



## Whitehorse Council Elections 2021 - Candidate Survey

In a Covid-19 constrained environment, this **Candidate Survey** is a way of you letting voters know about what's important to you, and about the way you will respond to matters that come before Council.

WATAG will collate the results and make them public via our website [<https://watag.org>], Bicycle Network website and social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) so that voters know 'what makes you tick' and can make their choice accordingly.

Please note that some questions in this survey are matrix format multiple-choice. These questions may format poorly on a smaller screen ie smaller tablet or mobile device.  
It works ok on an iPad.  
So if possible use a larger screen.

Q.1

**This survey is for election candidates only. Are you standing for election in Whitehorse**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**Note: An asterisk beside a question indicates it is mandatory**

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## Information about you.

Q.2

**Name:**

First Name

Last Name

Q.3

**Ward you are standing for:**

Q.4

**Are you a current Councillor standing for re-election**

☐ YES

☐ NO

Q.5

**Do you live in the ward?**

☐ YES

☐ NO

Q.6

**For how long have you been a resident of Whitehorse?**



## Community Engagement

Q.7

List relevant community, political and/or professional organisations with which you are/have been actively involved with, your role(s) and the period of your involvement

Q.8

I'm standing for Council because my priorities are:

*Move the statements to place them in order of importance to you with most important at the top*

- ☐ An enhanced emphasis on the local environment - trees, parks and streetscapes
- ☐ Making sure local business is supported
- ☐ Keeping a tight rein on Budget expenditures
- ☐ Ensuring rates are kept as low as possible
- ☐ Climate change mitigation Initiatives
- ☐ Maximising walking & cycling opportunities
- ☐ Minimising the dominance of the car in our society
- ☐ To maintain Council services the way they are
- ☐ Other (please note below)

Q.9

If the list above didn't have your main reason(s), please note them here:

Q.10

What particular experience and strengths do you have which will help you address those issues and bring about change?

## How to engage with the community

### Community Engagement Framework

Whitehorse developed a Community Engagement Framework several years ago. Unfortunately it no longer appears on the Council website, and it doesn't seem to be used. However, a copy of the Framework and an implementation approach can be viewed by clicking [<https://shorturl.at/aowP8>]. Other Councils have similar Community Engagement Frameworks readily accessible on their websites.

**Note:** Open the link in a new window or press the back button on your browser to get back to this survey.

Q.11

Many Councils have a publicly available Community Engagement Framework to ensure good mutual flow of ideas between Council and the community. In relation to Whitehorse adopting a Community Engagement Framework:

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

It's essential for  
good  
communication

☐
☐
☐
☐

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
It's important but not urgent at present	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The community is consulted well enough now	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community views are vital before decisions are made	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council surveys are too simplistic at present	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Other engagement

**Sporting Clubs already have an opportunity for detailed regular input to Officers and Councillors via the Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Network which is strongly supported by Council's Active Communities Team**

The questions below ask whether these ongoing and regular consultation opportunities also be given to similar special interest groups such as:

- Active Transport advocacy groups such as WATAG, Whitehorse Cyclists and MeBug
- A Combined Parklands Management Group
- Conservation groups such as Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society (BDTPS, Lighter Footprints, ECAM
- Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group (CROWAG)

Q.12

**Do you think special interest groups should have agreed opportunities for regular engagement with relevant Officers to share plans and progress, and give specialised advice and feedback?**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
These groups have valuable special knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Officers are professional and don't need additional advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It's an interesting idea for the future but not now.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Officers consult	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

well enough now



There are already  
many ways for  
groups to say  
what they think



These groups are  
just seeking  
special advantage  
for themselves



Q.13

**Do you think special interest groups should have periodic opportunities for engagement with Councillors where ideas can be shared and discussed on a 'round-table' basis?**

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Ward meetings  
already serve that  
function



This could help  
reduce number of  
emails and phone  
calls Councillors  
receive



Councillors would  
benefit from  
getting specialised  
advice



Councillors are  
well enough  
informed now by  
officers



There are already  
enough ways for  
groups to say  
what they think



Council meetings  
provide this  
opportunity to  
groups already



An annual round-  
table type of  
forum for these  
groups should be  
considered.



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## Activity and Active Transport

Many Council Policies aim to try and facilitate ways for people to be more physically active.

Q.14

An effect of Covid-19 has been that people are exercising by walking and riding more than previously. Is this an opportunity for Council to take action to facilitate a sustainable, safer and permanent shift to people using Active Transport as a more common mode for local trips, school journeys etc?

Please rate the following

	Stronly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
It's a temporary thing and everything will pretty much go back to normal after Covid-19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking and riding is good for recreation, but it's not viable as a transport mode in Whitehorse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It's a good idea in theory, but Whitehorse can't afford the cost to do much about this	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whitehorse already does a lot and has longer term plans to make it better	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This is a 'once-in - lifetime' opportunity and Council should do	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

a lot more to  
ensure this  
happens

Q.15

**Do you have particular views you'd like to share in relation to the last question?**

Q.16

**Do you support Council taking action to repurpose open space, footpaths and roadside parking at shopping centres so that cafes and restaurants can re-open with more patron space outside when restrictions are eased.**

- ☐ If it takes away car parking it wouldn't work
- ☐ This is good for inner city areas but It's not really practicable in Whitehorse
- ☐ Council should give this strong consideration
- ☐ Council should do this immediately to help local businesses

Anything else you'd briefly like to say about this?

Q.17

**In your view, with so many more people walking and cycling, what will be the effect on parks, local streets, traffic and the community generally, and what should Council do about this?**

*Please keep answer as brief as possible*



## Active Transport and the Budget

Approx. 20% of people in Whitehorse engage in a formal sport needing special sports grounds or facilities. The other 80% rely on non-formal activity such as walking and cycling. Of all capital funds spent in recent years on facilities to help participation in formal and non-formal activities, nearly 80% has gone to formal sporting facilities and a bit over 20% to non-formal facilities such as park paths, cycling lanes etc.

Refer: [<https://watag.org/newsletters/active-whitehorse-news-may-june-2020/#Whitehorse-budget-inequity>]

**Note:** Open the link in a new window or press the back button on your browser after visiting this link to return to this page

Q.18

**In the Budget, approx 20% of people get approx 80% of the capital budget for formal & non-formal recreation activities.. See the link above. Please choose one statement that best represents your view:**

- ☐ This is unfair and I think non-formal infrastructure should get a more equitable % of capital spent
  - ☐ It sounds a good idea in theory, but It's difficult to know where extra funds could be spent to redress this imbalance and make a difference to those who only participate in non-formal activities
  - ☐ Council has always supported formal sports and I think that budget constraints mean that Council can't afford to spend extra on infrastructure for non-formal activity.
  - ☐ I don't see a problem with the way things are
- Comments you'd like to make.

**Action on the budget**

**The Whitehorse Cycling Strategy 2016 says:**

*"Cycling for transport, sport or recreation plays an important role in supporting a healthy, vibrant, inclusive and diverse community."*

**and**

*"[it] has a vision of increasing cycling through creating a connected network of attractive, safe and inviting low stress streets and paths which are accessible to all and respects the needs of all users."*

<https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/sites/whitehorse.vic.gov.au/files/assets/documents/Whitehorse%20Cycling%20Strategy%202016.pdf>

Note: Open the link in a new window or press the back button on your browser to return to this page.

To achieve this, consultants identified nearly 20 possible Easy Ride Routes and six priority ones were selected in 2018.

None have been built yet, and money for only one is in the current budget.

Q.19

**The Whitehorse Cycling Strategy includes building Easy Ride Routes. Considering the need for better cycling facilities identified in the Strategy, and the effects on cycling participation caused by Covid-19, what are your views?**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Easy ride routes are a good idea and should be implemented quickly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taking 4 years to start on the first route is not good enough	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taking over 10 years to get the first 6 of 20 possible routes is not good enough	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
These are a good idea but not particularly urgent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council can't afford to spend more \$ on this to speed up implementation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having these routes won't have much effect on people riding more	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The routes are all on the road and these routes won't really add to safety for cyclists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Candidate statement

Q.20

You can paste your Candidate Statement into the box below.

### Many thanks for participating in this survey

Of you have experienced technical difficulties with this survey, or would like to contact WATAG about the survey,

contact us as follows:

Email: [info@watag.org](mailto:info@watag.org)

Mob: 0409 028 124

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Created at [Crowdsignal.com](https://crowdsignal.com)

This survey is written and authorised by Chris Trueman of 26 Heath St, Blackburn 3130  
on behalf of WATAG Inc. (No A0098729X), ABN 63938570447