

**Town of Gibsons
Community Dialogue**

Town Budget Priorities

February 7, 2024

Location: Gibsons Public Market

Attendance: 23 members of the public, plus three members of Council (Mayor White, Councillors De Andrade and Croal) and four staff members.

Overview: Mayor White presented what we heard last year, 2023 budget highlights and the 2024 planned budget priorities. Throughout the evening people raised their hands to express their priorities, voice concerns and ask questions. The dialogue began at 6 PM and ended at 8 PM.

View that PowerPoint Presentation: [2024-Budget-Community-Dialogue-Presentation.pdf](#)

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- Speed-calming measures are needed on Abbs, Franklin, and Stewart Road.
- A crosswalk is needed at the Up and Down Trail on Abbs.
- There should be a crosswalk between Dougal Park and Glassford Road.
Notes: Staff noted that this has been identified in the Active Transportation Network Plan and is being looked into.
- Advocacy needs to be done to get MOTI to implement high-visibility lines on the highway
Notes: Mayor White noted that although this is outside of our jurisdiction, he had brought it up with MOTI representatives two weeks ago. He also noted and that the Deputy of transportation has visited the Coast twice in the last month.
- Attendees were interested to know the status of the Well #1 water dispenser.
Notes: Staff noted that the preliminary capital plan for water in 2024 included funding for the Well #1 dispenser, and a report presenting options will be brought to Committee following the adoption of the budget.
- Odour at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is still an issue, although some commented that the smell has been reduced.
Notes: Staff mentioned that some changes in operation have been made to reduce/contain the odour and additional improvements are planned for this year. Odour control will be a key consideration in the treatment plant expansion design which will begin in 2024.
- Prioritize the aesthetic of Marine Drive and Lower Gibsons:
 - Encourage businesses to keep the exterior of buildings clean and provide paint
 - Create a new colour palette and don't allow brown exteriors
 - Someone suggested taking the money from the hanging baskets to put towards paint for the businesses
 - Someone mentioned that they appreciated the hanging baskets.
- Seawalk lighting is needed since it is too dark at night.
- Put up more signs telling people to clean up after their dogs.

- More garbage cans are needed.
 - There needs to be a garbage can at Winegarden Park.
 - Put garbage cans by bus stops, especially by the high school
- Ensure that there is a budget to implement the Urban Forest Plan once it's complete.
 - Replant danger trees in Arrowhead Park and others that were recently felled.
 - Put in street trees.
- Washrooms
 - Keep washrooms in Dougal Park open all year round.

Notes: Staff mentioned that they are closed during the winter because there is no heating and the pipes may freeze. However, work is underway to install a heater and going forward they should be open year-round.
- Remove port-a-potties at Pioneer Park and replace with real washrooms.

Notes: Councillor Croal noted that the cost to put in a washroom has tripled since it was last costed out due in part to the new legislation for accessibility requirements as well as increased material and building costs.
- What is the status of the Persephone?

Notes: Councillor Croal noted that partnerships, volunteers, and funding are needed to restore and preserve the vessel. It's currently being stored at the Public Works yard.
- A fenced dog park is needed for tourism. When people want to visit there is nowhere to take their dog.
- More work needs to be put into keeping trails in better shape, and trim low branches in Inglis Trail.
- Strengthen tree bylaw.
- Update film policy.
- Also noted: Cudos to the Town for providing so many doggie bag stations, and hanging baskets, the parks crew do a wonderful job gardening.

WHO WAS MISSING FROM THE CONVERSATION?

- Youth
- Young Families
- Newcomers to Gibsons

Did we miss something?

Please email bkent@gibsons.ca with anything you think should be added to this list.