdoors and providing activities that the working family generations are interested in.....complete the bike paths and add more, build a pump track or 2, help the local BMX track (could be moved closer to the city even), more opportunities for different sports ( ie. you have to have a private membership to play squash in Chatham Kent right now). Work with the Chatham Kent ATV club to open up trails to connect our communities (old railroad is used all over Ontario by various snowmobile and atv clubs) ATV tourism would drive revenue for small businesses (restaurants, gas stations, recreational stores). There are volunteer organizations that are trying to push for projects to be approved, LEVERAGE them and their fundraising capabilities to make things happen and offload cost from the municipality. If a group of enthusiasts can raise the money to make things happen, why should you tell them no??? Reduce the Red Tape!! Get people outside of their protective bubble and think FUN!	29 Oct 2020, 02:56 PM
526	a complete INDEPENDANT review of current management levels that are not based on protecting each other but rather benefits the municipality as a whole.	29 Oct 2020, 02:56 PM
527	Please note, that my family accesses many of the services indicated on this survey many times per week and although valuable to my family, I don't think it is the responsibility of tax payers to maintain fully. In addition, although my area is being considered for increased taxes to align with urban taxes, we do not have the same services. We do not benefit from garbage or recycling services, sewer services or streetlight services. Also to note, is that our home insurance is much higher since we do not have a fire hydrant within 1000 feet. Since the closure occurred on hwy 3 in 2019, we have also not seen regular police presence resulting in people driving at high speeds and increased break ins.	29 Oct 2020, 02:57 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
528	I appreciate the opportunity for input however I found the process too "simplified". Efficiencies should be sought ie better use of technology vs cutting library branches before you start raising taxes. Have you done this already? The survey could have used a cover letter of some sort to advise participants and residents of the various challenges facing council and measures taken to date and what has brought us to this point. Has council considered focus groups or a resident panel of some sort? I would like to see a "vision" from council about what living in CK will be like 10 and 20 years from now. All that being said, I also do acknowledge that council has shown a certain degree of respect for taxpayer dollars. That is also appreciated.	29 Oct 2020, 02:58 PM
529	Lower property taxes on rentals to drive down rent prices. I have a rental and I feel horrible about how much prices have went up. I'm not making any profit and it's STILL too expensive for renters.	29 Oct 2020, 03:10 PM
530	Get rid of libraries, nobody uses them anymore as we are in the world of internet! Close all arenas except those in Chatham! Build new sports complex in Chatham!	29 Oct 2020, 04:11 PM
531	Some of the questions are not very clear such as the Bridge closure issue. As an example, closing of the 3rd and 5th street bridge may be a good thing IF we were going to build a new bridge say at fourth street and run it across to St Clair. Or Upgrade the 5th Street bridge and leave the 3rd Street bridge open to walking traffic. The problem with the streets that we have bridges on in Chatham is we build a bridge to move traffic across our city and then we build a subdivision in front of the major access route so that it slows the movement of traffic or we have to divert the traffic to some other bridge or road. Keil Drive is a prime example and so is LaCroix Street Bridge. 3rd and 5th Street bridges were never good traffic movers but they were all we had for years. We need to correct the problem the next time we build a bridge or we will eventually have the same problem that London has and now they need a ring road to move traffic around their city. My Daughter lives on the south side of London and it take her almost an hour to get down town to work. The Arena issue is even more a problem because each town in CK has its own arena. To me that is an political issue. Maybe the next area built say in Wallaceburg should be built so it can be an joint area with Dresden. Likewise Ridgetown and Blenheim. could share an area if it was located in between the two towns. The Northside arena in Chatham I am not sure how much usage it gets anymore, but it probably is one that could be targeted for other uses.	29 Oct 2020, 04:13 PM
532	We live in the country and don't have anything the city has why should we pay more taxes. The city has everything and you want them to pay less. I don't think that is right.	29 Oct 2020, 04:13 PM
533	Consider the working class people who were effected my the pandemic who can't afford a tax hike. this is not the year to raise taxes and make things more expensive when people either lost their jobs or had cut hours. They are trying to catch up on bills and pay for gifts for loved ones for the holidays. They shouldn't have to worry about a tax hike on top of everything else that has happened this year. That is a money grab basically. There is other ways that the council can make money without taking from the community.	29 Oct 2020, 04:17 PM
534	Choosing to only raise the taxes of residents outside of Chatham city limits only resends the message that you should live in the city limit of Chatham, the arenas would be rented out more if the price of it wasn't so high, you already have the employee there allow someone to rent it rather then it sit empty, why does Chatham-Kent need to have the newest equipment for doing roadwork ( tractors that cut grass on the side of highways) Why do we pay a medical office \$250k a year to go against his advice, there was a time where being a council member was to be the voice of the people, but it has become to push their own agenda.	29 Oct 2020, 04:20 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
535	The items surveyed are small budget items. Need to look hard at CK Administration and staff/ Police/Fire salaries and benefits. Pension costs are large costs and should not be 30 years and maximum pension. Should be minimum retirement of 62, for an unreduced pension. Pensions should be defined contribution not defined benefit. Benefits are typically 30+% of salary. One benefit that should be eliminated is out of province out of country unless required as part of job. Earn salary in Chatham Kent/Ontario. Travel out of area should be a personal expense.	29 Oct 2020, 04:54 PM
536	Taxes are to high for the level of service provided in our area (Wheatley)	29 Oct 2020, 04:58 PM
537	These are the wrong questions. 1 million dollars spent on Pond rd another 1 million on Botting rd. wallaceburg. If you want to know where to save money stop spending it on bridges that don't get used. Not fixing those 2 bridges in one small area is enough savings you were looking for to fix Basline. Which is used by many many many vehicles every day.	29 Oct 2020, 06:21 PM
538	its time that saving be found in house..all your questions are about raising the cost of everything. its time all managers are held accountable no is a answer when it comes to wants and needs/.run the city like most households if you cant afford it you do not buy it.i just moved to rural area from the city about 2yrs ago.Taxes in town getting ridiculous cause chatham spends like drunken sailors. Now you wont to dump police and poss fire cost onto us. the only time i see a police cruiser go flying by my house the are racing to Thamesville cause the office got closed yrs ago-great plan. you may as well charge me for garbage that does not get picked up at my house while your at it.I believe there is going to be a huge back lash if council proceeds with this type of dump and run tax increase for rural .	29 Oct 2020, 06:22 PM
539	Councillors are paid to watch out for their wards however they seem to always accept what the departments present as there budgets. You are the board of the municipality you need to control the cfo and ceo not the other way around. Take the budget and tear it apart line by line do your job.	29 Oct 2020, 06:59 PM
540	We need police in Thamesville .	29 Oct 2020, 07:17 PM
541	You can not compare London's libraries to the number in Chatham kent. We do not have a transit system the same as the City of London, so if you close a library branch in Thamesville it doesn't mean it is easy for someone to just pop over to Chatham to use the library.	29 Oct 2020, 07:20 PM
542	Fast track Artificial Intelligence to automate the majority of municipal services. Land Developers should be fronting the costs for all services to any new land developments including roads, lightening, street lights, signage and costs to property owners. Add Volunteer fire services, expanded by-law services to reduce policing costs. Elimination of Defined pension plans, and replace with a defined contribution pension plan. Sell the Chatham-Kent's Civic Centre and don't repair.	29 Oct 2020, 07:27 PM
543	Tired of paying outrageous taxes for no services.. the city gets it all, the county nothing. It doesn't cost to turn my street lights on as I have none. I have no sidewalks to be repair or have snow removal. No sewers to take care of and a road noone seems in a hurry to repair. I noticed Chatham sink hole was repaired swiftly but no one has any idea if my road will ever open. Enough is enough! Stop taxing me to death. You want to close arenas but think Chatham wants A new twin pad. I Will not pay for it! Start to think about were the money is spent on and it is not the county?	29 Oct 2020, 07:50 PM
544	In this COVID era this is not the time to rock the taxation boat. Some people are struggling now	29 Oct 2020, 08:18 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
545	Arena ice rental prices are already to high in our area, from 4pm to close arenas in Chatham Kent are booked solid... the problem is usage during non peak hours... as for bridges we no longer have boats come to chatham like they use to so changing bridge types wouldn't be much of a burden	29 Oct 2020, 08:37 PM
546	The questions are very leading. How be council look first to staffing levels/wages and productivity savings. Also, cancel nice-to-have vs must have work/projects; defer those that can wait. During a pandemic, it is not the time to be increasing taxes.	29 Oct 2020, 08:40 PM
547	Taxes are far too high in Wheatley. We receive minimal services and usually last on the list for snow removal, police. Our roads are in poor condition.	29 Oct 2020, 08:45 PM
548	Good survey. I look forward to voting in the next election and I hope the comeback of Wallaceburg continues. From a WDSS student.	29 Oct 2020, 09:26 PM
549	The leveling of taxes between rural and urban as it pertains to services is not acceptable first of all farm land does not benefit at all from these changes. Regardless of what is paid in the rural area our services will not increase so paying for street lights and quicker police service should stay with the larger amount of tax in the urban areas	29 Oct 2020, 09:35 PM
550	If these are your major issues for the upcoming budget the residents of Chatham-Kent are in big trouble. None deserve re-election, especially the mayor.	29 Oct 2020, 10:12 PM
551	No change in distribution of cost relating to police service and street lights. People in rural areas pay additional expenses in other cost of living such as increased gas, to access services, higher rates based on location (ie lake view, lakeside) and some of these additional costs are off set by other areas. If you increase rural taxes for police and lower urban taxes, perhaps you can increase urban taxes for convince of access to services to make it fair for all. The reality is that there are differences between our rural and urban areas and this should be respected for the uniqueness that exists in ck.	29 Oct 2020, 10:17 PM
552	The city should pay for their services. The rural and small town should have to support the city Continuous Busing on many city streets Beautiful big parks in the city Huge city office  If you use it - pay to use it If you don't have or see it - don't pay for others to use it	29 Oct 2020, 10:28 PM
553	We live in the country with no services besides road service and we pay to much in taxes vs our city friends with town water, garbage pickup, transportation.	29 Oct 2020, 10:29 PM
554	I believe we can find efficiency's in the system that can allow improvements without raising taxes. As an arm's length citizen of someone who worked for Chatham Kent there are many lost opportunities for income and too many special favours to some groups.	29 Oct 2020, 10:32 PM
555	Not sure why other departments aren't being looked at for cuts. Travel and leisure for instance, customer service... I believe I've seen plenty of information and brochures for all areas at the library. How many customer service agents do we have or need?	30 Oct 2020, 02:09 AM
556	I don't want to see my taxes raised for services I don't get. I am a rural resident that has no sewer, garbage pickup or sidewalks. I feel my taxes should not be raised to help pay for these services that are provided for urban people.	30 Oct 2020, 05:02 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
557	<p>Rationalization is going to impact rural residents unfairly and I feel like you are treating them as low hanging fruit. In Howard Township we had contracted garbage collectors, a couple with their own equipment. CK Council decided to contract with BFI, not us. We paid less than \$100,000 a year for this service. What does the current service cost? Not the few Howard residents' fault that you guys tried this one size fits all option.</p> <p>Arenas: rural arenas were built in part with rural money. They were never meant to make money or even break even. We've seen the calls for a Taj Mahal arena in the city of Chatham and we know damn well what that means to small town arenas. If usage is an excuse for closure it's a foregone conclusion. I disagree. Before you make this decision ask yourselves, what is the social cost of having these buildings shuttered?</p> <p>But again I can see rural residents are the low hanging fruit. Bridges, services, arenas, etc.</p>	30 Oct 2020, 05:39 AM
558	Rural and urban living contrast like night and day...there's no logical sense in your proposed changes to raise rural taxes.	30 Oct 2020, 06:04 AM
559	Perhaps Chatham should fine property owners and businesses that blatantly disregard bylaws. When someone complains actually get off your arse and look into it and charge fines as a means of cash intake and for abiding by the law.	30 Oct 2020, 06:13 AM
560	This questionnaire does not allow residents to provide their own suggestions.	30 Oct 2020, 07:02 AM
561	Property values are over assessed via MPAC so the reality is that CK is receiving much more money than they are truly entitled to. Property Taxation should not be another form of illegal Government Theft , it's purpose is to support roads and bridges, NOT Government Bureaucracies and pet projects.	30 Oct 2020, 07:19 AM
562	Rural policing and urban policing is not the same, therefore, do not change current tax rates for rural tax payers	30 Oct 2020, 07:22 AM
563	Survey is Superficial and does not address huge administration costs	30 Oct 2020, 07:29 AM
564	I don't have sewer hookup or garbage pickup.	30 Oct 2020, 07:33 AM
565	The section on bridges did not offer the alternative of cheaper and different types and ways of building bridges that could result in significant savings and far less inconvenience to the tax payers of C-K!!! Council is negligent in doing their jobs if they don't force this issue!!	30 Oct 2020, 07:33 AM
566	Something must be done about over time pay, in the military you did never got over time pay, time to get rid of any over time paid to any government employees.	30 Oct 2020, 07:42 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
567	Could we not take the 18M your looking at spending to fix City Hall and the money for a new twin pad arena. Could we not make it one Super place, where City Hall, Library, Rec Center (for indoor activities for 4 seasons), twin pad arena. Place it on a parcel of LAND central to all citizens of Chatham-Kent. We need to develop the land along the 401-corridor close to the City. Why is it the people along Charring Cross road get to dictate they don't want an off ramp? So, they get the voice to decide the economic impact for Chatham. Had this happened 30 years ago, likely we would have more industry here to employ the citizens. Example look at the 401 from Cambridge to Toronto or the out skirts of London have HWY 401 access. Victoria Ave is another disaster on SAVE the TREES, I'm all for saving trees but what is the budget impact trying to save trees while providing these homes with much need infrastructure upgrades.	30 Oct 2020, 08:06 AM
568	The budget process is surely complex and must consider many competing priorities, but I believe that council must continue to evaluate the efficiency of each and every service provided and ensure that tax dollars are being well spent. Budgets should be based on evolving needs and priorities.....including essential services. While I don't envision a 'zero based budget' to every budget line being feasible, that mindset should be more prevalent. Most households must make regular decisions on how they spend their finite (and often fixed) income, and expect all levels of government to do the same effectively.	30 Oct 2020, 08:12 AM
569	Survey only addresses the items not reflect on daily services. what about natural gas supply , rural garbage pick up , proper rural road maintenance, police coverage, ambulance coverage. Since amalgamation taxes for rural Kent has skyrocketed and services diminished with increasing staffing. How does COVID staffing reductions reflect on tax burden??	30 Oct 2020, 08:13 AM
570	Save taxes	30 Oct 2020, 08:24 AM
571	Reduce the Policing budget, such as getting rid of motorcycles that are seldom use, drones and of course the mobile crime investigation unit that was a complete waste of our tax dollars. In other words tell the Chief there is no Santa Clause.	30 Oct 2020, 08:31 AM
572	When looking at Library branches how could you even consider London as a comparable municipality. It's a city with no rural community! Maybe council isn't aware but the community is more than just the city of Chatham. Chatham as a city needs to increase taxes in town and decrease it in rural areas. Council should be ashamed of how it represents the communities outside of the city.	30 Oct 2020, 08:41 AM
573	The residential tax rate is too high. We pay more taxes than any of our neighbouring municipalities. We are one of the highest taxed areas in all of Ontario. The excuse that we are a large (area) municipality that requires a lot of infrastructure improvements no longer flies. I have yet to see a 0% increase in my residential taxes. Saving money can be done without threatening to remove services for the vulnerable. I know that the Municipal Government cannot be everything to everybody. Therefore the elected officials and the full time workers of the city need to determine a realistic and feasible method of cost reduction and thereby reduce the burden on home owners.	30 Oct 2020, 08:46 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
574	<p>Arenas- amalgamate all minor hockey organizations within Chatham Kent. Return players going to outside municipalities. House league available at each centre-play against other house league teams within Chatham Kent. Central tryouts for travel hockey to provide AAA, AA, A, BB B C and D teams depending on # of players. House league teams have choice of ice times in home centre. Travel teams have choice of ice times in any Chatham Kent facility. Will make better use if facilities available so no need to build. And will be better for players to play at appropriate skill level. Canteen operation should be contracted out to private business who can determine when &amp; how to operate and hire additional staff if needed.</p> <p>Bridge closures should only occur if minimal alternate route. Less than 3-4 Km and only if it does not pose safety risk of increased farm vehicle traffic on main roads! Size of span would also need to be taken into consideration. If feasible, allow farmer to install private bridges within their property for farm vehicle access whenever possible.</p> <p>Reduction of moveable bridges for recreational boat traffic should be aligned with municipal strategic plans for economic development and tourist attraction as there could be long term economic impacts. If any moveable bridges required for commercial traffic they should remain regardless of traffic levels.</p>	30 Oct 2020, 08:52 AM
575	<p>I do not support tax equalization. When we amalgamated it was presented to the ratepayers that the services would be maintained.</p> <p>As a rural resident who has to take my waste to a recycling depot with limited hours on only one day a week I do not support paying equal tax as a Chatham resident who receives police, garbage pickup, recycling pickup, street cleaning, fire and ambulance services readily. I do not receive any direct service in the county, wait 30+ minutes for an ambulance, never see police enforce the ATV regulations and wait days for snow removal. Do not change the "rules" in the middle of the game. Arenas and libraries are the fabric of small communities. Take away those services and you are weakening the communities.</p>	30 Oct 2020, 08:54 AM
576	Rural residents don't get to enjoy sidewalks, beautification of the 'city limits', transit and trails so It's not fair to increase our taxes and lower the suburbs to keep these services. People live in the city to have these services therefore they MUST pay for it.	30 Oct 2020, 09:30 AM
577	Administration costs should be reduced along with the amount of employees it has. We have a way too many city employees compared to Windsor and London and Toronto.....Council has got to start using common sense in making decisions for CK taxpayers and get some backbone to stand up to Administration.....just who is running this city????	30 Oct 2020, 09:39 AM
578	This municipality is run by the administration and not our elected officials that is why it is one of the highest taxed municipalities in Ont and one of the poorest run.my taxes have gone from 2600 dollars to over 8000 dollars in the 20 years I have lived here. You have to many high priced employees on staff.when I have to pay over 150 dollars,a week to live in my own home something is wrong.all the wind turbines were supposed to keep my taxes down,what happened there?	30 Oct 2020, 09:49 AM
579	people with wood lots given tax break land worth more without trees	30 Oct 2020, 10:02 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
580	We could save money by not scraping all of the gravel off the roads into the ditches. We have 1 year of gravel and 2 years of mud. Why not outsource the arena snack bars to a private business that will work hard to have high quality products and services that are profitable? Rural CK residents do not have sewers, sidewalks, curbs, trees, fire hydrants, etc. There is no way we should pay more to offset costs for city/town residents.	30 Oct 2020, 10:08 AM
581	As I stated earlier, I live in the country, we do not use most of these items listed, such as arenas. How about counsel take a cut also if you are cutting services. As I said we do not get much for service where we are.	30 Oct 2020, 10:25 AM
582	libraries have become a strain for tax payers and should definitely be monitored for performance as well as town employees driving around with no specific place to go.	30 Oct 2020, 10:33 AM
583	There are too many employees in Chatham-Kent. When we were Raleigh Township our taxes were low and we were very efficient. There are buildings all over Kent County where Municipal employees can "hide" from the population. I see inefficiencies all over the place. I see things that need to be fixed within the system. When the road workers/supervisors are out and about, do they not open their eyes when they are driving or just putting in their 40 hours per week? I have taken pruning shears out and cut back limbs so that I can see when I come to a cross road with a yield sign. Why do I have to do this when I am paying someone to do THEIR job? Call me and we can discuss. XXX-XXX-XXXX+B585	30 Oct 2020, 10:58 AM
584	Review staffing levels to reduce cost and legacy costs, shouldn't that be your first step?	30 Oct 2020, 11:03 AM
585	What about posting the proposed budget on the website and providing a means online to ask questions or provide feedback?	30 Oct 2020, 11:08 AM
586	I feel that the taxes for the residents of Chatham are way too high. I have a sibling in Tecumseh who lives in a house twice the size of mine and pays far less in taxes than I do.	30 Oct 2020, 11:20 AM
587	I'm am not interested in seeing rural property "farms" tax increase in the up coming budget. Our service requirements are minimal.	30 Oct 2020, 11:20 AM
588	Would like to see police presence at least one or twice a day in our small community. Crime is on the rise with multiple thefts etc. Now it takes at least a minimum of 45 minutes for police to arrive in an emergency situation.	30 Oct 2020, 11:20 AM
589	Needs to be rural accessibility. Not everything moved to Chatham. Rural is getting hit all the time with increases but no services. All we do is cover for bigger centres. They need to be increased if they get the services	30 Oct 2020, 11:35 AM
590	A hiring freeze needs to occur. An assessment of performance, and subsequent changes of people who are poor performers must occur, like it does in the private sector. This county government is broken	30 Oct 2020, 11:38 AM
591	rural properties that have no buildings on, should automatically have a 911 number on it. The same as properties that have residents. Cost to have the numbers installed should be the same price as when the numbers were originally installed years ago. Bare property & farm land in the rural areas should not be paying for services they don't use. i.e livestock animals don't ice skate, so why should they pay for the ice?	30 Oct 2020, 11:40 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
592	Just because you/I chose to live outside of Chatham doesn't mean you/I shouldn't get ALL of the benefits that our taxes pay for. I might not drive over a certain bridge, but that doesn't mean it should be removed or my tax money shouldn't pay to repair it. Our tax money goes into one pot for everyone! DO NOT CLOSE ANY ARENAS!! They are the heart & sole of every community.	30 Oct 2020, 12:32 PM
593	Not everyone got the budget questionnaire.	30 Oct 2020, 12:38 PM
594	Your Library comparison should have addressed another rural system. London does not compare with Chatham-Kent.	30 Oct 2020, 01:14 PM
595	Cuts to library, arena and sports would have a negative impact on youth in the smaller communities. Chatham has enough arenas, and parks. Not everyone in the smaller communities has the time or means to be running to Chatham for these services. Start making cuts in Chatham, cut one of Chatham's bridges, not one out in the county that disrupts farming operations and ends up putting more tractors on our main roads.	30 Oct 2020, 01:25 PM
596	We get very little service for our dollar here. We do not see police, fire, or other services on regular basis. Our roads need to be fixed here - 2nd line in particular as it is now the new hwy 3.. We have no access to transit service and therefore should not have to pay for it.	30 Oct 2020, 01:32 PM
597	with all the new houses taxes should drop	30 Oct 2020, 01:36 PM
598	Our taxes are far too high in comparison to other areas within walking distance and we have street lights that do not eliminate enough down the street let alone a few houses away. We have cars parked illegally in our area and so far no police presence as well as speeding down our street.	30 Oct 2020, 01:37 PM
599	Taxes are far too high in Chatham Kent. Water rates have gone up close to double digit. Hydro prices will go up no matter what the prince says. C Kent must look for ways to increase staff productivity as well as reduce cost through service rationalization. With your revenues from the casino arenas etc in the toilet you must also have the will to lay off people.	30 Oct 2020, 01:59 PM
600	Didn't see any questions regarding your rural area.	30 Oct 2020, 03:19 PM
601	Council needs to make the HARD cuts and be brave. No fighting for their area vs others. Have a wholistic approach. Taxes are TOO high and it's killing us. I would rather have the money back to spend it myself in the community	30 Oct 2020, 03:24 PM
602	Go digital with service centres. Leave the hearts of our towns (libraries, arenas, parks) alone.	30 Oct 2020, 04:24 PM
603	I feel the city police budget is extremely high. We have a drone, mobile truck, the police chief is being paid to attend school etc when we have a OPP office in Chatham as well. I think you need to cut way back on their spending budget. Also the budgets of departments in the municipality. I know each department is allowed so much money to spend. This is including food for meetings, and if the department does not spend it all they loose the money or are cut back. So the budget ends up being spent of things not needed in order to use it up by the end of each year. This really needs to stop especially since most are working from home.	30 Oct 2020, 05:37 PM
604	Our suggested tax increase is unacceptable. We have to many councilors and to many high paid staff. Taxes are becoming way to high	30 Oct 2020, 06:01 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
605	Removing library branches will remove services for learning resources of young children, and forcing families to go to a different community to access these resources will then make learning a privilege and less accessible for low-income families.	30 Oct 2020, 06:36 PM
606	Items such as swing bridges and hockey are not in reach of many families due to costs. Subsidizing these is effectively taxes lower class to fund those that can afford it. Money should be prioritized on services which have a "lower cost of entry" to allow for the broadest possible benefit, such as pools organized soccer for kids. Chatham-Kent's tax burden is well above average for the province and in line with northern communities that have high winter expenditures. This becomes this will become more of an issue with the aging population, as well as longer term becoming a deterrent for young people.	30 Oct 2020, 07:32 PM
607	The way some of your questions are asked leaves yes or no very difficult. Some explanation is needed with some.	30 Oct 2020, 08:16 PM
608	I understand there is a possibility that taxes will be same for all Chatham-Kent' I live on outskirts of Chatham and have no garbage collection, and are serviced by volunteer firefighters and have no public transportation so I feel my taxes should not be the same as people receiving these services.	30 Oct 2020, 08:54 PM
609	Please put more dollars into Wheatley. Scarce sidewalks-very dangerous in spots, very poor street lighting at intersections of secondary roads and main highway. Too much speeding-something needs to be done...	30 Oct 2020, 09:04 PM
610	Not everyone has the funds to pay higher user fees- especially families with children to be put into team sports with already high registration fees	30 Oct 2020, 09:22 PM
611	Way too much of resident's property tax money goes to recreational things. If residents want to play, they can pay. We need sidewalk plowing and salting of sidewalks by the city, not put the burden on disabled and seniors, and we don't need to pay for all those arenas and libraries and moveable bridges and stuff like that! Put important things first!!	30 Oct 2020, 09:31 PM
612	Any reduced services would impact the outlaying communities, council never reduces any services within the Chatham City Limits. Libraries that would be closed would be Erieau for sure, monies wasted on Capital Theater, Arena at St. Clair college, It seems that Chatham gets whatever it wants and the outlaying communities pay for it. In my opinion the new water line coming into Erieau is on the wrong side of the road. If the dyke breaks then the waterline will be under water and our water will be contaminated if there is a leak in the line anywhere. Then the water will have to be drained from the fields to be able to fix the leak in the waterline. More money should be used to fix areas like the shoreline...There was never any problems before amalgamation when the municipality maintain the pilings along the shorelines... once they washed their hands of it..look where we are now. Money should be spent on outlaying areas to increase fiberoptics so we could work from home.	30 Oct 2020, 09:34 PM
613	there should have been an "I don't know" with some yes and no answers. Why should I have to put in yes or no if I know nothing about a subject?	30 Oct 2020, 09:35 PM
614	Please look for cost cuts, do not cave in to every dollar asked for.	30 Oct 2020, 09:58 PM
615	Do not charge rural areas for services not received like XXX XXXXXXX XXX wants to get city votes so he can run for mayor. Reduce staff . That is your issue and always will be. Drain the swamp.	31 Oct 2020, 07:21 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
616	Taxes on farmland per acre have increased way too fast for the amount of service that is being returned. Learn to live within your means.	31 Oct 2020, 07:27 AM
617	Drop the bike lanes they are not needed, there is not enough people biking in Chatham-Kent.	31 Oct 2020, 09:13 AM
618	<p>Biggest municipal expense is wages. 'So why is there nothing in the survey in that regard? My fears is that for far too long there has been a "good ole boys club; at the municipal level. Self-serving interests of municipal employees protected at the expense of all the residents of Chatham-Kent. The mayor and council are responsible for ensuring the tax payers of Chatham-Kent receive value for their tax dollars. There is far too much "dead weight" on the Municipal payroll that are not providing the service they are being payed to provide. It would be a most valuable service to tax payers to do a full study of Chatham-Kent municipal staffing. Eliminate redundancy and waste. Eliminate those who are not effectively and efficiently doing their jobs. Provide greater transparency of municipal staffing, costs, (broken down by ward) responsibility, accountability for assurance that services are being efficiently and cost-effectively provided. On one of our single greatest tax costs, municipal salaries, what is being done to ensure this is being managed responsibly. There is too much evidence that it is not being managed responsibly at several levels. This is a major dereliction of duties for the mayor and current members of council. Turn over some rocks and I am confident many slimy creepy-crawlies on municipal payroll will be exposed. Mayor and council are failing in the duties for which they are elected Talking about bridges, libraries, and arena's without talking municipal staffing is foolishness. Clean up the house and you may be surprised how much additional revenue their may be available in which to enhance life for the citizens of Chatham-Kent.</p> <p>Additionally, we must replace our municipal police force with OPP policing. On the surface it may not appear cost effective but it is. We have an incredibly obscene amount of waste, and amazingly poor quality of service on our municipal police force. There are too many murmurings of corruption on thje municipal force as well, that the mayor would do well to investigate. Put questions in your survey regarding these matters and see how many in Chatham-Kent are feeling this way. Clean the place up Mr. Mayor or get out of the way so someone with the fortitude and drive can get in and get it done.</p> <p>Clean up the swamp!</p>	31 Oct 2020, 11:59 AM
619	Please be fiscally responsible. 2020 has been a difficult year for many in Chatham due to Covid 19. I suspect municipal revenue is down as a result but please don't raise taxes to compensate. Cut back spending if necessary. Keep tax increases at or below the CPI as many are living on fixed incomes or possibly tied to CPI. Spend money as if it was your own. Prioritize.	31 Oct 2020, 12:11 PM
620	Residential property taxes are too high. Staffing levels are too high in discretionary areas. Senior staff and Councillors want to connect staffing levels with service levels but have never completed a thorough review of whether we need to maintain all these staff in discretionary areas such as tourism ec dev Parks and Rec culture etc. Pull back staffing levels.	31 Oct 2020, 12:14 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
621	Rationalize libraries integrating with tourist & recreational information resources & licensing services to one location in N, E, W and S in CK in addition to Chatham Main - Library, Tourist & Recreation Info Ctr, and Licensing Ctr (all in one). Establish FULL TIME COUNCILLORS however must reduce Council size to 1/2 it's' current size less, ridiculous waste & few know a stack of beans about those they purport to serve/represent!!! Overhaul Public Health - paying too much for too little benefit of the Muni!!! Remember LEANING out Administration is #1 priority - 25% reduction easily achievable - CAO needs to be replaced - increase Police budgets as we'll need a much more greatly trained staff with a wider array of services and weaponry required to better police the Muni!!!	31 Oct 2020, 03:00 PM
622	I have heard some information regarding a flat line total for policing, which would result in rural areas having a significant tax increase. I am not in favour of this plan, increasing the taxes of an area that has less police presence while decreasing the tax burden for those with immediate access to police services does not make sense.	31 Oct 2020, 05:14 PM
623	Arenas should be used for all those activities mentioned in the summer when the buildings are empty....facility managers should work to maximize use of facilities....this year with Covid there should have been some municipal layoffs...and now you want to think of cutting expenses...short sighted...	31 Oct 2020, 07:58 PM
624	Let users pay to use facilities	31 Oct 2020, 09:38 PM
625	CK has LOTS of recreational facilities that we are paying for that are now and will be for some time, due to many people's finances and COVID - under utilized or empty. Enough with new facilities! A lot of the budget is spent on this and a bloated police budget that brags about having the latest technology in policing. WE ARE NOT LONDON. WE ARE A RURAL COMMUNITY THAT IS NOW MADE UP OF MOSTLY SENIORS.	01 Nov 2020, 06:48 AM
626	Split the city away from the county. Reduce waist. Pave a road one day the cut it up a few later. Contract out roads reduce council size cut the number of people working in city hall	01 Nov 2020, 09:42 AM
627	It is important for the municipality to provide many opportunities for young people and families in the way of sports and music, art and theatre Probably moral support and enthusiastic publicity are more important in these areas than property taxes. It is very encouraging to see how well Covid 19 has been managed in the municipality	01 Nov 2020, 11:33 AM
628	Some questions require further info to answer comprehensively, such as Library usage. Would like to know how many persons access the smaller communities such as Dresden, and others.	01 Nov 2020, 11:55 AM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
629	<p>If there had been the option would have chose "maybe."</p> <p>Having lived on a gravel road for 8 years with no bridge I intimately understand the inconvenience of not having a bridge. Society is increasingly becoming more rebellious. Tax lowering would have to be significant, on all properties owned, in the municipality, for it to seem like equitable compensation. The property we use the tax provided services the most is the property where we reside. Currently we don't get a reduction even though we may use the roads to access our other properties infrequently. Some people on my road own a residential lot, for which they pay tax. We own several hundred acres of farm land, for which we pay tax. Still did not have a bridge to our residence. Do I know a better system not really. When suggestions are made for cheaper infrastructure options serious thought need to be given to implementation.</p> <p>When a request for road is made service the follow-up is very slow, as if work orders are ignored.</p>	01 Nov 2020, 11:55 AM
630	<p>During this pandemic the loss of facilities at the library are felt by the seniors and others who gather to read the papers, enjoy a coffee and to socialize. The computer area is missed. Many people are avid readers and especially during these Covid restrictions miss being able to browse the shelves however the ordering online has certainly helped. The ALC and their library and programs are also closed down. Please fund the libraries as they are vital to all age groups and needed.</p>	01 Nov 2020, 12:48 PM
631	<p>It is important to have amenities but not at the cost of skyrocketing property taxes. I like the concept of people who use the amenities to pay more for the privilege.</p>	01 Nov 2020, 01:00 PM
632	<p>Out taxes are more than our Mortgage, and we have no amenities- Town water- access to buses- garbage pick</p>	01 Nov 2020, 04:09 PM
633	<p>As we look towards the budget for the next year it should be important to keep pre-COVID service levels at the same rate. We need to look to the future for amenities such as recreational facilities and growth towards the 401 to attract new business and residents. We are at a turning point in how we work, live and play and with some thoughtful foresight Chatham-Kent can be on the leading edge. I challenge each council member and administrative person to look at what they can do to keep taxes at the current level and create a better future without sacrificing what we currently have.</p>	01 Nov 2020, 05:53 PM
634	<p>Please give all the out lying communities the same consideration for access to community resources that Chatham receives. We pay the same taxes and need our arenas, library and municipal service desks if not more as we have limited options. These function for social interaction as well as sports or books. Internet for people that have no access at home.</p> <p>In our smaller communities we may even need more hours of operation, certainly not less! Thank you</p>	01 Nov 2020, 07:21 PM
635	<p>You don't care to hear what the residents in Chatham Kent want. Regardless you will increase taxes for your benefit with bullshit excuses as to why you did it. I pay more taxes then some bigger cities who offer way more to the community.</p>	01 Nov 2020, 08:25 PM
636	<p>One of the biggest problems with CK budget is the cost of maintaining such a large staff including police and fire. Everyone deserves a good living. But when these services are paid the wages they are including benefits which are much higher then the average tax payer, there is a problem. Maybe it's time to take all of these services to arbitration as we can't afford it any more. As an example. In Wallaceburg if there is a fire all regular fire fighters are salted out on overtime before the volunteers are used. I recall one time during WAMBO the volunteers wanted to put piece of equipment in the parade ( at night cost to the taxpayers)they were told no but the regular staff did it on overtime. This kind of waste of taxpayers dollars needs to end. If this is a contract issue sort it out.</p>	01 Nov 2020, 10:08 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
637	There used to be library bookmobiles visiting outlying areas. Would they be cheaper than maintaining buildings in smaller centres?	01 Nov 2020, 11:51 PM
638	Why do we need a fire truck screaming down 40 highway when we have 10 volunteers in town and 20 in Tupperville 7 mins away seems like a waste of money and on top of it we are paying for 4 guys on overtime to go sit at the hall. Save my TAX dollars	02 Nov 2020, 05:59 AM
639	I live in the Erieau area. I do not believe our taxes should go up as we have one of the highest in the area. We have very little police presence. Takes close to 1/2 hour for an ambulance to come. No sidewalks on most streets.	02 Nov 2020, 07:40 AM
640	The people pay your wages so you should listen to the tax payers. More common sense needs to be used. The municipality needs to be accountable on how they spend the tax dollars money.	02 Nov 2020, 09:39 AM
641	Highgate library needs to stay open we go there weekly right now it is not right to take that away from us I pay taxes to	02 Nov 2020, 10:06 AM
642	The area that council is thinking of spending money ie bridges and municipal building expansion/renovations are unacceptable.	02 Nov 2020, 10:56 AM
643	Need to review tax rates for various sectors as Ag is unfairly low compared to residential and commercial	02 Nov 2020, 02:45 PM
644	I have heard that area rating is being looked into again, and truly do not believe that it should not be one rating across the municipality. Each area should still only pay for services that are rendered and not pay to off set other areas.	02 Nov 2020, 02:56 PM
645	Awkward questions here. You pose a scenario, then anticipate the answer for only that scenario. Not fair	02 Nov 2020, 07:21 PM
646	Technically I'm in ward 2, but I should be in Ward 6 as I'm north of the 401.	02 Nov 2020, 08:34 PM
647	Wages haven't gone up, in most cases we have less money due to covid19 job/hour reductions. I think you should take that into consideration and actually reduce the tax Burdon. You tend to think that you have a bottomless pit of cash.	03 Nov 2020, 12:44 PM
648	The raising of rural tax rates, especially on valuable farm land would offset the need for increases. Also as less people use city hall do not renovate it. We have over 100 million dollars in reserve when the omb requires us to have just under 8. Why is it we carry debt that needs to be serviced every year? Usually the cost of service our debt is equal to or greater than the most recent tax increases.	03 Nov 2020, 02:32 PM
649	We are putting dollars into services when the roads are not safe. When driving some back roads, it's as if it's a foggy day with the amount of dust in the air. This is not safe. Disgusting how much money goes into the city of Chatham, when many residents don't use these services. Personally, Chatham is half an hour away. You claim to value farmers, but rural Chatham Kent is not taken care of.	03 Nov 2020, 03:20 PM
650	This survey is structured to get the answers the city wants. I answered no to question 9 regarding bridge closure but was then expected to give a distance in question 10 that would be acceptable. If I didn't want the bridge closed then there is no acceptable minimum distance. Question 19 - libraries. Comparing libraries in Chatham Kent to libraries in London is ridiculous. We should be compared to libraries in communities of similar size. There is no comparison between London and Chatham-Kent.	03 Nov 2020, 04:09 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
651	We need all our services, especially in these covid times. Comparing us to London is not logical in my opinion. We are rural and spread out. Services must be available to all the population, not just those who can afford them. Look at cost savings in those with mega salaries.	03 Nov 2020, 06:46 PM
652	When I say reduce emergency services budgets what I mean is these employees should be paid an income that is reflective to the average income here in Chatham Kent. And do we really need to buy new police cars so often?	04 Nov 2020, 07:58 AM
653	I have faith in the present council that they will do their very best with new budget for 2021. It will not be easy.	04 Nov 2020, 10:01 AM
654	do not waste time and money with a useless survey like this one, the council should be able to use common sense to answer these questions,. if that is too much to ask reduce salaries and perks	04 Nov 2020, 11:42 AM
655	Some families can't afford to travel to larger centres to borrow books. Libraries provide internet services free for those that cannot afford to have it in their homes.	04 Nov 2020, 11:57 AM
656	Invest in getting more new residents and young people here.	04 Nov 2020, 10:35 PM
657	It would be unfair to increase rural taxes for police budget and lower city. Rural areas do not get the same level of police presence (patrols or response time)!	05 Nov 2020, 09:24 AM
658	Too many questions appeared designed for a certain result. Need more opportunities to questions the underlying assumptions of the questions. Your questions focus is too narrow and you need to look at all aspects of the municipal government and not only on what services to scale back	05 Nov 2020, 12:17 PM
659	The council needs to encourage more housing options, and more rural development with alternative sewage systems options. Land needs to be zoned on non farmable properties, to allow mini farm options, home and businesses creating additional tax revenue. Housing or home and land ownership is a primary source of wealth for most people and farmers. It should be encouraged and plans approved for future growth and development. Our small communities should not be ignored.	05 Nov 2020, 01:17 PM
660	Farmland taxes are very high in Chatham-Kent. Way too high in my opinion compared to farmland in other municipalities. We are at about \$50 per acres on much of our land which represents a very high percentage of the net income generated on that land. I am totally opposed to any type of increase in farmland tax for any reason. We work hard to reduce costs to maintain margins every year. We don't need land taxes to increase at all for several years.	05 Nov 2020, 02:17 PM
661	Road maintenance should be a priority, many of the main routes are quite rough and hard on vehicles and farm machinery.	05 Nov 2020, 03:01 PM
662	get rid of all the people just driving around in municipality trucks doing tasks that would be way cheaper to contract out no wages or benefits ,no insurance, no equipment costs and up keep, extent life cycle times on equipment you have to have. Could apply this strategy to inside work also. Concentrate on providing the basic services people need efficiently and quite wasting money on pie in the sky projects. Spend the money wisely .	05 Nov 2020, 06:53 PM
663	Very satisfied with the services provided by Chatham-Kent	05 Nov 2020, 10:08 PM

## General comments on the survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2021 Budget

No.	Contribution	Posted at
664	<p>Your roads and bridge construction are some of the poorest in Ontario. I travel country roads for a living. I feel more roll in Bridges can work. bridges taking 6 months to redo seem too costly.</p> <p>Dawn township roads are far far better maintained and at lower taxes. Take a lesson from XXXX XXXXXX.</p> <p>Chatham township gravel end up in the ditch.</p> <p>Wind Mills and other Commercial structures like cell towers should pay more based on their revenues.</p> <p>Building permit process is onerous to economy moving forward.</p> <p>Building officials should be helping tax payers to move forward. Not drive expansion away.</p>	05 Nov 2020, 10:20 PM
665	Please quit spending money that we don't have on things that we don't need. Ex. bike trail along River road,	06 Nov 2020, 09:50 AM
666	I don't entirely understand the proposal but my understanding is that Council is proposing one tax level for all residents. Living in the rural community, I do not feel this is reasonable as I do not receive the same level of service as residents in the city. For example, policing is barely present where I live and when I have called in the past for service, it took longer than I would have hoped. As well, I do not have garbage pick-up - I have to deliver my garbage to the garbage depot. These are just two examples of the inequality of levels of service that would support why taxes should not be the same for all residents regardless of where they live.	07 Nov 2020, 10:14 AM
667	Consideration of all municipalities outside of Chatham, regardless of their population should be looked at and examined as too the needs each community, including rural has and needs.	08 Nov 2020, 08:22 AM
668	Many of the less used rural bridges could be replaced with less expensive culverts or precast bridges that take up far less time and money to install. We do not require Cadillac's we just need a way across. Many of the drainage ditches have culverts at the Outlet so that flood gates may be installed but have high cost bridges upstream. That makes very little sense to anyone other than engineers, the same people that think the way to stop land slides on the outside of river bends is to pile rock on top of the land slide but do nothing to stop the erosion below them.	08 Nov 2020, 09:40 AM