



WHITE
ROCK BIA

White Rock Municipal Election- Councillor Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for running for council. Our community only works when people step forward to serve our neighbours, and you and the 21 other candidates are giving your time and energy to serve. We're very grateful for your contribution to our civic democracy.

This questionnaire will be shared unedited with BIA members, Chamber members, the Peace Arch News, and the public at large through websites and social media. Please try to limit your answers to 250 words per question.

Candidate Name: Ken Wuschke

Member of a Slate or Independent? Independent

1. Please tell us about yourself and why you're running for City Council:

Over the past 25 years I have been an advocate for bicycle infrastructure, heritage, and disabled accessibility. Presently I work for HUB Cycling a bicycle education instructor. Through this work I connect with elementary school children, seniors, and new immigrants throughout the Lower Mainland teaching them safe and best practices of cycling in traffic.

In 2016, I moved to White Rock with my wife, Cheryl, and our son, Tomas (now 13 years old). We wanted a community to live in that is safe, walking, bicycle and transit orientated.

Over the past two years I saw the changes happening to White Rock and the impact it was happening on the businesses and residents of our community. It was so much the changes but the rapid pace of the changes and the lack of foresight from City Hall as to the impact these changes have on everyone who lives here.

Ken Wuschke – Independent Candidate for White Rock City Council



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While I am not against development, it is about keeping to within the Official Community Plan that was adopted in October 2017. To me the OCP is the agreement between the community, the city council, and developers as to how to move the city forward.

Also, I am concerned about our city's finances and how the staff report to council and the public at large. While they are performing the legal minimum, to get a whole picture of our current financial state and the projects planned for the next five to ten years requires constant asking by the public. This information should be more open and transparent. After all it is the taxpayers' money they are spending.

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2. Several candidates are independent, and while others are part of a slate, it is entirely possible that only one from a slate may be elected. Regardless of whether you are part of a slate or an independent, how will you work with what may be a mayor & council with diverse viewpoints to bring forward your ideas and address issues?

When the votes are finally tallied on October 20th we will know who is on council and really the new team that will be making decisions for our community.

If I am elected to city council I intend to work with the mayor and the other five councillors, regardless of being a on a slate or being individuals, to openly discuss issues that are affecting our community.

This will be done through committee meetings and at council meetings.

In addition, as the residents and businesses come to me as a councillor with their concerns and if they need to be addressed at a council meeting I plan to work with the mayor to get the item on the agenda for discussion.



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I believe strongly that any elected official must be open and accountable to the community they serve. And this includes having a positive relationship with others on City Council. While councillors may not agree with each other it is important to discuss these issues before the public.

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3. Affordability is a major challenge for residents and businesses in White Rock. Sky high property values lead to rising housing costs and expensive leases, making it hard for people to live here and businesses to stay here. How will you address this existential threat to our community?

There are two aspects to this question – households and businesses. I'm going to answer each one separately.

First, the value of property is determined by the market and is beyond the control of any city council. However, there are steps a city council can do to help keep a city liveable.

For the households we need to continue with market housing but having a mix of housing that has lower rates for affordability. Even a community like West Vancouver is discussing subsidized for professionals such as doctors, firefighters, and other essential jobs for their community. [West Vancouver proposes subsidized housing for working professionals, CBC News, Oct 01, 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2A53RoA>]

White Rock is approaching this situation as well.

We need to create an affordable living strategy in White Rock that works for all people. In 2016, the City of White Rock had an affordable housing task force, but its recommendations were only for the OCP and few have yet to be implemented



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through bylaws. In addition, these recommendations were very limited in potential.

White Rock City Council needs to bring back an affordable housing committee to look at more options and develop tools that effective.

For businesses, one of the issues is that we have poor use land. Take the block bounded by North Bluff, Johnston, Russell, and Foster. Large sections of it surface parking. We need to create more retail opportunities throughout Uptown by allowing buildings that have retail on the ground floor and residential above. By increasing the supply of retail, it may stabilize our current commercial leases costs.

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4. How will you improve our transportation system- including roads, sidewalks, transit, and bike routes- to ensure that our community is accessible for residents and visitors?

Roads There is little improvement we can do on our roads beyond repaving some of the rougher sections.

However, when it comes to parking we have a lack of on-street parking. In many areas we have back lanes but homeowners have garages from the front of the building. This means on street parking disappears as driveways come off the front. If elected I want to have all future buildings like this can only have garages off the back lanes to keep on-street parking.

Sidewalks White Rock has a large senior and disabled community. Yet our sidewalks are often in such poor shape that mobility scooter users are



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forced to go into the road.

If elected to council I want work with staff to develop a city-wide plan at upgrading sidewalk throughout White Rock over the next 10 years. While not all streets require sidewalks, many arterials and collector roads have poor sidewalks on them. This is where I would like to focus the upgrade to safer sidewalks.

Transit

Presently transit to Vancouver is adequate. In fact, this has been TransLink's prime focus for White Rock and South Surrey for the past four decades. But our transportation needs have changed significantly over that period.

Today about 75% of the South of the Fraser travel does not involve crossing the Fraser River. With this in mind, I would like to advocate to TransLink to have transit services to link White Rock up to key destination such as Ladner, Coquitlam, and Langley's Carvolith Park-n-Ride with B-Line services.

Also, during the summer to have Surrey and Langley bus route terminate in East Beach. This way residents of these communities have an option to leave the car at home and come and enjoy our beach. TransLink already provides this summer-only services in other parts of the region.

Bicycle

One of the things I want to see is a safe walking and cycling corridor along Roper Avenue linking White Rock and Peace Arch elementary schools. It is about safety for our kids that we need to focus on.



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5. Communication between the City of White Rock and the residents and businesses have been challenging- there have been concerns that people haven't been informed of projects and decisions. How will you revitalize communications and relationships between residents/businesses and the City?

One of the easiest things to do is an overhaul of the City of White Rock's website. In doing research on issues I have that reports to council are filed under the council meeting it was discussed at. If you do not know council meeting date it is very difficult to find the report in question.

In terms of development I want to improve the public input process into a multi-step application process. It would go like this:

1. Development application to Planning Department
2. Discussion between the developer and the Planning Department
3. First Open House with public providing input
4. Input from the public is then incorporated, if necessary, into the projects' plans
5. Second Open House with public providing input.
6. Any revision, if necessary.
7. Final public hearing before City Council.



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By allowing the public to have multiple opportunities to provide input into a development then it would help mitigate the feelings of the public that city council is not listening.

Further this process should be adopted for city council plans, input for public budget sessions, and so on.

Councillors have to remember that we are stewards of the community's future and our most important role is ensure the public has a reasonable input and access to the development of plans, budgets, and our urban design.