

Windham Community Survey Results and the Survey Comments Summary

****1. Traffic and Infrastructure****

****Survey Results**:**

- ****76% of respondents**** are dissatisfied or neutral about the ****ease of getting around Windham****, with traffic congestion in ****North Windham**** being the most significant issue.
- ****Availability of sidewalks**** and ****bike paths**** scored low, with ****45% dissatisfied**** or very dissatisfied.
- Over ****50% of residents**** are dissatisfied with the ****traffic signal system**** and how it manages traffic flow.

****Comments**:**

- Many residents describe ****Route 302**** as a "nightmare" and suggest building ****bypass roads**** to alleviate congestion.
- There's a desire for better ****pedestrian infrastructure**** like crosswalks, sidewalks, and street lighting to improve safety and accessibility.
- Specific intersections like ****Route 302 and Albion Road**** were highlighted as dangerous and in need of traffic lights or improved signaling.

****2. Residential Growth and Development****

****Survey Results**:**

- ****39% of respondents**** are dissatisfied with how the town is managing ****residential growth****, and another ****23%**** are neutral.
- Multi-family housing developments, particularly apartments, are seen as growing too fast, with over ****43% saying the pace is "much too fast"****.
- Single-family home development was seen as more appropriate, with ****40% believing the pace is "just right"****.

****Comments**:**

- Residents feel that the influx of ****apartment complexes**** is straining public services, including ****schools, roads, and public safety****.
- Some residents express concerns that high-density housing reduces community stability and affects the town's rural character, calling for a focus on ****single-family homes****.
- Several comments suggest that the town's development resembles a ****"disorganized mess"**** and lacks cohesive planning.

****3. Property Taxes****

- **Survey Results:**

- ****40% of residents**** are dissatisfied with the ****value received for their tax dollars****, and ****23%**** are neutral.

- The majority of respondents express dissatisfaction with the ****rising property taxes****, particularly those on fixed incomes.

- **Comments:**

- Residents frequently mention that the ****property tax increases**** are unsustainable, with some reporting increases of ****30% to 47%**** in a single year.

- Many retirees and fixed-income residents express concern about being "taxed out" of their homes, and some are considering leaving Windham due to rising costs.

- Suggestions include ****cutting the school budget**** or offering tax relief programs for seniors.

****4. Town Services and Amenities****

- **Survey Results:**

- ****Library services**** received high satisfaction, with ****77% of respondents**** either satisfied or very satisfied.

- ****Parks and recreation services**** were also rated positively, with ****63% satisfied**** or very satisfied.

- ****Trash and recycling services**** received mixed reviews, with ****73% satisfied**** but ****24% dissatisfied**** with bulk waste services.

- **Comments:**

- Residents appreciate the ****new trash and recycling program**** but suggest adding ****bulk waste pickup**** and enforcing stricter rules around bin usage.

- Many call for the construction of a ****community center**** with indoor facilities such as a gym, swimming pool, and event space to serve as a hub for families and seniors.

- Some residents highlight the need for ****affordable housing for seniors**** to allow them to downsize while staying in Windham.

****5. Aesthetics and Town Appearance****

- **Survey Results:**

- ****40% of respondents**** are dissatisfied or neutral about the ****appearance of the town****, with concerns about outdated and poorly maintained buildings and public spaces.

- The ****cleanliness of streets and public areas**** received mixed ratings, with ****35% dissatisfied or neutral****.

- **Comments**:

- Residents describe Windham's appearance as **"dumpy"** and call for improvements to **landscaping**, **storefront facades**, and general maintenance, especially in **North Windham**.

- Specific locations like **strip malls** and **public buildings** are noted as needing aesthetic upgrades and better upkeep.

- Some residents suggest incorporating **themed lighting, flags, and flowers** to enhance the town's character.

6. Public Safety

- **Survey Results**:

- **Public safety services** (police, fire, EMS) generally received high satisfaction, with **79%** of respondents satisfied or very satisfied.

- However, **enforcement of traffic laws** and visibility of police in residential areas received mixed ratings, with **33%** dissatisfied.

- **Comments**:

- Several comments emphasize the need for **more police presence** to address speeding, noise complaints, and crime.

- Residents also express concerns about the **proliferation of cannabis shops**, with some noting their proximity to residential areas and daycares.

- Calls for better **crime reporting and communication** from the police department were also mentioned.

7. Communication and Engagement

- **Survey Results**:

- **Availability of information about town programs** and the **usefulness of the town's website** were rated positively, with over **65%** satisfaction.

- **Social media** and **email alerts** are the primary sources of information for most residents.

- **Comments**:

- Some residents feel that the town relies too heavily on **social media** and suggest alternative communication channels like **newsletters**, **text alerts**, and **in-person updates**.

- A few comments highlight the importance of ensuring communication reaches residents who are **not active on social media**.

Key Takeaways:

1. **Traffic congestion** and infrastructure are the most pressing issues for residents.
2. **Residential development** needs better management to preserve the town's character and maintain infrastructure.
3. **Property taxes** are a significant concern, with residents seeking relief or better value for their tax contributions.
4. While many town services receive positive feedback, there is a demand for a **community center** and improved **public spaces**.
5. Enhanced **communication** and **engagement** with residents will help address dissatisfaction and foster a sense of community.

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