

CROWAG Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse City Council 2020 Elections:

Cr Prue Cutts, Candidate for Simpson Ward

Phone: 0425 701 796

1. 20+ years resident of Whitehorse
2. Yes, a current resident of Simpson Ward where I am standing as a candidate
3. Current and Past Memberships:
 - Never been a member of a political group
 - Registered Teacher with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) (2011 to current)
 - Rotary Club of Mitcham (2020)
 - Heatherdale Community Action Group (2016- Present)
 - KBH Brumbies Hockey Club (2011 – Present)
 - Multicultural Ambassador to the Mental Health Foundation of Australia (2020)
 - Berengarra School board (2019 – Present)
 - Heatherdale Creek Parklands Advisory Committee, including Chair (2014-2016)
 - Volunteer for the RSPCA (2011-2014)
 - Volunteer for the Red Cross / Box Hill Hospital Emergency Department (2009 – 2011)
4. I've been able to bring my passion for the environment to the Parkland Committee – recruiting many new members when I was Chair for example; my teaching and psych skills to the many groups of which I am a member; and my PR skills to marketing roles at the KBH Brumbies, Rotary, RSPCA, MHFA – helping with publicity. As far as positive achievement from my memberships is concerned, I am heavily involved in community. I have been a volunteer for over 10 years and in many of the roles I am giving back by either the knowledge I can impart or by connections I have, as well as rolling up my sleeves and getting down to weeding at a Clean Up Australia Day as I have done for the past 6 years, or help raise money for a charity such as MND (Mitcham Football Club 2018).
5. As an elected Councillor I want to continue in my service to the community, listening, advocating for community ideas, and delivering desired community outcomes. In the short term, the main focus for Council will be to navigate a sustainable and successful pathway out of COVID, and I will play a part along with all the other Councillors in ensuring this happens. I want to see greater community consultation and transparency with Council decision making, and I will continue to advocate for this. I want to see more accountability and efficiency with our rates. I would like to see sustainability and climate action embedded in to all we do at Council. Food organics, and garden organics should be introduced before too long. I will continue to push for these important actions. I'd like to see that more open space has been purchased by Council and transformed into beautiful places of passive recreation for all. I will advocate for more safe ride routes across the municipality, and will continue to push for Rooks / Whitehorse / Dunlavin Roads intersection be fixed. We are a long way along in this process after Cr Ben Stennett and I met with Rod Barton MP about this issue earlier this year. Recently a letter from Bruce Atkinson MP to our CEO and Councillor group indicated that the Department of Transport is looking into this intersection for safety upgrades, and will work with Council in the process.
6.
 1. Better community consultation and engagement resulting in Council being more in touch with community sentiment eg. Have regular "listening" sessions with community members – meet with local groups to hear grassroots feedback about their particular issues
 2. More open and transparent council decision making processes

3. Retaining our public amenity, streetscapes and neighbourhood character by having a consistent approach to tree removal - Don't treat requests for removal of vegetation from a single resident wanting to remove one tree any different to a developer wanting to remove all trees on a block. Do not have one rule for one group and another rule for another – ie those developments that come to council for a decision are often just waved through – allowing moon scaping whereas Mr or Ms Jones down the road want to remove one tree and that is not allowed under the planning scheme. It is not a fair system.

4. Increased administrative efficiency

5. Having a more representative group of councillors – especially from a multicultural perspective, but of course that's up to the voters. Currently our councillor group does not reflect our very multicultural society

7. I am sorry I just can't rank these. They are all equally important in my eyes and that's why the role of councillor is so difficult due to competing and equally worthy projects and anticipated outcomes.

8. As above.

9. I would encourage CROWAG members to look back on the decisions made by councillors in the chamber in our Ordinary Council meetings eg. Declaration of climate emergency, in February 2020, moved by myself and seconded by Tina Liu. Keeping an eye on how the votes for and against various motions gives a good idea of councillor's priorities and interests.