

YET ANOTHER DARN SURVEY-SURVEY

These questions were put together from feedback of residents from many areas of Lethbridge, members of some community associations and the like. We realize the demands on your time, experience and research. We sympathize but you are applying for a job and it is not a small one.

We will compile all of your responses after October 10th.

Good luck to all!

1. The city had a financial management tool called the Mill Rate Stabilization Reserve (MRSR). It now has a new name. Do you know what the new name is? How does it work? Do you think enough guidelines/checks and balances are applied? Would you suggest changes?

MRSR is the Municipal Revitalization Stabilization Reserve. Its purpose is to stabilize the effects of fluctuating interest revenue and general operation surpluses and deficits on annual tax requirements. Funds come in from general operation surpluses, and other surpluses and recoveries, and budgeted allocations to general operations are charged to the reserve. Other charges include any general operation deficits of prior years, one-time expenses, internal financing advances, and other allocations. Given the new budgeting structure some changes will be required. The purpose of the fund is good, how it's used should require more Council oversight, so reviewing policy around expenditures would be a good place to start.

2. Do you know what the average residential units per hectare is per neighborhood? Should there be 'balanced' development throughout the city? What does the MDP (Municipal Development Plan) say about that? Should the MDP say it 'promotes' balanced development or 'ensures' it?

It depends on who you as and what neighbourhood plan is being discussed.

Core neighbourhoods: 26 du/ha

Mature neighbourhoods: 24 du/ha

Established neighbourhoods: 20 du/ha

Developing neighbourhoods: 25 du/ha

There should be balanced development across new and existing neighbourhoods, and as part of my platform (www.jenschmidtrempe.ca) I discuss ensuring that we're taking care of Lethbridge's new and established neighbourhoods equally.

Policy 64 in the MDP ("ensure") sets a density target of 27 du/ha for new outline plans. However, policy 66 ("promote") is about increasing residential density in existing areas, with no hard targets identified. This does mean neighbourhoods, such as Westminster, are open to interpretation.

I believe, policies 66 and 69 should also include conditions around existing home types, particularly for neighbourhoods, such as Westminster, so they don't become subject to too over densification.

Additionally, there should be greater accountability on permit follow up by City Planning. The MDP should “ensure” balanced development across new and existing neighbourhoods.

3. Have you read the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) training manual? Are you for the streaming of more city committee meetings for all to see including the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) and SDAB? If you have ever been on the MPC or SDAB would you be willing to publicly share your votes on those issues YOU were asked to address?

Yes, I currently sit on the Subdivision Development and Appeal Board and have read the training manual.

Yes, I would love to see all committee meetings streamed – including all appeal bodies such as MPC, SDAB, property tax appeals, as well as the Police Commission. It makes for good, transparent government and open communication.

Yes, I would be willing to share all my votes publicly because we don't vote in a closed session. My public votes can be found at: <https://www.lethbridge.ca/Doing-Business/Planning-Development/Planning/Pages/SDAB.aspx>

4. Have you ever heard of the Lethbridge Land Corporation? What type of developments do they promote? Have you seen the caveats that applies to its development projects?

Yes, it is now called Opportunity Lethbridge. Its primary purpose is to develop and promote industrial land. However, for the time being, they are also undertaking residential land development (Watermark, RiverStone, and SunRidge being three examples).

I have not seen all the caveats on all their developments. However, I believe new subdivisions should be addressing the housing continuum.

5. Would you be willing to represent any area of Lethbridge should a ward system be put in place?

If you look at any city with a ward system you see that councillors have their “home” ward, where they do constituency work for the residents of that ward. It's a great way for you to know who's representing you. However, these same councillors help everyone in the city because when you sit as a councillor, you are representing the best interests of the whole city. So, if I'm not your ward councillor, and you want to talk about something, yes, please call me!