

Question

01

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

✓

Yes

No

Question

02

Name:

Trudy Skilbeck

Question

03

Ward you are standing for:

Cootamundra

✓

Eley

Elgar

Kingsley

Lake

Mahoneys

Simpson

Sparks

Terrara

Walker

Wattle

Question

04

Are you a current Councillor standing for re-election

YES

✓

NO

Question

05

Do you live in the ward?

✓

YES

NO

Question

06

For how long have you been a resident of Whitehorse?

15 years

Question

07

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

I have community centric involvement in Whitehorse and Booroondara. Older involvements include Whitehorse Preschool Association President and other local kindergarten Committee roles, Laburnum Primary including as a Class Rep, Box Hill Baptist and Community Art Gallery, Blackburn South Girl Guides Committee, Surrey Hills Children's Centre Committee, Strathcona Grammar Board and Governance Committee and Blackburn South Community Bank Board. I have given less structured support to Whitehorse SES (my husband being Controller for many years) and many of the Whitehorse churches, including those recently collaborating through Whitehorse Churches Care. Current roles include Strathcona Grammar Finance & Audit Committee and the Victorian Baptist Professional Standards Board. I have no political association.

Question

08

I'm standing for Council because my priorities are:

1 Other (please note below)

2 An enhanced emphasis on the local environment - trees, parks and streetscapes

3 Making sure local business is supported

4 Climate change mitigation initiatives

5 Keeping a tight rein on Budget expenditures

6 Ensuring rates are kept as low as possible

7 Maximising walking & cycling opportunities

8 Minimising the dominance of the car in our society

9 To maintain Council services the way they are

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

My main reason is leading/influencing multi-faceted COVID response for greater community well-being (health support, local business support, community education and resilience building - each acknowledging that the 'poverty' escalated by COVID reaches into every part of life; financial, food, housing, isolation, loneliness, loss of opportunity (education, recreation, and more)).

Question
10

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

I am a governance professional; a Chartered Company Secretary and Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia and its international counterpart. Every approach of mine takes fiscal and legal responsibility super seriously. I am an experienced Board member across education, banking and social purpose sectors. I work globally in community development, specifically disability inclusive development. This means I see the strength of 'localised' responses in diverse communities worldwide. I believe that local government needs Councillors who are good listeners, strategic thinkers who also hold the detail, good at chairing meetings, good facilitators of any size of consultation - this is the skill set I've honed to excellent practice.

Question
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		✓		
It's important but not urgent at present			✓	
The community is consulted well enough now		✓		
Community views are vital before decisions are made				✓
Council surveys are too simplistic at present			✓	

Question
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			✓	
Officers are professional and don't need additional advice		✓		
It's an interesting idea for the future but not now.		✓		
Officers consult well enough now		✓		
There are already many ways for groups to say what they think		✓		
These groups are just seeking special advantage for themselves			✓	

Question
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.			✓	

Question
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?

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
It's a temporary thing and everything will pretty much go back to normal after Covid-19	✓			
Walking and riding is good				

for recreation, but it's not viable as a transport mode in Whitehorse	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
It's a good idea in theory, but Whitehorse can't afford the cost to do much about this		✓		
Whitehorse already does a lot and has longer term plans to make it better		✓		
This is a 'once-in –lifetime' opportunity and Council should do a lot more to ensure this happens			✓	

Question

15

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

As with Q.11 and 12, please allow for the fact that most Candidates have not been Councillors and cannot yet sensibly comment on what Council officers, or Council policies/approaches, do or do not achieve. This survey would have been more authentic if there was a column for 'not able to comment'; that is reasonable given that Candidates do not have access to everything that's relevant just because they are candidating.

Question

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

Comment: I'm for evidence based decision making and for strong interrogation of proposals. I'm not for fixed positions on an idea without taking into account the quality/merit of a fully scoped proposal. There will be some precincts in Whitehorse where this makes more sense than others.

Question

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?

I am expecting more Council consultation and dialogue about pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. I am also an influencer towards holistic context consideration (what's the full picture, if we do one thing in one area what consequences might that have for another community interest, etc). There will also have to be investment choice. Council is in a fixed income situation (with rate capping) and has its own COVID revenue losses to manage. Prioritisation will be the key; my push is that this not be politically or emotively driven. I want it driven by data and social responsibility.

Question

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

Comment: Budgeting needs a holistic view. I am open to different budget trends, but not because I'm persuaded by the 20/80 ratio without interrogating other considerations. Just because something is more expensive to maintain doesn't necessarily mean it should be reduced in favour of something that requires less infrastructure. I'm more interested in equal access (which is expensive, for example, disability access) than I am in equality of spend across different forms of recreation.

Question

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		✓		
Taking 4 years to start on the first route is not good enough			✓	
Taking over 10 years to get the first 6 of 20 possible routes is not good enough			✓	
These are a good idea but not particularly urgent			✓	
Council can't afford to spend more \$ on this to speed up implementation			✓	
Having these routes won't have much effect on people riding more		✓		
The routes are all on the road and these routes won't really add to safety for cyclists		✓		

I live in our new Eley Ward, having lived in Whitehorse for 15 years. I have never been a member of a political party. My passion is strong governance. This means well designed decision making, where the people most affected get appropriate participation and transparency. Strong governance requires thoughtful adaptation in the COVID world we are all navigating. Starting my working life as a local government lawyer, I have served on Boards in education, community banking, professional standards and superannuation. A former President of the Whitehorse Preschool Association, I have decades of local linkages including Whitehorse SES and many of the Whitehorse churches; bringing a proven track record of delivering for our community. I work in Whitehorse, with an international aid and development charity. I am devoted to disability inclusion in the poorest places and value social inclusion everywhere. COVID challenges communities in an unprecedented way, bringing high levels of disruption and anxiety. COVID also drives positive opportunity to consider what Council can do now in best response. Whitehorse will always have issues relating to infrastructure, planning, development density, environmental impact, quality service delivery, and more. I offer focussed attention on every issue, while placing community well-being above all else. I stand for evidence based decision making, for maximised open space, and for the priority of services to the most vulnerable in our community. I'm interested in Eley having Council representation that is immersed in the Ward and genuinely independent. I offer my ability to think and plan beyond short term into the big picture. I am committed to accountability and smart adjustment based on the lived experience and feedback of ratepayers, and all Whitehorse participants. I will make a difference. I ask for your vote.