

JBNA

All-CANDIDATES Forum

November 1, 2011

CANDIDATE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTIONS

1. What is your position regarding neighbourhood plans and how they will be used when making land use decisions?

2. James Bay is being impacted by noise and air shed pollution from cruise ships, float-planes and helicopters. How do you propose to mitigate these problems?

3. What would you do to ensure that James Bay residents are participants in traffic planning of special events?

4. What measures would you take to mitigate the impacts on James Bay residents of the traffic associated with over 200 cruise ship visits to Ogden Point?

5. Do you have ideas about measures that could be implemented to increase the number of affordable family housing units in James Bay?

This last question is for the candidates for **Mayor only**:

Why do you feel that you would make a better mayor than the other three candidates?

<p>1. What is your position regarding neighbourhood plans and how they will be used when making land use decisions?</p>	<p>Neighbourhood plans are an important part of city planning – they help shape growth in a way that is sustainable, smart, and predictable. Each one of our many neighbourhoods is unique, highlights its own distinct identity and flare. In Victoria we just completed both the Official Community Plan and our Downtown Core Area Plan. Both of these planning exercises are important to the overall vision for our city for the next 30 years. Now we can, and must, turn our attention to updating the neighbourhood plans – to make sure they are up to date and represent the vision the community has for its future. Is there an opportunity to enhance a community village; is there a desire to see more density; or is more green space needed to support residents? There is no ‘one size fits all’ when talking about neighbourhood planning. These plans need to be done in lock-step with community members because they do play a role in decision regarding land use and growth. City staff rely on these documents when giving advice to council or working with developers on specific projects.</p> <p>I must stress, however, that spot zoning will always be a reality in our communities. Every private land owner has a right to apply for rezoning, and Council has a responsibility to review these requests. A neighbourhood plan cannot change this right – but can act as a guide when reviewing a change in zoning.</p> <p>In conclusion, neighbourhood plans are important. It is vital that the planning process be comprehensive and includes as many residents as possible to ensure the neighbourhood vision is thoughtful and inspired.</p>
<p>2. James Bay is being impacted by noise and air shed pollution from cruise ships, float-planes and helicopters. How do you propose to mitigate these problems?</p>	<p>These are important challenges to tackle, because air quality is key to a healthy community. I want to start by saying that the answer does not lie in banning float planes, helicopters, or cruise ships. They are part of our city’s economy, bringing business and tourists. However, it is important that we ensure their activities are managed in a way that mitigates impact on residents. James Bay is particularly impacted by cruise ship, as Ogden Point falls within the residential neighbourhood.</p> <p>Let me start with cruise ships. As Mayor I have pushed GVHA and Ministry of Environment to start monitoring air quality around the port again. With consistent monitoring we can assess the times when air quality is most impacted. For example, we know that the worst pollution is emitted as ships are docking. Knowing this, I have been a strong supporter of the new fuel regulations the federal government has introduced – and even lobbied for the new restriction to be brought in faster than planned. The new regulation will force cruise ship to burn low sulfur fuel once they are within range of a port, ensuring that the times when emissions are the worse the cleanest fuel is being used. This is a good step – the regulation take effect in August 2012.</p> <p>Further to that, as Mayor I brought together a partnership of stakeholders to undertake a feasibility study of on-shore power for cruise ships. This would allow ships to “plug-in” while in port, meaning they would run the ships off electricity while in port instead of burning fuel. Both Vancouver and Seattle are moving to on-shore plug-ins, and more and more cruise ships are being outfitted for such on-shore energy options. I believe this would be a valuable project for Victoria, and look forward to the results of the feasibility study currently being done.</p> <p>Float planes and the Helijet are important modes of transportation for our city, and are vital in promoting Victoria as the seat of government and a city that is accessible for business and/or pleasure. I am encouraged by the direction the float-planes are taking to consolidate their operations. I believe that having all float planes run out of the same terminal will bring efficiency in timing of flights, safer travel patterns, and also reduces the taxi distance for some flights. All of which helps keep our busy harbor safe for all users.</p>

	<p>Dean Fortin Continued Page 2</p> <p>Our harbor falls under the jurisdiction of the federal government. After an extensive review of the harbor aerodrome in 2008 one of the key recommendations the city made was for Transport Canada to strike a committee of community stakeholders to manage concerns of safety and air quality. This recommendation to date has not been acted on, and I have recently written to the newly appointed Minister of Transportation asking that this recommendation be acted upon quickly.</p> <p>Our working harbor is an important part of our city – but it also needs to be a harbor that works for everyone. It is a challenge, but one that need to be addressed collaboratively. The James Bay Neighbourhood Association, and all residents in James Bay, are important partners. I am open to working with the community to find more ways to mitigate the impact of the cruise ships and float planes, but I need to stress that for me the answer is not shutting these industries down.</p>
<p>3. What would you do to ensure that James Bay residents are participants in traffic planning of special events?</p>	<p>This is a really good question, especially as our community grows and more special events like marathons and bike racers become annual events. I love that our residents are so active and have so much community spirit – but we do need to make sure that these events are well planned and organized. One key element of good planning is communicating with the neighbourhood impacted by an event.</p> <p>One possible option I think worth exploring is having the city mandate special event coordinators to work with neighbourhood associations on traffic planning. This will also help ensure plans are being shared with the community at large, allowing residents to plan ahead knowing the details of any road closures or potential inconvenience.</p>
<p>4. What measures would you take to mitigate the impacts on James Bay residents of the traffic associated with over 200 cruise ship visits to Ogden Point?</p>	<p>The transportation management plan for the cruise ship passengers in very important – and we are heading towards an opportunity to make significant improvements. The current transportation contract, managed by the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, is coming up for renewal in 2013. This means now is the time to start talking about what kind of improvements we want to see in bus transportation – more fuel efficient buses that pollute less, smaller buses that have less of an impact on the roads, etc? The city will certainly be part of that conversation, and I hope the JBNA will as well.</p> <p>However, buses are just one piece of the transportation puzzle – we need to continue to invest in the Harbour Walkway so that people can chose to walk into our downtown along our beautiful shoreline, enhance bike rental opportunities for people who want to cycle around the city, and also work with the taxi industry to address speeding in residential neighbourhoods. On this last point it may involve targeted police monitoring for speeding, as well as continuing to support industry-led campaigns to respect the speed limits.</p> <p>There is no doubt that cruise ships bring traffic. The city needs to be a partner with the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority and the JBNA in putting our sustainability lens over how we foster transportation options to keep our communities safe and healthy.</p>
<p>5. Do you have ideas about measures that could be implemented to increase the number of affordable family housing units in James Bay?</p>	<p>Housing has been my number one priority over the last three years – and we have seen some real successes. The city has helped foster, or directly invested in, close to 800 units of housing right across the spectrum of need, from emergence shelter beds or affordable family rentals. One great family housing project is The Wing building in Vic West. This joint project brought partners together to take a building that had been sitting empty and only half built for many years and turn it into 51 units of family housing.</p> <p>A great way to increase affordable, neighbourhood based, housing is the creation of secondary suites. In the last three years we legalized suites and also created a grant incentive program for people looking to build a suite in their home. Secondary suites traditionally rent at below market value, offering great housing options for small families. We have seen great success with this program, and I believe it should be continued.</p>

	<p>Dean Fortin Continued Page 3</p> <p>Further, we are looking to introduce a program called STIR – ‘Short Term Incentives for Rentals’. Under this program the city would set conditions that support the development community in building rental units. Typically there is little incentive for the private sector to build rental units instead of condos, but I want to explore what incentives the city has to encourage developers to build rental units. We have a very low vacancy rate in Victoria, which serves to drive rents up. The more rental options available, the lower rent will become for everyone.</p> <p>And finally, the city is open to working with our partners in housing, including the Coalition to End Homelessness, the CRD and BC Housing, to pursue housing projects that support the needs of our communities.</p>
<p>6. Candidates for Office of Mayor only Why do feel that you would make a better mayor than the other three candidates?</p>	<p>In the last three years we have accomplished so much, and I want to continue to build on that momentum and continue to support a vibrant, welcoming and sustainable city.</p> <p>From housing and homelessness, alternative transportation and economic development – for the last three years, along with my team of councillors, I have been diligently working on the priorities set by our residents. And we have made great strides in many keys areas, proving our ability to work with residents, identify challenges, and make decisions on important projects. I am prepared to tackle the tough challenges ahead in a way that balances the financial and social needs of residents.</p> <p>I have learned so much and we’ve made significant progress over the last three years. I want to continue to put that knowledge and commitment to work for the people of this community. I have been honoured to serve as Mayor – it is a privilege I am hoping to be granted again.</p>

1. What is your position regarding neighbourhood plans and how they will be used when making land use decisions?	<p>Neighbourhood plans are the guiding documents which lay out the principles by which land use decisions should be made. The Official Community Plan is the document that overlays the neighbourhood plans. The updating of the OCP during the past term is a significant accomplishment and is an initiative that I had been an advocate of for quite some time.</p> <p>Neighbourhood plans guide growth and provide predictability in terms of how neighbourhoods may change. I believe that, in general, existing neighbourhood plans have withstood the test of time and future planning work should focus on detailed plans for village centres.</p>
2. James Bay is being impacted by noise and air shed pollution from cruise ships, float-planes and helicopters. How do you propose to mitigate these problems?	<p>Just over one year ago I was appointed to the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority. One of my particular interests in being a member of the GVHA is to ensure that their operational model is based on a triple bottom line approach that is further enhanced by the use of a sustainability framework. In order for the cruise ship industry to be sustainable its operations must recognize both issues of safety and quality of life. In terms of float planes I have been advocating for initiatives that recognize quality of life issues as well as those of safety. As the City is a landlord for one of the terminals I believe that an opportunity exists, during lease discussions, to have an impact on operational issues - such as timing between take offs, etc. that could improve the operations and lessen the impacts upon neighbouring residents.</p>
3. What would you do to ensure that James Bay residents are participants in traffic planning of special events?	<p>It would be useful to have a residents' committee participate in the drafting of an operational policy that would guide the approval considerations for special events in James Bay. This might be more practical than expecting community volunteers to participate in every meeting of the Special Events Committee. An important aspect of this process would be the post-event debrief where there would be a direct opportunity for community input into what worked and what did not work. In particular, a more comprehensive communications plan needs to be developed for each event in order to clearly articulate what routes are available for access and egress during an event.</p>
4. What measures would you take to mitigate the impacts on James Bay residents of the traffic associated with over 200 cruise ship visits to Ogden Point?	<p>If I am re-elected to Council and if I am reappointed to the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority I am looking forward to being involved in the transportation contract that comes due for renewal in 2013. Clearly a multi-pronged approach is required when dealing with the large number of passengers who arrive during very specific times during a very specific season. In terms of bus transportation the type of bus, size of bus, type of fuel burned, etc. will be of great importance. The potential for water taxi service is an option that is under consideration. Promoting the walking route to town via improvements to wayfaring and the harbour pathway itself, as opportunities become available, is an important component of the transportation management strategy. The issue of taxis speeding through the neighbourhood continues to be a source of great frustration to me. Ultimately, a system that would identify speeding taxis with the consequence that they would be banned from making pickups at the cruise ship terminal is something that I would like to see explored further.</p>
5. Do you have ideas about measures that could be implemented to increase the number of affordable family housing units in James Bay?	<p>Having been born in Victoria and having been a resident of James Bay for the past 27 years I have seen extraordinary changes in our neighbourhood. I remember James Bay as a working class neighbourhood. I remember James Bay as an "undesirable" neighbourhood from a realtor's point of view. I remember James Bay as a neighbourhood that drew young and energetic 'urban pioneers' who were drawn to the stock of heritage houses that could be purchased at a reasonable price and then improved through enormous amounts of sweat equity. I now see a James Bay where I wonder how people can afford to live here unless they are very well off.</p> <p>Recent initiatives such as the City's secondary suite policy are helping to provide housing options. The City is also looking at the potential of a "STIR" program that would offer incentives for building rental accommodation. The recently introduced Garden Suite Policy may offer, in appropriate locations, a reasonably priced housing alternative. I am also particularly interested in the co-op model of housing. Many co-ops across the country have either paid off their mortgages or are very close to doing so. If a National Housing Strategy was developed the equity that is captured within the existing co-ops could be used to leverage new projects.</p>

1. What is your position regarding neighbourhood plans and how they will be used when making land use decisions?	Neighbourhood plans need to be updated regularly with full participation from citizens and neighbourhood associations. Once in place, such plans should be respected by City Council when considering land-use applications.
2. James Bay is being impacted by noise and air shed pollution from cruise ships, float-planes and helicopters. How do you propose to mitigate these problems?	I support a moratorium on further cruise-ship expansion to Victoria Harbour, and steps being taken to mitigate the environmental impacts of existing cruise-ship visits, including waste-disposal, electricity usage, and traffic. Stronger enforcement of Victoria's anti-idling bylaw is required for buses and taxis in the vicinity of Ogden Point. Regarding float planes, I oppose any expansion of float-plane and helicopter traffic to and from Victoria Harbour, in light of safety considerations with competing harbour traffic and noise and air pollution to residents who live in the vicinity of the harbour. This question raises the larger issue of the "democratic deficit" within the Victoria Harbour Authority, which includes only one elected representative from the City of Victoria. The governance structure of the authority must be reformed or alternately, its responsibilities should be transferred to the City, to place the governance of land-use and operations around the harbour on a democratic footing.
3. What would you do to ensure that James Bay residents are participants in traffic planning of special events?	I would have the city undertake a survey of affected residents well in advance of special events, and provide opportunities for residents and representatives of neighbourhood associations to participate in traffic planning with city officials.
4. What measures would you take to mitigate the impacts on James Bay residents of the traffic associated with over 200 cruise ship visits to Ogden Point?	As stated in my response to question 2, above, I support a moratorium on further cruise-ship expansion to Victoria Harbour, and steps being taken to mitigate the environmental impacts of existing cruise-ship visits, including waste-disposal, electricity usage, and traffic. Stronger enforcement of Victoria's anti-idling bylaw is required for buses and taxis in the vicinity of Ogden Point.
5. Do you have ideas about measures that could be implemented to increase the number of affordable family housing units in James Bay?	Yes, I support the creation of a CRD Housing Levy of \$25 per household per year, to provide an effective seed fund capable of leveraging capital from BC Housing, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and other senior-government partners. These funds could then be mobilized toward the construction of new affordable co-operative and non-profit housing units for families. An additional measure in my platform (www.BenIsitt.ca) calls for the city to move from tolerating to encouraging the expansion of safe secondary suites, which benefit families whether they own or rent their home, by generating revenue and increasing the housing supply. Secondary suites have the added benefit of protecting the character of neighbourhoods, by providing a means for landowners to generate increased revenue in the face of rising land values, without resorting to high-rise towers and other high-density buildings.

1. What is your position regarding neighbourhood plans and how they will be used when making land use decisions?	Neighbourhood plans should be the basis for land use decisions. A strong justification should be required for departures from plans. Our Planning department has focused on City-wide zonings for residential property over the last few years, but I believe there is also room for variations in standards for residential development when residents support such neighbourhood-specific plans.
2. James Bay is being impacted by noise and air shed pollution from cruise ships, float-planes and helicopters. How do you propose to mitigate these problems?	The problem of cruise ship air pollution/noise is being felt in many ports. Shipping lines have been obliged to improve their vessels in response, and further improvements will take place in the future. There is a possibility of shore-based electric power to address both noise and air pollution from docked ships, although costs may be too great to make this practical. In the past we have discouraged excessively noisy aircraft, e.g. piston-engine Beavers flying sight-seeing circuits, and I continue to support such restrictions.
3. What would you do to ensure that James Bay residents are participants in traffic planning of special events?	My family in south Fairfield has at times been seriously inconvenienced by special events, just as have some James Bay residents. Although I support such events, and agree that they add to the quality of life in Victoria, it is important that organizers also consider the needs of local residents in deciding on exit routes, crossing opportunities etc. Sometimes full road closures have been maintained for longer than necessary.
4. What measures would you take to mitigate the impacts on James Bay residents of the traffic associated with over 200 cruise ship visits to Ogden Point?	I would like to see a rapid transit system on the North-South core of the downtown (preferably light rail). This system should extend to the main job/population centers in James Bay. Although it will probably not extend to Ogden Point, this would provide an alternative route for many cruise ship passengers as well as James Bay residents and workers – one light rapid transit line can replace many private vehicles.
5. Do you have ideas about measures that could be implemented to increase the number of affordable family housing units in James Bay?	This is a complex problem. It is important to retain young families in James Bay so that our schools stay active and healthy. With few developable sites remaining in James Bay, though, the desire for higher density low cost housing is likely to conflict with desires for neighbourhood stability. Recent legalization of secondary suites may encourage improvement in the livability of these affordable units.

<p>1. What is your position regarding neighbourhood plans and how they will be used when making land use decisions?</p>	<p>Neighbourhood plans are a critical part of city design. They influence land use planning and decisionmaking, and are an important consideration as staff and Council look for ways to plan and achieve sustainable, balanced development. To ensure Victoria's economic future, we should prepare for an increase in our population, and thoughtfully anticipate where these new residents will live. Victoria just finished our new Official Community Plan and our Downtown Core Area Plan. Both of these speak to the overall vision for our city for the next 30 years. Now that these over-arching strategies are complete, we should work with residents to update our local neighbourhood plans to ensure they complement the OCP and DCAP, and reflect local priorities. It's useful to remember, too, that unique situations do sometimes arise which need to be considered – within the terms of current strategy documents and policies. But such departures from current guidelines should be occasional, site specific and have some compelling rationale.</p>
<p>2. James Bay is being impacted by noise and air shed pollution from cruise ships, float-planes and helicopters. How do you propose to mitigate these problems?</p>	<p>Air quality and neighbourhood livability are important aspects of a healthy community. The City can work with the province, the CRD and the GVHA to undertake ongoing monitoring of air quality and noise pollution with the intent to seek mitigating strategies wherever possible.</p> <p>On ships, I understand Council has pressed the GVHA and Ministry of Environment to monitor air quality around the port, which will determine the extent of such pollution and when, and under what circumstances, it is at its worst. In the past the most serious effects have been associated with ships docking, and on this specific issue Council has strongly supported the federal government's new fuel regulations requiring cruise ships to burn low sulfur fuel once they are within range of a port. Council has also facilitated a stakeholder group to undertake a feasibility study of on-shore power for cruise ships, so ships can run off electricity while in port.</p> <p>On floatplanes and helicopters, I believe Victoria businesses, the provincial government and our local economy as a whole benefit from having access to these types of transport. I think having all floatplanes operate from the same terminal will create positive benefits by limiting the number of flights and attendant irritants. Our harbor is under federal jurisdiction and Victoria has repeatedly asked Transport Canada to strike a committee of community interests to identify and manage safety and air quality concerns. I am hopeful we will see some action on this soon.</p> <p>I don't think banning floatplanes, helicopters, or cruise ships is the solution. Each one is part of Victoria's economy and character, providing access to our markets and community for business, residents and visitors. But there are issues arising from these harbour uses that have to be monitored, managed and mitigated, and doing so has to happen in conjunction with local residents. I am committed to doing just that.</p>
<p>3. What would you do to ensure that James Bay residents are participants in traffic planning of special events?</p>	<p>Events like these are important to the vibrancy of the whole community but measures should be taken to mitigate the effect on local neighbourhoods. Excellent advance planning and communication is key, and consultation with affected neighbourhoods before the event can create some innovative strategies for easing the impact of such events.</p>
<p>4. What measures would you take to mitigate the impacts on James Bay residents of the traffic associated with over 200 cruise ship visits to Ogden Point?</p>	<p>I understand that the current transportation contract managed by the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority is coming up for renewal in 2013, so now is the time to think about how we can improve it. We could look at alternatives to diesel buses (like mini-buses or trolleys), encouraging more alternative transportation options like bicycles, pedicabs, and walking. I'm please to note that last spring I secured Council support for improved way-finding markings throughout James Bay to encourage and make it easy for passengers to find their way through historic James Bay to the commercial shops in James Bay village and downtown. The Harbour Pathway will also encourage and attract passengers to walk. Residents and the community association, along with the GVHA and the City, should be part of any conversation on how to draw people out of buses and cars and onto their feet, bikes or other options.</p>

5. Do you have ideas about measures that could be implemented to increase the number of affordable family housing units in James Bay?

This Council has made affordable housing a real priority. It has facilitated or directly invested in almost 800 units of housing serving residents with a variety of needs. It has created a practical secondary suites policy that allows residents to develop affordable, neighbourhood based housing. It has legalized existing suites and created a grant incentive program for residents considering renovations to build a suite in their own home. I'd be interesting in talking about co-operative and co-housing models, both of which I think are viable options for Victoria.

I was pleased to introduce Mayor Fortin's STIR initiative (Short Term Incentives for Rentals) where the City could set terms to support and reward the building of rental units. The private sector doesn't usually have much incentive to build rental units but it is important to explore what we can do to change the existing preference for condos to affordable rentals which can create accessible housing for young families and lower income earners.

Victoria has been working hard with other partners in housing, like the Coalition to End Homelessness, the CRD and BC Housing. As a current Director on the Leadership Council of the Coalition to End Homelessness, it is my privilege to be part of these efforts. Together we can all make a real difference in creating new affordable housing in Victoria.

1. What is your position regarding neighbourhood plans and how they will be used when making land use decisions?	Local area plans – as they are now called in the new Official Community Plan – should be developed in response to neighbourhood interests, concerns, issues and hopes AND fit within the broader goals and visions for the city of Victoria. Once passed, local area plans need to be honoured and land use decisions made within these plans. The new Official Community Plan has designated certain Village Centres as slated for development including, especially Downtown, the Douglas Street Corridor, and Quadra Village Development will thus be directed to these areas; other areas – such as James Bay (with the exception of the parts that overlap with the Downtown Core Area Plan) will remain pretty much as is. Note: the OCP is still in draft form.
2. James Bay is being impacted by noise and air shed pollution from cruise ships, float-planes and helicopters. How do you propose to mitigate these problems?	I was biking through James Bay the other night and I noticed what felt like a less-than-healthy air quality. Having said that, the concerns of James Bay residents about noise and air shed pollution need to be balanced with the economic and environmental benefits of a working harbour. One thing the City can do is complete the harbour pathway from Ogden Point to downtown and create ways to encourage walking – walking tours/incentives/bicycle cabs, more horse and buggies, etc. Mostly I'm interested in hearing from James Bay residents about what <i>they</i> propose as solutions. James Bay residents have clearly laid out the problems; we need to find solutions together. I'm good at this.
3. What would you do to ensure that James Bay residents are participants in traffic planning of special events?	Invite a randomly selected council of James Bay residents (use wisdom council model of random selection of residents) to be part of a special events committee permit review process. In other words, have some folks from James Bay appointed to review – in conjunction with city staff – permits for special events in the neighbourhood. This fits with a key tenet of my platform which is that an enterprising city has active and engaged citizens whose input is valued.
4. What measures would you take to mitigate the impacts on James Bay residents of the traffic associated with over 200 cruise ship visits to Ogden Point?	I'd like to hear what James Bay residents propose as solutions and then work with residents to make these solutions happen. I don't know enough about traffic mitigation measures. As suggested above, what I do know is that to provide alternative modes of transportation through the creation of walking and biking infrastructure, will help/is a good first step.
5. Do you have ideas about measures that could be implemented to increase the number of affordable family housing units in James Bay?	I helped to build 10 units of affordable housing for families in Fernwood (the Cornerstone and Park Place) as Board Chair of Fernwood NRG. The plan that I bring to the council table for affordable housing can be found here: http://www.lisahelpsvictoria.ca/platform.html#security Basically, the plan is to create pools of community capital (already in existence eg in cities in Nova Scotia in the form of Community Economic Development Investment Funds) which can be used to build affordable housing. What worked in Fernwood, and what has worked elsewhere, is to have mixed use buildings: commercial on the bottom floor and affordable residential upstairs. This may require re-zonings and open mindedness. Mixed use developments make good sense from a density perspective. They also encourage developers to build rental housing as long as they can make a profit having commercial tenants on the bottom floor. Again, look to Cornerstone in Fernwood as a model.

<p>1. What is your position regarding neighbourhood plans and how they will be used when making land use decisions?</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plans should be the guidelines that direct and shape the development opportunities in a community; in order to be truly effective, however, they need to be updated on a regular basis. In addressing the issue of adherence to neighbourhood plans, one must recognise that such plans should be "living Documents" allowing for change as identified in the updating process.</p> <p>Over the last 6 years we have seen the implementation of much of the Spaxman Report, the CALUC and LUCC processes; the Official Community Plan & the Downtown Plan have moved forward, but much updating still needs to be done. We have articulated the desire to make the next phase of our planning approach focus on the various neighbourhood village centres (in order to address density & local vibrancy)</p>
<p>2. James Bay is being impacted by noise and air shed pollution from cruise ships, float-planes and helicopters. How do you propose to mitigate these problems?</p>	<p>This requires work with the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority and Transport Canada (as some of you will recognise, this is no mean feat in itself!) The goals of this work must be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) increase ongoing monitoring of emissions and noise; b) request that Transport Canada make annual public presentations to GVHA & Council of improvements in operations b) set an upward cap on the number of flight movements in the Harbour Aerodrome; c) push greater use of "Bravo" as primary runway & only secondary use for "Alpha"
<p>3. What would you do to ensure that James Bay residents are participants in traffic planning of special events?</p>	<p>All special events applications are vetted through a "Special Events Committee" at City Hall; what has been missing from these discussions over a number of years, has been the community voice of the host neighbourhood. It would be a logical step to find a means of having a community voice at the table during these technical discussions (it could be the the Special Events Committee would ask Community Associations for specific comments on event recommendations {not dissimilar to the CALUC process}, or it could be that community reps would be granted a place at the table for the technical discussions)</p>
<p>4. What measures would you take to mitigate the impacts on James Bay residents of the traffic associated with over 200 cruise ship visits to Ogden Point?</p>	<p>Continue to lobby the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority to include measureable outcomes in their Cruise Tourism reports (this should include emissions testing for all vehicles commercially accessing Ogden Point & random air quality testing for VOCs).</p> <p>Ensure that there is more dialogue between the GVHA members & James Bay community representatives</p> <p>Work with the Taxi Association to ensure that the voluntary guidelines are being followed (& if not, then greater Police enforcement needs to be brought to bear)</p> <p>More emphasis on (& funding for) the completion of the Harbour Pathway project. By speeding up the implementation of this project, we can offer greater pedestrian/cycling access through James Bay to Downtown, hopefully drawing down the need for increased vehicular access.</p>
<p>5. Do you have ideas about measures that could be implemented to increase the number of affordable family housing units in James Bay?</p>	<p>I think the City needs to push for more housing options that address three areas of concern:</p> <p>Homelessness: I believe that we need to increase the CRD wide housing levy to act as an incentive for building housing options that address homelessness, but that fund needs to be matched by federal & provincial dollars (in the same way the Calgary model was to work);</p> <p>Seniors Housing: we need to generate more of the partnerships that spawned projects like Parry Place (this included the investment of taxpayer dollars through the City & the CRD);</p> <p>Affordable Family Housing: the City needs to increase the incentives for "secondary suite" & "garden suite" conversions, as these can make the principle residences more affordable (particularly to young families entering the housing market) We also need to make "affordable housing" one of the primary options when the City considers increased density requests.</p>

Candidate for the Office of Councillor

Charlayne Thornton-Joe

<p>1. What is your position regarding neighbourhood plans and how they will be used when making land use decisions?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, our neighborhood plans are not as up to date as any of us would like. However, in principle they still reflect the desires of the citizens in that neighborhood. They serve to guide us and staff in our decision making. There are times variances or rezonings are supportable. I have learned that each application must be considered by its own merits.</p>
<p>2. James Bay is being impacted by noise and air shed pollution from cruise ships, float-planes and helicopters. How do you propose to mitigate these problems?</p>	<p>We recognize the importance and value of a working harbor, and that the harbor serves as a transportation mode and enhances our tourism sector. That being said, we need to continue to find balance to address the quality of life issues that the neighborhood is concerned about in regards to pollution. We must continue to work with businesses and other levels of government to address these concerns.</p>
<p>3. What would you do to ensure that James Bay residents are participants in traffic planning of special events?</p>	<p>Special events bring people to Downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods, and many of these individuals assist our economy by direct spending. Other events also bring tourism dollars. When roads are needed to be closed, the staff do whatever possible, to mitigate the impact. I would be interested in hearing suggestions from the James Bay Neighborhood Association on how they see the residents can assist with traffic planning of special events. In part, they already do, as comments, suggestions, complaints that we receive about an event is brought to the events committee when planning.</p>
<p>4. What measures would you take to mitigate the impacts on James Bay residents of the traffic associated with over 200 cruise ship visits to Ogden Point?</p>	<p>We need to find more ways to reduce the amount of vehicular traffic. We need to continue to work with the neighbourhood and the Harbour Authority to find balance in supporting the cruise ship industry but to assist with the negative impact that the neighbourhood experiences.</p>
<p>5. Do you have ideas about measures that could be implemented to increase the number of affordable family housing units in James Bay?</p>	<p>Affordability and the cost of living were highlighted as a major issue in the Victoria Foundation's Vital Signs. Ideas may be to include policies when the neighbourhood plans are updated to encourage the number of affordable family housing, allowing suites and garden suites to assist with affordability by providing a mortgage helper.</p>

Candidate for the Office of Councillor

Shellie Gudgeon

First and foremost, my pledge to you, the residents of James Bay, is that I will be accessible and accountable to you as a Victoria City Councillor. I will be your neighbourhood advocate and will speak out on your behalf. I will be a part of the initial engagement process and will listen to all sides.

I am aware of the 'divide and conquer' and 'finger pointing' cultures that currently exist at Victoria City Hall and I intend to change this. My intention is to bring my experienced leadership skills to the City of Victoria and work to change the existing culture of 'no' and encourage, not discourage, resident involvement and participation.

My past neighbourhood building experiences have resulted in community participation growing, not shrinking. I will provide you with information that will empower and encourage each of you to be a voice for your neighbourhood.

I believe that strong neighbourhoods build strong cities and that neighbourhoods require strong, vibrant and thriving village centres to prosper and grow community.

<p>1. What is your position regarding neighbourhood plans and how they will be used when making land use decisions?</p>	<p>I believe that our city government should be more transparent and should be listening to the needs of all the neighbourhoods of Victoria and developing strategies to encourage more co-operation on planning among neighbourhoods. We need to recognize the uniqueness of each neighbourhood and develop a cohesive plan to avoid "spot" rezoning. I believe that government should serve the wishes of the people. In this way we would focus on the good of the community rather than special interest groups to achieve positive change and to encourage participation from a wider base of our citizenry.</p> <p>If we make access to government decision-making easier for the average person perhaps we can stimulate more interest in the day to day decision-making required for the operation of a viable and vibrant community. We need to practice thoughtful development to help strengthen our neighbourhoods and our downtown core. To this end, there is an urgent need for our neighbourhood plans to be reviewed and updated.</p>
<p>2. James Bay is being impacted by noise and air shed pollution from cruise ships, float-planes and helicopters. How do you propose to mitigate these problems?</p>	<p>In addition to limiting cruise ship calls and staging arrivals, more should be done to alleviate transportation impacts on the community. Large, highway sized buses need to be replaced by more environmentally friendly and neighbourhood appropriate vehicles and watercraft. Alternatives to the use of internal combustion engines should be evaluated. Several modes for transporting cruise ship passengers from Ogden Point to downtown should be encouraged. The use of offshore tenders to bring tourists to the city centre from an anchorage location could also be examined.</p> <p>Enforceable local standards to minimize the negative impact of on-shore transportation related to cruise ship passengers need to be established. I agree with the March 2011 JBNA study recommendations that we need to "impose cleaner cruise ship fuel standards in Victoria, through GVHA contractual power, and stage/limit cruise ship visits so that pollution levels are within World Health Organization guidelines" and that we need to "impose a provincial cruise ship passenger levy to fund solutions to identify social and environmental costs including pollution of Canadian waters beyond Victoria".</p> <p>With regard to float planes and helicopters, though I recognize the need for these modes of transportation within a modern large urban centre, steps should be taken to limit the size of these vehicles and to ensure that they are equipped with the most efficient, quietest and cleanest power technologies available. Again, surface shuttle vehicles could be used to move passengers from landing areas that minimize the impact of aircraft on the community. There are also seasonal daily fluctuations in wind and weather patterns that should be evaluated to see if there is an opportunity to arrange schedules that recognize this.</p>
<p>3. What would you do to ensure that James Bay residents are participants in traffic planning of special events?</p>	<p>Quite frankly, I am flabbergasted that this is still a concern to the residents of James Bay. There must be successful models from other urban communities to follow that would alleviate this issue. Obviously there needs to be accessible meaningful consultation to facilitate discussion and develop successful working models given that a great many city events occur in your neighbourhood.</p>
<p>4. What measures would you take to mitigate the impacts on James Bay residents of the traffic associated with over 200 cruise ship visits to Ogden Point?</p>	<p>I will assist in the facilitation of a discussion with residents and tour providers which would result in action-based decisions. My past experiences have shown that collaboration among all stakeholders is critical to the success of any venture especially one that is neighbourhood based. As mentioned in Question 2, there needs to be enforceable standards to mitigate the impact that the cruise ship industry has on the residents of James Bay.</p>

Shellie Gudgeon Continued Page 2

5. Do you have ideas about measures that could be implemented to increase the number of affordable family housing units in James Bay?

When opportunities present themselves for the city to purchase appropriate buildings, I would actively encourage such expenditures for the purpose of providing mixed affordable housing. I have become very interested in the concept of inclusionary zoning that mandates the development of affordable housing in neighbourhoods. Healthy communities should reflect all economic demographics. Healthy communities are inclusive not exclusive. It is critical that the city take leadership in ensuring that this concept is followed. In this way all neighbourhoods would be treated equitably.