

Khurshid Ali Khan

Councillor Candidate in the Town of Milton, Ward 4
Halton Region

The following answers were provided by the candidate in response to [a letter sent by the Toronto Society of Architects on September 20, 2022](#) outlining three questions related to issues of the built environment. Answers have been copied and pasted into this page for clarity and ease of access, but all answers are verbatim and no changes or edits have been made.

Q1: Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?

A: We need council to come together unanimously and encourage developers to build mixed residential neighbourhoods that are affordable and target first time home buyers. Its not just a Halton issue and town and city councils need to come-together to effectively lobby the provincial government to change the practice of the Ontario Municipal Board. The Ontario Municipal board currently favours max-profit development instead of mixed development that meets the needs of seniors and first-time homebuyers. Further we need to tax the owners of vacant properties high enough to halt the practice of both foreign and domestic investors who speculate on housing.

Q2: The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritised to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

A: Forming retrofit partnerships for commercial and residential buildings with energy distributors to add green sources of power to the grid to and further reduce the carbon footprint required for energy. Encourage new developers to adopt green practices with well-designed architecture that is built with solar panels or built to be solar-ready to simplify future solar-panel installation.

Q3: In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?

A: We need to engage the community in a meaningful way with a public and moderated communication channel that provides information as to what public resources are available and to communicate specific issues that these public spaces face. The same communication channel could be used to get feedback on what the neighboring community would like to see in their parks. Volunteerism and community groups should be encouraged to abate vandalism and graffiti and reduce the maintenance costs required to fix these problems. Parks need to also focus on appealing features for adults and seniors and be less youth centric. Adults using our parks would encourage community pride, but our parks need features that appealed to a broader demographic.

Policies that encourage the building and creating of the following items would ultimately also reduce the cost of maintenance

- Shaded conversation areas
- Public tables with built in chess/checker boards
- Pickle-Ball courts and volleyball courts are in short supply in Milton we need more of these
- Public exercise equipment
- Community gardens
- A simplified event booking system
- More Frequent and well communicated community clean-up days