

**ANSWERS TO K-W REAL ESTATE BOARD QUESTIONNAIRE
from Mike Connolly
Waterloo City Ward 6**

Using the balls as a very general guideline we be interested in learning more about true.

1) how long have you lived in the community.

26 years.

2) please list what you feel are your three most relevant past roles in elected office, committees or charitable groups.

Board of Directors, United Way 3 years

WLU Board of Governors 3 years.

City of Waterloo representative on the Association of Municipalities Ontario, as a vice President. 4 years

3) what in your opinion are the three most important challenges facing the incoming council?

During this financial downturn with almost 9% unemployment in the region businesses and citizens are hurting. Councillors must recognise the problems that businesses and citizens are facing and do things differently until times improve.

a) **Taxes should not exceed rate of inflation, not MPI**

b) **Freeze staff levels.**

c) **Greater emphasis on the environment.**

4) what do you are the three most significant successes of the current council?

I honestly can't think of any significant successes of the current Waterloo Council.

5) a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being greatest. How would you rate the performance of the current council in the last four years?

4 to 5

6) what specific ideas or new proposals do have for your ward/constituency?

Work to solve Northdale area problem and Clair Lake.

Plan ahead, but keep our debt down.

More control of developers, high rise designs

Be responsible and more accountable to all citizens.

7) Property standards is about more than absencee student landlords ... licensing rentals is one solution currently being examined. What suggestions do you to insure property standards are maintained?

Work to make sure that the new staff proposals for lodging licensing, that is yet to go before Council (delayed by Council until after the election) contains ways to improve and better control absentee landlords and rental standards. By-laws must be enforced.

8) Traffic is a re-occurring concern in the region... what recommendations do you have to manage/address this issue?

Roads should be better maintained.

Rapid bus transit system, not rail should be improved to meet the public's need and also reduce car use.

Designated bus lanes in peak periods also free bus passes for disabled and seniors in non-peak periods.

9) Rapid bus, LRT, GO trains to Toronto.... what do you envision for the region?

Rapid bus transit service, not light rail, as it is far too expensive and will not provide a better service.

Priority to provide GO trains to Toronto.

10) In your opinion, should the government of Kitchener-Waterloo, examine the pros and cons of amalgamation?

We already know the pros and cons of amalgamation. The cons far exceeded the pros, our region is successful because of the diversity and its InterCity competitiveness. The present level of bureaucracy is nearer the citizens and more accessible to them, and more accountable (depending on the councillors). From the citizen's point of view, I cannot see any improvement by amalgamation financial or otherwise. To study would take up city's Staff and Council's time over the next four years, and the cost would be high. Why do this now with so many other priorities needing Council's attention?

11) What do you think of the greatest advantages of amalgamation (if any), and what do you feel are the greatest disadvantages (if any)?

Answer same as question 10. I would honestly appreciate if anyone could give me any real advantages. I cannot see any having sat on Regional Council when it was studied for 4 years and turned down!