

Comments on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Council Meeting:

We found it very upsetting that the Kiwanis Affordable Housing by the train station may be threatened by Council's altered demands after 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and this late in the process. The Town's credibility could be in jeopardy with various stakeholders' groups such as Kiwanis as well as with Provincial bodies such as BC Housing. Kiwanis has already altered the plan and reduced the height to meet earlier requests. They would no doubt have made some minor changes in the form and character, remembering that this is affordable housing so there is a need to make the design cost effective.

The previous council elected in 2014 pushed densification of the village core, but two of those councilors, who remain on council today, now want to kill or hobble this proposal with unreasonable demands. Where is your logic, people?? Councilor Harrison certainly demonstrated sufficient proof to convince us, but you over rode him. Thankfully Mr. Sales floated an alternative that allowed the project a lifeline in the interim.

It was another dysfunctional performance with council trying to determine procedures on how to handle the complaints concerning the new street lights. How insulting it must be to staff to have you override their recommendations. Surely BC Hydro and the Town engineer should be able to apply the lighting standards and apply them while complying with safety recommendations.

Few of the public actually view council meetings so most residents miss out on what is really going on, which at times is pathetic.

Bob and Joyce Daman

1203 Pintail Drive

## **Comments on the May 27, 2021 Council Meeting**

This meeting with a full council had the important Agenda item for the Development Permit requested for the Railway Street and Village Way Affordable Housing Development represented months of work and collaboration between the town, the Kiwanis Club, and B.C. Housing. It was referred to the Advisory Planning Committee, and given public consultation through an online survey and changes made.

It was a unique opportunity--with the town providing leased land, the Kiwanis group willing to take on the oversight of construction and future management, and hoped that funding would be approved by B.C. Housing. With two "seasoned" councillors onboard, it was unbelievable to hear discussion that could scuttle the whole project.

Lack of understanding and disrespect for the groundwork was astounding. Those who have campaigned in numerous elections for affordable housing were the very ones pushing back. Previous housing projects have been brought forward, but each time arguments commonly stated were "it is not in the right place". Some of the same arguments were now being applied to a town-instigated project. It begs the question, "Does Qualicum Beach really want affordable housing?"

People drive from Nanaimo, Port Alberni and Comox to their jobs in Qualicum Beach. Little value seems given to the environmental aspects of the car travel required. Businesses need the support of local residents for seasonal tourist trade cannot be the mainstay. Businesses are now experiencing difficulty in staffing because potential staff must live elsewhere.

It was a wise a short break was taken, for common sense prevailed and a way forward was found.

Wise decisions are always based on an open mind and a willingness to look at possible new solutions. Locked-in attitudes don't contribute to a thriving future.

Marlys Diamond  
#516, 120 First Avenue West  
Qualicum Beach

**From:** [Carol Dowe](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Congrats to Anne Skipsey, Fire Hall discussion and Railway Affordable Housing project  
**Date:** May 28, 2021 1:04:34 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe

[Communications@qualicumbeach.com](mailto:Communications@qualicumbeach.com)

May 28, 2021

Re: Council meeting, May 27, 2021

Congratulations to Anne Skipsey as our New Councilor! We now have a full Council and rightful representation of the people of Qualicum Beach.

Thank you for the discussion around the Fire Hall for the dry housing. It is good to know that our MLA Adam Walker has good communication with the ALR and that this project could be located at the Fire Hall instead of a horrid destruction of the trees at the earlier site amongst beautiful trees and paths for our community to enjoy. I believe there was a unanimous decision to go with the Fire Hall location. So good to see this unity!

As to the subject of the Railway and Village Way Affordable Housing project: We were pleased to see an animated discussion around the concerns of the community. It is clear that we are all in favour of affordable housing, but we agree with Anne Skipsey, Teunis Westbroek and Robert Filmer as to the concerns of keeping this at a 4 level building. There could have been more discussion around having lower density, the form, shape and character of this building, and such a large parking lot, and removal of trees before approving a Building Permit.

It was a long meeting, but it seemed so right to have a full council discussing and making decisions on behalf of our community in a balanced way.

Kind regards,  
Dr. Fred and Carol Dowe

512 Hawthorne Drive  
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1A5



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [communications](#)  
**Cc:** [Weslie Gould](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments - May 27, 2021 Council Meeting  
**Date:** May 29, 2021 7:37:34 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe

**Mayor & Council** - the following are my comments regarding the May 27<sup>th</sup> Council meeting:

❖ **The Challenge** - the first meeting in 6 months with a full Council had a relatively light agenda. It started in a fairly friendly and convivial manner which offered a modicum of hope and everything seemed to be off to a good start. But then it changed and seemed to be back to the bear pit.

It wasn't surprising that the controversy related to a development matter, but it was surprising that the matter in question was a Town sponsored affordable housing project that everyone seems to agree is needed. It isn't perfect and modifications have been made but it appears that this still isn't enough.

Making further changes to the height and density at this point could jeopardize the whole project just when BC Housing is ready to make a funding decision. This project already has a higher unit cost than the Parksville Affordable Housing project which doesn't have the benefit of free land. BC Housing or even Kiwanis could well pull the plug and kill the whole project. What a shame.

In the remaining 18 months of its term, this Council needs to turn its attention and focus to completing projects in the current Strategic Plan, not restructuring it - that's the task of the next Council.

❖ **Public Discourse** - it was encouraging to hear the Mayor speak out against the divisive impact of negative social media postings, calling it horrible, nasty, being bullying and saying that Qualicum Beach can do better and that the Council needs to work together to stop this.

If one looks at the 2017 Quality of Life Survey results, one would hardly recognize that this is the same community. Hopefully, more of the community will speak out and join the Mayor in his condemnation of this corrosive behaviour.

❖ **PS** - the delegation presentation by the Arrowsmith Search and Rescue was excellent.

Tim Pritchard

663 Windward Way

May 28, 2021

Hello Mayor Weise, Councilors Filmer, Harrison, Skipsey & Westbroek,

Yesterdays Council meeting began with optimism and for many of us watching, hope that the dynamics of this full Council would continue to bring together what is best for our community as a whole.

The affordable housing discussion was as hard to watch as it must have been for all of you, for the varied opinions you each tried to convey. It is with relief that an acceptable outcome was reached to allow this much needed affordable housing project to continue without further delays.

I would like to offer a suggestion for one of Councilor Skipsey's concerns, as I have always felt that solutions can usually be reached through civil discussions. With regards to the concern about the lack of impervious surfaces, I am quite certain that there could be ways in which to accommodate the necessary parking while returning water to the ground rather than into storm water drains. Several ways come to mind that would not be expensive and I would imagine the Kiwanis Affordable Housing Committee would be willing to consider some of the available options. Failing that, the Town has provided a fantastic ground water catchment area on Memorial & West Crescent that I would expect should help to alleviate the issue as intended.

May I also add, thank you Mayor Weise for your comments on the Social Media issues that you raised, the pain and divisiveness it has brought to our community does indeed need to stop. Thank you to all of Council for your apparent acknowledgment on this important matter.

Linda Todsén  
2075 W. Island Hwy.

**From:** [John Wood](#)  
**To:** [communications](#)  
**Cc:** [Weslie Gould](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments - May 27, 2021 Council Meeting  
**Date:** May 29, 2021 10:13:50 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe

Good day Mayor and Council,

1. Affordable housing

The town's Policy 3008-6 "Development Procedures and Protocol" is for town staff, council and the developer to follow, to provide a reasonable path forward. The plan presented has incorporated numerous changes since inception, as requested by council, APC, neighbours, citizens. It is good. Making changes at this stage will jeopardize BC Housing funding, which will kill the project. Qualicum Beach has virtually no affordable housing. This is the right project, the right location and the right time. One councillor said "when you're driving through downtown, this is what you'll see" – that's nonsense, it is very well integrated into the landscape, downslope from the railway and blending into the terrain.

2. Propriety

I was pleased to hear the mayor call out the purveyors of negative social media postings – they are vituperative, toxic, nasty, divisive and bullying. Qualicum Beach deserves better than that. This extends to propriety in council – play nice together, you are elected to serve the town.

3. Arrowsmith Search and Rescue

Great presentation, I hope council and staff can get them the ammunition they need to meet the upcoming deadlines.

4. Street Lighting

This discussion got off track from the get-go. Rather than following the agenda and discussing the staff recommendation presented, it was ignored for an "alternative" proposal. Follow the agenda, it's there for good reason. And the treatment of the town engineer was very disrespectful. No other community I'm aware of is going through this nonsensical approach. We've been using LED lights in every new development and subdivision for over 10 years now without once complaint – now all of a sudden we have to consult with every citizen on every light in town – it's ridiculous.

Gentlemen and ladies of council, you can do better – please show us. Thank you.

**John Wood**  
**466 Troon Close**  
**Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1C9**  
[REDACTED]