

Results

Cowichan Station Area Association – February 2013

Conversation About the Area/Community

Summary of Responses by Question

1. Travel - What are your top 2 to 3 priorities for making travel in our area safer, more enjoyable and more convenient?

Concerns/Priorities

- Not safe to walk, bike or ride a horse on our roads.
- Trails and bike paths – for safety and to encourage physical activity; from the Trans Canada to the station, from the station to Bright Angel.
- Public transit – a bus route through Cowichan Station
- Enforcement of speed limits – increasing traffic (especially Riverside, and Koksilah,) including logging trucks requires speed limit enforcement
- Road maintenance and markings – fix the crater backlog, keep road surfaces better maintained, clean up brushing debris from ditches, improve speed limit and hazard signs and improve road markings (lines are hard to see at night) and add dedicated bike/pedestrian lanes
- School bus congestion at bridge is a safety concern
- Train - get the train running again
- Car-pooling – encourage!

2. Natural Environment – What are the 2 or 3 most important things we can do to protect or restore the local environment in the area?

Themes

1. Look after the River – keep water clean, avoid toxic dumping and support regular water testing; what is an appropriate level of water extraction? Consider approaches around irrigation and fertilization. Who is responsible/accountable for the ensuring the health of the river?
2. Others:
 - Invasive Species and 'Pest' Species – management of elk, deer, geese and swans on agriculture land; management of garbage/compost dumping along roadsides and clearcuts that introduces problem plant species e.g., Japanese knotweed.
 - Reforestation – concern regarding amount of logging; encourage replanting trees with native species
 - Garbage – prevent garbage dumping in clearcuts and public areas (see invasive species above)
 - Land use – limit growth and increase density strategically, promote local agriculture and 'buy local'
 - Education – Promote awareness among residents re alternatives to pesticides and other personal action that can help protect environment; Bright Angel Park as a location opportunity for education.
 - Emission control – wood and oil

3. The HUB- What are a couple of ways you fell you could contribute to helping with the HUB and what ways work best for keeping you up to date on what is happening and needed?

Themes

- Communication – email topped the list; other ways that work include message board, social media, in-person (telephone or door-to-door, gossip newsletter (is it too expensive?)); consider stylish message boards at mail boxes and street reps; keep liaising with those that turn out and participate re needs.

4. Cowichan Station Village and Heritage – What do you think are the top 2 or 3 things we can do to enhance the village and the heritage values of the area?

Themes

- Village Maintain/promote agrarian/village heritage; Strengthen boundary around village – beyond boundary keep ALR, protect woods; Speed bumps in the village or other traffic control measures. Big empty house on Koksilah would make a great guest house; Increase events at HUB; Continue improving signage
- Church - Save the Church; lots of potential
- Maintenance - Paint trestle – maintenance of all important village features is key
- Railway – protect it