

# Two Halifax business districts eye the future during Centre Plan discussions

North end and Quinpool Road looking to move forward over the next decade.

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Pedestrians stroll through the city's Hydrostone area in this file photo.

By: [Yvette d'Entremont](#) Metro Published on Tue May 31 2016

Density, green spaces and maintaining the character of the north end and Quinpool Road business districts were among topics discussed by participants during Monday night's Centre Plan commercial development engagement session.

"One thing that came out was be thoughtful about the type of development on our local main streets to maintain that small diverse business community," said Patricia Cuttell, director of the North End Business Association, one of the session hosts.

"There is also a lot of interest in activating our streets, making them exciting places for residents and visitors to come and not just walk through but opportunities to linger and to stay."

Cuttell said that would include elements like parquettes and landscaping. Other ideas raised by business and commercial property owners during the meeting included more residential density, but at a scale appropriate to the neighbourhood.

That would take into consideration architectural design, scale and height. Cuttell said they also wanted affordable housing mixed in with new residential development.

“I think what we really want to make sure is that development improves the area, that development doesn’t hinder the existing small business landscape that is there. I think that we all want the same thing,”said Karla Nicholson, general manager of the Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association.

“How do you get there from here and how do you do it in a way that everyone’s happy, including the residents, so that they continue to want to live, shop and work in the Quinpool Road area and community?”

The event was hosted by the North End Business Association and Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association in partnership with Halifax’s Centre Plan team. It attracted about 40 people.