What is Site Plan Approval?
Site plan approval is completed prior to a building permit being issued. It is an interactive process involving both the property owner and municipal staff to match the property owner’s requirements with the unique characteristics of the property and municipal development standards. Site plan approval is authorized under Section 41 of Planning Act and implemented through the Municipality’s Site Plan Control By-law.

What is a Site Plan?
A site plan is a drawing, or set of drawings, illustrating the physical arrangement of property improvements such as buildings, driveways, parking areas, pedestrian sidewalks, landscaping, fences, light fixtures, drainage and municipal services.

What Types of Development Require Site Plan Approval?
The following types of development are subject to site plan approval:
- commercial, community facility, and industrial development
- parking lots with 5 or more parking spaces
- medium and high density residential development (4 or more units)
- mobile home developments and recreational trailer parks
- agricultural commercial/industrial uses
- commercial-scale greenhouse operations on a site greater than 4 hectares

Please note that some developments may be exempt from site plan control and not all types of development will require the same level of detail for approval.

Who Gives Site Plan Approval?
Municipal staff works through the site plan approval process with the applicant and may include input from the following departments:
- Building & Planning Department
- Public Works Department (water, sewer, roads)
- Administration
- Fire Department

Final approval of the site plan is given by the local Council or the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk where delegated by Council.

Pre-Consultation Meeting
A pre-consultation meeting with Municipal staff and the applicant is required to:
- identify the physical opportunities and constraints of a property
- determine the most efficient use of the property
- ensure future compatibility of the development with neighbouring properties
- coordinate the requirements of other agencies and departments

This meeting will also determine if additional studies are required. The scale of the development may require that various studies be submitted with the application to allow for the evaluation of the proposed development. These studies may include but are not limited to:
- Servicing studies
- Planning impact studies
- Noise and vibration studies
- Record of site condition
- Traffic impact studies
- Tree preservation plan
- Archaeological Assessment
- Landscape plan
- Environmental impact studies
- Stormwater management

**What are the types of drawings and studies required for the Site Plan application?**
All plans and drawings submitted in accordance with a site plan agreement application shall be prepared by a registered professional architect, professional engineer, Ontario Land Surveyor, or qualified designer.

**How long does it take to complete an Approval?**
After submitting a complete site plan application, it takes approximately 6 - 8 weeks to process.

**Is there an appeal process?**
Objections to or the refusal of an application may be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board by the applicant.

**Are securities required to be posted?**
The Municipality (Howick/North Huron/Morris-Turnberry) may require securities to be posted for a development. The value of the securities shall be determined by the Municipality and may include but not be limited to: an estimate of engineering and legal fees, landscaping, fencing, drainage facilities, sanitary sewers, water mains, water services, paving, and curbing. The Municipality will accept security in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit approved by the Municipal Treasurer. The letter of credit will be released when, in the opinion of the Municipality, all the terms and conditions of the site plan agreement have been fulfilled.

**Are there any related fees associated with the review of the application?**
Where the Municipality requires assistance from its solicitors or other technical or professional consultants in the processing of this application, the owner shall be responsible for reimbursing all legal, planning and consulting fees incurred by the Municipality. These fees will be re-billed to the owner listed on the application. By signing the application, the owner agrees to pay all fees incurred by the Municipality related to the review of the site plan.

**When will a building permit be issued?**
To expedite the process, applicants can submit a building permit application concurrently with their site plan application. However, the building permit will not be issued until the Site Plan Agreement has been approved and registered on title and any applicable securities are received.

**How can I get more information about the Site Plan Approval process?**
Contact: Jenn Burns, Planner, 519-524-8394 ext 3 (Planning Dept) or 519-335-3208 (Township of Howick) or visit the Township of Howick Municipal Office 44816 Harriston Road, or online at [http://howick.ca/](http://howick.ca/) or 519-887-6137 (Municipality of Morris-Turnberry) or visit the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry Municipal Office 41342 Morris Road, Brussels, or online at [www.morristurnberry.ca](http://www.morristurnberry.ca)

**What are the steps to complete Site Plan Approval?**
The following is a brief description of the process and provides information on how you can help us to ensure that your application is reviewed as efficiently as possible:
### Step 1 Pre-consultation

It is necessary for the applicant to have a pre-consultation meeting with Municipal staff to review and discuss the proposed project. The pre-consultation meeting will assist in determining the nature and extent of information required. You will also be advised with regard to related approvals, and other agencies you may wish to contact with regard to their role in the review and approval of your project.

To arrange a pre-consultation meeting in Morris-Turnberry, please contact Nancy Michie, Administrator Clerk Treasurer at 519-887-6137. In Howick, please contact Clerk 519-335-3208 ext 2. Applicants will be asked to submit a preliminary site plan and/or proposal in advance of the pre-consultation meeting.

### Step 2 Submission

Following the pre-consultation meeting, there are four main requirements to ensure timely processing of your site plan approval application:

**a)** A completed site plan approval application form must be fully completed and signed and witnessed by a Commissioner. Nancy Michie, Administrator Clerk Treasurer is an authorized Commissioner. It is important to ensure that your application is complete and accurate. Until the application is complete the municipality may refuse to accept the application.

**b)** The Municipality requires five (5) legal size copies and one (1) oversized copy of a site plan drawn to a metric scale. See Appendix A for a site plan example.

All of the following information must be shown on the site plan:

- true dimensions and bearings of the property;
- key map showing the location of the property along with abutting street name(s);
- location and dimensions of all existing and proposed buildings and structures;
- location of any buildings to be demolished;
- distance between buildings and structures;
- setbacks of all buildings and structures from property lines;
- location of existing landscaped areas and existing tree cover;
- location of existing driveways, paved areas and graveled-surfaced areas;
- drainage, existing topography of the land, showing contour lines. Severe slopes are to be clearly illustrated showing both top and bottom of banks;
- location, dimensions, and type of existing and proposed easements and rights-of-way;
- location of off-street parking and loading areas including the dimensions of parking spaces and loading areas and setbacks of such areas from property lines;
- width of the driveways and aisles accessing parking stalls and loading areas;
- dimensions detailing entrance and exit locations to and from the site;
- location of outdoor containers and/or vaults, central storage and collection areas, or
other facilities for the storage of garbage and other waste or recyclable material;

☐ location, height and type of proposed fencing and curbing;

☐ location of landscaped areas and concrete/asphalt surfaces;

☐ location of existing and proposed poles, transformers, sidewalks, walkways, and the location of all site lighting;

☐ location and dimensions of facilities for accessibility (i.e. ramps, curbing, parking);

☐ existing and proposed connections to utilities;

☐ location of closest fire hydrant(s);

☐ designated fire route;

☐ location of any lands for public purposes or amenity areas (e.g. group mailboxes);

☐ total existing and proposed building size in square meters, lot area, total number of parking stalls, and total number of units.

If the proposed development is an industrial or commercial zone in the municipality the Municipality requires five (5) copies of a building elevation drawing indicating design and materials to be submitted with the application. Other forms of development may require this submission as well, if requested.

All of the following information must be shown on the building elevation drawing:

☐ the massing and conceptual design of the proposed building;

☐ the relationship of the proposed building to adjacent buildings, streets, and exterior areas to which members of the public have access;

☐ the provision of interior walkways, stairs, elevators and escalators to which members of the public have access from streets, open spaces and interior walkways in adjacent buildings;

☐ matters relating to exterior design, including without limitation the character, scale, appearance and design features of buildings, and their sustainable design;

☐ proposed signs, exterior lighting, and roof elevations

☐ the height of all buildings, structures and free-standing signs;

☐ facilities designed to have regard for accessibility for persons with disabilities.

c) Submit five (5) copies of any studies identified at the pre-consultation meeting (e.g. stormwater management plan, traffic impact study).

By signing the application form, the applicant agrees to cover legal, planning and engineering review costs of the application.

Submission of application

In Morris-Turnberry: Submit applications to the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, 41342 Morris
In Howick: Submit application to the Township of Howick, 44816 Harriston Road, Gorrie

**Step 3  Review**

On the determination that the application is complete, a staff review will take place. Applications are reviewed for compliance with the zoning by-law, and circulated to and reviewed by all relevant municipal departments. During this process your application may also be circulated to other applicable review agencies such as the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, Huron County Highways, etc. As this process takes place you may be advised of additional requirements to clarify any issues which may arise.

The applicant then finalizes the site layout plan. The completed information is reviewed by municipal staff and any required revisions to this information are provided to the applicant for further submission. During the final stages of review, the applicant will be provided with a draft site plan agreement. This agreement, which is a required component of site plan approval, will be required to be registered against title to the lands and will be binding on future owners.

**Step 4  Approval**

For Site Plan Applications not requiring agreements approval is delegated to the Administrator Clerk Treasurer.

After the required revisions have been made, staff will prepare a report for the Administrator Clerk Treasurer. Prior to approval, the applicant will enter into a site plan agreement with the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry or Howick. The signed agreement and any required securities or documentation must be submitted to the Building Department.

For Site Plan Applications requiring agreements approval of Council is required.

After the required revisions have been made, staff will prepare a report for Council with regard to recommendations regarding your project. Prior to Council approval, the applicant will enter into a site plan agreement with the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry or Township of Howick. The signed agreement and any required securities or documentation must be submitted to the Building Department a minimum of one week prior to the scheduled Council meeting.

If site plan approval is granted by Council, the site plan agreement will be registered by the Municipality’s solicitor on title of the property. Once we receive confirmation that the agreement has been registered and any required securities are received, a building permit can be issued.
Site Plan Approval Process Chart

STEP 1
PRE-CONSULTATION

Pre-consultation meeting

STEP 2
SUBMISSION

Submission of complete Application

Application circulation to staff & agencies

Drafting of site plan agreement (SPA)

Review by Municipal staff

Response to applicant and further revisions

SPA finalized and executed by property owner

Receipt of securities

Staff report to Council to enter into and adopt SPA

Council decision

MOTION PASSED TO ENTER INTO SPA

Confirmation of registration on title

Building permit issued

Follow-up to ensure SPA conditions satisfied

Securities released

STEP 3
REVIEW

DEFER DECISION

STEP 4
APPROVAL

Applicant provided with Pre-Consultation Checklist
APPENDIX A:
SITE PLAN EXAMPLE

Legend

A Property line
B Property dimensions
C Location & width of existing entrance
D Location of existing sidewalk & curbing
E Existing landscaping
F Existing gravel area
G Location, dimension, & type of existing easement
H Location & dimension of asphalt surface
I Dimensions of existing building
J Location of building to be demolished
K Distance between buildings
L Dimensions of proposed building
M Setbacks of all buildings & structures to property line
N Location of off-street parking, stall dimensions, & setback from property line
O Width of aisle accessing parking stalls
P Location and dimension of facilities for accessibility
Q Location of outdoor garbage enclosure
R Location, type & height of fencing
S Contour line
T Proposed connection to utilities
U Location of fire hydrant
V Fire route
W Location of exterior lighting of the land or of any buildings/structures

Note: This drawing is for informational purposes only.