

# **Seymour Local Plan Seniors' Forums Summary of Project Results**

Prepared by Annwen Rowe-Evans  
October 19th, 1998

As part of the public input components of the Seymour Local Plan, Seniors' Forums were held to ensure that the opinions and ideas of older adults were represented in the Plan. A total of 5 Forums were held during October of 1998, with 50 seniors and 10 service providers participating. The findings from the Forums are presented below.

## ***Housing***

- The key factors allowing seniors to stay in their homes are good health, support in daily living, accessible transportation, sufficient finances and an adaptable home.
- Almost universally, a decline in health and/or a reduction in supportive services would be seniors' prime motivation to move from their present home.
- There is not enough seniors' housing on the North Shore.
- The biggest local need is for affordable, congregate care with a meal service as the first priority and in-house social activities and gathering places as the second priority.
- Options that allow seniors to downsize into smaller homes are essential.
- The District should consider allocating specific parcels of land now for future seniors' housing.
- Current examples of successful seniors' housing, such as The Atrium and Lions Manor in Deep Cove should serve as models for future seniors' housing.

## ***Getting Around***

- Most seniors drive, rely on others for rides, or take public transit.
- Many seniors will not drive at night and regularly avoid heavy traffic.
- Public transit, although satisfactory, could be improved by accessing many of the residential neighbourhoods off Mt. Seymour Parkway, by installing more bus shelters, and by improving safety at Phibbs Exchange.
- A number of specific sidewalks, crosswalks and intersections are dangerous for senior pedestrians (see Final Report for details).

- Minibus service should be actively encouraged: it serves the transportation needs of many seniors extremely well.

### **Community Services**

- There is insufficient community space in Seymour, and Ron Andrews is not always easily accessible for seniors across the community.
- The addition of the new facility at Parkgate is eagerly anticipated and many seniors hope for a large number and variety of programs there.
- Seniors feel that they can access the arts performances they wish to attend.
- Fire, ambulance and police services are generally satisfactory, though better ambulance response times and more senior-friendly ambulance staff are recommended.

### **Values**

- Seniors generally value the beauty of the environment and the sense of community in Seymour.

### **Neighbourhood Assessment**

Given the specific needs of seniors (reasonably flat topography, appropriate housing, transportation, shopping/banking facilities, health and recreation services, social support networks, and personal safety), a preliminary assessment of Seymour's neighbourhoods can be made. The following circumstances contribute to how senior-friendly each neighbourhood is:

- *Maplewood/ <sup>Windsoridge</sup> level* topography is an advantage but dangerous intersections and lack of community space are problematic
- *Seymour Heights/ Blueridge*: it is difficult to get around without a car (hills, lack of transit in inner neighbourhoods) and there are few shopping opportunities, although recreation services are good
- *Area surrounding* Parkgate: walking is easy and transit quite convenient with many recreational and shopping services available; a good sense of local community contributes to seniors' support networks
- Dollarton: some shopping but few recreational amenities are available, and access is difficult without a car
- Deep Cove: although topography makes walking around difficult, shopping and recreational services, as well as a good transit and a sense of community, make the neighbourhood responsive to seniors' needs

# **Seymour Local Plan Seniors' Forums Final Project Report**

Prepared by Annwen Rowe-Evans  
October 19th, 1998

**DRAFT**

## **1. Introduction and Background**

In October 1997, the Council of the District of North Vancouver endorsed a resident-driven planning process for the Seymour area: the Seymour Local Plan. This process incorporates a variety of opportunities for public input, including seven Public Input Committees in the areas of: transportation and traffic; growth and development; economic development; arts, culture and heritage; community services; housing and schools; and, parks, wilderness and environment. In addition to these issue-based committees, the District Community Planning Department and Seymour Local Plan Management Committee feel it important to cover several population groups that may not have been adequately represented in public input efforts: these include youth, the business community and seniors. Such factors as late evening meetings, perceived political nature of the process, depth of commitment required to participate in committee work, and so on, may adversely influence seniors' participation in local planning processes and hence a separate outreach project was initiated here. This report details the project of incorporating seniors' concerns in the Seymour planning process, by means of Seymour Local Plan Seniors' Forums.

## **2. Project Description**

To achieve the project goal of including seniors' issues and opinions in the Seymour Local Plan, the project entailed the planning and implementation of a series of Seniors' Forums. At the completion of the Forums, Dee Norris (Seniors' Coordinator, Seymour Community Services Society) will represent and advocate for the findings of the Seniors' Forums at Coordinating Committee meetings.

To begin the project, initial meetings were held with the project coordinator, District planning staff, a Seymour Local Plan Management Committee representative and a local seniors' advocate to devise the dates and times, locations, publicity and format of the Forums. As a result, the following Seniors' Forums were held, with a total of 50 seniors and 10 service providers participating (see Table 1 below).

**Table 1. Seymour Local Plan Seniors' Forums: Statistics**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>	<b>Intended Participants</b>
Mon Oct 5, 98	2:00pm-3:30pm	Lions Manor, Deep Cove	5	Lions Manor residents and other Deep Cove seniors
Wed Oct 7, 98	10:30am-12:00pm	Mt. Seymour Youth Centre	6	Seniors throughout Seymour
Tues Oct 13, 98	10:30am-12:00pm	Mt. Seymour United Church	26	Seniors throughout Seymour
Wed Oct 14, 98	3:00pm-4:30pm	Kiwanis Care Centre	13	Kiwanis Care Centre residents
Thurs Oct 15, 98	2:00pm-4:00pm	District Hall	10	Agencies serving seniors

In order to publicize the Forums, flyers were distributed at seniors' apartment complexes, posters were put up at local shops and community spaces, announcements were made at seniors' programs, advertisements and articles were placed in the local press, and personal invitations were issued (see Appendix 1 for details on publicizing the Forums). Many of these efforts drew on existing seniors' networks, such as programs and meeting places. All publicity included both a general invitation to the Seniors' Forums and also a background document explaining the Seymour Local Plan and associated Seniors' Forums (see Appendix 2 for Sample Background Document).

The format of each Seniors' Forum was designed, firstly, to explain the Seymour Local Plan process in an easy-to-understand fashion, in addition to addressing the rationale for the Seniors' Forums. Each Forum then proceeded to discussion that elicited opinions on a series of issues of interest to local seniors and relevant to the Plan, in the areas of housing, getting around and community services (see Appendix 3 for questions asked). It concluded with a request to fill out an evaluation form on the utility and effectiveness of the Forum (see Appendix 4).

### **3. Project Results and Analysis**

The five Seniors' Forums brought out a number of important issues, opinions and ideas in the areas of housing, getting around and community services. This section organizes and analyzes the data gathered from the discussion groups.

#### ***Housing***

In response to a general first question on what makes it possible for seniors to stay in their homes as long as possible, Forum participants for the most part focused on:

- health (ability to care for oneself)
- support in daily living (local services, family, friends, neighbours)
- transportation (convenient, reliable and accessible public transit, including special transit services)
- finances (low rental housing, mortgage paid off)
- adaptable home (single level, appropriate size and layout)

Almost universally, participants viewed a decline in health and/or a reduction in supportive services as their prime motivation to move from their present home. An additional, related concern was the desire to downsize to a smaller home, either for financial reasons or because of the burden of caring for a too large home.

When asked whether there were enough housing options for seniors in Seymour, the vast majority of participants said no. Many cited long waiting lists for low-cost, supportive housing all across the North Shore.

In creating policies and strategies that will promote appropriate and affordable seniors' housing in Seymour, the following points must be considered:

- the biggest local need is for affordable, congregate care where a meal service is the first priority and in-house social activities and gathering places are the second priority
- options that allow seniors to downsize into smaller homes are essential (such as seniors' apartments, legal basement suites and small, clustered bungalows)
- the District should consider allocating specific parcels of land for future seniors' housing
- current examples of successful seniors' housing should serve as models for future housing (The Atrium, Lions Manor, and small, village-like bungalow complexes with support services as found in England and New Zealand)

When seniors can satisfy their housing needs locally as they age, they are able to retain social and other support networks and hence lead healthier, happier, and more productive lives.

## **Getting Around**

As Forum participants used a wide variety of ways to “get around,” they were able to comment from different perspectives on the many issues surrounding seniors and transportation. Most seniors either drive themselves or take public transit. Those with health concerns or in lower-income brackets often rely on friends, family and volunteers to drive them around. Due to the geography of the Seymour area, very few seniors regularly use walking to get around.

For those seniors who drive cars, a majority (especially women) refuse to drive at night for reasons of safety, both on the road and out of the car. Seniors regularly avoid difficult rush hour areas such as the Second Narrows bridge, the Lions Gate bridge and Mt. Seymour Parkway.

Public transit, on the whole, was considered to be quite satisfactory. Many seniors do not mind infrequent bus service, as long as it is scheduled at regular intervals and allows for short waiting times at transfer points. However, it was felt that the following areas had inadequate service: Berkeley Road, Strathcona Road, Northwoods, Riverside, Blueridge and Windridge. One possible solution entailed a smaller bus assigned to a route that would weave in and out of many of these presently inaccessible neighbourhoods. The need for a cross-North Shore bus, for improvements to safety at Phibbs Exchange, and for greater numbers of rainproof bus shelters (for example, at Dollar Road and Dollarton) were also frequently expressed. Finally, specific recommendations for low-rider buses, bus driver training in seniors’ needs, more handrails at bus entrances, and training sessions for users of bus lifts were all made.

For those seniors who enjoy walking in Seymour, either to get around or for recreation, the majority were very pleased with the current system of trails, though the need for an up-to-date, widely available trail map was noted. For those seniors who can take shorter walks, a bridge between The Atrium and Safeway at Parkgate Centre was recommended in order to complete an easy trail loop (with benches and lighting). More paved, flat trails near the Kiwanis Care Centre would also be of use. Some specific locations pose dangers to pedestrians:

- the intersection of Dollar Road and Dollarton
- the first intersection going up Berkeley Road (needs a more visible pedestrian crossing sign)
- lack of crosswalk on Mt. Seymour Road near the Lazy Bay Cafe
- inadequate sidewalks and driveways that dip too suddenly from the road on Panorama Drive
- overhanging shrubbery on Mt. Seymour Road sidewalks
- a need for better lighting around the Deep Cove Cultural Centre parking lot

Many participants were unsatisfied with the present service offered by HandyDART, principally because of the long lead-time in ordering service. Many commented, however, that the new minibus company provided an ideal service for otherwise isolated seniors and that it was not taking business away from taxi companies (in that many of their customers could not afford taxi service). In addition, although not wheelchair accessible, it was felt that the minibus provided

friendlier drivers and a lower price than taxi companies while being more convenient than public transit or HandyDART.

Policies and strategies that consider transportation in Seymour, must address seniors' needs for improved personal safety, more residential transit routes, specific intersection, sidewalk and crosswalk changes, and support for a minibus service. A range of appropriate transportation options means that seniors can lead healthier, more independent lives while maintaining their links to other communities.

### ***Community Services***

In discussing seniors and community services, when asked to evaluate whether recreation programs in Seymour were affordable, accessible and appropriate, most participants felt that there were some serious concerns to be addressed. All were satisfied with program costs, but many felt that there were simply not enough programs, or enough space to house them in. Seycove Community Programs and Ron Andrews recCentre are difficult for seniors to access because of the local topography and Maplewood is seriously underserved. Many seniors are relying on the few successful public programs that exist (such as Ron Andrews fitness programs, Keep Well, and Heart and Stroke Walkers) or on excellent in-house activities (such as at Lions Manor and Kiwanis Care Centre). Many hopes are pinned on the seniors' space in the new Parkgate building, provided that there are more programs offered, a drop-in area, transferable membership with Ron Andrews, and some sort of food service. Other activities, such as concerts, plays and movies were generally felt to be accessible: many participants appreciated the Deep Cove Cultural Centre and summer concerts in Deep Cove. Matinees and other day-time performances are essential as many seniors simply will not go out at night.

Services such as fire, police and ambulance were spoken highly of by the seniors participating in the Forums, with only one complaint (slow police response to disturbances at Cates Park). However, a number of the service providers expressed concern over the attitudes of ambulance staff and slow ambulance response times. Some participants were interested in being more involved in emergency and disaster planning and most approved of the idea of a community policing centre at Parkgate Centre.

Finally, many seniors believe they have ample opportunity to volunteer, in particular if they have been involved in volunteering throughout their lives. It was felt that a volunteering resource area at Parkgate would be a helpful service.

In considering seniors' perspectives on community services, the Seymour Local Plan should incorporate concerns for increased program space across Seymour and in Maplewood in particular, publicly-assisted and -approved management of seniors' facilities at Parkgate, and improved ambulance response times. Community services that respond to seniors' needs and preferences recognize older adults as a vibrant and vital group within the community. They also support a healthy and independent lifestyle.

## ***Fulfilling Seniors' Needs***

The Seymour Local Plan Seniors' Forums enabled local seniors to both express their needs and evaluate how well they are fulfilled in Seymour. A general itemization of the priority needs for seniors in Seymour should include:

- generally flat, level topography
- easy access to grocery and specialty shops, banking, and other commercial services (within easy walking distance or on a direct public transit route)
- easy-to-negotiate paths, sidewalks, intersections and crosswalks
- easy access to health services such as doctor, dentist, etc.
- availability, including knowledge of, affordable support services for daily living (for example, housekeeping service, meal programs, companionship, etc.)
- easy access to recreation and social activities, including fitness, creative and artistic activities, educational programs and opportunities for socialization
- suitable and affordable transportation options, including public transit, special transit (such as HandyDART), private car or rides, etc.
- supportive social networks of family, friends, and neighbours
- adaptable, accessible homes that are suitable in size, layout and cost
- actual and perceived personal safety within and outside the home

According to the findings of the Seniors' Forums, various neighbourhoods in Seymour are able to fulfill these needs to greater or lesser degrees. Although very generalized, a preliminary assessment of neighbourhoods is presented here:

### *Maplewood and Windridge*

- level for walking around, but few destinations to walk to and a number of intersections are frightening and dangerous for pedestrians
- shopping is possible, though using Canadian Superstore virtually requires a vehicle
- few health or recreation services and no substantial amount of community space (residents are expected to access Ron Andrews recCentre)
- nearby Phibbs Exchange is almost universally regarded by seniors as a dangerous and frightening place

### *Seymour Heights and Blueridge*

- topography may be a problem for some when getting around (and to and from) residential areas
- getting around often presumes a private vehicle when not close to public transit on Mt. Seymour Parkway
- very few local shopping opportunities or health services
- local recreational opportunities focus on Ron Andrews and the new winter sports complex
- established neighbourhoods may prove beneficial to social networks for seniors
- seniors will probably have difficulty aging in place as homes are not easily adaptable



### Area surrounding Parkgate

- senior-friendly topography though intersections on Mt. Seymour Parkway can be difficult to negotiate (traffic, short crossing times, etc.)
- numerous commercial services, including shopping, banking, and specialty stores, are available
- a good number of health and recreation services are already available (Keep Well, library, etc.) and many more will be, once the new community services building is completed
- public transit is more accessible than in other areas
- very good sense of community and safety, including social support networks
- many senior-friendly homes

### Dollarton

- somewhat difficult topography and getting around is often geared to private vehicles, not transit
- many sidewalks and intersection are difficult to negotiate
- commercial and some health services available
- recreational activities are primarily accessed outside of the local neighbourhood at Ron Andrews recCentre, Parkgate or in Deep Cove

### Deep Cove

- topography quite difficult to negotiate and many sidewalks and intersections are problematic
- public transit to other central neighbourhoods is considered good
- commercial and health services are readily available
- recreational opportunities are often provided locally or otherwise accessed at Ron Andrews and Parkgate
- generally good sense of community, which is complemented by summer visitors

### **Values**

Forum participants were asked to end each session by describing what they value or appreciate most about Seymour. Although many smaller themes were raised (such as appreciation for a specific service or program), the majority of seniors most valued the beauty of the environment and sense of community they found in Seymour.

#### **4. Project Evaluation and Further Recommendations**

The Seniors' Forums provided a wealth of detailed opinions and ideas on issues of importance to seniors and relevant to the Seymour Local Plan. There are two immediately identifiable weaknesses in the project: firstly, the Forum format does not provide the easily quantifiable responses that a questionnaire might; secondly, the number of the participants does not constitute a representative sample. However, the discussion group format does permit more ideas to be expressed in a setting that is designed to be conducive to seniors' participation. In fact, 38 of the 39 evaluation forms filled out rated the Seniors' Forum as either excellent, very good or good (15, 19 and 4 respectively, and one "no answer"). The vast majority of participants agreed that the discussion group was a useful way to present their ideas (see Appendix 4 for evaluation form results).

Several lessons were learned from the Seymour Local Plan Seniors' Forums. The most successful Forum in terms of number of participants was scheduled to follow on from a Keep Well program at Mt. Seymour United Church: with a large number of seniors already on location, attendance was much higher than in the independently-organized sessions. Wherever possible, this tight tie-in should be made in the future. A second lesson involves the addition of a Forum for agencies that provide services to seniors, something that was not done in the Lynn Valley Plan seniors' outreach project: although opinions expressed can not be directly equated with the experience of local seniors, service providers perspectives can provide a more analytical viewpoint that covers Seymour and the North Shore. Finally, certain seniors remain difficult to reach, especially within the short time-frame allocated for this project. Outreach in Maplewood remains problematic, in part because of the lack of community space to hold meetings in the neighbourhood. Also, isolated or shut-in seniors living in single-family homes are rarely directly represented: their perspective is however often expressed by service providers working in the home support field and by the past experience of care home residents.

In summary, given the positive evaluation of the Forum participants as well as the new opinions and ideas brought to the Seymour Local Plan process, it is safe to say that the Seniors' Forums have achieved a first step towards the goal of including seniors' input in the Plan. To ensure that the important perspectives represented here actually form a part of the Seymour Local Plan, it would be advisable to hold further Forums once the Plan is prepared and ready for public review, as was successfully performed in the Lynn Valley Plan process.

# **Appendices**

**Appendix 1. Seymour Local Plan Seniors' Forums: Publicity**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Publicity</b>
Lions Manor, Deep Cove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitations in mailboxes of Lions Manor residents</li> <li>• Flyers posted in the following Deep Cove locations: Honey's cafe, laundromat, Cultural Centre, corner store, butcher, dentist</li> </ul>
Mt. Seymour Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flyers posted in Maplewood (video store, market, Venice Bakery in Dollarton Plaza)</li> <li>• Flyers posted in Ron Andrews recCentre (weight room, reception desk, main bulletin board)</li> <li>• Flyers posted in Parkgate area (stores and banks in Parkgate Centre, library, Mt. Seymour United Church bulletin boards)</li> <li>• Advertisement and article in Deep Cove Crier</li> <li>• Posted on Seymour Local Plan information sign on Mt. Seymour Parkway and Dollarton Highway</li> <li>• Announcement at Mt. Seymour United Keep Well program</li> <li>• Announcement at Heart and Stroke Walkers</li> </ul>
Mt. Seymour United Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flyers posted in Maplewood (video store, market, Venice Bakery in Dollarton Plaza)</li> <li>• Flyers posted in Ron Andrews recCentre (weight room, reception desk, main bulletin board)</li> <li>• Flyers posted in Parkgate area (stores and banks in Parkgate Centre, library, Mt. Seymour United Church bulletin boards)</li> <li>• Advertisement and article in Deep Cove Crier</li> <li>• Posted on Seymour Local Plan information sign on Mt. Seymour Parkway and Dollarton Highway</li> <li>• Announcement at Mt. Seymour United Keep Well program</li> <li>• Announcement at Heart and Stroke Walkers</li> <li>• Announcement at Ron Andrews recCentre seniors' fitness programs (Fit and Fifty, Seniors Stamina and Strength Program and Seniors Stretch Only)</li> </ul>
Kiwanis Care Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitations distributed to interested residents by recreation coordinators</li> </ul>
District Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal invitations circulated to staff members of: Alzheimer's Society, Deep Cove Cultural Centre, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Kiwanis Care Centre, Neighbourlink, North Shore Health Region, North Shore Keep Well Society, North Vancouver Recreation Commission, Seniors One-Stop Information Line, and Seymour Community Services Society</li> </ul>

**Appendix 2. Seymour Local Plan Senior' Forums: Sample Background Document**

**Seniors' Forums and the Seymour Local Plan**

**What is a Local Area Plan?**

A Local Area Plan is a statement of the collective vision of a community. It lays out objectives, policies and implementation strategies for land use and services, covering social, environmental and economic concerns. It directs the growth of a community over the next decade.

**What is the Seymour Local Plan?**

In 1997, Council endorsed a resident-driven planning process for the Seymour area. Since then, seven public input committees have been gathering information and generating ideas on the following topics, for inclusion in the Seymour Local Plan: transportation and traffic; growth and development; economic development; arts, culture and heritage; community services; housing and schools; and, parks, wilderness and environment. A Seymour Local Plan open house was held in the spring at Parkgate Library to present these ideas and get public feedback.

**What is a Seniors' Forum?**

The Seymour Local Plan wants to make sure that there are plenty of opportunities for people to get involved in the planning process. Although we are trying very hard to include all residents in planning, we recognize that some groups don't always participate. Because of this, special sessions are planned for youth, the business community and seniors. The Seymour Local Plan is an important opportunity to help define *your* community. We are organizing a number of Seniors' Forums this October and ***we would like you to take part!***

At a Seniors' Forum, we'll discuss a number of issues that are important to you and other local seniors and that will be covered by the Seymour Local Plan. They include:

***Housing and Growth***

- affordable rental housing
- supportive seniors' housing

***Getting Around***

- private cars and public transit
- pedestrian mobility

***Community Services***

- seniors' services
- arts and culture
- recreational opportunities
- wilderness preservation

**Next Seniors' Forums:  
date time location**

***Don't miss out on this great opportunity to get involved in a Seniors' Forum.  
Hope to see you there!***

**If you would like more information or need a ride to the Forum, please call the Seymour Local Plan Info-Line at 990-3700.**

**Appendix 3. Seymour Local Plan Seniors' Forums: Forum Format**

1.	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome to the Seymour Local Plan Seniors' Forum</li> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Meeting format explained</li> </ul>
2.	Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a plan?</li> <li>• What is the Seymour Local Plan?</li> <li>• Why are there Seniors' Forums?</li> </ul>
3.	Discussion	<p>Housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes/would make it possible for you to stay in your present home as long as possible?</li> <li>• What changes in your life would make it difficult for you to stay there?</li> <li>• Are there enough housing options for seniors in Seymour (enough supportive housing and services, too)?</li> <li>• Anything else to add about housing?</li> </ul>
		<p>Getting Around</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who uses what kind of transport (show of hands for car, bus, walking)?</li> <li>• Are you happy with public transit (consider likes, dislikes and suggestions to improve: routes, travel time, schedules, transferring, shelter, special services like HandyDART and minibuses)?</li> <li>• Are you happy with walking in and around Seymour (consider likes, dislikes and suggestions to improve both trail walking and sidewalks, intersections, resting places)?</li> <li>• Anything else to add about getting around?</li> </ul>
		<p>Community Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the recreational programs you want to participate in affordable, accessible attractive, and appropriate (consider Ron Andrews, Parkgate, locally offered activities, etc.)?</li> <li>• Are you happy with senior-specific programs?</li> <li>• Are plays, movies and music concerts affordable, accessible, attractive, and appropriate?</li> <li>• Are other services like fire, police and ambulance the way you'd like them?</li> <li>• Are you able to do the volunteering that you'd like to (is it affordable, accessible, attractive, and appropriate)?</li> <li>• Anything else to add about community services?</li> </ul>
4.	Wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To summarize discussion, each participant expresses what they value and appreciate about Seymour (with option to "pass" if don't feel comfortable).</li> </ul>
5.	Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request to fill out an evaluation form to tell us what was useful about this forum and what we can improve upon.</li> </ul>

**Appendix 4. Seymour Local Plan Seniors' Forums: Evaluation Form**

<b>Seymour Local Plan Seniors' Forums</b>
---

**Please tell us how we did! (39 responses)**

**1. Overall, how would you rate this Seniors' Forum (please check)?**

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
15	19	4		

1 = no answer

**2. Were the information and questions presented clearly?**

38 = yes

1 = no answer

**3. Do you now have a better understanding of the Seymour Local Plan?**

33 = yes

2 = no

3 = a little. kind of

1 = already knew

**4. Did you have ample opportunity to express your views and ideas?**

36 = yes

1 = fair

2 = no answer

**5. Is the discussion group a useful way for you to present your ideas?  
Are there other, better ways for you to do this?**

34 = yes

5 = no answer

**6. Any other comments or suggestions?**

"would like more [Forums]"

"the success of this meeting should be reported in the local press"

"any future follow-ups?"