

Candidate Survey on Resident Priorities

PAC, URBAN PLANNING BYLAWS & THE PERMITS PROCESS

The Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) was only created as a provincial government requirement around 2005, and many urban planning bylaws were only created in the 2010s. For approximately 110 years before PAC, residents enjoyed greater freedom to produce the many fine examples of architecture in the Town.

1a. Review and overhaul of bylaws, simplification of the permits process making it more user-friendly with greater trust in residents' judgement.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

1b. Two or three citizens, in addition to interested PAC members, should be part of the review process mentioned in question 1a.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

2. Reduce the number of projects that require permits.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

3. Establish a well-defined appeals process.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

4. Create an online table of 25-30 common household projects indicating whether they require permits and/or approval.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

5. To favour homeowners, PAC decisions should be majority decisions and not consensus-based as is currently the case.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

6. PAC membership should be open to residents other than those who are architects, urban planners, or in construction (i.e. the current criteria).

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

7. Time-sensitive emergency maintenance & repairs after flooding, sewer backups, leaking roofs, broken front doors, broken windows, etc. should not require approval or permits.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

8. In a town where so many homes are plagued with water issues, a permit should not be required for a French drain.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

9. Planning department and PAC decisions need to be made as quickly as possible so that residents don't lose their priority with their contractor.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

TRANSPARENCY

Residents would welcome access to studies, recommendations, and committee memberships as a way of being more connected to Town affairs and promoting civic engagement.

1. Publish the annual Infrastructure Priority List on the Town website.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

2. Publish all traffic studies – including for speed bumps, and recommendations by the Traffic Safety Committee

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

3. Publish all other studies and reports commissioned by the Town.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

4. For awareness and to encourage participation, publish the membership of all Town committees: who's on the MADA (seniors) committee, the Public Safety committee, etc.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

COMMUNICATION

Residents would appreciate timely responses and feedback from councillors and Town civil servants, surveys to gauge public opinion, and a forum for discussion.

A. Response & feedback from councillors and Town civil servants

1. Town officials/staff should be encouraged to reply to residents within 5-7 working days.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

2. Council, including the mayor, should reply to residents within 5-7 working days.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

B. INFORMAL SURVEYS

It's time to start making use of social media for non-binding surveys of resident opinions.

3. The Town should experiment with using informal online surveys to gauge public opinion and promote engagement.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

C. PERIODIC OPEN FORUMS

Opportunities for discussion on topics of importance to residents beyond what is possible during council meeting question periods would be useful.

4. Hold public meetings, perhaps 3 a year, to encourage discussion, debate and feedback.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided