

# 2021 Budget Survey Comments

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**Q5, Q6, Q27 and General Comments**  
**196 Responses**  
**February 2021**



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## Q5: What is the most important issue facing Invermere and what should receive the greatest attention?

180 responses, 16 skipped.

The most commonly mentioned comments are as follows:

- #1 Housing
- #2 Roads
- #3 Water

Verbatim Comments

### Housing

1. Affordable housing
2. Affordable housing
3. Affordable housing
4. Affordable housing
5. Affordable housing
6. Affordable housing
7. Affordable housing
8. Affordable housing for year-round residents
9. Affordable housing for young local families
10. Affordable housing with particular attention to less Airbnb and more long-term rentals this has been a constant concern in this community for the last 20 plus yrs and seems to only become out of control lack of accommodation leaves business's without housing for staff the lure of making big money through Airbnb is more attractive to most property buyers . However, like other resort communities I think it is time Invermere takes a very hard look at how to put a cap on the availability of Airbnb in this community
11. Affordable housing/senior housing
12. Affordable rental housing!
13. Housing
14. Housing
15. Housing
16. Housing
17. Housing for permanent residents
18. Available housing. Because we have a shortage of workers both professional and not. And they have nowhere to live
19. High cost of living!! And the lack of concern over our citizens over keeping 2nd homeowners happy
20. Rental housing and a boat launch
21. Parking downtown, affordable housing

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22. More housing less Airbnb
  23. long term rentals,
  24. Finding a decent house to rent for local residents!
  25. , rental availability,
  26. lack of affordable housing,
  27. and affordable housing
  28. property taxes in comparison to the average income of local residents. Also housing the permanent/ working population when a lot of the community is bought up by second/ third homeowners
  29. People renting their properties out by use of AirBnB or VRBO they do not need to pay GST and have no regard to noise, extra traffic, disregard of municipal bylaws
  30. Well considered land and housing development

## Roads

1. Improvement to residential roads
2. road conditions
3. Road conditions (pot holes)
4. road control
5. Road maintenance
6. Road repair & in many cases new asphalt overlay.
7. Road repairs/new asphalt
8. Road ways, the roads have massive pot holes and don't make sense to tourists.
9. Roads
10. Roads, aging infrastructure, pedestrian/bike/etc. safety. Lack of rentals and increase in short-terms rentals.
11. Roads, water infrastructures
12. poor condition of streets
13. Pot hole in front of the hostel
14. Recreation, water, sewer, roads
15. Some of the roads are in bad shape and need to be repaved
16. Some of the roads in the Wilder subdivision still have potholes that my almost-30-year-old son used to avoid on his trike!
17. Traffic flow, safety
18. 13th and 10th ave need better sidewalks and pot holes taken care of.
19. fixing the roads
20. Fixing 13th Avenue waterlines and road way

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21. Perhaps maybe not the most important but I'd really like to see attention put on the speeding along 13th Ave before a child is hurt. The post put up in front of west side park do nothing. Speed bumps or dips need to be added
  22. our main concern-asphalt and underground wiring to be done -3rd Avenue starting from 18<sup>th</sup> Street to Fort Point sign nothing has been done after 12 years no one pays attention .
  23. Paving the residential streets, our street hasn't been paved for 50 years!
  24. Paving the streets

## Water & Sewer

1. Drinking water we are not ashamed of when friends visit. Drill some wells please. Leave the slue to the cows.
2. Water
3. water and sewer infrastructure upgrades
4. water quality
5. water supply
6. water supply, odour & tasteless water
7. Water treatment
8. water, sewage, recycling
9. safe, clean drinking WATER! Before building new houses!
10. tap water that tastes like lake, smells like lake.
11. Proper, more regular maintenance of the sewage lines.
12. The pungent, sewage Oder coming from the water treatment plant had gotten increasingly worse over the last few years. It makes our outdoor activities and entertaining no longer tolerable. If upgrades are required or more expertise needed, we believe this is of the utmost importance.
13. AND environmentally, managing storm water in Wilder Subdivision

## Downtown & Business

1. A downtown core that extends into the evening. E.g., summer shut down of main and allow entertainment
2. attracting appropriate & viable business and development to our downtown area.
3. Camping close to downtown to attract customers for downtown businesses
4. downtown revitalization
5. Revitalize the downtown core
6. providing business opportunity to alternative business so that the community grows
7. parking, lack of businesses down 13 street.
8. Shutdown traffic and make walking only from Lake Auto to BMO.

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9. Parking downtown and bike lanes
  10. Not the greatest but parking for visitors is important
  11. Shopping. Get rid of fields and red apple. They literally sell garbage. I have to leave the valley to get the things I need.
  12. Small business recovering from the COVID pandemic. Improving the down town area should receive the greatest attention.
  13. Supporting small businesses.
  14. Business closures
  15. Development of business
  16. keeping businesses alive
  17. providing business opportunity to alternative business so that the community grows
  18. Supporting small businesses.

## **Health & Other Services**

1. Improving doctor, medical clinics
2. A new ambulance station
3. Health services
4. Most important: COVID. Focus on maintaining infrastructure.
5. COVID recovery, getting back to “normal”
6. fire smart programs
7. Getting our residents vaccinated against COVID-19 ASAP
8. Getting the public vaccinated
9. As a Resort Municipality there are certain services lacking, such as a large clean laundromat which also offers showers to visitors. The signage around both areas lacks consistency and professionalism, such as in Athalmer e.g., wine store and the unnecessary large signs on vacant lands, e.g. No Frills and Taynton Bay Spirits. Another important issue is to encourage more residents within Invermere to Firesmart their homes 7 properties.
10. Internet service
11. Mental Health Support
12. Lack of amenities. The need to go to Cranbrook or Calgary for many services
13. Getting recycling information sorted out properly.
14. Home supports for seniors
15. Zoom pal or pen pals, volunteer help others in need. Thrift store open more hours

## **Economics**

1. Economic Diversity
2. Economic revitalization

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3. Economic stimulation through tourism and enhancing outdoor recreation for locals and guests alike through trails
  4. Ensuring our ongoing sustainability in terms of services, businesses, and attractiveness as a place for all ages to live, work and lead a fulfilling life.
  5. sustainability
  6. Keeping the small-town community alive and well during these trying times.
  7. Local support
  8. Limiting growth
  9. Managed growth
  10. Growth.
  11. To maintain the present quality of life.
  12. Surviving this pandemic

## Tourism, Community, Recreation

1. Promoting tourism and outdoor recreation should receive attention
2. Lack of recreational trails along Toby Creek
3. Library space and lake cleanliness
4. Lack of community facilities i.e., aquatic centre, recreation centre, ...
5. More tourist centric. Better access to waterfront for public. Boardwalk from Athalmer to kinsmen.
6. Obviously it will be the drive to bring back tourism and supporting the businesses that rely on visitors to survive.
7. Increasing recreation and infrastructure sustainability
8. and mitigating the destruction of natural areas by tourism
9. Community-pool, markets, stuff to bring people together
10. The need for indoor pool/athletic facility. This could create job opportunities for construction/operation. Become a source of income for the town over time. Become a hub for the town of Invermere and promote healthy living all months of the year
11. Tourism/support to small business,

## Finances

1. High taxes, high electric bills
2. Keep a balanced budget.
3. Cost of living
4. How expensive it is to live here. My property taxes doubled last year. That put me in debt
5. Affordability for full time residents
6. fiscal responsibility

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7. Run the DOI like a business. Long term gains not short-term goals
  8. Quit raiding my taxes. I am a senior and want to stay in my home. Taxes have gone up 30% in 5 years!!!!!!
  9. Taxes - Wasting taxpayer dollars are various projects that are not a priority.

## Infrastructure

1. Infrastructure
2. Infrastructure
3. Infrastructure
4. Infrastructure
5. Infrastructure
6. infrastructure water/sewer
7. Keep up on paving, sewer, water etc. Develop a long-term plan rather than ad hoc repairs
8. Aging infrastructure
9. outdated residential sewer/ water to disaster services plan for fire especially dead-end roads

## Children

1. Childcare
2. Activities for kids
3. Focus on resources for children
4. More activities for children in the Invermere area. This could also include a rec centre with pools to keep them active all year round.

## Employment

1. lack of industry other than lame tourism
2. Lack of industry that have a good paying, year around jobs
3. Lack of local employment
4. Job stability and creation, jobs that provide a living wage

## Environment

1. Environmental stewardship
2. Environmental Sustainability and Protecting Our Wilderness
3. Fostering an environment that supports and attracts new businesses and sustainable development
4. Protection of the lake. Overuse, ecological, and safety issues

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## Animal Control/ By Law

1. Bylaw enforcement- quiet hours
2. the uncontrolled deer population
3. Too many deer

## Planning

1. planning
2. Sprawl
3. Urban sprawl

## Staff

1. The general operations seem to lack efficacy, foresight and actually qualifications. Hiring those with more applicable qualifications or someone to over see ongoings would be beneficial.
2. The acquisition of competent staff in office and public works



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## **Q6 What are the three (3) qualities and features that make Invermere such a great place to live?**

187 Responses, 9 Skipped

The most commonly mentioned comments are as follows:

#1 The Lake

#2 Small town feel, lifestyle and vibe

#3 Outdoor Activities and Outdoor Recreation

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**Q27:As a resident and user of utilities, are you prepared to pay higher utility fees for municipal water and sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment to help build financial reserves to fund future capital improvements to those systems?**

Maintain current service levels and maintain taxes (other comments) If yes, how much more per year would you be willing to pay?

10 Responses

1. But again, I need to see what the capital plan is & how it will be funded. I might even be ok with a higher amount if I know more.
2. as an older forgotten neighbourhood, we thought our taxes were already being reserved for improvements and not just the established hoods, potholes, and patches aside, pretty sad question...
3. 50
4. We are too late with catch " up". Special consideration for those 30k per year and lower.
5. \$2.00/ year
6. But only if the water stops tasting [bad]
7. Reason: Fees for water, sewer are high presently
8. If the water didn't taste like the lake, then you could possibly increase by \$10/ year... but you need to offer a good product before charging more ;)
9. Whatever is necessary
10. Not on town utilities

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## General Comments:

90 responses, 106 Skipped

The most mentioned comments are as follows: Housing/ Short Term Rentals.

Verbatim Comments:

## Survey

1. This survey/questionnaire does not provide enough scope for many of the topics. More sliding scale answers would be an improvement over a yes/no response. Additionally, a short intro for the topics would allow for a more detailed and definitive response.
2. Good survey
3. I live at Larch Point 10 km south of Invermere so I have not lived in the town but interested in the questions
4. When you design a survey you should always have a Don't know or N/A option. You didn't do that and this will affect your results. Please rectify this oversight in future surveys.
5. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute!
6. These questions have a heavy bias in available answers. Its results will be inaccurate.
7. Many of these questions were hard to answer as multiple choice as it's not an accurate answer
8. Love to talk more. Sorry I'm new and don't know appropriate answers for 40% of the questions multiple answers
9. \*I have spent at least 2 hours completing this survey and I would hope to see it not go to waste. I also would hope that survey results will be published in the Pioneer.
10. 32) I don't know how to answer this question other than to refer you to my answers already in the survey.

## Generic- Community

1. I was brought up in a small town and am very happy to live in one!
2. Love the town, the people, the scenery. Best place in the world to live, clean air, clean water. Don't even know of any other place that could even compete
3. Invermere is a wonderful place to live because we are surrounded by incredible beauty. The town sorely needs amenities that are incredibly absent. Until you can go to a movie theatre, buy a car, or go skating on a real outdoor rink (with hockey boards and nets) in the Winter, Invermere will be nothing more than coffee shops, tourist specialty stores and hardware stores making money off local contractors.
4. I hope we can look ahead to better times thanks.

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5. Thanks for all of your excellent work! All interactions I've had with DOI staff have been great! The recreational programming and events are well done! Grateful to live in a community with a Community Economic Development Officer and so many groups working towards collaboration and sustainability.
  6. the library and public art are the heart of the community;
  7. Having lived in larger cities I am truly appreciative of services, costs, and lifestyle in our town.
  8. Love where I live, don't want to see it become a suburb...
  9. I understand needs but I cannot afford continued tax increase as a senior and have poor drinking water, poor snow removal on my road and lack of wildlife control. Things that affect me as a senior.

## Parks and Recreation

1. My Nelson park needs Pickleball courts lined for the huge increase of new players
2. Please maintain the beach volleyball court at kinsmen this year.
3. We need a trail system/community forest. With the loss of Grizzly Ridge trails, our community has lost access to 90% of the local trail system. The DOI should look at purchasing or partnering with the trail alliance to purchase Grizzly ridge and developing a community forest as part of a recreation plan. Keep our community healthy and growing.
4. How about looking at ways to use our money better for better services rather than increasing taxes. Can we not do as many community events and instead focus on better maintenance of pathways. While I support James Chabot being better maintained I don't think the way the district maintains parks is what's needed here. We don't need to add flowers and mow more grass.
5. Pothole Park issue should be resolved so that the area can be put to use.
6. parks, recreation great properties roads great very impressed.
7. Athalmer land development ASAP. All beaches high quality entertainment in the day keeps the people coming back. Purchase the James Chabot park. Winter time help the resorts bring the people. Affordable housing is needed TOP PRIORITY. Make sure you tender any work in the district through local paper not BC Bid and other media. It was not acceptable the last. Opulent of years how you contracted certain contracts. E.g., 10ave bank restoration , west side path and other work.
8. 29) Kinsmen Beach area- Lawns should be mowed on a Wed or Thurs to look good for busy weekends. Pynelogs- for at least 3 years now the grass area around Pynelogs has been neglected- it looks awful. Lions Park- Don't know where it is. Land use, Sustainability
9. 29) Kinsmen Beach- Change grass cutting schedule. Pynelogs- Flower beds very poorly maintained as is the grass.

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## Water & Sewage

1. We would like to see better tasting water in the future.
2. My rating of the water distribution is based on the horrible fishy taste we experience for much of the year
3. The sewage lagoons have been really nasty more than a few times...that needs to never happen again.
4. Send me clear water year-round.
5. Aside from awful tap water ( we bought a tap filter so we're fine) no complaints.
6. Invermere has dropped the ball on its up keep of infrastructure .... water quality is poor as well as sewer .... a lot of \$ spent on land purchase with no quick rate of return where could have been put to use upgrading required sewer.... don't burden or punish developers with paying for upgrades that DOI should have foreseen
7. As a resident I have noticed there has been lots of flooding in the homes of multiples residents over the last 5 years. It would be an asset to see some water diversion and drains to help divert melting waters and storm waters as it currently has nowhere for it to go
8. Windermere's waste water going into the lake needs to be addressed now, and not just when a property is sold.
9. Stormwater- do we have issues here?

## Infrastructure

1. We channel funding into infrastructure first and once complete then start beautification. Invermere does this in reverse so infrastructure will cost more in future

## Roads

1. wish money was better spent on fixing the roads properly instead of constantly patching the same hole over and over again
2. My biggest concerns are the side roads are terrible, especially in Wilder.
3. Fix the roads. Pave 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue downtown already and put some storm sewers in. Finish the rest of pothole parking.
4. Some roads are in bad shape and need to be repaved
5. Overall well done! Sunday road and sidewalks maintenance is non existent on Sunday's.
6. teach the guys how to plow roads, they need severe lessons. Why do we pay [contractors] to dig holes when there is equipment in the public works yard.
7. -if you sell development lands, put the money back into roads: wilder streets are falling apart with pot holes and cracks that barely get any maintenance in the summer months -better snow removal plans: all streets should get a visit from a snow plow within 24 hours. Schedule

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the overtime, it's a safety issue. There should be a driver on-call and ready to go when it starts to snow - no streets should be left for extended periods of time

## Sidewalks

1. I would like sidewalk built by Medical Clinic next to parking lot southside! Connect sidewalks? Last Mayor Mr. Gerry Taft was always thinking about people- build sidewalks for walking! Thank you, Gerry, makes our life easier living in downtown!
2. In winter 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue is popular for walking. More care is needed to remove ice and snow at all street crossings and in front of vacant businesses. When icy this is one of the few places it can be safe to walk outside.

## Castlerock

1. Time to tackle the rock face problem in Castlerock at the four way stop coming into the community. It is a three-year-old problem and the can just keeps getting kicked down the road....
2. Road maintenance in Castle Rock is good but I find that after the snow plow goes by, I have extra snow from the street pushed into my driveway. You need a drop-down blade for when passing a driveway to keep the snow from filling in my driveway.

## Recycling, Garbage, Compost

1. The recycling depot is a problem They are barely open and don't even respect those times
2. 29) Garbage collection/ Recycling- the bins are too big! Not environmentally friendly!
3. Food waste pickup is for cities. Most people here could have their own compost or access to a compost. If they bothered to sort it.
4. If you charge for garbage & recycling pick up, do those people who don't have garbage every week get a discount? Encourage recycling & composting that way.
5. downtown businesses should have garbage removal.
6. Recycling pickup should be increased. If you are trying to motivate people to recycle, currently our recycling is piling up and I've noticed people just starting to put it in the garbage. I've also tried to recycle bottles and cans at the depot on a number of occasions and it has been closed during the hours stated on their door. If Invermere takes over this, or starts their own recycling depot, that money can go back into the town and it would encourage more people to recycle, make money and help their town
7. Garbage/Recycling station should be 7days a week!

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8. Finally, the adoption of the new garbage/recycling bin systems has resulted in an eyesore in every neighbourhood because a majority of residents now leave the bins outdoors. This is also an animal attractant. Secondary suites will need bins too.
  9. 10) There have been many times I went down there only to leave as the surface is a mud bowl!! after rain or snow melt.

## Tax/ Finance

1. No more parcel taxes until some of the existing ones are paid off and finished.
2. have taxes stay the same and use them more effectively; no new development, including affordable units, without effective water and sewer upgrades;
3. I understand needs but I cannot afford continued tax increase as a senior and have poor drinking water, poor snow removal on my road and lack of wildlife control. Things that affect me as a senior.
4. We need more money coming in to the district from the surrounding areas like Timber Ridge, Copper Point, the whole east side of the lake, etc. that make up more of the population
5. 26) I would need to see proof that it is going towards improved service levels.
6. 26)Yes but I need to see what the increase is specifically going towards.

## Wildlife

1. Deal with the ever-increasing deer populations. I can't walk my dog in spring or summer near my house. Sewage plant stunk last year
2. Keep those deer out of town!
3. Wildlife Management- where is the deer cull?
4. Wildlife Management- don't know i.e., Deer cull.
5. Do we have issues here? The Deer cull- the case for same business.
6. I know the issue has been brought up many times, but I would like the urban deer and turkey issue to be addressed. We have a lot of deer in our area of town and they have been coming more and more aggressive to dogs and people. I personally saw 4 incidents that were very close calls this year. They were all reported to the BCCO service, but no action was taken.

## Housing/ Rentals

1. Affordable housing and short-term rentals are my only concern when considering the future of this lovely community.
2. Regarding the short-term rentals, they need to be closely monitored and shut down if not following bylaws.

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3. The primary reason there is a lack of affordable housing is a lack of better paying jobs.
  4. short term rentals are fine if policed, more than regulated (noise and parties) - fine the owners, too;
  5. The section on short term rentals needed more space to comment. I don't think we need to encourage more of this at all as it's already a pretty big issue. The ones in our neighborhood are non stop party houses every weekend it seems now. We constantly are reporting them for parties well past 3am. We do not need more but yes; we do need more permit control over them.
  6. How about instead of permitting short term rentals for locals in a primary residence...which locals do to support themselves...offer incentives for long term rentals. All secondary homes used for short term is a different scenario, if a person can afford a second house, they can afford fees.
  7. How about addressing smaller homes, do what Nelson did. They have 3 lane way house layouts that are cleared for building permits. Make secondary suites less arduous...the having to put in a whole other HRV, hot water tank is not affordable for many, and not doable in some homes.
  8. It's not just low-income housing. It's housing in general. A new professional to town doesn't need high density living. But currently there is NOTHING to buy and NOTHING to rent. The builders can't keep up. So, we have more people but no workers to serve them regardless of professional or not. And we can't expand our services or downtown without them. Total circle. With housing for everyone being the most important
  9. I have lived in Invermere for 57 yrs I would like to continue to live in this community for the rest of my days . However, if the district continues to push aside the issue of long-term rentals availability in our community, I may be forced to leave like many others to find a place to live . Please take the time to really look at this situation !!!
  10. I am currently a home renter, and find it challenging to find decent affordable long-term rentals. However, my main source of income is managing vacation rentals. So, I am stuck in the middle of the long-term vs short-term rental debate. The biggest problem that I have found for homeowners looking to rent their houses out is that long-term tenants have far too many "rights", while landlords have virtually none. It is unappealing to an owner to rent their property out long term because if they end up with bad tenants, then they're stuck with them, often ending in huge financial losses and court battles. Whereas with short term rentals, if you end up with bad guests, you're only stuck with them for the weekend AND you are fully covered for any potential damages to the property. BC landlords are only permitted to ask for a half months security deposit (unlike Alberta, which is a full month's deposit). This is just one of the regulations that make long-term rentals far less appealing. Until the landlord & tenant regulations are amended to benefit owners, we will not see an increase in available long-term rentals in our community, regardless of any restrictions or taxation the DOI may put



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- in place for short term rentals. Offer more protection for home owners and you will absolutely see an increase in absolute long-term rentals.
11. Stop VRBO and short-term rentals in single family homes. Short term renters are on holiday while next door residents are trying to live regular lives, putting kids to bed, and going to work themselves early in the morning. Need quiet hours enforceable in town.
  12. Bylaws are good but he is not able to enforce them or give fines. Mark does a great job but without enforcement, what is the point? The same will be with Airbnb. I think there should be a certain number of Airbnb allowed per street. I want to live in a community, not at a resort. However, Airbnb can play a major role in helping people afford their homes. Until rental agreements actually allow for landlord rights, there will not be long term rentals. There is too much risk compared to short term rental
  13. Affordable Rent. Biz rent lease
  14. 14) Mayor's Task Force on Housing- I had no idea there was this task force and what are the results? No- Based on conversations with service staff in local restaurants etc. 15) It would depend on the area & the overall appearance of the development. 16) unless it started to impact the services available. 17) Perhaps look at what Banff has done & encourage the property owners of businesses to invest in creating accommodation as the Black Forest Restaurant owners have done. 20) the DOI council MUST decide on a policy re: STR's and levy heavy fines for not adhering to same. why wait to see what everyone else is doing- there are enough municipalities that have taken the lead on this (i.e., radium) that the DOI council should get on this. 22) with appropriate regulations & only in owner occupied units and leases to be a min of 6 months.
  15. 14) Talking with a young family wanting to move here, they had great difficulty finding housing. Talking to service people it seems there isn't. Talking with seniors there seems to be a shortage to enable people to sell rural properties & move to town. 15) Like to see how the Farmhouse project turns out. also like to see results from above housing needs survey & whether it is reliable & representative. 16) Not at this point recognizing it is key we remain attractive & affordable for younger people & families. 17) I think the District can assist by waiving property taxes for a period of time or possibly development fees. Have we check to see what Fernie, Banff, Canmore, or other resort areas have done? 18) Except- Do they become a barrier to enticing hotel developments in our downtown. 20) First, we need to determine if we want them & proper to any approvals, we need regulations & enforcement. Have we checked with other resort areas beyond just referring to Radium's experiments. 21) But we need to know as residents & taxpayers where & how short-term rentals will be permitted. This requires public process & input. 22) Again with appropriate regulations and only in owner occupied residences and for leases of no less than 6 months.

## Planning & Development

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1. More planning with commercial and residential to encourage better designs.
  2. Too much expansion without consideration of environmental and service costs is my biggest worry.
  3. It would be great to see a focus on protecting our wild places. It's the access to nature that draws people here. If we continue to sell land to developers (e.g., Castle Rock, Grizzly Ridge) we risk losing what makes this place so attractive to young families and tourists. We are losing all access to nature from town. We now have to drive to get to biking/hiking trails. I think trails and nature access should be priorities. We also had an opinion poll regarding single use plastic bags and have yet to see any action on this initiative by council. It would be great to see more environmental leadership from council.
  4. Re: developers' assurance of reduced rental/purchase rate - can we say Westside Park??? Need more consultation on big purchases like Lakeside property. I understand that perhaps it was a quick decision to be made but pre-consultation with tax payers for potential future events should happen. The "what if" situations along with setting a reasonable dollar amount that we'd be willing to put forth i.e., area, \$ over how many years, etc.
  5. . Lions Park- I don't know where this is. Boundary Expansion- We already have many privately DOI vacant land within our own boundary.
  6. Boundary expansion- 1 because I don't know where & why
  7. Lions Park- not sure of location Land use Planning & Economic Development- I don't know what is being done here & any impact.

## Athalmer

1. Please consider the congestion of the boat launch area while looking at developing that area. It's really unsafe to have so many boaters mixed in with beginner paddle boarders and kayakers. It would also be very nice to have a lakeside boardwalk. As a resident, it can be difficult to enjoy the lake from the shores. It would also be nice to have a lakeside dog park considered.
2. Do not consider selling parts of our new waterside park for development; ;
3. I'm concerned about the money invested in Athalmer lands, and Hope some of them can be recovered through smart economic choices by the District.
  - #12 Land should lay dormant till more planning and the agreement on Columbia River Agreement in
4. -#13 if it is a pay to stay. Liability cost high. Staff required to operate. They are paid reasonably well but pay too hard. Helps pay the taxes
5. The town is totally over-run with out-of-town visitors and yet does nothing to accommodate them (no lake docks, no campground, no RV sewer dump). Start charging a boat launching and day use fee and build something nice out there.
6. I would like to see the DOI make decisions more quickly and move projects forward such as the development near Pete's marina.
7. Great questions - would love to see more ways such as these where input can be provided re Athalmer development for those that cannot attend meetings during day

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8. Need to not sprawl. Athalmer lands need some commercial and accommodations on them. Too important not to have a balance. Need to find to increase multi family developments. More pathways and better linkages outside boundaries to the RDEK.
  9. Lakeside Inn issues to be resolved
  10. 11) Retail Commercial uses- No- We no not need added competition for our downtown merchants nor creating a 3rd retail area. 12) Definitely not at this time until acquisition of Chabot Park is completed & we have an approved plan for the areas embraced by the residents & financial estimates & timeline. 13) see comments on previous question 12.
  11. Campground (X crossed out)/ RV Park. Wetland Restoration- we have a wetland already down there why manufacture a new one & also have to maintain it- unnecessary costs! 12) Not at this point in time with no definitive plan. 13) Other than updating the marina area I see no reason to rush any development of the DOI lands until the transfer of Chabot Park is either confirmed or denied

## Downtown

1. Downtown revitalization- However flower beds, baskets, Nov banners excellent.
2. Close main street all summer.
3. Downtown Revitalization- Definitely!
4. Downtown Revitalization- No details other than flowers and banners

## By Law & Dog Control

1. There is not enough by-law presence during busy times , especially with parking and dogs off leash, poop pick up and in areas they shouldn't be.
2. More enforcement on bylaws e.g., public gatherings, dog control, polluters.
3. These questions are too simplistic and it's hard to answer well. For example, by wildlife management do you mean culling? By dog control & bylaw enforcement do you mean actually having the bylaw officer ACTUALLY address a dog that barks too much with some real action? How about an Education campaign about being a good dog owner. Does your dog bark incessantly much to the frustration of your neighbour? Then it's probably stressed out, here's how you deal with it. Partner with someone like GALS, and when a complaint is lodged against a dog, humans have to take a course. Do something about the problem because the current system isn't addressing the root (ignorant humans)
4. By law officer does nothing unless he knows you and it suits him Makes his own rules
5. Bylaws are good but he is not able to enforce them or give fines. Mark does a great job but without enforcement, what is the point?
6. 28) Bylaw Enforcement - needs to have teeth.
7. 28) Bylaw Enforcement - this needs serious attention & beefed up.

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8. We need a fully fenced secure dog park and a dog beach for families with small children & dogs. I talk to a lot of vacationers and permanent residence family's that frustrated that they have no where to go during the hot summers with there dog and kids. Everybody loves a beach! We don't want to be stuck at the end of Kinsmen with slimy rocks or James Chabot in the reeds and rocks. Lake Windermere is huge. The new purchase in Athalmer would have plenty of room between Pete's Marina and that big empty building.

## Staff

1. kudos to the downtown flower squad!
2. It is pay pay and very difficult to get or see any positive help and our place where we live going down hill by miss management.
3. DOI does a great job of running this community, considering the needs of residents with the pressures of a resort community. Would be good to see more enforcement of "stay local" right now. Airbnb behind us is booked constantly, and ski hill is overrun with Albertans - definitely not essential!
4. Our mayor, council and town employees do a fine job. We are all lucky to live here.
5. Our experiences with the District have been horrible. They have allowed our house to be flooded with raw sewage twice now and have been ignorant and taken zero responsibility. They have allowed these problems to go on unchecked because they do the absolute bare minimum of maintenance required by law on the sewage pipes in our neighbourhood. Many other houses have had problems as well. They refused to install any equipment that would aid in monitoring a pipe that frequently causes severe damage to the houses it services. They'll go and buy lakeside property for millions of dollars, but refuse spend one penny extra to properly monitor, or do anything above and beyond a bare legal minimum, in an area of town that needs to have their troublesome sewage system addressed. They have been so horribly ignorant.
6. -town office should not close for extended periods of time over the Xmas holidays: that's a slap in the face to the residents of this town, thinking you deserve extra time off because it's Xmas when most people are still working or need to reach out to the town
7. I think you are mis-stepping in not hunting for a very good CAO - the vision slides, and they can bring so much to the table and this has clearly been missing by thinking you can make do with less expertise or saving money, we will pay down the road more in the near future and into the future -
8. Thank you public works, you do a great job! Human Resources needs some consideration moving forward. Embrace local expertise.
9. By law officer does nothing unless he knows you and it suits him Makes his own rules
10. Recreation, Arts, Events- Courtney is doing an excellent job.

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## Business & Economics

1. I would like to see more support for small business owners who are driving the economy.
2. I think there is a lot of opportunity for economic development that aren't being taken advantage of. The position is very important and can have a great impact, but it is currently not being executed properly.
3. 11) Retail- Not until all of our vacant store fronts are filled downtown.
4. Economic Dev- Don't know what is happening.

## Sustainability

1. Sustainability- Need more info.

## Events

1. Development of the core evening entertainment
2. The town should not be involved in arts, recreation, crafts, fairs. DOI should only be involved in roads, sewer and water, garbage and maintenance, beach clean up.
3. Recreation Programming, Arts, Events, Community Centre- Good job on CVCC exercise & yoga. COVID-19 impacted seriously.

## Tourism

1. Too much influence is being put on visitors to our community compared to the well being of our fulltime residents. We also need more control over the amount of visitors in our valley as we continue with COVID-19 restrictions. So many visitors putting our community at risk. I'd like to see Al Miller and the rest of council step up and protect our residents.
2. The town is totally over-run with out-of-town visitors and yet does nothing to accommodate them (no lake docks, no campground, no RV sewer dump). Start charging a boat launching and day use fee and build something nice out there.
3. Let's reduce the amount of marketing done in an effort to reduce the density of tourism in order to facilitate the ability of the local population to enjoy the spaces in the valley.
4. An awareness campaign on the damages of over tourism on our nature/trails/lake would be helpful, start protecting the reason we locals live here, and the reason we have tourism. Is there money from the government for upgrades to water/sewer infrastructure? Programs

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- from CBT to restore the wetlands and James Chabot area? What about a position for sustainability in land planning, building, making sure the Imagine Invermere is implemented.
5. As more visitors come, and settle in the valley, sustainable growth must be a top priority. This must include everything from increasing recreational opportunities like the creation of more mountain biking and running trails, to ensuring affordable healthy homes for all residents, regardless of socio-economic status. It must be a thoughtful smart process that includes all aspects of what makes life attractive here.
  6. Would be nice to see an AirBnB tax that could help support having weekend bylaw control to enforce noise complaints etc. Keep Invermere enjoyable for all! All tourism to thrive but also provide comfortable neighbourhoods for everyone
  7. Focus more on the people that live in Invermere full time, the rich Calgarians will find there way to put their boats in the water just fine.
  8. I think if the DOI focused more on important core improvements (water/sewer/curb & gutter) sooner, then we can worry about polishing up the town for tourists. Also, Run the town like a business, lease lands to developers instead of selling, make money in the long run. tax developers that do not complete projects
  9. Invermere is a small town with a split personality. Taxpayers are a mix of young families & older residents who value different amenities but agree that the community should have a family focus. The pre-occupation with "tourism" should not determine the economic or policy priorities; such as short-term rentals at the expense of commercial rentals & quiet neighbourhoods. Taxpayers should not fund amenities to "please" or attract tourists - who have no investment in the DOI infrastructure. We need to be cautious about accommodating more boats, trailer & traffic around the only access/departure point; i.e., Athalmer bridge.

## Services

1. I would like to see increased support for emergency planning and search and rescue.
2. It is astonishing that Invermere doesn't stand up to the Provincial government and BC Hydro to demand the abolishment of Step 2 rates or at the very least a substantial increase to the kilowatt hour threshold before higher rates take effect. We are being unjustly penalized for using 'clean' electricity while unable to reduce Winter heating costs with access to natural gas. Get the media involved and make some noise. BC is more than the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. You would have no problem getting local support for the initiative.

## Columbia Valley Centre/ Buildings

1. With the community Center being built, the fire hall is now very visible from the road. Giving the fire hall an upgrade and face lift is know needed. Especially with all the other brand-new fire halls having been built in the neighbouring towns.

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2. I would support funding to build a community center. Preferably with a pool and squash courts/gym facilities.
  3. I really wish we had an indoor pool here. I think this should have been included in the Columbia Valley Centre.
  4. It would be good to have a good theatrical stage for live acting. Buy Toby Theater building & have a combo, stage, and movie theatre. Plenty of room for storing all the stage props.
  5. The community centre desperately needs signage.
  6. Stop spending money on the community centre (the “acoustic sound” thing). It’s going to be awhile until COVID-19 is resolved to use that space with a decent amount of people again. Delay that project for a year and put those funds elsewhere!