

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

COMMUNITY SURVEY COMMENTS



SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE HUNTER
COLLEGE URBAN PLANNING STUDIO
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INTRODUCTION

The Hunter College Planning Studio created a community survey that was distributed to Hastings residents using the Village's email list. The survey was sent to almost 1100 households, or roughly 1/3 of the total Hastings population, and 388 usable responses were received. The responses and findings helped to guide and focus the recommendations given in the Hastings-On-Hudson Comprehensive Plan.

This survey was conducted to better understand the primary concerns of Village residents. Almost 75% of respondents were over the age of 45; while this number is slightly disproportionate to the total population, the distribution was useful in our focus on the aging population and their needs. It was discovered that economic development and waterfront redevelopment were the most important issues to respondents. The survey also revealed that pedestrian safety and sidewalks were a greater concern than traffic and congestion. Two-thirds of respondents indicated they would like to retire in Hastings with the majority hoping to reside in their current residence. Finally, the majority of respondents indicated they would participate and support regional and historic tourism. The following are just some of the key findings:

- 40.6% of respondents indicated that their 'vision' for the future of Hastings is a regional destination.
- 84.8% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that there is a need for Waterfront Redevelopment as soon as possible.
- 91.8% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the Village needs to encourage 'Downtown' economic development.
- 53.7% of respondents strongly agreed that the property taxes in Hastings are too high.
- 54.5% of respondents strongly agreed that the Village should improve pedestrian safety
- An overwhelming 73.5% of respondents indicated that the Village needs to maintain its excellent public schools.

- 76.5% of respondents characterized the Hastings downtown business area as serviceable but lacking much of what is desired.
- 49.1% of respondents indicated that more than 50% of their shopping is done outside of Hastings.

In this document you will find an exact record of comments entered by survey respondents and the corresponding survey questions. The majority of all comments received were included with the exception of incomplete comments and non-qualitative comments such as "not sure", "don't know", or "maybe". The content of the comments was not altered in anyway.

YOUR VISION OF HASTINGS

4. Which of the following most closely matches your "vision" for the future of Hastings?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
1. No change – everything should stay the way it is, a small riverfront village 	31.3%	121
2. Regional destination – people from outside of Hastings and from other Rivertowns should want to visit. 	40.6%	157
3. More chic/hip village - a more upscale location 	28.2%	109
	Comments	105
	answered question	387
	skipped question	1

COMMENTS:

- *vibrant shops, ample parking, attract small IT-type business*
- *I would like the core village to stay intact, although I would like to see people from outside of Hastings frequenting the restaurants (current and future) and the Waterfront, once it has been developed.*
- *none of the above - I would like to see the waterfront developed, but with a minimum of condos. I'm also glad to see that some new restaurants will be opening in the village. But, I would not like to see the town crowded with tourists.*
- *the needs to be a realistic and pragmatic attempt to diversify the tax base of Hastings. to continue to rely on taxation on property as the main source (maybe not main, but certainly one that can be mined for additional revenue) will ultimately undermine the community of Hastings. Therefore there needs to be way, through diversification of business, to bring in additional tax revenues.*
- *Hastings is not--and should not be-- SoHo north.*
- *I would like it to stay a small village, no chic / hip*

- *Hip means too expensive for all but a few. Stay the way it is with some enhancements. No overall character change needed.*
- *Open to creative change -- which is what created Hastings -- but neither one or two above are good descriptions*
- *Somewhere between 1 and 2 would be more accurate; there are a lot of great things about the village that should be preserved, but I would love to see the commercial area become more vibrant, and attract outside folks to come for that reason.*
- *I don't think Hastings can handle being a destination for tourists but I do think that a more vital downtown is important and our strength - too many shops are empty!*
- *However, there are many improvements needed...ROAD REPAIR!!!*
- *Not No Change, but change we control. To provide a balance of preserving what we cherish with the realities of economics.*
- *Eco-tourism, walkable, historical destination with lots of green space*
- *Develop the waterfront and feel free to tear down the monstrosity on Main Street.*
- *None of these is my vision. No change is impossible - everything changes. The question is how are we going to manage that change?*
- *I'd like to see the Waterfront developed to help with our taxes, but I don't want Hastings to become a Bronxville or Scarsdale type village.*
- *With the best possible school district!*
- *I would like to see 1 1/2 -- something between 1 and 2, definitely NOT 3 -- that is Scarsdale!*
- *Town is very lame. Ancient store fronts, little character*
- *Add some sidewalks where needed on Broadway*
- *I'd hope that if its more hip, people would also want to visit from the other river towns too.*

- *Cleaner Village streets, more diverse eating places and nicer storefronts. The Village is SHABBY and dirty*
- *Each rivertown has a different flavor to it, these should not be lost - homogeneity is not the goal - but should instead be promoted and enhanced to make them each attractive and available to all residents to enjoy.*
- *My choice is actually between 1 and 2 we cannot stay the same. We should have some interest whether it is restaurants or the waterfront to attract money into the village but not loose the small riverfront village character.*
- *No change sounds negative when you say everything should stay the way it is. Problems can be fixed without transforming its essence.*
- *The infra structure of the village is quickly deteriorating. The sooner that trend is reversed, the sooner we might have good stores in the village.*
- *If we had a regional theater or some cultural destination on our waterfront.*
- *None of the above are realistic, I had to fill one in to complete the survey. Village 'government' is a sham. Look around at the waste in taxpayers money, the joke of development, the decline of the downtown, the use of public space to compete against our local tax paying merchants (farmer's market...*
- *Need to develop tax resources beyond what we presently have.*
- *Did not like any of the choices as presented. I picked 3 cause I had to pick something to go forward with the poll. I'd like it to be a robust town. w/ a down town that truly offers everything you need. a place that many would walk to & around.*
- *Restaurants, small shops, cultural activities (art exhibits, theater)*
- *Most importantly, the village should be one where the majority of HOH resident's needs (and even those of other rivertown residents) are met, e.g., shopping, recreation, entertainment (arts, dining, etc.)*
- *I think there needs to be change, but the answers provide do not match my thinking. I think the village should have more access via biking. I*

think there should be an emphasis for businesses to provide local produce and local merchandise. I would say that a more chic village would be an asset, but to me, that does not mean upscale. It means a quality place where people can meet and feel connected to the community. The community center is a huge asset.

- *Chic and hip would be good, but not at the expense of the small, long-time businesses. My parents live in an upscale town where chic replaced the stationary store, the hardware store, and other services that were considered too mundane. I know it's a huge balancing act, to keep the old town charm and revitalize the shopping district. The loss of the bookstore was hugely depressing!*
- *It should stay a small riverfront village but brighter and tonier--it is looking very run down and not cared for--especially in the downtown area.*
- *BUT I would add I would like some improvements! I want more hip, more sustainable, more interaction among residents; but I do not yearn for more upscale or more visitors per se. Find none of the selections representative of my vision for Hastings.*
- *There are varying degrees of change between no change and Chic / Hip. I am more on the side of maintaining a Funky rivertown that going to a Scarsdale / Bronxville type of town.*
- *The Riverfront development is the key.*
- *None of these answers work for me. I'd like it to stay a small riverfront village--that said, everything should stay the way it is is farther in that direction than I'd go!*
- *I would like to see Hastings stay a small riverfront village BUT with a successful vibrant downtown.*
- *Mix of 1 & 2*
- *I think HoH can become a destination, by retaining its small riverfront village (#1) character - just revitalize the waterfront and increase the tax base and smartly build more housing options for seniors / aging boomers to live out their years in the small riverfront village*

- *I vacillate between 1 & 3. Some change is needed and I envision a more New England style downtown rather than the old industrial downtown that we have now.*
- *I hesitate to answer this as I would vacillate between 1. & 3. Some change and a more upscale change would be desirable. A lot would not be. We are not Scarsdale or Bronxville nor do we want to be.*
- *Don't make it just another suburb-keep the village feeling!*
- *The commercial rents in Hastings much too high. Business owners are not able to afford them. This has to change. Does Hastings really need another Animazing Gallery???* Please!
- *Knowing that change is inevitable I would like to see the character of the community preserved*
- *Intelligent waterfront development....some housing, stores, parks!*
- *I would like to see the village as a more sustainable village with a waterfront housing solar panels to produce energy and hydroponics farming on the waterfront. Also, the science is in, the Hudson will rise; it could be 1 foot or 7 feet. We must move in the direction of sustainability and adaptation for a warming climate.*
- *I would be happy with any of the above. I think, though, that realistically it will not stay as it is. It is becoming so expensive and there are so many empty storefronts that we need to attract others to the village.*
- *We need to revitalize our downtown and attract better shops & restaurants*
- *Other residents of Westchester find Hastings difficult to get to, will come here only for something very special like big riverside restaurant.*
- *It should remain a small village but the downtown and riverfront should be developed. The downtown is a disgrace....no stores or restaurants that anyone would want to go to*
- *Revive downtown by encouraging greater occupation of storefronts, fix waterfront as soon as possible, no other new growth*

- *Should NOT be tourist destination but develop a small-scale, multi-purpose riverfront that serves the local, diverse community!*
- *We should take better care of the parks and woods we already have, and do things to ensure the preservation and expansion of green space*
- *we need more everyday restaurants -- no more fancy places -- places people can go out on a Tuesday night and not spend a fortune... more boutique / niche shopping, and fewer banks / dry cleaners... a small independent movie theater (similar to Jacob burns in Pleasantville) would be GREAT. a coffee shop that is open late would be GREAT. The Isaacs on Main sign needs to come down -- it looks sloppy. The place is called Slices, not Slices AND Isaacs on Main. It is a shame that we lost Scoops Ice Cream.*
- *No change in terms of it remaining a small riverfront village, but we certainly need to come up with ways to revitalize downtown, the waterfront and ways to keep our taxes from rising so high.*
- *I clicked this only because form wouldn't let me continue without. There are many other options. These are expressed in a loaded way.*
- *And please NOT #3, ew!!!*
- *I would like some combination of 1 & 3, or better yet an upgrading of what we have now, not necessarily somewhere chic and more expensive*
- *I would choose a 2.5 if it existed*
- *I say this only because I don't envision it as chic or upscale, but more hip. That means places for people to meet (coffee, micro-brewery, yoga classes, cool bookstore, pan Asian restaurant, Indian restaurant, a good bakery for bread, and so on. Not Brooks Brothers, Intermix, or Sephora.*
- *Our natural resources - the Hudson River and views of the Palisades - should be the main focus.*
- ***MORE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**; more incentives for local businesses to locate here*
- *More chic in being an equitable, community minded place with an emphasis on ecological consciousness.*

- *historical waterfront museum early labor history due to factories
SCIENCE---river health organizations*
- *If it ain't broke, don't fix it. I moved here because of what it is, not because of some high falutin' dream of what it might become.*
- *It should remain small town but more stores need to be run by residents who care about investing in their village.*
- *More like a Katonah than a Rye, though. Not super boutique-y with Starbucks and all. Just a nicer, cleaned up version of our little town.*
- *I have disdain for you Hunter pukers who try to involve yourselves into others' lives.*
- *'There are qualities of all three answers I would want incorporated into an ideal vision for the future.*
- *I am torn between nos. 2 and 3. I think it would be great if other people come here--they do for the farmers' market at least, which is great. And to succeed economically I imagine we need outside customers. I would also like to have more hip stores/restaurants in town. But NOT necessarily upscale. Too pricey will kill us. What we need are affordable places, mid-priced restaurants, stores that carry both reasonably priced items as well as more upscale items.*
- *All the rich people moving in who want to make Hastings into their idea of chic/hip are ruining the character of the village. I blame them for replacing those beautiful old slate cobblestones with the stupid fake brick next to the sidewalks. Their idea seems to be to turn Hastings into some fake Disneyfied town and raise taxes. I say NO!*
- *Other communities do not invite us to use their facilities, why should we?*
- *Everyone I know who has visited Hastings has told me how much they loved the village. I have lived here for 45 years and still love to be here.*
- *The retail area in particular is in need of upgrading. There are more than enough places for people to get their nails done. There is a need to find a way to attract better restaurants etc.*

- *If The village wants to continue to strive in this economic recession and in the future, it needs to increase and expand in affordable small business opportunities by redevelopment of the Downtown area.*
- *The way it is NOT the way it was when there was more vibrant industry. Many businesses equate small town with not needing to attend to quality or service. Locals trying to support HOH businesses get discouraged when a shop is closed or they can't find what they're looking for. Upscale does not have to mean fancy-- businesses simply doing a good job would be great! Activities and regular events adults and teens could plan for on weekend nights would be helpful. Even businesses that are trying often don't realize how they could improve -- a consultant is needed even to say basic things about upkeep because no one wants to hurt these nice people's feelings.*
- *None of these really apply. We can't stay the same or we'll be killed by taxes. But chic and upscale aren't the only alternatives*
- *I favor something between 1 and 2 but closer to 1*
- *#1 doesn't quite fit my response - I'd prefer that it stay a small riverfront village, but that the downtown be VITAL, with many useful, interesting shops and restaurants that would, primarily, serve the population of Hastings and, secondarily, the surrounding communities.*
- *Does it have to be more upscale to have better stores, restaurants and gathering places? I hope not. Dobbs, Irvington and Tarrytown all have more vital downtowns but I'm not sure they're chic or upscale, which sounds more like Scarsdale. I like what Pleasantville has done with the Jacob Burns Center and surrounding shops and restaurants. /*
- *None of the above. I think the Village will change but continue to be a residential community with some commercial interests.*
- *none of the above---it should become a place people from Hastings should want to visit! The stores in the village should take Comfort, Greenleaf Pharmacy, Chelsea's, Festivities as examples---not particularly hip but they provide things and services (with good hours) people actually want. The little park below the VFW is so sad, instead of being inviting it makes you want to move on as quickly as possible. Throughout town there should be more greenery and more flowers in season. How many nail nooks, hair salons and dry cleaners does a small town need?! We don't need hip we just need useful and attractive stores / restaurants with reasonable prices.*

- *I don't think that any of these descriptions accurately match my vision. I would say that it is somewhere between 2 and 3...a place where people would come to visit, but also sprinkled with some more hip stores but independently owned.*
- *This village needs to be a place to visit and a great place to live. the small town quality - the personal connection the grass roots politics are a very real part of the reasons many choose to live here. But there needs to be more- there needs to be a quality people would want to visit- to take part in, enjoy, and buy into. We need a star studded Farmer's Market; store fronts and cafes- with outdoor seating- many book stores- artist galleries and showings- river front celebrations more than once a summer!*
- *I'm interested in arts /cultural destinations, culinary destinations. I also like the small town quality of Hastings.*
- *You need to rethink these choices. They are so limited they are not useful The three choices as phrased make this an impossible question. It's crazy that if we don't want combinations 2 or 3, the only alternative is no change. Choice 3 has perhaps one attractive choice within it, while the other two, chic and upscale, are unattractive.*
- *Upscale is a nightmare. The town needs to stay real, but grow. We have enough soul that we could provide the space for the creative people in our midst, and maybe some new ones, to provide art and entertainment that would make the town more alive. Why can't it be more hip without being more chic and more upscale? We need more hip stuff in terms of venues for a movie, people playing music in bars or other kinds of rooms. Small theater space. That sort of thing. A regional destination would kill what we have that's good. Let's grow organically. We might pull more visitors from the region if we do, but not as a collective goal--sounds mall-like.*
- *Are there no more choices?*
- *Things must change, but basically this is a small village which does and should attract visitors, without looking for more chic /hip shops.*
- *I would like to see improvements, but do not think that any of the choices accurately reflects my vision. I have chosen the best, but imperfective answer because I am forced to do so.*

- *Perhaps more chic and hip without being too upscale, more like Pleasantville than Scarsdale.*
- *get a better mix of commercial to residential property in order to increase the tax base and relieve the burden on the homeowner*
- *no reason the waterfront cant be lovely and commercial without commerce and riverfront none of the three is impossible*
- *preserve green space, keep big developers out*
- *Parking, parking, parking*
- *More restaurants (Indian, Thai, Italian)*
- *None of the above. I would like a quiet water front town that actually has a usable waterfront, with parks, low-rise condos and a photovoltaic array to power the town.*
- *Keeping the village neat and attractive is vital, but making it chic or hip would be disastrous!!!*
- *I picked number two because it is the only answer remotely relating to what Hastings really needs: an expanded commercial tax base--unless, that is, you want it to become a village that only wealthy people can afford to live in.*
- *I wouldn't have used the words chic / hip, but what I'm looking for is a town center that's a bit more vibrant.*

STATEMENTS: TRAFFIC, HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5. How much do you agree with the following statements about Village 'issues'?							
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Rating Average	Response Count
The Village needs to reduce the amount of traffic	13.4% (52)	19.9% (77)	44.2% (171)	19.6% (76)	2.8% (11)	2.79	387
There is a lack of affordable housing in Hastings	28.7% (111)	30.5% (118)	25.1% (97)	9.3% (36)	6.5% (25)	2.34	387
The Village needs to address flooding and other infrastructure issues	22.2% (86)	41.1% (159)	28.7% (111)	7.0% (27)	1.0% (4)	2.24	387
There is a need for waterfront redevelopment as soon as possible	56.6% (219)	28.2% (109)	8.8% (34)	3.9% (15)	2.6% (10)	1.68	387
The Village needs to encourage 'Downtown' economic development	60.5% (234)	31.3% (121)	4.9% (19)	1.8% (7)	1.6% (6)	1.53	387
Comments							85
answered question							387
skipped question							1

COMMENTS:

- *No traffic problems except for 15 minutes during school start or end*
- *waterfront development does NOT mean high-rise anything -- no Yonkers sization of Hastings*
- *Hastings continues to live beyond it's means. That's why the property tax continues to increase whereas other revenues do not. We do not live in a vacuum and we should run Hastings more as a business. Revenues out should equal revenues in. If we want to improve roads (though there is little need) we should only do so from increased revenues (from new businesses). Let's see some initiatives to attract new businesses to Hastings.*
- *Let's increase our tax base. The fact that everyone's special interests have stalled any redevelopment for years is a disgrace. We should substitute endless subcommittees and taskforces for action.*

- *I oppose the kind of waterfront development that walls off the Hudson via the construction of upscale condos. This type of development destroys the vista from the other side of the river and blocks the serendipitous river views from other parts of the village. The development on Main Street destroyed beautiful views from Broadway and the Food Emporium parking lot. I would like to see the waterfront developed in a similar aesthetic to the old factory buildings and provide recreational amenities, retail, restaurants, parks and trails and perhaps some light industry, perhaps like publishing, think tanks, foundations or similar organizations. I would say that Yonkers has developed in a way that is ugly and has destroyed views and history. I would say that of the Rivertowns, Irvington is doing well in preserving views, historical character and aesthetics.*
- *Flooding- along the Saw Mill and the neighborhoods close to it.*
- *Traffic problems are isolated in certain areas, such as the five corners intersection and along Farragut Avenue, and at the intersection between Farragut and Ravensdale.*
- *the waterfront needs to be revitalized but not at the expense of us Hastings taxpayers...let's make sure the cleanup long term costs are where they need to be...remember letting them off the hook??*
- *re 1; I would strongly disagree if you meant more construction. I would strongly agree if you meant seeking viable businesses to develop a vibrant downtown. #2; It's not just affordable housing, but housing that affordable. There is a distinct difference. #5; Don't lose track of Doing It Right*
- *Due to restrictive guidelines the affordable housing is rarely available to our paid cops, volunteer firefighters, etc. So why bother?*
- *The waterfront should be developed when we have a clear vision of who we are and mesh that with the village that can be. The waterfront should not be developed piecemeal without a plan.*
- *we totally need more athletic fields*
- *the village does not need to reduce traffic, it needs to handle it better.*
- *Re redevelopment, by redevelopment I mean a park; I strongly oppose residential housing or any structures at the waterfront, and, if any credible analysis went into determining our tax problems, it would be*

abundantly clear that housing of any kind increases tax problems -- compare Yonkers, NY to Lancaster County, PA; developers are either paying off or brainwashing everyone, even otherwise sensible people. The flooding and other infrastructure issues are huge holes in roads at drainage sewers that are large enough for toddlers and even school age children to fall into -- our village looks like a third world country in many respects, yet we keep paying more and more for the maintenance of our village.

- *Waterfront development should not mean expensive condo's rather take a leaf from Irvington's book*
- *The Village has ignored flooding (including inadequate culverts and pipes) in our area for almost 50 years. It's time to do something!*
- *The downtown proper of Hastings (warburton and main street) needs to be viable before the waterfront is developed. I can remember on a friday night and saturday you could not find a parking spot in the village. The village was hustling and bustling. The waterfront cannot be the answer for Hastings. We need a village that has shopping and places of enjoyment. One way to reduce the traffic in Hastings is why can't the parents let their children walk to school. We did!!!! We were not driven to the middle and High Schools!!!! WE WALKED!*
- *Assuming that waterfront development is done correctly.*
- *The waterfront should have the most recreational development that is possible*
- *Waterfront is key to the future success of this village*
- *Would like downtown retail revitalized, but not a boom of new construction.*
- *There is a need for another stop sign on Farragut inbetween Ravensdale and the High School. Traffic is way too abundant and drives too quickly up Farragut!*
- *Hastings is dead at nights...look at the other river towns and they have night life and good places to eat*
- *More people living at the waterfront will lead to a flood of traffic pouring out of that part of the village into the business area every*

weekend, making parking impossible and congestion unpleasant. It would be better to have businesses at the waterfront -- restaurants and art galleries and wooden boat facilities which attract commerce that does not strain the village amenities.

- *I didn't know we had a big flooding problem, but I would like to have sidewalks. I don't like traffic, but I don't see it as a big Hastings problem except around the school. If we had sidewalks we could make the kids walk. I hate to see all the empty stores. I think the village should do more to get businesses in town and it would be great if they were business that helped people in town.*
- *At school time, it would be helpful that, instead of the policeman and crossing guard just standing there, the officer stand in the middle of the street and let a number of cars pass the stop sign at a time. The traffic is held up and doesn't need to be since there is an officer there already.*
- *I strongly agree that the waterfront should be used for light industry (such a solar and river turbine energy) as well as some recreation and fully disagree with using it for residential use. As for traffic, the village must put in place and enforce strong 'no idling' restrictions and increase the walkability of our community, e.g., sidewalks, steps on steep inclines, etc. Affordable housing should also be available in all parts of town (not just on the south end of Warburton!). And, the village has been completely remiss on developing the town economically.*
- *Think GREEN. Economic development should include business that produce minimal garbage and minimal carbon footprint and provide local products.*
- *Clearly developing waterfront will increase pop and traffic, but should be done within character of small, mixed village. do not want to become Mt Vernon or Greenwich / Scarsdale. The advantage of Hastings is that it is green with a good variety and mix of people (albeit a touch upper west side, but that's OK). Do not need to add substantial industry or retail.*
- *Parking's the big problem.*
- *Redevelop the waterfront into an open park- plantings, picnic tables and benches period. By infrastructure I hope you mean pace the damn streets.*

- *Judging from the quantity of businesses closing, something needs to be done soon or we will end up with a ghost town. There is nothing appealing downtown that would make people come here to shop.*
- *The downtown needs to have more consistent and regulated and attractive storefronts--and fewer ugly and outsized buildings like the new loft-condo building which is totally out of character with the village and cut off public views of the palisades because it is one story too high. Where is the Architectural Review Board? Also, we need to consciously attract nicer shops--not just more downscale delis, nail salons, dry cleaners and pizzerias. This process of attracting better shops seems entirely haphazard at present.*
- *Parking is becoming increasingly difficult. With the new mixed use building on Main St. it can only get worse.*
- *Depends on what you mean by development for the waterfront.*
- *Can't add to the riverfront and encourage downtown development while reducing traffic.*
- *It depends what kind of development you mean at the waterfront and downtown--that's why I put neither agree nor disagree--I might strongly agree or disagree depending on the answer. Waterfront should be mixed non-commercial and commercial with open, park space and as much of that as possible.*
- *lack of affordable housing is everywhere!*
- *The Village needs to show more financial restraint with public projects and with the school system.*
- *Not just empty space but rateable properties--I have waited over 34 years to see something on the waterfront..enough is enough*
- *I strongly agree that the waterfront be developed but not in the way that the LWRP has presented it's plan.*
- *We need more foot traffic in the downtown to keep it safe and increase business
We will always have modest stores but they could learn from Big Boxes with loyalty programs, special ordering and customer service improvements.*

- *Hastings-on-Hudson needs to reinvent itself. We have the best schools in Westchester county that is closest to NYC. Let's get going on development before Donald Trump recognizes the value of Hastings and its proximity to NYC.*
- *While I agree that waterfront redevelopment is a priority, I do not think we should rush to rezone it and hand it over to private developers. I think we as a village should steer the process very carefully with a lot of input from community residents. I do not think we should go ahead and redevelop the waterfront based on the Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan as it is currently written. I think that many creative avenues for appropriate development of the waterfront have yet to be explored (and are not reflected in the LWRP as it is currently written).*
- *Town should be more concerned with retaining it's personality and more alert to the negative effects over building and poor planning will have. This survey is worded poorly, as I wouldn't say that the Village needs to encourage downtown economic development as much as it needs to support improvements in the downtown area, not necessarily development of the area. Whenever our town starts with economic development, we wind up with some huge ugly building that we are stuck with forever because no one thinks things through. We are a lovely riverfront town that has the potential to draw many visitors.*
- *Create pedestrian zones downtown and increase parking areas, maybe connecting commuter lot with downtown in more appealing way. Bicycle trails would be great too.*
- *A couple more restaurants wouldn't hurt. A Jewish deli; good Asian; or good Italian would add a great deal*
- *I would hate to see too much development as it would bring many problems and increase some taxes such as school taxes if it increases the population. It would also increase congestion.*
- *Waterfront development should include as much park and green space as possible. New homes should have footprint limits to discourage McMansions.*
- *Would love to be a more pedestrian friendly environment.*
- *Affordable housing is both a relative term and can be misused as a code for other things. Please be clear and upfront about what we'd try to*

encourage. Choose the type of traffic to reduce and my answers change- Through traffic at high speed on Broadway? Yes. Commuter traffic to the train station? Probably not. Residents who live within 1/2 mile and drive instead of walk? Yes. Destination traffic that brings people from other areas to park for a few hours, shop and eat? No, that traffic we probably want. Development itself needs to be persistent more than it needs to be fast.

- *We're not overrun with traffic; we need to moderate some driving behaviors and improve sidewalks & paths. Better right than soon on the waterfront.*
- *we can't develop the waterfront so quickly, it will be at least 5 yrs until the clean-up is done - we shouldn't be confusing people! and for downtown - we need to help businesses and maybe have guidelines on what signs and storefronts look like*
- *There is really a lack of middle class housing in Hastings.*
- *Village needs a commercial tax base. Additional residential development just taxes police sanitation schools etc.*
- *The redevelopment of the waterfront needs to be done well - speed - as soon as possible - is not my first priority. And, although I would like to see more affordable housing in Hastings, we should not make bad development decisions in return for Affordable Housing - The development Rivertown Lofts on Main Street did provide the town with affordable housing (on Warburton), but the development on Main street is so big and out of character with the surrounding buildings, that I do not feel the trade-off was worth it. Not by a long shot. The huge building had also blocked views of the palisades from many village locations - say waiting for the light at 5 corners - that were hard to anticipate from the architectural presentations. And you never get those views back.*
- *infrastructure comment: add new sidewalks and repair existing sidewalks*
- *We need to increase tax base to provide funds for infrastructure needs-- but we have to be careful with the waterfront redevelopment so we don't regret overbuilding*

- *Affordable housing that blends us all together Remember! Developers are sneaky and relentless. However, there must be some good ones working. Let's find them for ANT future development*
- *Keep government out of economic development. Keep people out of Hastings if they can't afford to live here. Traffic is just fine, thank you. Waterfront redevelopment would be nice, but I'm willing to wait--even if it does not happen in my time--in order to ensure that it is done the right way.*
- *Flooding is an issue in front of my house. Traffic with difficult turn onto Olinda from Broadway can be dangerous to children walking to school (including my own kids).*
- *We could use more parking, both in town and at the train station.*
- *It is a crime that the waterfront has gone undeveloped for so long. That will be THE major impetus for restoring Hastings vitality.*
- *Let the poor live elsewhere.*
- *The village is looking very run down and is need of serious repair, parks roads, line painting.*
- *Traffic, ideally means more people are shopping here, and if short-term parking continues to be a problem, maybe that's a good thing for business, one that can be addressed successfully*
- *Downtown Hastings is pathetic. We need more shops and restaurants, not professional offices in storefronts. too many vacant stores.*
- *What a huge asset the waterfront is. It's a shame to not take advantage of that.*
- *Village manager needs to listen to the concerns of residents more!*
- *The waterfront needs to connect with the town and provide recreational assets useful locally, and a critical mass where regional people might come, have dinner in the village and take a shuttle or stroll to a waterfront event. Reduce traffic congestion but not traffic flow is what I'd say-- we certainly do want people here!*
- *I like the progressive, small town feel of Hastings but frankly, downtown is just depressing. The storefronts look shabby, there are few*

places to eat, have coffee, gather, and the industrial waterfront would greatly benefit from a redo.

- *One visit to Irvington's waterfront makes one desperate for immediate waterfront redevelopment!*
- *Issues of traffic are always going to be a concern until you have cars- but then what would you do: require horse and buggy and shovel poop? Finding creative ways to regulate traffic- and offset the need for a car in the town by offering a jitney to a parking lot a little further away - especially for river front events?*
- *Let us restore all or at least part of the movie theater into a theater for movies, theater, and other events.*
- *Hastings needs to do a better job of upkeep keeping what it has. Our fields are a mess, the streets are not well maintained and it's looking pretty shabby lately.*
- *There has been a need for waterfront development since before I moved to Hastings in 1982. It has been an outrage and tragedy that this basically remains unchanged.*
- *The village looks dreary. It would be nice to see some bright and light storefronts, with possibly some conformity as they did in Sleepy Hollow.*
- *more sidewalks, bike lanes*
- *Current downturn in economic conditions for development may preclude finding the best use for the Waterfront at this time.*
- *need waterfront development for commercial taxes*
- *Need to enforce speed limits. Folks race through the school zone. If we aren't going to enforce the limits, get rid of them. Road and sidewalk infrastructure needs to be a priority over social programs. The Village should concentrate on this infrastructure, not trying to be the caretakers of the population.*
- *Re last question, development MUST NOT include chain retailers and branded restaurants, only small local businesses*

WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT

6. How would you like to see the waterfront redeveloped? Please share your ideas with us:		Response Count
		168
	answered question	168
	skipped question	220

COMMENTS:

- *Restaurants, shops, kayaking, etc.*
- *mixed use--park with boating access to river, residential, stores, restaurants, cultural*
- *low buildings, preserve the view; open space; small business ok*
- *I think we could think out of the box. Perhaps a solar field which could reduce the cost of living, provided it only uses a portion of the acreage. I would like to see light industry or commercial development to increase the tax revenue. I would like to see bldg. 52 adaptively reused for parking and commercial enterprise, and the existing commuter parking lots converted to mixed use- corporate offices, residential and retail uses.*
- *mixed use is fine as long as it won't overtax the schools*
- *Develop Kinnally Cove into a real beach! Clean up the whole cove and make it swimmable. Launching a kayak from there would be amazing.*
- *Please see above. Lots of open space. No residential directly on the water. More than a thin rind of token boardwalk for the rest of the citizenry. Perhaps a relocation of the heart of town to the waterfront and a re-use of Warburton and Main for things and experiences for which a beautiful view of the river and Palisades are a distraction.*
- *Marina for customers ranging from low to moderate to higher income boat owners, housing, retail /restaurants, park, limited parking, bicycling.*

- *Mixed use -- a mirror image of the village Some residential / some retail -- some open space with facilities that encourage people to come promenade along river*
- *The plan that I have seen, including maps, which is online looks promising. Like the mixed park, commercial and residential idea.*
- *ballfields, parks, light industry*
- *Eco-tourism, artists lofts, historical waterfront, boutique hotel, music studio / performance space---NO waterfront housing*
- *Mostly residential*
- *In this century. Just build it. Historically preserved buildings, water towers, height requirements, nonsense. This has been on a merry go round for decades. Hastings should be ashamed. The voices of a few have continued to stop these projects.*
- *I am in favor of some residential development because that will drive the other uses the Village wants for access to the river, parks, recreation areas etc. Residential will add to the tax base of the Village - very important if Hastings is to remain affordable to people other than the very wealthy.*
- *FAST - QUICKLY - NO MORE DELAYS - DON'T LET THE TAIL WAG THE DOG (irrational claims of historical significance)*
- *More open space, park areas similar to Dobbs and Irvington, waterfront cafes / restaurants, kayak launch area & storage area, free parking*
- *A mix of business and parkland*
- *Something like Pepsico is ideal to me -- a commercial entity, open to the public (both their meeting rooms and the beautiful Pepsico sculpture gardens. A win-win -- tax relief, green space, public space.*
- *definitely some parkland, accessible to river, some housing, small business, nothing on a large scale*
- *Tax-neutral or revenue-generating for combined Village / School District tax rolls Energy-generating uses (wind, water, solar) Heavily water-dependent uses that take full advantage of deep-water port:: boats,*

including big boats like Sojourner Truth or excursion boats or yachts; boat-building and boat repair facility; open-air swimming pool IN the river (like many pools on the Sound side of Westchester) -- could combine with tennis courts for nice community country club -- much more accessible for those of us on west and south side of Hastings than the Hillside pool. Tax-paying, non-polluting storage facility with loading /off-loading using river /railroad -- take advantage of alternative non-motor-vehicle transportation Uses that require large flat open space -- a rare commodity in southern Westchester. Maybe an equestrian facility and ring could be part of community country club facility mentioned above. Large greenspaces for active recreation and passive recreation -- soccer field, baseball field, kite-flying, walking trails, rock-climbing walls, bike-riding. Large flat bandshell-type space for Farmers' Market, Village festivals and events -- no more closing down Spring Street or Warburton or dealing with parking at MacEachron Park.

- *Child friendly park or location where people could relax. Make the area cleaner.*
- *Mixed use, with shops, restaurants, recreation and high-end residential, with protected waterfront access (think: Brooklyn Heights Promenade) for all.*
- *Open green space, with sports fields and a park.*
- *Open space - recreational areas (but not a formal ballpark like Irvington), access to the water, cycle trails. Barbecue /picnic areas. Link the area to the downtown so we don't end up with two villages, have some small stores /eateries /bar. Information on wildlife /history for children /visitors.*
- *either a large park, or if that is too expensive and unsustainable, then into park /shops /residential*
- *Into a park WITHOUT housing or structures of any kind, or at most put the rec center there, move village hall to where the rec center currently is on main, and sell or demolish the current village hall for a premium as a single family residence, and get rid of that awful emergency alarm that wakes people up at night. I repeat no buildings.*
- *Like Irvington with office /residential space, nice park, maybe some shops even a Starbucks.*

- *A park. No condos. Or a school, or an art center, or science center.*
- *The waterfront should have as much recreational area we can get from a developer. At least an access area for walking along the entire water side. Mixed use with an affordable restaurant. Either 1 or 2 narrow buildings or low buildings not to block the view from elsewhere in the village.*
- *Maybe some fields real ball fields or basketball courts? Irvington's waterfront would be a great model. Maybe a few more reasonably priced restaurants (Harvest and the tennis court restaurant are out of my price range.) I think a nice waterfront pub / bar & grill type restaurant with a deck out on the river would be amazing*
- *Park, community space. No condos or private buildings.*
- *Less eyesores and better view to the water.*
- *Mix of parks, commercial and residential.*
- *LWRP proposed mix of residential and commercial, with significant public open space, is best. *ALL* existing structures, including water tower, should be torn down. Multiple access points -- at least one pedestrian bridge at Washington, and auto bridge at south end -- are mandatory.*
- *I would like to see mixed use with offices for tax revenue and access to the public. With the train access to NYC, we should be able to encourage offices to locate here. My father was instrumental, 50 years ago, in persuading the Garden State Parkway Authority to put an exit and an entrance in Montvale, N.J. and in persuading some good companies to locate their head offices there. We have better transportation to and from NYC than Montvale does. Good offices are filled with people who want to live close by and want good schools and other services and are willing to pay for them.*
- *As stated above, I would like to see some creative cultural institution situated either on the waterfront or in what is presently the Zinsser Park (and move the parking to Building 52). I would also like the waterfront to generate income so to lower our taxes. This should involve knowledge-based industries and green industries - such as solar panels.*
- *Open space parks, both residential and commercial, marina*

- *Green space. A health club or gym. Cafe or two. Small business or residential development would be fine. But please do it as soon as possible. Many residents are experiencing waterfront redevelopment fatigue.*
- *preserve view*
- ***LOW RISE COMMERCIAL USE (RETAIL AND OFFICE BUILDING) WITH AMPLE PUBLIC SPACE***
- *Mixed use, residential and commercial. Boating. Municipal parking in the existing large Building 52.*
- *Restaurants, boat access*
- *Stop! how many times has this question been asked? How many consultants paid? How many forums held?*
- *With an eye to maximizing tax revenue and with attention to public uses.*
- *In reference to the waterfront, I don't want to be within thousands of miles if you ever decide to raze those buildings in front of the library. There is no way you could convince me that you have contained everything that could be dispersed into the environment if those buildings come down.*
- *I would like to see some nice open areas for residents like they have in Dobbs Ferry and Irvington. We do not need waterfront condos which will take away from this prime space for village residents. People who would pay big money for this type of housing will not want the locals sharing their space. We need park land, fields, restaurants and small shops (with interesting and varied wares) and small shops for coffee, ice cream, etc. to line the park space, so that people can use it to relax by the river. This space should be accessible to all village residents, of all ages. I would like to see a building with a big community room for use by residents for events and special occasions. It could be rented out by various groups or private individuals who live in town. I would like to see some preservation of the old Hastings, (pre-yuppie), either in the form of the renovation of one of the old buildings or at the very least, the water tower, which is a Hastings icon of sorts. I would like to see this development move at a faster pace, because it is dragging on and on*

and on at this point. I have lived in Hastings virtually my entire life (I am 51) and I have seen many changes. I would like to have some of these new projects reflect the heritage of my hometown, which was largely made up of hard-working immigrants.

- *Creative reuse of remaining industrial buildings (ideally, related to regional effort to retain high value-added, light industrial manufacturing jobs); educational and recreational activities -- what happened to the kayak launch?, center for Hudson River history and sustainable development-related research.*
- *Waterfront should include housing (with limited affordable for village employees and maybe a tad more) that is upscale and attractive, plus some additional recreational / park land. Higher taxes are an acceptable alternative to wholesale upscaling while providing money to maintain / enhance education and services, while providing some options for village-certified-employee housing. That would in fact add a benefit to village employment that would be difficult to match and preserve us from becoming a village of psychologists and lawyers.*
- *Mixed use and park. Maybe a ball field. But nothing tall. Nothing that feels dense or like it cuts off the waterfront.*
- *arts and performance space, green space, bike paths*
- *Restaurants / retail / office development*
- *parks, ballfields, shops*
- *Easily accessible park with walking paths, benches for contemplating the beautiful view, small building with rest rooms and healthy food.*
- *Yes, but without any residential housing in the area. Only commercial / office space.*
- *Parks, gardens, dog runs, open space. When are the old factory buildings on the water going to be demolished and replaced? I have lived here for 7 years and I imagine I will have moved before it is done.*
- *Tax positive*
- *The waterfront should be shops and parks. No housing since I've been informed that the village gives more than it receives in taxes.*

- *Any place where a family could enjoy sometime, a variety of areas from family friendly eating areas to areas for children to play other than a ball field. Maybe a dock which would allow others to visit the village other than by car. But there needs to be something to visit and right now there is nothing in this village that would bring outside people here.*
- *Mainly open space for recreation and for the community to come together (summer concerts, fireworks, etc. Some commercial space.*
- *Mixed use with emphasis on green space, Please don't encourage saving the old factory buildings. They will always be eyesores and they block river views and access.*
- *plenty of public access. Non-polluting businesses or industry that add to our tax base*
- *Strongly support public open space for recreation, artist use of renovated buildings with limited commercial development and no housing.*
- *I would like to see it developed for business as opposed to residences.*
- *PARKLAND*
- *See LWRP recommendations*
- *With view preservation at the forefront. With as much open space as possible*
- *Mixed park and residences*
- *mixed use residential and light industry / office / retail. The residential should have a focus on being elder friendly - draw from the new paradigm communities that are being created to address the aging demographic in USA so that Hastings retains its elders. Some sort of elder co-housing so its affordable, integrated into the community fabric, elder focuses but intergenerational. See the models such as Elder Spirit in Virginia, etc. We also must draw on the Andrus resource - the Andrus retirement home is on its last legs, and Hastings should partner with Andrus to build assisted living and / or nursing housing in Hastings that draws on the new paradigms in those arenas, such as Bill Thomas's Eden Alternative and Greenhouse Projects that are being propagated by the Robert Wood Johnson foundation (because the test experiences were wildly successful..)*

- *I would like to something actually HAPPEN!*
- *Available for relaxation and appreciation of the natural beauty*
- *Not just residential. That's the easiest thing to do and only benefits the developers who get subsidized by local municipalities. Try a partnership with a local education institution like Hunter or Columbia.*
- *Park land & retail with restaurants*
- *Reuse, develop Bldg 52 with mixed use non residential and provide secondary bridge access to west side of tracks*
- *Mixed use development--residential, commercial, parkland / recreation*
- *college / university environmental studies annex - artist studios -- restaurants -- residential lofts*
- *There needs to be an park like open space in front of the commuter lot but lo-rise housing and office space could be built in the south end. The tennis club could be moved to the south end and the village park extended southward to connect with the open space mentioned above.*
- *There should be open park like space opposite the commuter parking lot but the south end could be developed for housing and office space so that there is a tax base emanating from the development. The tennis club should be moved towards the south end so that the Village park could be extended southward towards the new space.*
- *Housing, beachfront, boating*
- *Hastings should look at Irvington's waterfront. We should have a larger green space with fields for children and families to be able to enjoy the Hudson river. The old Anaconda site could be redeveloped into a beautiful park.*
- *park land*
- *need to have tax positive development*
- *A real balance of a waterfront park a housing development no more that 6feet building high, I and my family living here over 30 years still no change lets finally get started*

- *Restaurants and recreation*
- *Half parks and open space. Half REVENUE GENERATING business that reduces tax burden. No housing.*
- *More open space with views of the river for the community to use. Perhaps a small hotel and a restaurant.*
- *residential, office, recreational*
- *NOT with more residential use. A good marina, yes. And, see Michele Hertz letter in Enterprise, 4/18/2008 as to electricity production projects on the waterfront.*
- *I've seen some of the plans drawn up for the waterfront and they look adequate to me. The overriding feature I feel is important in this regard is that access to the Hudson by residents being secured and given high priority when allocating use.*
- *Parks and open space*
- *Waterfront should be developed with low buildings and /or parks so that the river view is retained. The river is a huge part of the character of our village and the recent ugly building across from the rec center is an example of over development, even though it is on a relatively small scale. For our village, it is too large and awkward; it cuts off the river view; it hulks in the middle of town. Let's not have the same thing happen on the river. Village residents should also have access to the river. Maybe some low shops and restaurants, with park area in front would be nice. No gated communities please.*
- *It should be a park /open space as they have done in Irvington. We should also consider developing local alternative energy (e.g., 2-3 wind turbines)*
- *riverfront park, small privately owned shops, restaurants, and perhaps small amount of housing*
- *Recreation and parks*
- *bike & rollerblading path and walkway along river restaurant & inn mixed use housing & commercial LOW buildings!!!*

- *Don't want anything down there except a park. Maybe a wind farm or solar panel field.*
- *I could imagine an accessible green space with charming shops and cafes, bicycle trails (a dog run?). An indoor / outdoor pool and some more public tennis courts too. All construction should maximize the natural beauty of the river, Palisades without obstructing views.*
- *Something for the people. Not another high priced restaurant or club. Make something affordable for all. Put in a drive in boat club open to all boaters / residents. Have a place for boaters to gas up, eat, refresh and move on. Put in a hotel with a restaurant, rooms (obviously) an event room, with boating docking. It will bring revenue in, outsiders to see what Hastings has to offer, and will offer jobs for the hotel employees.*
- **CONDOS AND PARKLAND -FIELDS FOR SPORTS BASKETBALL COURTS**
- *Shops, restaurants, economic development!*
- *I would like public space on the waterfront with limited commercial and no residential development.*
- *mixed use - commercial + residential + open space*
- *I would like to see restaurant and shops take part of the waterfront. Harvest is a nice example to start from.*
- *residential condos would be good, with retail and recreation (indie movie theater, park, bbq area). waterfront needs to be integrated as part of village, with shopping, parking, etc. a bike path along the river would be nice... it is **ESSENTIAL** for Hastings to get linked with the Yonkers Water Taxi. Many people in Hastings work in lower Manhattan, and having a transportation option that goes to the financial district would be great. Currently, the Yonkers ferry is not synced with the metro north from Hastings, so it is impossible to use the Yonkers ferry (it would mean taking the train to Yonker sand then waiting 20 minutes for the ferry, which makes the commute too long (and too expensive).*
- *Low stories, mixed use.*

- *Soft industry, such as for services. Business relating to river or conservation. Art space. Possibly a park. Possibly a replacement commuter lot at South end so that current commuter lot could be developed into an extension of the village itself.*
- *Yes, I would. I think it would be great to come up with ways for a portion of it to go to commercial ventures in order to alleviate homeowners' tax burden. I am not in favor of housing, particularly dense housing. The greener the better, both open space and environmentally, but it is understood that that is easier said than done.*
- *Modest, nonresidential development consistent with small rivertown character of village*
- *mixture of green living apartments, park where kids can play and listen to concerts, cafes and artists studios, kayak launch*
- *Parklike. A quiet haven*
- *A new High School, Playing fields, parks, solar or other alternative energy source, small business and some homes*
- *don't care, but want open parkland and access to the water*
- *greenspace, parks and recreation, arts with parking available. Small amount of commercial / residential to sustain it.*
- *Simply. A boat launch for kayaks and rowing skulls. A boardwalk area for families to enjoy. Low key, but attractive.*
- *A place that people can come to enjoy the river. Small cafes a park, shops would be nice. Not an overly developed area with tall apt bldgs.*
- *A combination of recreational / entertainment, residential and business.*
- *Artist's studios and a place for people to take art classes, places for people to exercise, places for people to meet and grab a bite to eat, The farmer's market (expanded), small offices, an ice cream shop, live / work spaces for artists.*
- *Development MUST BE Visionary and address, what will people need in 30 years [since it will be another 10 years to clean, 10 years to develop--we will be in the second decade before we know whether the development is a boom or a bust] Some ideas...people in 30 years will*

need food and energy...they will need recreation in a densely over populated area, esp with what Yonkers has in mind..so here are a few thoughts---hydroponic greenhouses linked to a Blue Stone Barns type complex with restaurant, cooking school, etc; or corporate campus for the owner, BP, with alternative energy R & D on site; or Hudson River School of the Arts; or campus for educational institution such as Columbia U; or light green industry think tank; or alternative energy manufacturing site [e.g. algae]---all co-existing with some beautiful public spaces, like parks, etc....In other words, must be socially inspiring, while paying into the tax base....tall order, no?

- *picnic areas, playing fields, indoor pool with wall of windows*
- *combination of public space and private ... liked the enterprise letter from the man who suggested generating wind and solar energy there... I would support researching this*
- *Mixed use Public access Academic and intellectual institution NOT just million \$\$\$condos, that would be very sad.*
- *Low density, low rise (3 story max) in keeping with current village scale. Primarily residential with a commercial area zoned for shops and professional offices. Not a private enclave; no private walks or streets. Units flanking the river are mixed use, with bottom floor zoned for both residential and small commercial / professional use. A public dock, a 20 acre public park, a promenade along the water running the full length of the property, a public roadway through the entire property, a public bridge at the south, access from the south via a new road and bridge connecting with Warburton. Keep the marinas on the north and south ends but open their bars / restaurants (if they have them) to the public.*
- *Primarily as a park, but some sustainable shops and /or waterfront housing or business development would be O.K.*
- *Something attractive, but not an additional burden on our already outrageous taxes.*
- *It should be a combination of business, retail and park space. Forget about the in-fighting and just do it. We can insure that the business and retail that goes into space there is appropriate for the Hastings community. Leave the water tower if that will help quell the bogus opposition to historic landmark but get on with it already. How long do we need to keep talking about it before we just do something already.*

- *Parks and free amenities; light commerce; restaurant(s); no residential development.*
- *Common space. Parks, restaurants, etc.*
- *Predominantly public space- parks, athletic facilities- baseball fields, tennis courts.*
- *The building that are presently on the site need to be ripped down as soon as humanly possible. No amount of renovation could make those nauseating eyesores into anything worthwhile. I'd suggest open space with public ballfields and other recreational facilities.*
- *More parking for park visitors. Waterfront benches. Just make it relaxing.*
- *In Hastings there are far too few opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the beauty a riverfront community can offer. Too much land is privately owned or leased and the rest is toxic or undeveloped. Unlike Yonkers, Dobbs, Nyack, Piermont and Tarrytown, our town is missing out on a huge revenue generator--the river.*
- *Ideally a park similar to Irvington. Their park is fantastic. Ideally keeping some of the old brick buildings, see below comments: If it must be developed commercially, mixed use is vital--some housing, some business, MOSTLY park /playing fields /walking path. Keeping open views from town is vital: from the library, especially, and from other points in town that are escaping me at the moment. The new apts across from the community center, by having an extra story, totally took away a view of the Palisades from the A&P parking lot, of all places, that was actually a wonderful view (and one seen often).*
- *parkland; anything but the mess that is there now*
- *mostly parks and other recreational facilities. I do not think that with all the past pollution, people want to live there permanently.*
- *more shops, restaurants, and cultural activities (theatres, galleries, etc) Kayak launching site would be nice. Nice park with paths, tables, and playgrounds*
- *A walking boardwalk, an area for boats, restaurants, open space.*

- *A park and maybe a beach. No tall buildings. No condos. Similar to Croton Point Park.*
- *Love to see a park like area much Like Irvington! a lot of open green space*
- *tax generating development*
- *Would like waterfront park with passive and active recreation. need to carefully consider commercial, industrial and residential uses. concerns: competition with dt and the real cost of the development on the taxpayers*
- *office, light industry, recreation, open space*
- *I believe it should be re-developed as a Mediterranean Village with shops, restaurants, and three-story attached stone or stone-faced home. The shops and restaurants would be along the waterfront and in squares throughout the complex. The housing units would be on the side streets. All parking would be on the edges on the complex, perhaps hidden in the existing buildings toward the north end of the property. The complex would also include docking facilities for small boats and a ferry to Yonkers to connect to the ferry to the city.*
- *Restaurants and recreational facilities - maybe some housing, but not too dense.*
- *A mix of park and residential uses combined with economic activity that would not compete with the current downtown.*
- *self-sustaining residential and recreational area*
- *I want a mixed use waterfront, with extensive access for all of us.*
- *attract wall street type firms, railroad use by firms employees, hotels so people could access NYC via train.*
- *Park and recreation area and possibly studios for artists / musicians. Also, I recently was on Metro North and was appalled at all the refuse and junk that lined the road parallel to the tracks (east side.) As a first impression of Hastings from the perspective of someone riding the train, it Hastings looks like a dump! Dosins Auto, Metro North and the town dumping grounds all need to be cleaned up as this mess is totally unacceptable.*

- *As much greenspace as possible, with public access to the full waterfront. A european-type family oriented health center overlooking the water would be great. Some place for public gatherings, a seasonal outdoor theatre or summerstock for example. Hold a design competition for the area with students from an architecture school or open it up to international architects to get some fresh ideas about how to use the space (done in greenport, new york to great effect, converting a smaller but similar brownspace into a great place for congregating and a draw to (not from) local businesses.*
- *Please leave areas for village residents to enjoy access to the Hudson River views.*
- *Mixed use development*
- *Combination of public greenspace and retail / cultural center.*
- *First, I'd like to see the water.*
- *A nice park, restaurants and shopping area. A place where the community can go and enjoy the views and the area.*
- *to increase the tax base*
- *Insure public access to waterfront.*
- *get rid of those rather historically unimportant factories and go forward looking - get a really innovative architect who upsets folks with a usable modern structure - let us be a village with vision not conformity and safe dull architecture*
- *recreational use, waterfront park, one of the old structures could be converted into a multi-use space (farmers market's winter home, concert space, youth activities, sports), limit high density residential development, keep views by restricting height of buildings (especially since the River Lofts have now obstructed the lovely views of the Hudson)*
- *I would support recycling the old factory buildings similar to what was done in Irvington or Beacon. I don't support the creation of more housing units.*
- *I like the way Irvington developed the old factory structures for Restaurants, art, sports.*

- *Performing Arts center, college campus, working museum / cultural center I.e. maritime history and boat building*
- *commercial and open space some kinds of green technology / industry*
- *Light industrial commercial development to take advantage of our location to NYC and the demographics of Westchester County. Development that will create tax revenue for the village that is not completely dependent on residential property tax. Open public space and access to the existing downtown. The waterfront should not be developed as an enclave of expensive condominiums with no access to the existing village and downtown. Rather, the development should be done to enhance and connect with the existing village and downtown. During the continued period of clean-up, the village's priority should be to address the access issues so that the property will be attractive to someone other than a residential developer.*
- *First, get rid of the old buildings. I am open to parks, two story condos (no higher), and some retail, but right now it seems we have an over capacity of retail, given that the prices of rents are too high for retailers to cover.*
- *loft spaces for rent and sale and parks and marina. no retail.*
- *Parks, green spaces and accessible waterfront should be top priority. Some commercial development also desirable (e.g., restaurants, shops). LOW RISE high-quality housing also would be good, including affordable housing for younger people and seniors. But density is a big issue.*

VILLAGE RESOURCES

7. How important is the following Village resource to you? Please rank the following with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least.							
	1-Very Important	2-Moderately Important	3-A Mild Concern	4-Not Very Important	5-Not at all Important	Rating Average	Response Count
View Corridors (Open views of the Palisades and Hudson River)	69.0% (267)	22.5% (87)	6.5% (25)	1.6% (6)	0.5% (2)	1.42	387
Waterfront Access	76.0% (294)	19.1% (74)	4.1% (16)	0.5% (2)	0.3% (1)	1.30	387
Open Space and Parks	74.7% (289)	17.6% (68)	5.4% (21)	1.6% (6)	0.8% (3)	1.36	387
Developing the Quarry as a Park	23.0% (89)	31.3% (121)	27.9% (108)	12.9% (50)	4.9% (19)	2.45	387
Community Gardens	23.0% (89)	23.3% (90)	29.7% (115)	16.0% (62)	8.0% (31)	2.63	387
Tree-lined Streets	53.2% (206)	30.7% (119)	10.6% (41)	4.1% (16)	1.3% (5)	1.70	387
Wildlife	30.0% (116)	25.1% (97)	27.1% (105)	10.1% (39)	7.8% (30)	2.41	387
Saw Mill River	23.3% (90)	25.6% (99)	28.9% (112)	15.0% (58)	7.2% (28)	2.57	387
Hudson River	75.5% (292)	18.9% (73)	4.4% (17)	1.0% (4)	0.3% (1)	1.32	387
Comments							77
answered question							387
skipped question							1

COMMENTS:

- *It is obvious that we need to preserve nature and access to it but I understand the need for economic growth or our taxes will push most residents out*
- *All the above are why we moved here in 1974*
- *Stop already with the open space obsession--some measure development is very reasonable.*

- *Have never heard of any community gardens in Hastings.*
- *It's why I've stayed here for 60+ years*
- *The trees take out powerlines. The deer take out cars and shrubs. Last I checked it was not safe to take out fish for consumption from the Hudson River.*
- *We already have more open space per resident than most other communities. It is extremely important that serious attention be given the health hazards presented by the exploding deer population*
- *I think the Village has enough green space and parks. We need more affordable housing and development to help lower our taxes.*
- *Would like wires and cables buried and village oversight of unsightly cables all over town*
- *Except for the waterfront, we are developed to the max. We should never have something like 45 Main Street approved again -- something out of scale that blocks the views of the Palisades.*
- *Junk trees should be thinned along the Hudson. Keep the good trees and responsibly manage the unwanted. You should be able to see the river framed beautifully by beautiful trees - the town is called Hastings on Hudson after all. Wildlife is a great concern. But thinning of the deer population should be made an absolute priority. I know too many people whose lives have terribly hurt my Lyme disease. Easy access to the Hudson River for kayakers and boaters should be a high priority. We don't take advantage of this most valuable asset.*
- *put in a program to reduce deer population*
- *Get rid of the deer!!!!!!!!*
- *I like the idea of a ball field in the Quarry. We don't need another garden / wildlife sanctuary / place of contemplation*
- *The Community Gardens look like a shanty town, are frequented by deer and thieves, and only make sense in New York City.*
- *Not sure how Saw Mill River is a resource - it's mostly a problem*

- *Something needs to be done about the over population of deer. I can remember when we did not have deer and homeowners properties looked attractive. With the deer eating everything why should homeowners keep replanting trees, shrubs and flowers!*
- *The Hudson River is a great resource. We should capitalize it.*
- *It is important for all of the local municipalities to share responsibility for taking care of the rivers. For example, there is serious flooding that routinely occurs in the Saw Mill. This needs to be addressed. There are invasive vines killing trees all over the area. This, too, needs to be addressed.*
- *There is a significant shortage of playing fields for youth and adult sports. I have indicated that open space and parks are very important since I assume that includes playing fields.*
- *unclear as to what is meant by community gardens...do you mean on private property or those plots set aside for people without private property*
- *We live in Hastings on Hudson so the views of the Hudson should be for everyone. I like the park down by the river. The Quarry could be a nice park. I don't use the community gardens, but I support them if others used them. I think the deer are a big problem. They are destroying gardens and greenery. I'm not sure what the options are with the Saw Mill. I like the bike path and heard a rumor we'd get a bridge over to it. I think that would be terrific*
- *View Corridors--That's a joke. If you really were concerned about viewing corridors, the community center and that monstrosity across from it would never have been approved. It is like riding into a tunnel when the view was so pretty as you came down from A&P and saw the Palisades in the distance. A little late now for the concern!*
- *All the things that make this village unique: so close to a major metropolis and yet quite bucolic. I fear overdevelopment and loss of open green spaces.*
- *Wildlife needs to be managed so that it is contributing to the environment, not destroying it the way deer are hurting the woods.*
- *Space for people and animals to be outside in a safe way, without excess noise and pollution is very important to me. I don't know anything*

about developing the quarry as a park. I answered b/c I had to on this survey in order to submit the survey.

- *Under wildlife, I'd support a mass extermination of deer by any method (short of thermonuclear) that provided even a small chance of working. The rest of our wildlife (birds, a random coyote, a few turkeys, and the regular raccoon, skunk, etc.) are all welcome and we should try to avoid in the deer slaughter. But the deer are a major pest -- ranging from the minor damage to trees, through the major damage to plantings and backyard crops, to the human health hazard they provide in lyme disease.*
- *I'm all for wildlife protection except for the deer which are a huge health menace and garden destroyer (and pathetic to look at as they are essentially starving before our eyes)*
- *I don't know the quarry.*
- *Wildlife except the deer*
- *The playing fields and infrastructure in this village are not adequate for our children.*
- *The Village does not value public views of the Hudson River and the Palisades enough. The Quarry is an excellent project and can and should be made into a beautiful naturalistic park, linked to the Hudson River waterfront by a pedestrian trailway, the Quarry Trail.*
- *Wish the Saw Mill were cleaner - you can't really use it. But that would require all upstream communities to clean up their act! As for the Hudson, I know technically one can swim in it, but I don't dare. If I did, I'd find it more important. Not sure what you mean by tree-lined streets - is there a threat to our trees? And: wildlife - do you mean deer and raccoons? or eagles and hawks?*
- *I don't know if I answered wildlife correctly. I am VERY distressed by the deer over-population.*
- *The Village has three things going for it: Location - proximity to the city Location - site on the Hudson River Positive attributes - high educational level of most of its citizens; excellent schools; small size; good library; a walkable downtown; a farmers market. None should be ignored.*

- *Deer are significant problem*
- *Wildlife--would support a responsible deer culling operation in Hillside Woods! Other small mammals & birds are disappearing as deer overeat vegetation, raid residents' gardens*
- *Of the items I didn't mark, and they are all really important, the open views of the Hudson is an important resource for Hastings, the Quarry park is yet another phase we shouldn't ignore. I feel the tree-lined streets and community gardens are important but luckily, we already enjoy a pretty green village which is why I love it here.*
- *The whole beauty of Hastings revolves around, not it's location relative to the city, but it's location relative to the 2 major rivers of the Saw Mill and Hudson. They are extremely beautiful.*
- ***PRESERVING VIEW IS ESSENTIAL. I MISS THE VIEWS WE'VE LOST WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN TOWN.***
- *There is such a thing as smart development which would wed economic sustainability with protecting the natural beauty and historic landmarks of Hastings.*
- *Restore the Sawmill parkway landscaping. Access to river has been desired and ignored for 50 years.*
- *Something has to be done about flooding and the saw mill.*
- *Please leave Hillside Woods the way it is now, natural. Don't put in bike paths or paved trails or do too much to its natural state. What happened to the vernal pond this year? Is it a drought or some diversion of its water?*
- *It would be great if Hastings had a dock for ferry service.*
- *Less deer.*
- *Can something be done about the vines that seem to choke the trees all over the rivertown area? They're unsightly at best and ultimately not beneficial for the trees.*
- *A diverse economic community? - very important*

- *Hastings' beauty rests on its site on the Hudson.*
- *This is why we live here and pay taxes.*
- *Get rid of all the deer--kill 'em. Streets now have enough trees. Keep the Saw Mill River flowing! A quarry park would be nice but not essential since we have Draper Park.*
- *We should try to preserve as much open space as possible.*
- *The Quarry must preserve the current plentiful wildflowers within it. This is easily done and I would volunteer to coordinate this important effort. If the town is truly interested in going green, this is an action that speaks louder than word.*
- *Get into the real world, and you'll get over your spoiled environmentalism.*
- *Wildlife? If you mean birds, then yes, very important. Deer, they need to go.*
- **#1 MOST IMPORTANT: AN OFFICIAL DOG PARK!**
- *I loved seeing wildlife here until the deer began destroying my garden. I think we should do something about cutting back on the deer population.*
- *The village needs to stop creating new and larger buildings, such as on main st. just to accommodate a select view.*
- *We take for granted the beauty of this village until the view is taken away. The too tall residential development on Main St for example.*
- *As a community, we all want to see all the items listed above, but we seem to miss the actual thought about the maintenance and financial obligation necessary to provide this.*
- *A large waterfront park away from a current residential zone would allow for outdoor concerts and larger scale events. A movie theater, indoor pool, coffeehouse. To sustain these we would need customers from Rivertowns and region.*
- *Very important - the ability for residents to walk to school, town, within the town, etc., safely. The only place I find traffic to be an issue is*

around the MS/HS at drop off and pickup times. Safety becomes a concern then, too.

- *I don't, however, believe that the importance I put on these environmental factors means that no development should take place.*
- *The first one on the list makes me want to cry---those new apartments on Main have destroyed that lovely expanse of river I enjoyed so much on my walks to town with my girls. They are sad too and noticed all on their own that the skyline has been ruined.*
- *this village needs to deal with the deer issue- they are no longer wild life- they are a great big pest! Dirty, hungry and, dangerous to themselves and the community in this swelling number.*
- *Deer problem makes gardening challenging*
- *We're a Hudson River town. It is ridiculous that we're not making the most of that resource.*
- *While I value wildlife a great deal, the deer problem in our town is out of control. Decisions need to be made - and quickly - on how to cull the population before property owners will be required to raise 9 foot fences around their land to prevent them from destroying all vegetation. Our landscapes not only add to the beauty of our town, but serves to help the environment as well. As an avid gardener, I have been very discouraged over the past 2 years because the deer are growing quickly in number and they eat practically every plant on my property even those they are not supposed to like) and it is costing me too much money and time to replace vegetation that the deer destroy. If the population is not controlled soon, we will be living in a concrete jungle in no time.*
- *Deer are a concern because they are destroying gardens in the area and the understory of the woodlands.*
- *Love the wildlife, but the growing deer population is a concern.*
- *The Hudson River is a major but inaccessible feature of the village. Needless to say it is also an eyesore.*

- *if by wildlife any reduction of deer is needed in order to sustain other wildlife and wooded areas so killing deer yes others in moderation and balance yes protect*
- *every effort should be made to preserve the natural beauty of our surroundings*
- *Open space is fine. The community gardens are a supreme eye sore. Eliminate the deer plague.*
- *Re Wildlife, my rating pertains particularly to birds. Deer represent a HUGE PROBLEM, both to health and to the environment. SERIOUS ACTION must be taken to curtail the deer population - this not just a Hastings problem - it is a regional crisis!*
- *I like tree-lined streets, but not blackouts! We need to actively manage the growth of trees near power lines.*

STATEMENTS: TAXES, ENVIRONMENT, SCHOOLS, PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, PARKS AND RECREATION

8. How much do you agree with the following statements about Village 'issues'?							
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Rating Average	Response Count
The property taxes in Hastings are too high	53.7% (205)	24.9% (95)	16.8% (64)	3.7% (14)	1.0% (4)	1.74	382
The Village needs to address environmental issues (Energy Use, Sustainability, Carbon Footprint)	37.4% (144)	36.4% (140)	17.4% (67)	4.9% (19)	3.9% (15)	2.02	385
The Village needs to maintain excellent public schools	73.5% (280)	22.6% (86)	3.4% (13)	0.3% (1)	0.3% (1)	1.31	381
The Village should improve pedestrian safety (sidewalks and crosswalks)	54.5% (208)	30.4% (116)	11.5% (44)	2.6% (10)	1.0% (4)	1.65	382
Parks and recreation facilities need to be improved	33.1% (125)	33.6% (127)	26.5% (100)	6.1% (23)	0.8% (3)	2.08	378
Comments							86
answered question							386
skipped question							2

COMMENTS:

- *Parks are not as well maintained as other rivertown communities.*
- *school merger with neighboring villages should be considered*
- *I really don't get the pedestrian safety issue. People are looking to fix something that's not really broken. It's hard to argue against because there is always the possibility of an accident or tragedy on the roads. But throwing money (that we don't have) on an unspecified solution is non-sensicle*
- *State and federal government should lead the way for environmental issues.*
- *I understand that services like good schools, parks, etc. require substantial revenue. So given that I feel taxes are somewhat too high, I think fixing this should be a matter of state government giving more*

school aid (or tax rebates), and second a mindset among public officials that while we want good services, there must be a vigilance about wise use of tax dollars.

- *SIDEWALKS!!! Please!! farragut ave curve is dangerous!!! as traffic cuts off from pkwy southbound*
- *#1; Can you say School Taxes??*
- *The school tax is too high. 40 million to educate about 12-1500 students. As for the village tax its fine. My garbage is picked up and the cops could not be any more responsive.*
- *School taxes are too high.*
- *We pay the highest school taxes in NY State. This should definitely be addressed.*
- *For the past 2 yrs, Main Street has been horrible for pedestrian safety. This is mostly due to the new loft development. I have been horrified at the lack of pedestrian access and the disregard for our safety.*
- *The sidewalk on Broadway needs to be completely replaced.*
- *The village needs to improve the public schools so it is as good as Ardsley and Irvington, but not raise the property taxes. If I had a way to do that I would include it in this message.*
- *while taxes are very high in some cases, revaluation to levels current huge inequities would be helpful but politically tough*
- *The issues with property taxes are (I) fairness (like homes should be treated alike) and (ii) relief should be available for elderly. But the real way, the MOST IMPORTANT WAY to reduce the burden of the property tax on most families is to encourage development of retail and commercial uses.*
- *I think majority of the parks are being upkept nicely with the exception of people walking their dogs and not picking up after them*
- *I don't believe taxes are too high if you get something in return for what you are paying. Village should provide residents with new recyclable bins (color coded?) to help reinforce their recycling mandate. Sidewalks are atrocious in general and improved crosswalks are required - even*

the intersection of Main / Warburton is tricky when there is no traffic warden.

- *I believe the town has addressed environmental issues, at least in its own buildings. Pedestrian safety is hugely important, as are excellent schools.*
- *This Comprehensive Plan should not have required any money or should have been supported exclusively by grants; our 6% tax increase this year is a crime and a sign that our elected officials have let their constituents down. Regarding the improvements needed for the parks and rec facilities, I need to clarify that the new building is not what I am referring to -- the wood chips at MacEachron park for example are littered with broken glass and the grass there either has cigarette butts or geese poop all over it. Signs should be placed at all cross walks to inform drivers that they **MUST** stop when people are in the cross walks -- no one does this, not even if you are pushing a baby in a stroller -- curb cuts are missing in places, and there is no way to cross conveniently at Warburton and No. Broadway and there is no side walk on the east side; No. Broadway should be reduced to two lanes to prevent the speeding that takes place on it, trucks should not be permitted on it except during working hours 9 or 8 AM to 5 PM and should be precluded from braking using air braking. A point in note -- the Village and this group has no jurisdiction or control over the School, its quality, or its budget. The Village should address basic environmental issues, but not the lofty ones set forth in the parenthetical and that the current board seems to be focusing its attention on -- for example, the Village should not let water pool around the leaf pile, the Village should avoid paving any more than it absolutely necessary, the Village should get rid of lights on side residential streets, and the Village should ensure that the thermostat controls the temperature properly in all buildings -- so that, for example, we are not opening windows in the Village Hall in the dead of winter -- Energy Star has no value since this is probably the single biggest reason the Village energy bill is so high but the building passed Energy Star with flying colors.*
- *Not enough ball fields. Taxes are way too high! Riverfront needs to be developed in next few years.*
- *I think environmental issues are important, but question whether the Village should be taking it on, rather than just responsibly addressing environmental concerns as they come up in the course of dealing with other issues*

- *Pedestrian safety really needs to be addressed. There are few sidewalks, and cars drive way too fast. It's dangerous for everyone. There aren't even sidewalks along Chauncey Lane by the playground and field, so mothers with strollers have to go around cars into the street.*
- *The School needs to get their costs in line. The school taxes in Hastings are just to dam high!*
- *Sidewalks and crosswalks are great but who will clean the snow and keep hedges trimmed. Some of the ones we have now can only be walked single file because of homeowners hedges - also current ones are not always level due to tree roots - remember the homeowner pays for insurance due to injuries on their sidewalk. The snow removal is not enforced in the winter so many sidewalks are not useable.*
- *Improvements to infrastructure can be made by encouraging commercial business (non-retail) to choose Hastings as an alternative to NYC. Businesses and professions that do not rely on high traffic seem ideal- tech and computer businesses, corporate headquarters for companies who don't need to be in NYC (ie. like Eileen Fisher in Irvington), professionals. By promoting easy train access and a less stressful environment than NYC or Yonkers, these types of businesses would increase tax revenues - thereby creating opportunities for improvements and reducing resident tax burdens.*
- *We simply need to increase the tax base.*
- *The Village needs to play a leadership role in ensuring that going forward - all building development or improvement of public buildings employ sustainable materials wherever possible. When addressing pedestrian safety, the village needs to look at the entire village, not just a few square blocks identified in a grant. Many areas of the village are very dangerous for pedestrian, such as by Amjos and walking along Broadway. The way to address the issue of taxes is to find suitable locations for commercial development such as green industry and knowledge based industries.*
- *The sidewalks are very poor on Maple Avenue. The older residents are forced to walk in the street.*
- *We will never relieve the traffic issues until we address pedestrian safety*

- *Our commitment to education will go a long way to supporting other positive efforts in the village.*
- *With all the eco minded committees in Hastings, I would like the new mercury laden light bulb to be addressed. If the new bulb is broken, then the mercury is out in the air. If one breaks, you are to leave the area. This is progress? Here is one such web site--
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7431198>
There are 2 views on Global Warming. One view is that people are responsible. The other is that the earth has gone through changes over its billions of years and this is yet another. Yes, we should recycle and do our best but the earth will be here long after we are gone. To follow a man, such as Al Gore and his hysteria, like a prophet is ridiculous. There are 2 sides to every issue. Comically, Al Gore lives in a house that uses more electricity that some use in a month or more but that is okay because HE BUYS CARBON FOOTPRINTS (WHATEVER THAT IS) but he has a company that sells carbon footprints so he becomes wealthier and wealthier and so many people follow his ideas like a robot but, again, there is much research on the other side that, we humans are not causing this climate change. Al would like us to think so because he is becoming richer and richer. So again, 2 sides and the town I live in should reuse, recycle, etc. but sustainable this and climate action that should present BOTH SIDES, not just ONE SIDE. Too much already.*
- *The schools have a great deal of room for improvement, taxes are out of control and the village hasn't made any progress nor moved expeditiously to reduce energy use, carbon footprint, etc.*
- *I don't necessarily like property taxes, but if we want high quality schools and a clean environment, that costs money. Hopefully, the money is not wasted.*
- *Sidewalks are particularly important where children walk to school. I'd even give up a few trees to keep the kids safely off the road.*
- *I should say that the school taxes are too high.*
- *Broadway wouth of Olinda is usafe for pedestrians. People in this part of town need to be a top priority when we talk about Hastings becoming a walkable community. We really need traffic calming devices put in place. This has been a topic of concern for decades and nothing ever happens.*

- *As for schools: my version of excellent would not include test scores! But a district that promotes inquiry-based education. This is something that money can't buy - it's a qualitative time-based issue.*
- *Regionalization of civic functions is the best way to reduce the tax burden--including schools.*
- *Last question vague. Does it imply Village does not maintain public school or it should continue to maintain public schools? I think Hastings schools are already excellent.*
- *Thin film organic solar cells must be used as much as possible. Eventual tax rebates for this needed. Press US, NYS to push for this.*
- *Needs to maintain excellent public schools, but not at annual tax increase cost of 3x the inflation rate while serving a flat / no growth student population.*
- *I agree that the schools and parks must be maintained to the highest standards, however I do not think that means implementing high cost capital projects, and the Villages input on energy conservation while admirable I all reality will have little impact.*
- *Tax issues stem from school tax, not village tax. HOWEVER, don't cut education spending. Generate income from business to keep future increases in check.*
- *Would like a sidewalk on Fairlane Drive so that this roadway can remain open at all times, keep Quad. 2 traffic away from stop light at Farragut schools, give an exit from Hastings via Ravensdale*
- *School Taxes need to be adjusted downward for seniors to continue to live here*
- *Because there are no solar panels, e.g., on the new Community Center building, I wonder if enough respect was paid to energy issues on new construction.*
- *Sidewalk on Broadway is essential as is consideration for access to the wonderful resource which is the North County Trail way. A sidewalk along Farragut Pkwy and pedestrian walk across the Saw Mill to the trail is a possibility. Also a stairway down to the trail from the Ravensdale bridge is another. There's already an embankment there to support it.*

- *Village should definitely improve pedestrian safety, as that encourages people walking and biking. Environmental issues are also important. Maybe if planning was done more wisely, our money would be spent in more prudent ways. Is it true that the school overpass (going to the lunch room) was built and that they then had to dig under it because it was too low for trucks to get through? Things like that are ridiculous.*
- *This town should have sidewalks on all major approaches to and from the schools. It is obscene that our children walk in busy streets like Rosedale Avenue on their way to school. Sooner or later a child will be injured by a car, it is almost a certainty.*
- *I don't know what you mean by the last question?*
- *Obviously, all the above priorities require investments, but smart development means finding cost savings and finding sustainable mechanisms for ensuring a vibrant local economy.*
- *Our taxes are outrageous, particularly considering what we get. The school taxes particularly are a bleed on the community. Whatever happened to the move to join high schools with other river towns?*
- *Broadway is a disaster waiting to happen.*
- *I hate the idea of a roundabout at the five corners. I think it would be a disaster and cost a lot of money. I don't think it would improve pedestrian safety at all. We have already spent too much on a parking lot and a new community center.*
- *The village needs to improve EXISTING sidewalks and traffic stops rather than bringing in new and disruptive traffic calming projects.*
- *Walkability is a huge issue for me. I walk to the train station most days, but we live close to the aqueduct. I think sidewalks and rational traffic patterns for cars, bikes and pedestrians would help 'greening' the village as well as allow more foot traffic in the village without increasing auto traffic. Regarding property taxes, HoH schools are one of the main reasons we moved here. However, I do think Westchester's property tax calculations are crazy. Small villages should also consider consolidating services or vendors where efficiencies can be gained without loss of service.*
- *The village does not have excellent schools*

- *You have not distinguished between school and town taxes - you will find that folks think that town taxes are ok, but school is way high; at the same time they want the good schools.*
- *I know my answers conflict with each other.*
- *Excellent schools? That's where things get cloudy because sometimes excellent means we have to spend a lot of money on putting computers in our music classrooms or buying a new curriculum. Excellent teachers (well-trained and continuously learning to be better professionals) make excellent schools.*
- *Hastings is a pretty village, but you cannot walk here. It is accessible ONLY to / by automobile*
- *Pedestrian safety does not need improving except for the addition of a sidewalk along Broadway--which should be built on the Burke Estate and if necessary on existing property through use of eminent domain. Keep Broadway a two-lane (in each direction) road. Elsewhere in the village, use speed bumps and speed tables to reduce speeding if that is an issue. SCHOOL TAXES ARE OUTRAGEOUSLY HIGH AND NEED REDUCTION; VILLAGE TAXES HAVE BEEN AND ARE REASONABLE. REDUCE THE SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAM--TOO MANY VARSITY TEAMS. BUILDING THE BURKE ESTATE BALL FIELD WAS A MISTAKE. LET SCHOOL QUALITY DECLINE IF NECESSARY, BUT CUT SCHOOL TAXES. Parks and rec facilities need to be maintained, not improved. We are sufficiently environmentally sensitive and responsible; no more government regulation is needed.*
- *Schools are good, however they are too small, hence inefficient, thus the high taxes. (Since the school tax represents the major portion of our taxes.) Administrators in Westchester are overpaid for the amount of students / infrastructure they supervise. Merging school districts would be more economical, but it's a dead issue, since the locals will never agree.*
- *With so many children walking to school (all 4th+ graders) - we NEED to have better sidewalks for safer routes for our children.*
- *New traffic signs should be installed at strategic traffic areas where pets have been killed by cars. The signs should warn drivers to slow down and watch for animal crossings.*

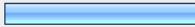
- *You lefties, uneducated as you are, need to find better work.*
- *Many of the residents of the Village do not understand where our tax dollars are going. Having doubled in the last few years, Village taxes are exceedingly high and yet roads, sidewalks and parks are in disrepair. Road sides are unkempt and the schools have lost and not regained their blue ribbon standing. **WE HAVE THE TAX REVENUES, FIX THE PROBLEM!***
- *Schools are important, but the insane taxes will drive away our seniors, single people, and older families.*
- *the village needs to maintain the infrastructure that already exists in Hastings!*
- *We need to think about quality of life. Who are we. What do we want to be and how do we get there.*
- *Taxes, this can be debated and beat to a pulp, but for reasons unknown it is a situation that needs to be solved. School taxes are astronomical. There need to be limitations on how a school should survive. It is amazing how there are few limitations on school spending. Discussions on using what is readily available instead of what is really needed should be a priority. If we are to cut back on the town's spending, then we shouldn't be raising taxes in order to provide the schools with things it might need. Our other issue is the people in poverty. It is a blind eye to many people who are financially sound in our town. We raise monies for those who are deemed in need outside our town, country, world, but sometimes we don't see what's right in front of us. Having the ability to provide open discussion is good; we need to realize that we can discuss these issues fairly. But we also need to realize that if nothing even gets done, what good is a discussion. Lastly, having committees that provide ideas is a positive step; these provide insight, positive thought and recognition on how we can improve our town. But then we take a step further by hiring consultants who give us their ideas, which 7 times out of 10 is opposite of what the committee has already suggested and we've spent the 1st of tens of thousands of tax payer dollars on the beginning of a million dollar proposed project.*
- *Recreation facilities are ok-- underutilized. Recreation dept. has just started some good new offerings but they should make sure that every kid and interested adult has exercise opportunities that fit his / her*

lifestyle, not only in teams, and not only one or two times a week. Also, facilities like TV studio are underutilized.

- *The Village needs to lobby the county and state for much stricter environmental building codes. These would include mandatory triple-pane windows in all new construction, solar panels on all new south-facing roofs, high R-factor insulation in all new walls, and environmentally safe materials.*
- *The baseball fields are in poor condition. I've seen some injuries due to bad hops on choppy field surfaces.*
- *To get from Whitman St. to Warburton Ave. or Main St. is all down hill with nothing to hold on to...especially difficult in winter.*
- *The Village needs to create excellent schools---then it should maintain them.*
- *I don't think that we produce all that much carbon energy use as a small village. I think that we should concentrate on expanding our tax base (especially at the waterfront and in the downtown area) in order to allow us to support affordable housing and reducing our property tax crisis.*
- *the parks are not safe places to play- cats pee in Reynolds all the time, and we just rake the sand over...goose poop covers the water front park- kids fall down and get a mouth full of dirt and poop!*
- *There should be a continuous sidewalk along Broadway. It is crazy that you need to cross the street several times in order to remain on a safe sidewalk. The town should be accessible by foot in a safe way. We have tons of kids here.*
- *We need an ordinance requiring paper bags (or forbidding plastic bags) in the shops. The school taxes are too high given the conservative product that is the Hastings school system. It is kind of staggering that with the imagination in this town, the school system is an old-fashioned, directed education model that is closed to the community and seems much more concerned with fear and safety than being exciting, welcoming, and creative. This is a disconnect that must be addressed. If the schools were exciting, the high taxes might be justified.*

- *Maintaining excellent schools assumes that they are presently excellent which they are not.*
- *It would be great to have a sidewalk on old Broadway, so we could walk to town and to the Aqueduct trail with a stroller.*
- *I had two kids go through the schools and they were WAY over rated. Lots of new and lots of very ordinary instructors.*
- *updated skate park would be great*
- *I have never felt that we lack park and recreation facilities in this village and feel that the current Rec staff does an excellent job of bringing affordable programs to a wide sector of the village's population.*
- *Theses statements are too vague and /or too broad to be thoughtfully evaluated. Eg, in my opinion: carbon footprint is nonsense, but sustainability is important. School taxes are too high, but Town and Village taxes are not. ETC, etc. Issues need to be stated with more specificity.*

RETIREMENT IN HASTINGS

9. Do you plan to remain in Hastings when you retire?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	65.6%	254
No 	34.4%	133
	Comments	159
answered question		387
skipped question		1

COMMENTS:

- *paying high taxes with no children in school does not make sense*
- *Depends on property taxes, but then again I'm quite young.*
- *don't plan to retire -- have started second careers*
- *If I can afford to*
- *Maybe actually. But not in my house...taxes.*
- *Though at the rate the taxes are increasing Hastings will be derelict because retirees won't be able to afford to live in Hastings (unless there are opt-out provisions) and younger couples won't be able to afford the taxes.*
- *Would like to, but not if present trends continue.*
- *I hope that I can afford it. If the area's beauty is not destroyed by over development and I can afford, then I will stay*
- *I have lived here and attended school here my whole life.*
- *Yes, for a short time.*
- *It's possible, but really I don't know (I'm only 46 now); that's too far in the future.*

- *depends on a lot of things*
- *It would be nice however a long time resident used to be 50 years here. Now its around 7 years.*
- *If I can afford it.*
- *If I can afford the taxes I will remain, if not, I'll have to think about moving. Hastings is my home and my families. I don't think I should have to be forced out of my home. My family and friends are here.*
- *Yes; but am not sure as it is 40+ years away.*
- *Not sure. Not sure I can afford to. Never want to vote against a school budget just because I can't afford the taxes, so I'll have to see.*
- *plan to retire in 5 yrs - hope we can afford to live in our home, if not, we will move out of Hastings*
- *I said yes but answer is I don't know. I know the taxes on my house are not affordable as a retiree but am not sure yet of options*
- *Unless the taxes drive me out!*
- *Too early to say for sure, but likely.*
- *Maybe. Don't know. Its a long way off.*
- *Depending upon the taxes and my income.*
- *I would like to -- but don't think it will be economically reasonable to pay those taxes without a kid in school.*
- *Taxes will probably be too high but I'd love to.*
- *I doubt I will be able to carry the kind of property taxes we now have, once I retire, so only if that is addressed could we could stay here.*
- *But don't know if I can afford to.*
- *If we can afford it - Taxes too high without business development*
- *If I can afford it*

- *If I can afford to.*
- *Can't answer yet... Have lived here less than a year and I'm only 36.*
- *Too far in future to be certain; much depends on personal economics and preferences, as well as affordability of living here in the future.*
- *I plan to retire in a year or so and move to Massachusetts. I will not be able to afford the taxes here after I retire.*
- *Much as I'd love to, it will be impossible to afford the property taxes without full salary.*
- *cannot afford it*
- *Who could afford to?*
- *Possibly, I don't plan to go far.*
- *dunno, it's a bit far off for me.*
- *But since my kids are out of school, I really am tired of paying the enormous school taxes to a school with a one sided version of American History. We have two parties in this country and only one party's side is taught in the Hastings on Hudson School district. One of my children went to a private school for high school because we had had enough.*
- *Assuming the school taxes stay at an affordable level. They are too high as it is.*
- *As much as we'd like to, taxes make it unaffordable. I don't know how seniors in Hastings do it now!*
- *We'd love to stay in Hastings after our second child graduates from high school but with the increasing tax burden, we don't think we will have any choice but to sell our home and move.*
- *Maybe, it's too expensive to live in a house when there are only two people. Plus, the taxes are high. I have two small children and retirement is a long way away.*
- *Not only plan to, but have remained now that we are retired and have no plans to leave.*

- *if we can afford it*
- *in the rivertown area*
- *We would like to stay here but we don't think we will be able to afford to do so, in large part because of the high taxes.*
- *If it is affordable.*
- *I might consider staying in Hastings but right now other than the schools there is nothing to keep me hear.*
- *Taxes would be too high*
- *Taxes are way too high.*
- *That's a long way off, though!*
- *Which is qualified with; only if I can afford to, and that is a big if.*
- *No idea if I could afford to stay.*
- *I have no idea, but you won't accept the survey unless I choose. I chose no so I wouldn't have to answer the next question, since I'm not thinking of retirement right now.*
- *Taxes are too high. If they were cheaper I would stay.*
- *At least, we hope so! But not too likely, as we will need elder facilities at reasonable cost.*
- *We're long since retired, and plan to remain*
- *And I intend on working to help build new community based models to be sure that I can.*
- *Maybe -- depends on what we're doing in our retirement. It's hard to imagine how Hastings remains affordable for retirees if it also has to continue having a strong school district and is within a 30 minute commute to NYC. That's bound to continue to drive housing prices (and property taxes) up, giving retirees less an incentive to stay or more incentive to move.*
- *Not sure if I can afford to stay. I would like to stay.*

- *Undecided actually*
- *High taxes may make it impossible for us to remain in Hastings.*
- *Currently too expensive.*
- *We live in an modest duplex apartment and while adequate for two when we are working, would be a bit cramped when we stop. Would need more room. Larger apartments would be too expensive in Hastings for us. Hence, the probability is high that we would move.*
- *This is my home village; I hope to stay always.*
- *The taxes are way too high*
- *If the taxes don't force me to move.*
- *If we can afford it!!!*
- *Can't afford the taxes. wish I could stay*
- *I am retired and so is my wife*
- *I am retired...don't know if I will stay forever.*
- *Don't know - but I wasn't given that response choice above.*
- *if there isn't any new development.*
- *The consensus for my wife and myself is yes, but that's only a best guess as no one can predict the future.*
- *I cannot afford to stay here.....I would love to but the taxes are too high. They have almost tripled since I moved here 13 yrs ago*
- *Where is the maybe? I don't know. We may want to move to warmer climates, and if we stay we would definitely need a more economical living situation as our taxes are a significant expense. Our schools are great though, best in the area, our kids graduate as thinking, creative individuals, which is important, so we pay the taxes ...*
- *Probably not but difficult to say with certainty.*

- *I just retired and will stay here for a while but may leave in five to ten years.*
- *It's a great walkable community.*
- *maybe - if we can afford the taxes*
- *although not definite*
- *I have 30 years until I retire. Too far away to know.*
- *Too far in the future to answer, but people generally don't stay in a place as long as they used to.*
- *too far away to consider*
- *maybe*
- *I want to go back where I'm from; but Hastings will probably be too expensive anyway.*
- *Not sure right now.*
- *not sure - it will depend on taxes and our financial situation at that time*
- *Not sure as it is so expensive but would like to....but, I do not foresee that as a possibility*
- *I plan to leave Hastings as soon as I can afford to not live w / my mother*
- *If we can afford to.*
- *If it is affordable.*
- *But we may move to somewhere cheaper, who knows. You should put an I don't know button there.*
- *Don't know yet. Our children just entered Hillside*
- *I am retired*
- *If I can afford it. If I can drive. If, if, if*

- *Desire is there. Will do my best to start an aging in place program. Economics might dictate a move to another area.*
- *not enough recreational / cultural options for young seniors*
- *Potentially, if suitable apartment available close to downtown.*
- *It is too unfriendly to walkers*
- *Yes, but not if school taxes keep increasing.*
- *Your use of forced choice questions invalidates your survey. Don't they teach you that in school? Too bad.*
- *I'm not sure if we will keep the house, but we may stay in the area.*
- *I'd like to but I can't see how I can afford it.*
- *I imagine I will return to my native California long before then.*
- *Possibly*
- *I really don't know. Retirement is too far in the future.*
- *I probably will not be able to afford it at that time.*
- *Ha ha. Clearly the town does not want retirees living here. The tax creep prevents fixed income life. So many empty nester move out immediately, it's a shame.*
- *Probably, but we might be priced out by property taxes by then, and without kids in the schools, it might not be worth it.*
- *But only if I can afford it. If taxes rise any further, I may not last that long.*
- *We would like to, however, the taxes will most likely make us move to a more affordable town.*
- *I would love to, but I am afraid I wouldn't ever be able to afford the taxes, sad but true*

- *We would like to remain in Hastings, but if the taxes continually go up especially when the kids are about to go to college then we will not be able to afford so. Property and school taxes should be handled with a certain amount of discretion, fairness and concern. How to approach this is important to everyone.*
- *I did plan to, but have been frustrated at the slow rate of improvement here. After many years, I love the people and values of our community but the resentment I've heard aimed at people who were trying to contribute energy and quality turns me off. Downtown doesn't feel like a village, just a road. No reason to just walk into the village.*
- *not certain. taxes are way too steep*
- *In answered YES because I was forced to respond to this question. I actually don't know if we'll stay. My husband wishes to remain, but I'm dubious that we'll be able to afford it.*
- *we don't know - it depends on how vibrant the downtown and waterfront becomes....*
- *Probably not, but who knows. It's not the city. It's not the country, and it's expensive to live here. But we have many friends and involvement in a lot some community activities so it will be hard to pull away.*
- *I can afford to raise my children here but cannot afford to retire on a fixed income here. Taxes are a runaway problem.*
- *I am retired and want to stay as long as possible. Thanks to Jenny Murphy and committees such as yours, it's just getting better and better.*
- *Not unless property taxes drop or there is a huge rebate available to us. It will be too expensive. We'd like to remain, but it's too costly.*
- *not with the total lack of services and facilities on top of the high taxes-who can afford to?*
- *I hope to stay as long as I can afford to stay.*
- *Taxes too expensive*
- *That answer could change.*

- *I would like to but may not be able to if the school and property taxes continue to rise at current rates.*
- *I would LOVE to think the answer to this question is yes, but property taxes are so high that we will likely need to sell our home to pay for college tuitions. Living here on a fixed income after retirement is likely not an option unless the housing picture changes significantly.*
- *I am retired here.*
- *The taxes are way too high to consider staying once the children graduate from High School unless something changes. But for that, I would absolutely stay here. The only issue is money / taxes.*
- *It's too expensive to live here on a fixed income.*
- *Have not made any plans yet.*
- *Can't afford to keep paying the school tax.*
- *Currently we can only afford the taxes and mortgage when we both work. If we can stay here depends if we can afford it. We do not have children.*
- *Ability to pay taxes notwithstanding*
- *I doubt that I will be able to afford my property taxes on a fixed income and after putting 3 children through college.*
- *cant afford it*
- *Absolutely!*
- *Uncertain - but had to answer yes or no*

LIVING SITUATION ONCE RETIRED

10. If you answered yes to the previous question, how do you picture your living situation once retired in the Village?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
I would like to remain in my current residence. 	73.3%	189
I would like to move to a smaller residence, perhaps an apartment or condominium. 	21.7%	56
I would like to live in an adult independent community with some services provided by a staff. 	4.3%	11
I would like to live in an adult assisted living facility with most services provided by a staff. 	0.8%	2
Comments		37
answered question		258
skipped question		130

COMMENTS:

- *I would like to have the resources to move sequentially from a private home to an adult community / assisted care facility if and when the need requires.*
- *If I am living in Hastings when I retire, I would prefer to live in a single family home but perhaps one on a quieter street.*
- *I would like to see an adult independent community built in Hastings perhaps for use by myself and other residents of the Village.*
- *What adult communities are there here? If they are not here now, is it really the Village's charter to plan for them. This is far, far afield from what the Village should be focusing on.*
- *I think an affordable community would be a wonderful thing for our community. So many places across the country are trying out different solutions. But we need it to be someplace affordable.*

- *not sure ...different ages require different needs initially an apt...later on assisted living with some services*
- *Retired person should not have to move from Hastings due to the high taxes. New residents move in and demand things of the school and then they are passed. When their children graduate then they leave Hastings with the cost of their desires. They really have no allegiance to Hastings. People that have lived in Hastings their entire lives should not be forced out due to the rising costs.*
- *First choice is my current residence but worse case I would use any of the other choices.*
- *Only can do if you stop raising taxes to accommodate a school with a one sided education. Enough! Another thing about the school is that you would never know a holiday exists in this town, be it Christmas, Hanukkah, Passover, Easter etc. We are a country founded on Judeo-Christian principles and we should be proud of our country and the values upon which it was founded.*
- *Where ever I move, it will be a smaller residence.*
- *Really lousy question since I could answer yes to all four options depending on time frame (pretty much in order of presentation as I get older). Also it may be that many people would expect a need to choose third and fourth, even if they weren't to like to live in those options.*
- *Don't know yet. Depends on our health. Having a serious of step-up options would be good.*
- *Great idea, especially if it is somehow subsidized.*
- *Our house has too many steps (we are 81.5 and 82.5 yrs old).*
- *The reality is that as one ages, and moves into stages of greater and greater frailty, the choice you present in this question are not choices, but rather necessary steps in a continuum. We ALL will progress from our own homes, to an easier to maintain condo /apartment, to adult independence with some services, to assisted living, and eventually more skilled care living. It's a progression that we MUST accommodate for, each stage, not a choice or preference as this question presents it.*
- *For as long as I can. I am in a coop apartment.*

- *I'm on the list at Kendal, think in 10 years I may be ready. No need for Hastings to get involved with add'l adult residence facilities*
- *This would be my preference I already live in an apartment, like so many homeowners around here, the question ignores the fact that many of us do not live in detached houses. We don't exist to the rest of you. I will refrain from responding as I would like to that assumption.*
- *Haven't thought this far yet. Too busy working :-)*
- *too far away to consider*
- *There is more than one answer to this question. If we stayed, we would want to live in our house then perhaps move into an assisted living facility. I definitely would not like to see an adult living community in Hastings, Now or twenty years from now.*
- *Would step down to smaller residence at some point or adult independent community*
- *Remain in own residence with Beacon Hill Village services....*
- *I already live in a small apartment - I would like to live in a similar apartment, but with quieter surroundings, and fewer stairs.*
- *Co-Housing*
- *Having a yard and being able to step out into it is one of the main reasons I moved to*
- *Hastings from New York City.*
- *Why should I be forced from my home by taxes? Reduce taxes now!*
- *I realize it is difficult to remain in my current residence and I have thought of moving to a smaller Hastings residence, perhaps with the help of an aide when I need one.*
- *at different stages of my retirement, I would want different things.*
- *I'd like to have all the above options.*
- *As the years go by, I would like the possibility of living in an adult independent community w / some services*

- *Will probably be difficult to do in over 23 years from now. Our taxes are already extremely high. Don't know how people on a fixed income could afford them.*
- *however if I needed staff assistance then I would like assisted living facilities*

COMMUTER PARKING

11. Would you be willing to pay more for downtown and commuter parking if it made it easier to find a spot?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	43.6%	168
No 	56.4%	217
	Comments	82
	answered question	385
	skipped question	3

COMMENTS:

- *Raising rates for downtown parking is not the answer.*
- *I walk everywhere but on the occasion that I drive downtown I would pay more*
- *It depends on how much more I would have to pay.*
- *but I am concerned that higher parking fees will hurt downtown businesses.*
- *Try building a multi level parking structure in the Zinsser Lot. The bridge has four lanes (two are used for parking) which would make easy access into the structure.*
- *Don't see how that would help. Don't want to hurt the downtown more than it is already hurting by raising the price of the meters. Maybe charging more for the spots at the commuter lot -- a little more each year -- not one large increase.*
- *I'd walk instead*
- *I don't park; I walk to town and to the train. But I would support added parking if it encouraged downtown business.*
- *Parking is a bargain as it is, but how much is 'more'.*

- *I walk to the train and down town, so this question is not really applicable to me.*
- *I don't drive to the train; the reason I bought in Hastings was so I could live in a nice house, yet be able to walk to the train. And people will not pay more for commuter parking, unless you prevent them from parking in front of my house.*
- *I park very early so finding a spot is never an issue*
- *I don't have any real parking problems now.*
- *I live within walking distance to town*
- *This really doesn't apply to me - I don't use the commuter lot and walk when I can into the village.*
- *This is a difficult question. You forced me to reply to it and my reply is false. It should be separated into two parts. I dislike completely the current parking arrangement for shopping downtown. It should be improved. We should not have to pay every time we stop. It is a separate issue from the commuter parking. I would pay more for an easier spot for commuter parking.*
- *I walk to the train.*
- *I never have problems finding a spot.*
- *I don't own a car and rarely park down town.*
- *I pay enough taxes and should not have to pay more for parking. That is ridiculous. My enormous taxes should cover it.*
- *we don't need more parking - we need to encourage people to use alternative means to get around the village!*
- *I can't imagine any benefits of paving any more paradise to put up yet another parking lot. But, if that's the only answer, I guess I would. **BIKING LANES!!! SIDEWALKS ON SOUTHGATE!!!***
- *But how does more money increase parking space.*

- *Especially commuter parking, which can be almost impossible in the middle of the day, e.g., between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.*
- *I can always find a spot.*
- *Provided there was more to go into town for*
- *One of the pleasures of small town life is not having big city prices for parking or tickets.*
- *I don't have trouble finding a spot.*
- *Unfortunately we need low / no cost parking on the periphery of downtown but don't appear to have space. If we did I would greatly increase the parking costs in downtown. Otherwise, increased parking fees will militate against business improvement in the commercial area.*
- *Things are adequate as is*
- *Current parking lot changes have been extremely badly handled, resulting in less spaces, more crowded spaces and less convenient pay stations.*
- *It is too high already!*
- *But I and my family can afford extra cost those who cant should be given a reduction in parking*
- *Don't use commuter parking*
- *I often walk to the downtown so parking is not truly a concern*
- *I can always find a spot downtown. I do not think parking is a problem*
- *There is little downtown that attracts me--parking price is irrelevant*
- *I think more people should walk more than they do. We never drove to the train station and back. It's usually a matter of allowing enough time, and that can be done in many cases.*
- *we should all be walking*
- *It think we should do everything we can to encourage people to walk more into the village, such as selling rolling carts to help people with their bags.*

- *prefer limits per household to # of permits*
- *A permit parking system or something of that sort, perhaps.*
- *I think we pay enough already.*
- *I never have a problem finding downtown parking because I'm happy to walk half a block.*
- *enough is enough - property taxes are already ridiculous, not to mention, town, school and county taxes. That money should be used for improvements and more money should not be expected from the residents*
- *I do not have a problem*
- *if parking were costly, I would be less inclined to shop downtown.*
- *Better: Pay the same and have more spots*
- *I never have trouble finding a spot.*
- *I don't drive, or park a car*
- *Parking is now okay except on weekends. Add more parking by extending the Steinschneider lot. Raise the price of parking and I will be encouraged to shop elsewhere.*
- *I walk to the train station.*
- *There needs to be some parking solution at the train station. If one takes a train anytime from about 10 A. M. on, it is impossible to find a parking place at in the commuter lot.*
- *Downtown parking is OK.*
- *We don't want more parking spaces as that encourages more traffic and somebody else's backyard /gardens, trees, would be ripped up to make another stupid parking lot. Instead, how about shuttle service?*
- *I don't pay for commuter parking.*

- *Village should consider a second tier at the train station parking lot, many more commuters it will pay for itself in years to come*
- *This is not an issue for me. I think people need to walk more.*
- *Don't care much about parking-we walk whenever possible.*
- *I strongly believe that street parking for residents should be free and more available. I live in an apartment and it's often difficult to find parking on Warburton and Washington.*
- *This is a town of roughly 8000 people. If we are interested in providing adequate sidewalks, why would we need more parking?*
- *only if it meant there would be more spots-- not simply to increase turnover or discourage driving*
- *We need less parking and a Hastings trolley.*
- *I don't usually have a problem finding a spot.*
- *But not for downtown residents*
- *I think the parking problem is more perception than reality.*
- *I don't drive*
- *It's too cheap to park. Make it more expensive and also provide a local bus /jitney to enable people to get to /from the train station and village. Many villages (see Great Neck Long Island) support a local bus system*
- *instead of trying to turn downtown into a parking lot for commuters, lets find a park and ride option- reduce the foot print, the traffic the fumes.*
- *It's a small town. Better to encourage walking and bike riding by creating the paths and sidewalks necessary.*
- *I am still able to walk to downtown areas so parking is not a major issue for me personally.*
- *I can walk to town.*
- *It's not difficult to find a spot now*

- *folks can walk they are a little bit lazy*
- *I never have a problem parking. Higher fees might discourage people from supporting our local merchants.*
- *I walk to Downtown*

DOWNTOWN PARKING

12. Would you be willing to pay more for downtown parking if the extra revenue was used to enhance the pedestrian space downtown (wider sidewalks, new streetscape design)?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	55.0%	209
No 	45.0%	171
	Comments	62
	answered question	380
	skipped question	8

COMMENTS:

- *Please - use correct English -- the conditional -- if the extra revenue Were used to enhance*
- *No. Only because there should not be a constraint on how this additional revenue is spent. This revenue should just go into the overall pool for Hastings. It should not be only usable for these issues. There are more pressing issues than these.*
- *Yes, but I also think parking fees in downtown may be a hinderance to people patronizing local businesses.*
- *The renovation of the sidewalks done a few years ago was a disgrace - if this is how our \$ is squandered only more resentment will ensue.*
- *Hastings has not been too successful on these designs. Just throwing good money into bad.*
- *The sidewalk problem is not downtown.*
- *We would have to look into what other, closeby villages are charging for parking. We don't have a vibrant enough downtown that people will go elsewhere if it costs them a couple of dollars at a time just to shop here. Bad idea.*
- *I never park in town, but if I did, I would support enhanced pedestrian space.*

- *Again I walk, but I'd love to see an improvement to the pedestrian space down town.*
- *The single most significant way the Village could improve the down town is by either stopping building things or approving things that are horrible -- like installing those fake red bricks, and approving that Tilly monstrosity downtown. Why wasn't the PB concerned about View Preservation there? Did they get a little kick back? The air conditioners and utilities on top of that building, along with that FOURTH floor, obstruct everyone's River and Pallisades Views from the Aquaduct and down Main Street. Incredible.*
- *You can't widen the sidewalks unless you make the street narrower or push back the existing buildings. The new building looks too massive and the doctors office on Main St. sticks out as far as allowed.*
- *Downtown parking should be paid for by our taxes to the extent possible. If you want to quickly stop by for a pizza pick up or to go to the pharmacist for a couple of minutes. The current system is TOO COMPLEX. Expense is not the issue. It is the silly way we have to pay to park that is the problem. Standing in line, trying to read the little meter, putting in our money, receiving a chit. It is very unfriendly and time consuming.*
- *Dependent on quality of plan -- I have not been a fan of all recent changes.*
- *To a certain extent. I think if these improvements were made, more stores would be occupied, the tax base would increase, and there would be no need to increase parking charges. Dobbs Ferry is giving our downtown good competition and Dobbs Ferry is winning.*
- *Excellent concept*
- *Parking is too cheap.*
- *Hastings would waste the money on consultants (as per present parking lot and remember 'the bricks'?*
- *No, my current enormous tax bill should cover it.*

- *NO! It's not an issue of making the sidewalk wider or looking nicer (Boulanger plaza was a utter waste of \$\$!) Raise the cost of parking to encourage people to use other means of transportation!*
- *What's wrong with downtown? I don't want Disney village. The current downtown looks like a real place in a real village, not some architect's conception of New England, and real is better.*
- *I don't think we need to spend money on streetscape design. I kind of like it now.*
- *I think that the sidewalks downtown are wide enough and the village just spent a lot of \$ making them red brick. I think we should first put sidewalks on roads where there are none - near the elementary school, for example.*
- *Wasted money.*
- *Have very little confidence that current village government can manage these projects, given the Boulanger mess, the lack of consideration for parking when improving the community center, and current impasse over the Farmers Market.*
- *In a village this size, this should be addressed as a way to encourage more walking, less driving within the village.*
- *Again--few businesses in Hastings that attract me, enhancements are irrelevant*
- *Why would we need wider sidewalks downtown? The streets downtown should not be narrowed for the sake of wider sidewalks. Streetscape design*
- *How about we forget the downtown for a moment and build sidewalks so that our children can walk safely from neighborhood to neighborhood and from school to home?*
- *Definitely*
- *we should all be walking*
- *Too much has already been spent on new sidewalks downtown and they don't look that good. Leave well enough alone and don't raise prices for parking. The kiosk system stinks and I hate it. Why make things more*

difficult for people when shopping downtown?

- *Widening the sidewalks sounds too disruptive. We should find ways for people to bus or walk, rather than pay more for parking*
- *Again, perhaps. Have to be careful about parking costs becoming a drag on business trips to town.*
- *No, I wouldn't. I don't think we have a pedestrian space problem downtown. There are several other places in Hastings that are in urgent need of pedestrian walk ways.*
- *Don't mind paying for parking. But these are not the improvements town needs; they will not bring business. The rest of town needs sidewalks first.*
- *I would pay to enhance pedestrian safety around the schools*
- *I'm not concerned about wider sidewalks. The pedestrian space isn't the problem. The problem is the unimaginative and lackluster businesses. How many hair salons can one town support? Why are the Hastings Market people concerned about the Farmers Market? Because their own produce is wilted and their place isn't an enjoyable place to shop. Does anybody ever really buy shoes or toys at that sad place on the corner? The remaining bookstore is absolutely unfriendly. I digress.*
- *Sidewalks are not a problem downtown. It is other neighborhoods that lack them.*
- *I'm not sure that wider sidewalks are needed.*
- *Only if the projects are handled appropriately, the Boulanger parking lot was a disgrace, it appears as though to many projects in hasting are run unprofessionally.*
- *I would not trust the revenue would be spent that way.*
- *Surely there are more important things to spend the money on.*
- *But not too much more--wider sidewalks are helpful but I feel new streetscape design is questionable.*
- *Increasing the cost for parking for better sidewalks and streetscape design will not help the Downtown area if we don't have the ability to*

increase our retail shops to be a want to go to destination. Why should we have to foot the cost of something when people really don't go there. We should bring in the revenue by opening our town to those who would like to provide us with a service that can attract others, then we can fix our sidewalks and streetscape.

- *if it was a quality job and businesses participated in improving their own enterprises*
- *The sidewalks downtown are fine - it's elsewhere where we need sidewalks.*
- *It's expensive enough to live here.*
- *The pedestrian lanes need to be addressed separately.*
- *It does not seem that we need parking. Is there a feeling that we do?*
- *Yes BUT the last sidewalk enhancement in 2001 was a botched job -- bad taste and bad quality.*
- *Lets come out of the 1950s*
- *use the money for fire trucks and ambulances*
- *Parking in town should be free.*
- *Irvington has no meters - that stimulates shopping*
- *Enhance is a loaded word! Efforts to enhance may well lead to dreaded chic - Hastings has a downtown, small-town charm that is just fine!*

MODE OF TRAVEL TO TRAIN STATION

17. Do you ever walk to the train station?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, Always	29.4%	75
Yes, Sometimes	38.8%	99
No	31.8%	81
	Comments	25
	answered question	255
	skipped question	133

COMMENTS:

- *I usually walk in the morning; it's about one mile.*
- *LOVE walking to the train and would do that regularly if I didn't have to pick up the kids.*
- *I also ride my bike. I have to secure it to the railing up by the building.*
- *I live a mile from the train station and it down hill going and up hill going home. I will not walk to the station.*
- *There should be much more encouragement to get people to walk to the train in the morning, to reduce the crowd driving right when school is starting.*
- *I walk in during warmer weather*
- *I only get a ride in the morning if it is raining. My wife picks me up almost every night. The walk is uphill at night.*
- *When time allows. Run a jitney to reduce car use!*
- *It's too risky to do so on Old Broadway.*
- *I live at very top of Villard, long walk back up the hill, no point in walking down and not having car parked there when I return*

- *If I have business in NYC during commuter hours, I walk to the station. At other times, I sometimes drive, especially if I have my kids with me or I think I will be home late at night.*
- *It would take about 40 minutes.*
- *I work from home 3 days per week and have to carry files back and forth...I have too much stuff to schlep...*
- *I live just a block away.*
- *How about a jitney going down Villard and Mt Hope in the mornings, like there was long ago? And buses going back up the hills in the evening...you'd only have to meet a few rush hour trains.*
- *I live a mile away. The hill is too steep to climb. I'm in good physical condition. Did it once. Never again. Some Hastings newcomers are entranced by Smart Growth. It's an unrealistic option. Let them go back to New York City.*
- *there could be a shuttle like in the old days also once upon a time there was a trolley up Farragut*
- *the hill up and down Washington Ave. can be very restrictive particularly in hot weather.*
- *it is too dangerous, especially at night with the lack of sidewalks, those that exist are so poorly maintained, and the lighting is a complete hazard.*
- *These choices need to be reformulated. It's not always but most of the time.*
- *We live about 1/3-mile from the station.*
- *almost always*
- *to is easy it is the uphill return walk that is the killer*
- *the taxis don't drive well*
- *Very rarely*

SHOPPING IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT

18. How often do you shop and/or eat in the Hastings downtown business area?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Almost every day	14.0%	53
3 or 4 days a week	24.3%	92
1 to 2 days a week	46.4%	176
Rarely or never	15.3%	58
Comments		55
answered question		379
skipped question		9

COMMENTS:

- *Only because there are so few options. We used to eat at Blooms before that closed. I would love to eat in Hastings rather than spend my money in Dobbs or Irvington. I hate seeing my taxes go to other villages*
- *Poorly constructed question. If you go downtown every other week, is that rarely?*
- *Shop at A&P - -hardly eat out,*
- *Usually 4-5 times a week in the summer.*
- *Work, eat, shop in the village. Always have, always will.*
- *Food options are not great. Harvest has the views, a poor menu and exorbitant prices. Maud's has better prices but the food is poor. Other areas come in handy if desperate, but the food is pretty 'blah' in general. Tend to go to Dobbs Ferry.*
- *Probably more like once a week or once a fortnight.*
- *We would more often but the A&P and small grocery in town are very expensive and the food isn't fresh -- many items have passed their expiration date.*
- *The restaurants are terrible. The diner should be closed. It's probably a health risk as well as Maudes.*

- *This is unfortunate as our restaurants keep closing. What is happening to The Hastings House? I frequent the Hastings Hardware, Greenleaf and Sidestreets*
- *Don't often eat there, not a lot of tempting choices. But I try to shop there at least once a week.*
- *I shop there, but rarely eat there*
- *There is no place to shop and the eateries are either too expensive or the food is not that great*
- *Business is dead in Hastings- My family promotes as much as possible- Dry cleaner, Pharmacy, karate,*
- *All of the downtown shops are closed by the time I arrive home from work. I do eat out in Hastings and attempt to shop the stores on the weekends but there is less and less shopping available*
- *I'd shop /eat here more if there were more places to shop /eat. Very upset about the loss of Good Yarns.*
- *My wife and I eat at Maud's once or twice a week. We shop in some of the surviving stores most weekends that we are in town, but also shop in the better stores in Dobbs Ferry.*
- *I do most of my food shopping here.*
- *I prefer to do as much business /errands in Hastings as I can. I try to do downtown stores first, walking, and if I cannot find what I need, I'll drive to other areas.*
- *There is not a good range of stores in the downtown. I shop at A&P, the hardware store, silver tech computer, and video store. The 2 deli, one burned recently, are filthy. New China was cited by the Board of Health so not very appetizing and Hastings Prime is no longer prime. Hopefully, the new Mexican restaurant will add a bit of revival.*
- *WE LOVE COMFORT and look forward to the new Comfort Lounge.*
- *most frequently to A&P; only 1-2 /wk for other stores. but if count library, tennis club, etc below downtown, then daily for someplace between 5 corners and Harvest.*

- *I buy at the hardware store, the two wine shops, the supermarket (which is very dismal experience), get an occasional gift at Indigo and get takeout at Comfort--that's about it.*
- *Hastings is a bore! We have a great farmer's market that people only complain about. The best restaurant is Comfort. Thank goodness we're getting a Mexican restaurant. Bookstore - gone! We have the most bizarre shoe/toy store! Suburban Renewal - have never thought it inviting - who needs dark and dreary furniture. We have too many nail salons.*
- *I shop at the A&P, Greenleaf Pharmacy and the Hardware store. I use Citibank, Bob's Service Station and the post office. My family likes to eat at Slices, Comfort & Harvest on Hudson.*
- *A senior economy=few restaurant meals & nothing in Hastings is appealing*
- *for coffee and bagels*
- *More than never -- I use Hastings Electric Hardware and I get my car serviced in Hastings.*
- *There is no place to shop or eat*
- *Better restaurants in other towns. Ardsley and Dobbs for example have a better selection then we have*
- *The A & P needs competition; it is a horrible grocery store - the prices of Whole Foods with the quality of a poor market. It is dreadful.*
- *haircut*
- *Mostly at the supermarket and Hastings Prime Meat and pharmacy.*
- *We would eat more in Hastings, but there are not great restaurants that are affordable. I am looking forward to the new Mexican spot, but will only go back if the food and price is good.*
- *We need more everyday restaurants -- no more fancy expensive places.. we need places where we can get an entree for \$12. we need lunch places with seating. a coffee house would be a great way to promote a sense of community. a small indie movie theater would be GREAT.*

- *Not good choices - less than 1-2 days /week but more than rarely!*
- *More when the outdoor farmer's market is on.*
- *I go to the A&P, wine from the wine shop, Greenleaf Pharmacy, the hardware store, and Comfort. That's it.*
- *I'm including the A&P in this - I'm not sure if you intend to include them when you specify downtown business area.*
- *The diner is filthy; the Chinese food is inedible, leaving pizza or pricier restaurants.*
- *Eat dinner in a Hastings restaurant once a week. Shop weekly at the A&P. Shop for essentials at Hastings Electric, Greenleaf, Hastings Stationery once every week or once every other week.*
- *The problem with Hastings business is the lack of convenient hours. I try very hard to abide by the code of Shop Hastings First, however, I am a working mother. Therefore, I do most of my living (i.e. spending money) here in Hastings at nights /on weekends. Just today (Sunday)- I needed to buy a children's' book for a present. I decided to go downtown to buy the book (I was willing to settle on selection in an effort to support Hastings business) and figured I would buy a sandwich for lunch on my excursion. I stopped at the Galapagos bookstore (the Good Yarns is now closed) which was CLOSED (Sunday at 1pm). I then went to Comfort to attempt lunch. Again - CLOSED. Determined to support Hastings first, I then drove to Antoinettes - who did not yet have their lunch menu fully available (only 2 choices for lunch). As a result of my failed efforts to Shop Hastings First- I ended up buying lunch in Dobbs (more reasonable business shop hours) and then going to Barnes and Noble. If Hastings business owners want to improve business, they have got to improve options and availability. Just look at the businesses that are successful - the ones that are actually open beyond Mon-Fri 10a-5p.*
- *Shopping is still to limited in Hastings. The best thing, the weekly market is now under dispute. Restaurant choice to limited, the other River Towns offer a much better variety.*
- *I would like to more often, and try to as often as possible. But too often there are better options in Ardsley, Dobbs and Irvington.*

- *Shops, we try as a family to spend in the downtown area. But because of the limited shops and the cost of shopping at the A&P vs. the cost of shopping in the A&P in Yonkers it is difficult.*
- *We would eat there more often, if there were a greater number of reasonably priced, family-friendly restaurants.*
- *I make a concerted effort to spend my money in Hastings---I even buy our shoes at the shoe store and that's not easy! I got my eyeglasses in town, my kids clothes, my haircut, my wheelbarrow, my vitamins, my organic carrots, my color copies, my wine, my newspaper, my sugarfree chocolate, my pasta fagioli, my Indian statuettes, my clay and paints, my.....*
- *I would LOVE to see better restaurants in town. The Center Restaurant is absolutely APPALLING -- depressing, bad food, VERY OLD Hastings. See the Dobbs Ferry Diner. SOOOO much nicer. We need better varied restaurants and shops.*
- *Would do so more if there were more variable options- more book stores, more cafes, and more arts and crafts places that were kid friendly....*
- *My children eat pizza downtown 3 to 4 days a week*
- *There are not many restaurants left. We go to the farmer's market, the library, the natural foods store, the A&P, the hardware store. We also go to Dobbs Ferry stores and restaurants a lot.*
- *No good restaurants.*
- *need more diverse /affordable restaurants*
- *Parking is tough and tickets are easy*

CHARACTERIZING DOWNTOWN HASTINGS

19. How would you best characterize the Hastings downtown business area?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Insufficient to provide for your household - products and services offered are not those that I routinely need for my household	17.2%	65
Serviceable but lacking much of what is desired - you are able to get some but not all things you need for your household	76.5%	290
Vibrant - It supports my household needs	6.3%	24
	Comments	73
	answered question	379
	skipped question	9

COMMENTS:

- *It's looking a little dreary and uncoordinated, with empty stores and loss of Good YarnsIt's dormant. It's antiquated. It's from another century. It's stagnant. It's depressing.*
- *So many closed stores! How sad!*
- *I can walk just about everywhere to shop for household and personal needs--even the doctor's*
- *Try buying a men's tie or shirt.*
- *It lacks some of what I need - not much as in the question.*
- *I am able to get all that I need in the village; however, some of the things that I would want, I am unable to get.*
- *We need more diversity -- not duplicates of the businesses that we already have. The shops that exist need to change their inventory as the times and needs of the villagers change. How do we have a drugstore that sells no makeup? A shoestore that doesn't sell the current casual brands? Etc. etc. But I shop in town first, always.*

- *the building are unattractive*
- *My main problem is the hours. Most of the shops and services aren't open yet when I leave for work in the morning, and they're closed when I get home in the evening.*
- *Clothes shopping can only be partly done in the village (and not for men). Shoe shopping can't be done. Can support my household for basic needs.*
- *I use the hardware store, the pharmacy, and the drycleaners. and the A&P. I'd love more restaurants.*
- *Comfort is a step in the right direction, and so is Antoinette's. The health food store is essential. But we need a nice specialty shop or two. The lingerie store is a total mess - I tried to shop there but it is a zoo.*
- *Shabby, really disappointing compared to most upscale suburbs. No nightlife, terrible restaurants, depressing.*
- *Landlords are greedy. We have empty stores for months on end for no reason. An example is the idiot who chased away Anamazing and it now sits empty*
- *The BEST thing is the Farmer's Market*
- *If necessary, hire someone to help you plan what to do*
- *It lacks vitality.*
- *Too many hair and nail salons.*
- *Would appreciate more evening and weekend hours. Doesn't help me if retailers work the same hours I do.*
- *The DeCico Market in Ardsley is far superior to the A & P. The A&P seems to be going downhill. The hardware store in Dobbs Ferry is better than Hastings. We need more basic stores, I.e. shoe repair, and basic clothes to wear during the weekend, photography or other art type stores.*

- *In dire need of more activity and more night life. It is dead here at night (and on life support much of the rest of the time).*
- *It seems that the desire to protect the past overwhelms any initiative to improve services and products offered.*
- *Cannot purchase electronics or music*
- ***RUN DOWN AND DINGY WITH TOO MANY OF THE SAME TYPES OF LOW END ESTABLISHMENTS IN PROMINENT LOCATIONS (E.G., NAIL SALONS, HAIRDRESSERS, DRY CLEANERS)***
- *None of the above. Great pharmacy, nice diner...*
- *Too many vacant buildings on Warburton Avenue. Does this say something about the high rental rate that is forcing businesses to look elsewhere?*
- *Lacking is an understatement. I know many suggestions have been made for diverse businesses. The farmers market is one of the best things in Hastings.*
- *I go to Whole Foods in White Plains every week. I buy used books from Amazon.*
- *Another bad question: Serviceable does not mean lacking even if these things are missing. Sure I go other places for things I need, but I don't expect them to be provided on a cost-effective basis in every local village center. That would be inefficient, and just plain dumb; the local market isn't big enough to provide these in a cost competitive way, except maybe a mini-outlets of national chains (I.e., mini-Duane Reades or pocket-Walmarts) that I don't want in my village downtown. In order to support my household needs as in vibrant, I'd end up with a much larger and more intrusive commercial district than I want in my village. That's what NYC and White Plains are for (or Central Ave).*
- *Too many nail salons and beauty parlors. Bad restaurants for the most part*
- *Vibrant overstates the situation. I'm able to get most of what I need in Hastings or over the internet, but would be at a loss if I didn't have access to other shopping areas such as Bronxville and Central Avenue.*

- *It can't even support a decent restaurant on Main Street. How about a Starbucks?*
- *Hours for most stores are not commuter friendly. I greatly miss city life where you can stop at hardware store, dry cleaner, card store, etc when you get home from work at 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.*
- *Indigo, Hastings Hardware, Rockwood & Perry Wines, Comfort--these are excellent shops. The rest are BLEAK.*
- *but I also love it and find it charming*
- *The 50's retro look of the downtown is what attracted us here 4 yrs ago. However there is nothing that really makes me want to come into town other than normal chores.*
- *It feels economically depressed.*
- *I can get most things I need in Hastings, but the village does not have many places to bring people together. We could use a coffee / tea place that has plenty of seating, stays open late and has a restroom. Another bookstore would also be wonderful.*
- *Very biased question. It's fine. Not vibrant, but much better than serviceable. What we need is better codes to establish a cleaner, somewhat more uniform look to the downtown area. I'm certain we could all easily agree on that look. I doubt it would take more than 20-25 years. But hey, isn't that what committees are all about?*
- *Small stores are all we'll ever have but they could do more in special orders and customer service. See very little interest in improvements by present owners*
- *Only really good stores are Festivities (great store), Slices (kids love the pizza), both stores have nice owners as well; candy store next to diner is good as well. Otherwise, not much there. Oh, and Rockwood and Perry have a good selection, very nice service as well. Video store was improved wisely, we now use it instead of driving out of town. The owners of the clothing store next to the diner are examples of the obnoxious owners which we also have in town (if you are their friend they cut you a deal, which means they are basically ripping you off).*
- *I use the hardware and stationary store very often. I used to use the bookstore too.*

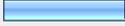
- *cannot resist trader joes, costco, and home depot, much as I try*
- *Local businesses should make more of an effort to provide practical goods to compete with big box stores*
- *4 - 5 excellent stores. Many need facade upgrades. Need to limit # of any single type of stores e.g. nail / hair salons.*
- *I would add to insufficiency the following: redundancy (too many of the same kinds of shops), and a physically rundown appearance that is particularly bad--this Village should have beautification ordinances that require commercial property owners to maintain a certain level of upkeep w/ respect to, say, paying, repairing woodwork, etc.*
- *But actually - I don't provide for my household so I don't know*
- *It's just a small town. But you can get what you need there. No problem.*
- *Downtown needs major attention*
- *Again, I am including the A&P.*
- *Plenty of artsy ornamental stuff*
- *No Good Yarns---bad sign.*
- *Another question with a forced choice--AND THIS TIME WITH VERY BAD wording. For example, vibrant is not the same as supporting household needs. Throw out the results for this question. Hastings downtown business area for me is serviceable and not lacking in much of what is desired; nor is it vibrant because it could provide me more options than it currently does.*
- *The only time we don't shop in town is for big box stores that we don't want in town. However, the supermarket could be more affordable.*
- *You need to improve store hours and accessibility*
- *Except for certain items. More stores for other items would only mean ripping up other people's backyards / trees / garden. If there was a green way to add other supply store, I would be open to it. Less is more....*
- *We need more nail parlors! lol--*

- *I would grocery shop more at Prime Meats, and try to when I can, but prices are often .50 to \$2.00 more than at the A&P. If they were the same, I would make more of an effort to go there for our milk and yogurt. Also, I prefer to buy organic meats, and there it is a problem of either they don't carry organic, or it is too expensive compared with the bigger markets. Again, if prices were the same, I would buy at the smaller store(s).*
- *not enough dining options. overall downtown Hastings is depressing and reflects poorly on our village*
- *Some things are either tired, or completely lacking. After moving to Hastings, I was surprised to learn this. The downtown businesses could, and should be much more vibrant.*
- *I'm okay with that. I'd rather not have a lot more stores and more traffic*
- *I try hard to support local business. Too many times it really messed me up when a shop I planned to get an important item was closed for a one-time event, had early hours. Or didn't carry what I need. There is little professionalism about approaching the shops and services as businesses. I don't think this reflects Village values-- it's a decline from a once higher standard, when a greater population lived and worked closer to the village and there was competition among businesses.*
- *from my comment above it may seem that I am fully satisfied with the stores in Hastings, no, it is just that I believe in supporting local businesses so I make concessions*
- *I almost clicked insufficient above. For the most part, there is not enough variety and quality merchandise in the village.*
- *Shopping lacks vitality, diversity and availability provided by other villages.*
- *aside from hardware store and greenleaf it sucks*
- *I support local merchants as much as I can.*
- *Unless the rents are made more affordable, it will be very difficult to attract the types of retail /service businesses that will bring the much needed diversity to the existing downtown. More aggressive*

communication between the village and the landlords should be put into place to encourage landlords to strategically seek retail tenants that enhance the existing business environment rather than duplicate it. Without addressing the high cost of rent, there is little hope to attract diverse retail businesses.

- *Closes too early*
- *empty stores; no more bookstore Dobbs looks much better*
- *Entirely adequate - and convenient - for basic needs.*
- *More restaurants Cheaper rent for Business*

SHOPPING OUTSIDE OF HASTINGS

20. What percentage of your shopping is done outside of Hastings?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Most to all of it 	24.8%	94
More than 50% 	49.1%	186
Less than 50% 	21.6%	82
Nearly all of my shopping is done within Hastings 	4.5%	17
	Comments	41
	answered question	379
	skipped question	9

COMMENTS:

- *Though I sincerely wish that was not the case. Apart from the A&P there are few choices. The shops we have are very good; but there is not enough diversity. And there is an aversion to chains. Like a Barnes & Noble or Starbucks or Gap etc.*
- *I don't think it's practical for Hastings to aspire to be a one-stop shopping destination in 2008. Things such as electronics, bulk items, gardening / landscaping supplies and generic clothing are better gotten at larger stores.*
- *Food and hardware related purchases in Hastings, Clothing outside*
- *We shop for food - our biggest item - at the A&P, so More than 50%. I hate that I can't buy books in Hastings.*
- *The Hardware store and A&P mostly.*
- *Probably 40%...most food shopping is done in Hastings, but most clothing is bought outside of Hastings.*
- *I hate to shop, so if I can buy it in Hastings first, I do.*

- *Other than the A&P, we do most of our shopping elsewhere. However, we love the pharmacy!*
- *By cost, most of shopping outside Hastings. By number of items, about 50-50. By number of trips, majority Hastings.*
- *I am not the primary shopper in my family, so I'm not a good source of this information.*
- *I shop at the A&P and the stationery store. I also try to buy shoes at the Bootery. Too bad the book store closed down.*
- *I would prefer to shop in Hastings if we had sufficient stores.*
- *Closer to actually 50% but that wasn't a choice*
- *I have been making a huge effort to shop in town.*
- *But this includes internet purchasing, which I do from my home (and which I would do no matter where I lived).*
- *Only Food Emporium / A&P and lately I've gone to Stop and Shop in White Plains.*
- *I use Hastings for local errands. I don't buy clothes here for example. I do get my car serviced here in Hastings.*
- *Mainly for food.*
- *I shop as much as I can in Hastings, but can't afford the clothing offered; furniture & appliances must be bought elsewhere.*
- *Better quality products (food, clothing) in other venues. Use 4 or 5 different towns / villages on a regular basis.*
- *I use the pharmacy*
- *Almost all of my food shopping is done in Hastings. The rest is mostly outside but I try to use the Village shops when possible. I miss Good Yarns!*
- *There is no hobby shop, no sporting goods shop, no clothes for boys or men, etc.*

- *We get most of our groceries from the A&P and use the hardware store occasionally.*
- *What shopping are you talking about?*
- *Some is done via the Internet*
- *Because I need shampoo and Tide in addition to artsy ornamental stuff*
- *I am willing to shop in Hastings so long as the shops are open when I am ready to buy, so long as they carry the brands/products I want, and so long as the prices are reasonably competitive with the megastores such as Home Depot. Incidentally, I also am willing to use Hastings blue collar tradesmen such as plumbers and electricians--but find they are often not available when needed or that they overcharge; and so I increasingly use non-Hastings tradesmen.*
- *I try to support local businesses whenever I can, but it's difficult due to limited selection*
- *The shops in Hastings, by necessity, are small and have less product variety and tend to be more expensive than larger shops. When necessary, I shop outside of Hastings at places like CVS, Whole Foods, Vitamin Shoppe, Staples / Office Max, Michael's Crafts.*
- *Much as I dislike the A&P, it is often what allows me to function here.*
- *It is just not 'fun' to shop downtown, and there is actually very little to purchase that we need.*
- *When the Farmers' Market is running it is more than 50%---don't move or change the farmers' market!!!!*
- *clothing, electronics, etc are all outside*
- *I do an increasing amount of shopping on the internet*
- *Mostly what I get out of town is at big stores like Trader Joe's.*
- *Hastings stores often seem messy and not well organized.*
- *Except for online products that HOH does not have.*

- *Again, a vaguely worded statement. If shopping means household staples (and includes the A&P), the above answer reflects our experience. If it includes clothing, hard goods, etc, obviously the % done in HH would be minimal.*

BUSINESSES AND SERVICES IN HASTINGS

21. As far as shopping, what businesses or services would you like to see in the Village?		Response Count
		267
	answered question	267
	skipped question	121

COMMENTS:

- *A few restaurants - not too expensive Stationary store good health food store good coffee shop*
- *Shoe Repair, Nice coffee Shop organic food market, better restaurant choices, a coffee shop with good espresso movie theater*
- *better meat / fish / vegetable market. Casual Restaurants, Larger supermarket*
- *Computer repair*
- *Better quality and varied foods and vegetables, casual, inexpensive eateries that are conducive to meeting and socializing, an upgraded diner, more attractive and enticing stores that invite shoppers in.*
- *bakery; good sushi restaurant; accessible jewelry store (I.e., not closed most of the time; good shoe store; would love to see Antoinette's 5 times the size; books, music & upscale magazines a la Barnes & Noble, but not so large; finer cooking supplies, a la Chef Central, but not so large*
- *A place like the old Lenny's*
- *Restaurants. Book Stores. Coffee Shops. Delis. Cloth Shops.*
- *Better food shopping*
- *Family restaurants that work (NOT organic or new cuisine themed. A real deli to replace Manor Market. Clothing store for men.*

- *A bookstore, a craft shop, perhaps another clothing store, a fashion shoe store*
- *bakery and more options for family dinners*
- *Would I like to see / Shoes and handbags. but then small stores that sell these items are generally too expensive. Sporting goods. Good thrift store.*
- *More fruits and vegetables stores, a fish store, a store selling good bread*
- *Good restaurants — possibilities include, Chinese, Thai, Microbrewery, interesting contemporary American cooking (such as Comfort or even Harvest on the Hudson). Other possibilities: clothing shop, book shop, tea shop, shoe repair shop, movie theater.*
- *book store*
- *CVS or similar retail drugstore. Restaurants / cafe with a more ethnic flavor. Specialty food store.*
- *Book store! not so pricey clothing - ice cream parlor (though Pharmacy is okay - not like scoops) better health food store; sushi - health club*
- *Media (books / music / video / computer program) store.*
- *Coffee shop similar to starbucks. Retail stores are not attractive.*
- *Better food choices...with outside seating. a used sports equipment store play it again mostly a place to sit and hang...builds community*
- *A good deli; A tailor.*
- *Fish store, sporting goods, cafe for kids, bicycle store, bartering store, music store*
- *Starbucks*
- *Besides hair and nail salons?*
- *Men's clothing store*
- *electronics store*

- *A real bakery (bakes on premises), sidewalk cafe, shoe repair, fresh-fish store*
- *An inexpensive bakery would be a wonderful addition to the village. An ice cream shop would also be a great addition.*
- *Apparel stores, fine bakery, business-copying center, art pottery lessons, consignment store, less nail salons*
- *An Army/Navy type store. An Indian restaurant. Another woman's clothing store -- carrying different clothing than Indigo, a drugstore that sells makeup, a bookstore (wishful thinking), a woman's casual shoe store.*
- *more gift shops, another clothing shop*
- *More reasonably priced restaurants, live music, shoe repair, ice cream shop. Also, things should stay open later and on Sundays.*
- *a less upscale bakery recreational facilities: gym, Curves, more water-related facilities as described above alternative small supermarket -- Trader Joe's*
- *Family Restaurant, more upscale location with live music (I.e. Jazz, blues club, comedy club etc).*
- *A full gym and more than one store that stays open 24 hours.*
- *good restaurants, bakery, decent diner, hi quality green grocer*
- *men's clothing, independent bookstore*
- *Mix of chic /quirky locally-owned boutiques, everyday staples from local stores, and a few high-end branded stores to help bring in traffic.*
- *Ice cream shop, a fun place to leave children for 1/2 hour to do shopping without them nagging*
- *More family-friendly dining. A shoe repair shop. A movie theater (crazy, I know)*
- *More specialized food stores I.e. butchers or fishmongers. More clothing stores.*

- *good question. More good family restaurants? A quality children's toy store?*
- *Maybe a children's craft / activity store; like a wall climbing place or some such thing. A high quality bike shop.*
- *More variety.*
- *Starbucks, Gap, bring in these businesses and lower taxes. At least we would have a reliable and reasonable place to get a cup of coffee. How about a Paneiros restaurant? How about live music / restaurant. I like the hardware store and office ink.*
- *I am happy to keep chains out. But I am in favor of just about any other concerns which can make it here (except obvious things like tattoo parlors, etc.)*
- *Taco stand, better produce, sushi restaurant*
- *Don't know. I miss the ice cream shop though. Artsy Movie theater.*
- *additional clothing, better restaurants*
- *how about some shopping like some of the vibrant towns in Westchester, example Bronxville, and Scarsdale.*
- *Ethnic and family-friendly restaurants. Needed a bakery for years, thank God for Antoinettes!*
- *A family cafe with more than three seats that isn't pizza and a decent, clean health food store.*
- *A spacious Family Restaurant where people can gather on a weekend for a reasonably priced breakfast or lunch-run into friends and neighbors, where stay-at-home Moms w / kids can meet to eat during the work week, where newly attracted business employees can go to lunch; (Center Restaurant is a tiny dive); A dedicated ice cream parlor / sweet shop (that has more than three stools) where kids can go after a little league game; More than 1 quality takeout food place (ie. Comfort) where you don't have to wait an hour for your order; Galleries to display / sell art and venues to enjoy music and attract residents and non-residents;*
- *Fish shop, more places to socialize and buy fresh local foods and supplies.*

- *I would like to see more of a range of stores, including clothing and gifts.*
- *It would be nice to have a bookstore again. A bakery / cafe with seating would be nice. Also, there are very few activities / classes for the kids after school. I wish there was a Y or something so the kids could take classes after school - drawing classes, pottery, music, etc. The community center doesn't offer much in the way of classes for the 9, 10, 11-year-olds.*
- *Sporting goods, restaurants, deli*
- *Movie theater! Live music. Bigger pharmacy. Men's clothing store. Bookstore (is there even one?)*
- *I need a kosher butcher, but I do not think that is not a viable business for Hastings. I'd do grocery shopping here if there was something more reasonably priced.*
- *A bookstore to replace Good Yarns. Businesses in general that would be open later at night and open all weekend.*
- *Shoe repair, basic weekend type clothes, watch repair, photography (although I use film cameras and realize that not many people do)*
- *Men's store, music / book store, fashionable clothing store.*
- *family style restaurants; bookstore; music store*
- *theater (I realize it's not likely) GYM or health club--please. Good health food store. upscale pubs (like Maude's)-- like Dobbs Ferry*
- *Better Gift stores, nicer shoe store, shoe repair, housewares store, better restaurants*
- *records, electronics, repair (electronics) men's clothing*
- *I wish the A&P was better, particularly with produce.*
- *another clothing store, family friendly restaurants*

- *Organic food is largely not available in Hastings from a clean, attractive facility. That is why so much of my shopping is outside the village.*
- *UPSCALE BOUTIQUES AND RESTAURANTS*
- *intellectual and light industry, health club with yr-rd pool facilities, overnight accommodations - B&B?, public facilities to access and use the Hudson River, movie house or theater, better variation in eating establishments, a good health food store, sports-related retail,*
- *Book stores; shoemaker; down home style bakery and cafe.*
- *A coffeehouse. Starbucks would be fine.*
- *another book store*
- *anything but a nail or hair salon*
- *I'm sorry we lost good yarns. I like a bookstore. I'd love a coffee shop like Cafe Latte. Very unique. I'd love a fabric store, hobby store, no more nail salons and hair salons.*
- *Affordable restaurants, affordable clothing stores for kids...like an army / navy store for jeans and sneakers, sweat shirts etc...*
- *Most of the everyday needs are satisfactorily served.*
- *Practical clothing; jeans, socks. more robust stationers*
- *a clean bakery and a clean deli.*
- *Family restaurants, not specialty ones that appeal to a very small segment of tastes (e.g. organic food, low-carb food). I would like to see a real ice cream shop, a real coffee house type of place, an everyday bakery (with fresh bread, rolls, crumb buns, danish, cookies, etc.) I would like a small movie theater and a sit down luncheonette. We had some in the olden days when I was growing up here. A gift store with specialty items might be nice.*
- *Bakery; something like an old army & navy store where one could purchase socks, t-shirts, underwear, rain gear, etc; garden center; sports / biking gear.*

- *Much more local, organic food, a 'green' dry cleaner, shoemaker, better merchandise at the stationery store, a book store, all at competitive prices! The village needs to promote these businesses to attract residents adjacent to Hastings.*
- *Improve products and service at the local A & P.*
- *A Whole Foods would be great. A used bookstore with a cafe... a place to meet neighbors and friends*
- *A better produce market, maybe a small bike shop. And I'd like to replace the A&P with a food store that can hire at least one competent manager.*
- *Just upgrading what is there might help as a start. Better diner, stationery store, food market, bakery / bagel place etc*
- *I'd like to have a place to buy men's and boy's clothes, kind of basic things (but hip). And a place to buy sporting goods. I'd like a bookstore back with some music in it. I'd like to see Scoops and Manor Market back in business. An inexpensive Indian restaurant would be nice.*
- *a good salad bar*
- *family friendly restaurants, a nice bar, men's store, better food stores*
- *An affordable women's clothing store (not so pricey as the one we have) and lingerie store (same). Animazing Gallery will be most welcome as a larger gift shop.*
- *chain stores, starbucks, gap, mcdonalds, etc*
- *Cafes, small restaurants, a good deli, a good specialty food shop (Balducci's), a sporting goods shop for kids, a hair place for kids, a GOOD toystore, Starbucks! Look at Chappaqua-it's not big but it works.*
- *A real news stand. A fruit / vegetable market. Please, not more realtors or nail salons.*
- *Clothing Stores, Computer related stores.*
- *A Whole Foods or Fairway or Trader Joe food store that sells organic produce instead of the A&P. A Starbucks or Cosi style cafe that is fun*

and upbeat where students, young moms with small kids and people who work at home can go to relax and socialize and work at their laptops while getting nice wholesome things to eat and drink. It should be open in the evenings, too. Also, better casual, mid-priced restaurants, like Japanese or Indian, where young people can go to have fun. The downtown needs to be more of a happening place. It looks like its last makeover was in 1955.

- *A family friendly clothing shop, somewhere you could buy a child's birthday gift or jewelry store to begin with*
- *discount store, like a \$1 store*
- *Some really good restaurants - Indian, Thai, Chinese. I miss the ice cream shop. It would be nice to have restaurants and coffee shops that were open a bit later.*
- *someplace appealing for tweenagers and teenagers to hang out - something creative and outside the box. Though the new community center helps.*
- *Anything that is not chain- or franchise-based. Something to replace the Hastings House Restaurant and Animazing Gallery. Men's clothing. A bookstore to replace Good Yarns!*
- *Men's cloths, books / record / CD's*
- *a general store Good Chinese or Asian restaurant a small Fairway kind of store, (more variety and better prices than existing stores)*
- *ethnic restaurants*
- *Family friendly GOOD restaurant. ethnic restaurants (Japanese, Mexican, Indian). Shoe repair, affordable kids clothes. cafe. nice bar.*
- *More reasonably priced & diverse restaurants*
- *Another bakery*
- *shoe repair shop*
- *Electronics store. Maybe a satellite outlet of Best Buy or Radio Shack.*
- *A gourmet shop, better restaurants*

- *casual restaurants, bakery, updated stores*
- *Less nail parlors, delis and run-down diners. Better sit-down restaurants with some variety, a good bakery, good coffee shops (even a Starbucks), that are open early and late.*
- *More apparel shops*
- *A good cafe. A juice bar or bookstore cafe that would cater to / serve teenagers after school and evenings*
- *More Restaurants, Specialty Food Shops*
- *home goods, good children shoe store,*
- *Family-friendly restaurant Bakery Cafe*
- *Reasonably priced clothing & shoes.*
- *MORE RESTAURANTS with edible food.*
- *Coffee shop, more gift boutiques*
- *A good bookstore with a cafe. Child friendly restaurant. A nice bar to have a drink in without having the television on. Keep the farmer's market where it is!!!*
- *reasonable, healthy, informal restaurants*
- *better, affordable restaurants with bathrooms! better prepared and organic groceries*
- *Moderately priced restaurants, possibly a gym, a coffee shop*
- *restaurants, more different kinds of stores*
- *good restaurants, clothing stores, nice toy store, shoe store, general practitioners, good grocery, NY style deli with seats*
- *more interesting eateries*
- *Dobbs has attracted a number of interesting stores and restaurants. Why can't Hastings?*

- *Galleries*
- *Bookstore / coffee / teashop. I also had the idea for a modern type general store, of the type that you might see in New England, but more current.*
- *Can't get any good cheese now so #1 is a QUALITY cheese / dairy and gourmet food store (like Fairway or Zabar's) with loose coffee, good bread, appetizing etc. Real cafe with outdoor tables / chairs. Children's clothing store - not frou-frou.*
- *For the most part, we have a reasonable number and type of business for a town of our size, location, and infrastructure. Merchants just need to (be required to) present themselves better. And price their offerings competitively, i.e. not just for the captive Hastings consumers.*
- *Gourmet Food Store, Ice Cream Shop / kid's restaurant that has space for birthday parties, Coffee Shop with space to lounge, Toy store, sports store.*
- *Good bread , seafood & fresh fruit market Premium Pet food store*
- *Can't get that advice without a fee, but just look at Irvington and Croton-on -Hudson. This is not rocket science. There are plenty of rivertown models that are successful.*
- *#1 -- Moderately priced, family friendly restaurants that have some outdoor space and relatively interesting food (no more pizza & Italian food, please!). Something like Tomatilla in Dobbs Ferry is an example. More interesting boutiques and art / crafts galleries, clothing stores whose prices are not too steep, an improved fresh vegetable / fish market...I try to patronize Hastings Prime Meats but they don't have enough turnover and their food is subsequently often not very fresh. Perhaps if they branched out into more organic, high end fancy items they would have a larger draw and could sustain a fresher inventory like a Whole Foods or Trader Joes type of store, although I know many residents would protest a chain).*
- *Independent bookstore, art gallery*
- *A practical drugstore (not unfamiliar upscale products).*
- *Maybe a quality fish market.*

- *A coffee shop*
- *Another book store, affordable clothing stores, restaurants*
- *I think we have good shops. I'd welcome a fun Record Shop/Bookstore/Coffee place. Would like for Sushi Mike's to open a branch here. Would love another good but cheap ethnic choice like Mexican, Spanish, Thai.*
- *more healthy food restaurants (similar to Comfort)*
- *more good restaurants, pharmacy with larger selection*
- *We need better grocery stores, decent restaurants, coffee shops, a bookstore, 1-2 men's clothing stores, a movie theater...should I continue?*
- *Coffee shop (independent, NOT Starbucks); good family-oriented moderately priced restaurants (Indian, Thai, Chinese)*
- *New bookstore, ice cream /bakery, good family restaurant (not ridiculously expensive), gift item store, clothing store for young people
NO CHAIN STORES*
- *CVS, children's specialty shops for toys clothes, starbucks, bookstore*
- *Another Good Yarns, I would like Antoinettes to move closer to downtown, better restaurants, a cleaner Chinese restaurant, more crafty kinds of shops and more clothes boutiques. I would like to see a men's clothing store (for present shopping), maybe a few high-end sports shops (ski and surf), a high-end gift shop -- like Pomegranate (that went out of business for lack of customers...I know it is hard to get a sustainable volume of business)*
- *A good bakery, coffee shop, deli.*
- *something other than another bar, pizzeria or Chinese restaurant or hair salon /barber*
- **BAKERY - ANOTHER RESTAURANT**
- *Boutiques with clothing, other goods. Restaurants with casual or elegant dining. Other businesses useful to HoH residents like*

accountants, lawyers, construction, repair, plumbing, electricians, gardeners, etc.

- *More restaurants and fewer nail salons. clothing stores? too bad about the book store.*
- *Men's clothing, sporting goods, sewing and crafts shop, decent pet shop*
- *better mix of retail + coffee house type venue with later hours + more ethnic restaurants*
- *great organic food store, bookstore, starbucks-like coffee / tea shop, great bakery, more diverse and better restaurants, upscale housewares shop*
- *I would like to see a GYM, coffee shop, Italian restaurant, sushi spot, and affordable and hip clothing stores. A good home good shop would be helpful too.*
- *More restaurants. an independent movie theater. an affordable gym. a coffee shop. Fewer banks. Fewer nail salons. Fewer dry cleaners.*
- *Ethnic restaurants....good florist....Starbucks.*
- *higher caliber casual restaurants & cafes (our somewhat more upscale restaurants, Harvest and Buffet De La Gare are already good), specialty food shops, other specialty destination shops (boutique clothing, housewares, etc)*
- *More choice of casual dining or adult gathering places; better shopping; a GREAT bookstore.*
- *upscale food shop, less upscale clothing shop, kid's clothing, book store*
- *more clothing shops, more specialty shops, broader range of ethnic restaurants*
- *Moderately priced family restaurants. A good bakery, florist, gift shop(s). A good butcher. Varied good take out food.*
- *More clothing stores for everyday use.*
- *specialty foods outdoor gear-camping / biking / boating etc men's clothes*

- *Dunkin Donuts, small run in quick deli*
- *another coffee house like Antoinette's, maybe a small movie house (art films)*
- *a children's museum, massage, middle eastern restaurant, cafe and wine bar with longer hours,*
- *Hastings is fine except for not having mega stores like Costco or specialty like a quilt shop..I don't mind traveling for those needs.*
- *Something large that could help with the tax base...*
- *A bakery, coffeeshop, something that provides for basic needs, (old fashion 5 / 10), not another specialty shop or restaurant. We have enough.*
- *Moderately priced restaurants like Tony's, affordable clothing stores for adults and kids.*
- *Women's clothing*
- *Interesting shops, a bookstore, more reasonable restaurants that are kid friendly.*
- *A bakery, sporting goods, coffee shop,*
- *As mentioned before: good restaurants (Indian, pan-asian), a good bakery (Antoinettes is too far), a nice coffee spot, a yoga center, a shoe repair, a good place for toys, a good book store, a cookware shop / cooking lessons / take-out, a gelato shop, a gourmet food shop / take out, a place for good live music (not some band at Harvest - how do they get away with valet parking?), and ecology center - a place where you can learn to live more green, buy products, and that holds public information lectures, a good card and gift store (whose bad idea was it to bring back animazing gallery?)*
- *Household goods [bed, bath, kitchen; nursery supplies [live plants, compost, etc]; I'd like to see a source of basic clothing and shoes - not boutique clothing. Currently I have to go to Central Avenue for jeans, shirts, socks, underwear, shoes, etc.*
- *convenience foods, moderately priced restaurants, sporting goods store, children's clothing, health foods*

- *ethnic restaurants for takeout (I'm very happy to see blue moon Mexican opening), whole foods supermarket, trader Joe's, movie theater*
- *gourmet food; better restaurants / cafes; ice cream shop; specialty stores*
- *Papery type of shop--selling top quality wrapping paper and ribbons
Kitchen goods--pots, knives, etc. green store selling goods to promote sustainable lifestyle, with educational function (courses, etc)*
- *Book and music store. Place to buy some men's clothes.*
- *A men's clothing store. A sporting goods store. A moderately priced Indian or Chinese restaurant (not takeout) or seafood restaurant or southwestern (not Mexican) restaurant.*
- *healthier eating facilities, exercise / gym, theater, night entertainment, coffee shops, clothing stores, arts and crafts (pottery) for children, music store,*
- *bigger / more open book store toy store children's clothing store more moderate priced restaurants (\$10-12 entrees) for a family night out (not surprising that Bloom failed - it was too expensive) - why not look at the successful restaurants in Dobbs (Mykonos, Doubledays) - we could use some choices like those*
- *Better quality restaurants, a high end food-to-go option, sporting goods*
- *I'd like an inexpensive restaurant with live music perhaps*
- *Everyday clothing, not chain stores obviously. Pet supplies, the higher quality foods. Musician, teacher supplies. others....*
- *More decent restaurants, a nice gift shop, another book store.*
- *better, reasonably priced restaurants*
- *Family priced dining. More for kids. Better (less expensive) pricing on everything.*
- *More mid to low priced eateries, but ones that actually serve good food. Our diner is terrible. But a good diner, with great burgers and eggs and real whole wheat bread (not the wonder bread version) and real, fresh oj would be great. (Okay, I guess I would like an upscale diner.) Also a*

bookstore, but one that was run intelligently, but I know this is a money-loser. A real bakery, like Riviera. A good deli, like the one we had 15 years ago, can't remember the name, with fresh-made mozzarella by the granny in the back...

- *More Health /fitness.*
- *A *good* shoe repair shop. A nice yarn /craft shop. Another general independent bookstore.*
- *Better food service in general, shopping and restaurants.*
- *A good dinner and some chain stores.*
- *More restaurants and food shops. More clothing shops, camera stores, music shops, movie theatre, music venue, ice cream shop, furniture shops,*
- *Clothing stores, household supply stores--more than what we have shoemaker, etc.*
- *Better restaurants - an at least decent Chinese place, Japanese etc. The options are very limited. a decent bookstore etc.*
- *I don't have a strong feeling about this. I'm fine driving to nearby towns.*
- *mens clothes*
- *What will thrive in a dt of this size? Need to create a buzz. what would draw people in. need gathering places for all ages. need teen activities.*
- *Affordable restaurants (not chain).*
- *Hastings Prime Meats or another place to offer meals-to-go, good food on a rotating basis. Ethnic variety, well prepared. Really good vegetables, not wilting and overpriced. More clothing, cafes, Middle Eastern food, basic clothing if your kid needs a shirt, pants, or socks, cafe /ice cream parlor hangout with board games and old movie videos, maybe a gardening /environmental store. Bookstore. Teen clothes.*
- *A sushi bar, a micro-brewery on the river front, and far fewer nails shops.*

- *A variety of ethnic restaurants would be terrific - poor choice right now.*
- *affordable children's clothing, furniture, ethnic restaurants more family style restaurants*
- *I'd like to see more organic markets, a real shoestore for kids, fresh fruits/veggies, a cafe, an ice cream shop, more restaurants*
- *Starbucks and an Indian restaurant*
- *Coffee house open long hours with free wireless; ethnic restaurants (Asian, Indian); gym with racquetball / squash / basketball courts (waterfront?)*
- *Downtown business area: nicer restaurants, clothing store, unique, varied interesting stores to browse and shop in.*
- *I would love to see the health food store be a really vibrant, fresh place where I wouldn't have to worry about the expiration date on everything. I have seen a good health food store thrive in almost any kind of community. A really nice gift shop with maybe a more antique and garden bent. Interesting, beautiful things that are also functional. A BOOK STORE! A toy store that's not a dusty bore. A second hand sporting good shop. A truly family friendly restaurant---one that is fun for kids and parents, like Two Boots in NYC. Relatively cheap but good and fun---maybe the new Comfort will be that.*
- *Better restaurants. Places to hang out and read and relax (a bigger version of places like Antoinettes!). Better specialty food stores. Bookstores. Bicycling store.*
- *More family restaurants.*
- *More kids oriented stores- a real shoes store, a real book store- a gym or better indoor play place for winter and rainy days- more music- a movie house!!!- jazz club- yoga studio- arts and crafts that are locally made and affordable- better flowers- cards-*
- *Ethnic restaurants, hang out kind of cafe or wine bar place, A really good bakery!*
- *stationary store toy store family friendly restaurant nice cafe good art store good frame shop bookstore*

- *Movie house that also provides a performance space. Another venue where musicians or other bards can perform.*
- *Home store (linens, towels, etc), movie theatre (wishful thinking, huh?), a nice dessert place that stays open late or ice cream parlor to be able to sit down to stay and eat*
- *Bakery, older kids clothing, mens wear, sporting goods. dance /yoga studio
a book / music store, better restaurants and quick places to eat, a great, reasonable priced restaurant that one could meet up with friends casually and conveniently linger at without feeling rushed. An independent coffee shop or one with prepared organic foods for example. Also, how about a small hotel? And finally, any business where our youth could find a part-time job would be welcome!*
- *restaurants, good book stores, galleries, upscale shops*
- *Book store*
- *clothing, gift shop, shoes, ethnic food*
- *More take out food options like Mexican food or a hallal grill like Rafiki's*
- *We need to replace Good Yarns! Men / boys clothing.*
- *Indian restaurant*
- *The basics are covered here, though many of the shops feel tired and /or uninspired.*
- *Much more in the way of organic and gourmet food and groceries.*
- *RESTAURANTS--good quality, family friendly, reasonably priced, preferably ethnic food BOOKSTORE CLOTHING--Moderately priced clothes for children and adults including staples--socks, underwear, t-shirts, etc.*
- *YOGA CENTER GYMBOREE*
- *Shoe repair, more and better restaurants, more cafes / coffee shops, a good bakery, gourmet food store(s) w /great prepared food, ie, balducci's, citarella, hayday.*

- *More upscale food, restaurants, shops*
- *Organic supermarket, nicer boutiques, more restaurants.*
- *I would like to see a Starbucks and more specialty stores. Hastings needs a major facelift, especially the downtown area. If you want people to shop here you have to make it more appealing to the consumer.*
- *a sushi restaurant*
- *women's and men's clothing, better and affordable grocery, a high quality cafe (our would never compete ex Hastings - Antoinettes is not high quality)*
- *bakery, book store, a decent cafe that's clean and inviting (I wish Antoinette's was near all the other shops), reasonably priced family style restaurant (something like Sam's in Dobbs)*
- *Indoor swimming pool and gym. Quality ice-cream parlor.*
- *A shoemaker? A gym, indoor pool. Yoga place like in Dobbs Ferry. Something healthy, vegetarian friendly. Some nice restaurants with good quality but not too pricey. I.e. we go to the Tomatillo in Dobbs Ferry. From the menu, the Mexican chain restaurant that is going to Hastings does not seem to have that quality or veg. friendly variety.*
- *ethnic foods*
- *finally some more ethnic food / restaurants*
- *Better restaurants*
- *Less antiquated retail stores..*
- *An affordable family clothing store. A bakery that bakes on premises. More ethnic restaurants, such as, middle eastern, edible chinese, thai, etc. The drugstore should resume carrying make-up to avoid the necessity to go to CVS.*
- *Evening sidewalk cafes*
- *bakery, bookstore, sporting goods, pets, pottery, baby gifts,*

- *Better and more restaurants*
- *Pet store. Live music venue*
- *Just fine as is. Boutique shops that would draw from a wider area should always be welcome (eg, jewelers, crafts, antiques, etc).*
- *sushi more restaurants, Latte*
- *restaurants, sushi, Clothing stores, Good Coffee shop*

STATEMENTS: LOCAL BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

22. How much do you agree with the following statements?						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Local Businesses are healthy and have a steady flow of business	1.8% (7)	11.9% (45)	34.8% (132)	42.7% (162)	8.7% (33)	379
I am satisfied with the level of commercial and retail activity within Hastings	1.8% (7)	14.0% (53)	17.7% (67)	49.6% (188)	16.9% (64)	379
Hastings is in need of economic development	40.4% (153)	38.3% (145)	12.1% (46)	5.5% (21)	3.7% (14)	379
Hastings will not be able to maintain a downtown business district due to the overwhelming competition of nearby major retail and specialty businesses.	4.0% (15)	17.9% (68)	25.3% (96)	37.5% (142)	15.3% (58)	379
					Comments	98
					answered question	379
					skipped question	9

COMMENTS:

- *A more vibrant business district would benefit the existing businesses. A rising tide lifts all ships.*
- *Let's raise the tax base and keep our taxes in check.*
- *Our residents will support our downtown if the stores fill our needs*
- *some flourish...antoinettes...some don't chines..because they meet the needs of people here*
- *There are few attractions and poor parking.*
- *The type of economic development we need is that which broadens the tax revenue base.*

- *We need more types of stores, not duplication. Rents have to be appealing to encourage new businesses -- not more than the other river towns.*
- *Art studios and galleries in whatever buildings are left on the waterfront could help stimulate economic growth in the town.*
- *I am worried about the number of empty storefronts in Hastings. I also worry that chains such as Dunkin Donuts, the Gap, Starbucks, CVS, etc. might move in and destroy the businesses I patronize. I LIKE our local pharmacy, our coffee and pastry shops, etc. And I desperately want an Indian restaurant. And so does everyone else I know.*
- *People will come here, even if it's a little out of their way, if the village is a fun place to shop and eat, and take a break.*
- *unless the prices are the same or cheaper than the bigger stores, I do not see Hastings stores doing well*
- *Hastings could maintain a downtown business district if it maintains unique stores, whether they be food or clothes, but it's unlikely to happen overnight.*
- *My answers are sort of contradictory. We need a draw in the down town or no one will ever go there. If we have a draw, then maybe it can compete. But as it is now, Costco gets the majority of my cash, and our downtown can't really compete.*
- *I don't think Hastings can compete with Stew Leonards and Trade Joe's for bulk food items, but for specialty items it can and should as Antoinette's have proven -- when you need a nice cake, you go to Antoinette's. A nice shoe store, a nice frame shop, a nice lingerie shop, and a nice flower shop would be terrific.*
- *It is crucial to support our local business, raising parking prices will not help*
- *Unless we focus on things which make us special - like the Farmer's Market - which draws outsiders to us - I don't see how the downtown can survive.*
- *I love Costco. I go into Fairway 125th street a lot. I like the big Barnes & Noble. Hard to compete with them. I really like the Hastings Hardware store though. They have great service, the cost is competitive and it's way faster than going to Home depot.*

- *I guess it depends on the businesses...hard to say, different people have different needs*
- *I (and I think many of my neighbors) do make it a priority to shop downtown when needed products are available - the stationery store, hardware store, pizza shops, barber shops etc. are great.*
- *1 drug store closed, I heard Office ink is closing, book store closed - how can it be healthy.*
- *Start competing and you can forget the last question!*
- *The village should be unique. Greater effort should be put into retaining its character and vitality. The current Mayor is not working sufficiently closely with the shop keepers. Communication must be improved.*
- *If the downtown infra structure (sidewalks, streets without potholes, pedestrian walk way lines are cleaned and maintained and the village works with the stores and helps explain the kind of stores we need, our downtown might survive.*
- *Be smart about the development and you will have a vibrant downtown.*
- ***HASTINGS DOES NOT NEED A LARGER BUSINESS DISTRICT BUT IT NEEDS BETTER BUSINESSES WITH MORE CREATIVE BUSINESS IDEAS TO ATTRACT BUYERS TO THE VILLAGE WHO HAVE MANY ALTERNATIVES TO SHOP ELSEWHERE***
- *Look, its OK - not great. I buy my food, drugs, stationary, toys and coffee downtown. Clothing, elsewhere.*
- *We need to support our downtown. It is part of what makes Hastings special.*
- *Some level of business will always survive but many will do so at a marginal level.*
- *if you have good services and businesses at reasonable rates, people will come instead of making a longer trip elsewhere.*
- *I would be able to disagree with the last statement if some of our businesses would rejuvenate themselves; i.e. the hardware store. I would*

love to shop there for ALL household goods, but it's cluttered, crowded and dirty and the workers (who are all extremely nice) at times don't know what they have in stock or where to find it. Also, the A&P has the worst produce and the workers act like they hate working there. I almost never shop there unless I'm really pressed, but wish that I would really want to. The other thing is the closed on Monday thing that is a problem for me. I am in NY T/W/Th and it would be great if I could shop on Mondays in the village. Customer service is one thing that big box can't deliver; that's what I value most.

- *Hastings shouldn't be trying to maintain a White Plains business district. It's fine to have some small boutique-type shops, a few restaurants and cafes, some non-chain fast food places (e.g., pizza, chinese, whatever), some small service-type establishments (e.g. pharmacy, video, office support, bookstore, stationery, maybe a repair shop, and jeweler), and the previously-mentioned produce store (or 2). Most of this is already there. I don't want banana republic, walmart, wendy's, or any other chain retailer, with the single exception of a decently managed supermarket (that's actually super).*
- *Rye, Scarsdale, Bronxville, Irvington all have more appealing stores and people there all shop locally.*
- *I attempt to shop Hastings first for gifts, and it is difficult, but I do it. More variety of stores is needed.*
- *I think Hastings residents pride themselves for living in a beautiful village like atmosphere and would not like to have any chain stores and the likes of McDonalds, Starbucks etc.*
- *I think Hastings needs intelligent economic development--but I do not mean letting developers put condos on every spare bit of land. Rather, putting effort into attracting quality businesses and shops, marinas, well designed public spaces, preservation of views, nurturing the trailways and keeping public parks and other public areas nicely cleaned, and planted. Also, insisting on proper sidewalks and not letting homeowners just blacktop over old sidewalks--this erodes the look of the Village. I look forward to a novel, interesting and beautiful Quarry Park for everyone to enjoy.*
- *I'm not sure. So many businesses have closed. Without resorting to a franchise I would love to see the town encourage business development. The rents in town are so high that small business owners can't compete.*

- *Somehow downtown continues and I always see people in town. I think the main problem is probably that rents are too high.*
- *Some businesses are clearly doing well, more are not, unfortunately. I am willing to shop in Hastings, both to support local even if it is a bit more expensive and because service matters.*
- *I don't think completion is the main problem for the Hastings downtown business. I think it's unreasonable rents and also the fact that no one is open until 10am when all the stay at home mothers drop their kids off at 9 and that is when they have time to shop, so they go elsewhere.*
- *Hastings businesses need to stop complaining about the competition from nearby major retail businesses and start focusing on the strengths a local business can deliver that the big boxes cannot: customer service, attention to detail, knowing and meeting your customer's needs and convenience. Stop looking at the waterfront as competition and start thinking how you capitalize on it by migrating your main street business or starting an offshoot.*
- *I think we have to recognize our own obligation to keep our businesses healthy. I've only lived in Hastings about 2 1/2 years, but my sense is that many of the residents here are not that materialistic. They would rather spend money on their homes, travel and the like.*
- *Maybe Hastings can't compete with e.g. a Petsmart or Petco in price /selection, or Bed Bath and Beyond, so maybe we'll always need to go to Central Park Ave for such things.*
- *We can. We just can't be everything to everybody!!*
- *We need the right business that are more family oriented to meet the needs of the community.*
- *We are just too small to be serviced by many suppliers--megatrucks do not fit on our streets, franchise operations are not interested in operating here, independents are failing*
- *No big box stores*
- *I do think we can turn our downtown business district around if we have the vision and the will. Landlords most certainly need to lower*

their rents if they want to see people take some risk to try to bring back some vibrancy to our village.

- *Our physical geography limits us; Dobbs, e.g. has longer layout and better parking.*
- *As long as residents support their local businesses, they'll survive.*
- *Hastings will have a challenge due to the competition of nearby retail and specialty businesses, but with wise planning that would not be a problem. More of our own specialty stores, strong restaurants, and responsive owners are what we need.*
- *Hastings must aim for quality businesses and niche markets. Obviously it can't compete with large retailers but it can offer*
- *We need to be able to attract businesses to HoH and provide a reasonable tax base for us.*
- *Hastings can and should make more of an effort to provide what the bigger stores offer*
- *businesses / downtown need assistance*
- *we need to get competitive. Hastings has a real charm, but it needs an infusion of new, energetic, and creative business minds.*
- *Many stores seem to be closing, but I think it's the businesses (bad products, service, etc...), not the town the business is in.*
- *In general, the kind of traffic a small village downtown can reasonably hope to generate in the 21st century economy is questionable. I'd like to know what other similar sized municipalities have done. I suspect that what works is small, specialty destination stores that can draw customers from all the rivertowns, and, those would work best if they were the types of business that would cause customers to linger (art galleries, clubs, restaurants, specialty shops--designer clothes, cigar shop, etc).*
- *Central Ave does not satisfy everyone's specialized needs or the way people want to do them.*
- *I don't know enough to grade the last statement.*

- *I suspect the economic future is tied to the waterfront, which is why it needs to be done well.*
- *I pay no attention to this town - so I have no idea about any of the above. and, I don't understand what economic development is*
- *I wish you'd explain what economic development is!*
- *stores like the hardware store remain in business because they have incredible customer service and despite charging slightly more, they have built loyalty. most businesses can be successful in Hastings with reasonable prices and good customer service. nobody wants to go to central avenue*
- *Something must be done to provide parking and other amenities to reattract the local folk to the downtown area.*
- *That last question, shame on you! I think there are some knuckleheads who want to keep things as they were 50 years ago, as if a town is a museum. First, the brew pub.*
- *Look at success of Readers Hardware in Dobbs--an excellent store with excellent service and goods--I go there first, before Home Depot Schools should support downtown more--giving students guidance to buy certain needed books from Galapagos, art supplies from Wendy, school sundries from the Stationery store*
- *Question of attitude and planning. Too many empty stores. Rents too high. Plenty of nick-knack shops.*
- *Businesses come and go--so Hastings will always have turnover and vacant store fronts. Proximity and service can't be matched by Home Depots etc. located on the other side of the Saw Mill River Parkway. Merchants who stock essentials, price them reasonably, avoid banker's hours and know how to run a business (unlike the amateurs who took over Hastings Drugs) will be able to make a decent enough profit in Hastings.*
- *I don't know how successful Hastings business actually are / whether they are in need of help.*
- *Hastings would be able to maintain a downtown business if it attracted destination businesses (i.e. businesses, such as a great book store or toy store or good restaurants that made other neighboring citizens want to*

visit). Just look at the brisk flow during Hastings Farmers Market - we need to create that kind of buzz year-round. Again, it's not just about the business / product, but also about the store hours. I can NOT shop in Hastings before 6 pm during the week. Also, bringing in some corporations to the waterfront (similar to what was done in Irvington) would help generate a work force that could help sustain local business due to daily spending (restaurants during lunchtime, quick trip to the local pharmacy / toy store during a break)

- *SOME businesses in town seem healthy. These are the ones that seem to have a sense of contemporary and updated (but not necessarily upscale) attitudes. These are the ones that greet you in a friendly manner, are receptive to parents with children (and strollers!). Think Antoinettes, Thomas's, Chelsea's, Indigo, Festivities, even Prime Meats. Problem stores, that haven't updated in decades: Food for Thought, Corset Tree (Please someone help her with her windows and store design!),*
- *Dobbs Ferry seems to have more retail and specialty business than Hastings. Why should we have to go there to shop for household, garden items? A few of our stores have developed recently but we need more growth.*
- *If you build it, people will come. Hastings is a walking town. People do not want to drive to malls, but sometimes it's the only option.*
- *I really don't know, because I'm not a member of the chamber of commerce and I don't have a feel for this.*
- *Downtown parking makes everything harder need a critical mass so that you're not just coming for one item and leaving, but have a reason to browse and walk.*
- *Everyone would like to avoid the drive to Central Avenue! I myself go to Bronxville at least once a week for fresh bagels, baked goods, shoes, a gym, etc.*
- *Hastings can do well providing there is sufficient parking. New stores are coming on Main St...Increasing traffic and parking problems.*
- *Look at Rye, Cold Spring, Nyack, Mt Kisco People WILL shop locally if they are offered the things they need and want in an aesthetically pleasing way. We need to get creative--we can do better than the competition! (especially with such high gas prices)*

- *We can definitely increase foot and car traffic to the downtown and increase the business. WE have a very concerned community but we may need some sort of mediator to help bridge the different opinions within the community. Also, the Riverfront Development holds the key to the future! WE need to get a move on that. It's taking too long. Everyone needs to compromise.*
- *commercial development OUTSIDE of the downtown area should be encouraged*
- *The stores need to be more diverse and unique, but parking is a big issue. There needs to be more parking for the people who work here everyday (like postal workers and merchants). People are parking on the residential streets above Broadway and walking to the train or to work in town. How about a commuter lot away from the train station with a free shuttle.*
- *We need more action, but we need to be smart like Park Slope: grow it organically and keep out the chains. Found it on art and creativity.*
- *The foot of Main and Wharburton, particularly the cleaners, Chinese take-out and drug store storefronts are an eyesore and are the face of downtown. These storefronts are in dire need of improvement. Retailers should be encouraged / helped to offer better products at competitive prices. If improvements were made, I would gladly shop more in downtown Hastings that waste gas and energy to go to other towns to shop.*
- *not only would some new places bring some fresh energy to downtown and enliven the whole business district, but would provide some offset to the burdens being placed on the residential tax base.*
- *I do not know enough to have a strong opinion about maintaining downtown Hastings.*
- *I think that residents WANT to shop in Hastings first, but we lack much of what people want...*
- *Hastings can be complete if the focus is to make the downtown more attractive and bring in more interesting, upscale retailers - the ones you can't find in a shopping mall.*
- *the third is tricky: they could do it if they undertook the right waterfront development at the same time.*

- *Some businesses are healthy but there are too many empty store fronts.*
- *Current stores do not offer long enough opening hours to be competitive. Examples are the post office and the hardware store. After work the only choices we have are Dobbs Ferry post office or Home Depot.*
- *Some businesses do better than others; some retailers need to spruce up their stores. While parking is an issue, we need to find a way to encourage more residents to come into the downtown.*
- *We need a commercial base (businesses/offices) to support stores and eateries during the weekdays*
- *If the later hypothesis is correct, the size and number of viable downtown businesses may shrink - but I believe there will always be a sustainable core of local businesses offering the added values of convenience and intimacy, from cleaners to pharmacies, from wine shops to small markets, along with local restaurants. And, of course, the A&P.*
- *Downtown rents to high. affordable business locations to at waterfront to compete with outrageous biz rents*
- *The Rents for commercial buildings downtown are prohibitive to a vibrant business*

VILLAGE RECREATIONAL NEEDS

23. Which of the following facilities do you think are most needed in the Village?				
	I Think There Is A Need, I Would Use This	The Village Has Sufficient Facilities	This Doesn't Apply To Me	Response Count
More baseball or soccer fields	30.3% (112)	51.1% (189)	18.6% (69)	370
A kayaking/canoeing dock and launching area	54.2% (202)	9.7% (36)	36.2% (135)	373
An indoor pool	48.4% (177)	33.3% (122)	18.3% (67)	366
More facilities for senior citizens	19.4% (72)	38.3% (142)	42.3% (157)	371
More facilities for young children	26.2% (97)	46.2% (171)	27.6% (102)	370
			Comments	68
			answered question	376
			skipped question	12

COMMENTS:

- *Indoor pool is nice, but probably too expensive.*
- *Also, maintain the baseball fields that you have better than you do now.*
- *More facilities for teenagers!*
- *this town is heavily biased towards its seniors*
- *Practice times are difficult with the present amount of fields. An indoor pool would be genius, however make tax funded not membership..*
- *need a large waterfront park*
- *no, we need another outdoor pool on the waterfront -- and maybe someday put a retractable rook on the Hillside facility*
- *Power boaters sail boaters and kayakers should all have easy access to the river.*
- *I'd love a pool, but let's face it, we could never afford it.*

- *I kayak, so definitely, same for pool, I volunteer in little league and fields have been a problem for over 10 years.*
- *I think we should concentrate on improving existing infrastructure*
- *We have enough fields already. When I went to school in Hastings I was a member of the largest class in Hastings and we had more than enough fields. Enrollment is not as high as when I went to school. lets get real*
- *I think the dock is good although I personally wouldn't use it, if the price was right I would use the pool, I am heading towards joining senior activities.*
- *By improving fields and having real Little League fields where local businesses can advertise are a must. Better fields attract families w / children, who in turn stay longer, promote community stability, frequent local businesses*
- *Resolve the waterfront!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*
- *There is a need for after school classes for kids in middle school. They have no activities to go to, and the after school clubs at the school are sporadic at best.*
- *The kayaking or canoeing dock should be properly designed. It should be a floating dock only a few inches above the water so that people may step from it into a canoe or kayak.*
- *Not young children so much as adolescents - there is a big need for more for them to do.*
- *There is also a need for more softball & lacrosse fields*
- *An attractive, public marina facility would be a good use of the waterfront. In addition, those communities that have built facilities for antique wooden boats have attracted many visitors and sparked interest in this activity. See the website of the Antique and Classic Boat Society. <http://www.acbs.org/>*
- *village green, a place indoor & out to have communal gatherings*

- *I shlep my daughter to Pace for swim lessons. Where I grew up, there was a pool in the high school and middle school and my family used it a lot.*
- *most are good ideas, but really cost more than necessary, and can be better provided privately*
- *Rec dept seems to be doing a lot for kids and seniors. If the facilities were upgraded and better maintained, there might even be enough sports fields.*
- *Heat the pool.*
- *More facilities for teenagers*
- *Access to the waterfront is important so kayaking / canoeing would be nice even though I wouldn't use it.*
- *Though I don't have young children, I think it wd be welcome (also for older children, as I mentioned earlier)*
- *A sailing facility would be a draw.*
- *We need nicer, not more parks for young children*
- *Pool should be more affordable or free to all Hastings residents*
- *For the last three (baseball / soccer, senior facilities & children facilities), we have the spaces, they just need to be improved.*
- *Alternative programs for children and seniors may be desirable.*
- *for my grandkids, of course, who spend a lot of time here*
- *An indoor playground during the winter*
- *Would like to see the American Legion developed as a cultural facility with community garden surrounding it*
- *I think the village needs to create more baseball and soccer fields because the school facilities are stretched to the limit by community uses.*

- *The new Community Center has enabled more offerings for seniors, teenagers, and younger children; and they're doing a good job, in my observation.*
- *Do NOT building an indoor pool unless it was for use by the school. The summer pool is already way too expensive and over run with crazy people who refuse to share the lap lanes. (Someone really should do something about this.) The playgrounds and fields should be improved, not added to. There should be more to do for the young people, as there isn't even a movie theater or anything for them to do besides go to the diner or hang out.*
- *these are perks that I wouldn't want to pay for as a taxpayer*
- *This village does not need more publicly financed sports recreational facilities, especially not a second, tax-supported pool.*
- *I think river-related activities would be great, but I myself am not a water-sports person*
- *indoor pool would be used but than what would happen with the YMCA? I do not think driving 15 minutes is a big problem*
- *would like to offer alternatives to drinking in woods*
- *I don't know about the ones that don't apply - I can't assess need.*
- *I wouldn't use the last two but I think that they are extremely important.*
- *Uh, what about places where people can get what they need w/o driving everywhere. You guys sound like you're on the wrong track.*
- *Pool would be expensive--could a deal for Hastings citizens be cut with the Ardsley pool in the middle school?*
- *I would probably use an indoor pool if it were free. But I don't consider my use an essential need and do not want to pay for it through taxes or fees. No more new facilities if it means increased taxes / fees or deterioration of existing facilities / services.*
- *indoor sports facility would be useful*

- *The village should not consider any more recreational projects until they are able PROPERLY care for the existing parks*
- *A marina with permanent tables and benches, fishing, eagle watching and light cheap food service.*
- *I think the town should work on improving what it has, rather than creating more.*
- *Especially could use an indoor pool*
- *Our new community center is offering many facilities for seniors. Good idea!*
- *The renovation of the New Rec Center has been great, but it has a problem with the older kids who take over. A lot of younger children, ages 7 -10, do not like going there because of the lack of game area designated for them.*
- *indoor winter tennis. also, many towns in US and elsewhere have teen discos every week or month*
- *Public schools should sponsor only intramural sports and not interscholastic sports.*
- *Find construction of above questions confusing*
- *We need to add more services and uses for the new community center. We should also have a gym / health club either in it or in a separate building or private entity*
- *Small sailboats for sailing classes.*
- *While more facilities for senior citizens falls into the doesn't apply to me category, I would entertain more facilities for Sr.'s if they feel the need.*
- *I think the village does think about its senior citizens.*
- *I would use an indoor pool but we don't have the money and need sidewalks more!*
- *Lights for Reynolds Field for HS football and Hastings Youth Football, also lights at the Burke Estate for soccer and Lacrosse*

- ***WE NEED LIGHTS FOR FOOTBALL GAMES AT REYNOLS FIELD. BOTH FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL AND THE HASTINGS YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM. INSTALLING LIGHTS AT THE BURKE ESTATE COULD DRAW MAJOR SOCCER AND LACROSSE TOURNAMENTS WICH WOULD GIVE THE VILAGE A BOOST.***
- *Current facilities need to be better utilized*
- *There would no child care if not for Pam Koner*

MULTI-VILLAGE CULTURAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

24. Would you be interested in multi-village cultural events and celebrations, such as a Hudson River Festival?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	72.0%	268
No 	11.8%	44
Not Sure 	16.1%	60
	Comments	36
	answered question	372
	skipped question	16

COMMENTS:

- *Too busy with work and family to get involved.*
- *Not on a regular basis. Too many of these events already in place*
- *at the new park on the waterfront (yet to be built)*
- *I would like to attend as well as volunteer.*
- *We are organizing a Hastings jazz / blues festival this June 13-14th. Hope you can come.*
- *Improving the infrastructure is more important.*
- *Every festival held has been extremely well attended. The carnival for kids was a huge success.*
- *I would need to know more information*
- *Interested, maybe. Excited, no.*
- *But, we're already doing some great stuff - the Take Me to the River festival, the PTSA's Popcorn and Puppets, etc.*
- *This would promote a more vital business district.*

- *Think Liz Leahy Liebeskind does a great job with her community events; they could be built upon.*
- *Also, for large ticket items like indoor swimming, what about a quad-village facility?*
- *Great idea! Get Liz Leahy to organize it!*
- *Great idea... earthday activities as well...major cleanups..*
- *Good idea. But if it's just another venue for Mothers On Prozac et al, it won't work.*
- *Traffic congestion, hoop-la, pretty meaningless when NYC is so much better and costs about \$10.00 for a senior to get to*
- *Depends on quality of program*
- *I hate this kind of forced stuff where you pay through the nose to feel politically correct and involved*
- *Yes, definitely.*
- *Great idea -- maybe one or two major events in the summer at the Burke Estate.*
- *I think there are enough of those kinds of festivals*
- *Depends on the nature and quality of the festival and its attractions.*
- *Festivals need to have a very specific focus and draw, or they fail.*
- *Sounds great!*
- *I'm happy with our local events now. Keep Hastings sleepy.*
- **NO MORE TAX DOLLARS ON EVENTS THAT THE ENTIRE VILLAGE WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM**
- *we have plenty of festivals! we need economic development downtown!!*
- *Wonderful idea I'm all for them! GREAT idea.*

- *You mean with the Irvington people, the ones who have a guard checking IDs and making non residents leave the park?*
- *This could be good for morale as well as for a revenue stream not dependent on property taxes. I would be willing to put up with the occasional inconvenience of traffic and crowding for this opportunity*
- *As long as there is no cost to the village.*
- *Intra-Village festivals and events should be the priority, to promote village - not regional - community and vitality.*

SEASONAL WALKING AND BIKING TOURS

25. Would you participate if Hastings organized seasonal walking or biking tours, which would highlight the rich history and natural landscapes of the area?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	53.9%	200
No 	16.7%	62
Not Sure 	29.4%	109
	Comments	35
	answered question	371
	skipped question	17

COMMENTS:

- *ABSOLUTELY!!! I've often thought of organizing this myself.*
- *Too many of these events already in place*
- *Maybe. Probably unlikely unless it was free or cheap.*
- *This is a comment to #4: Do any of you know what energy sources really are clean and renewable?*
- *Yes, but where is the revenue there? this seems beside the point*
- *I'm commenting here on the question below (#4) because there's curiously no comment section for that question. I would need to know more info to answer #4. Paying more for a renewable energy for an unlimited amount of time is absurd!*
- *Too old!*
- *If I were younger my answer would have been yes*
- *Depends on whether they're for families or individuals*
- *Great ideas*

- *Our family has been doing this for 40 years with existing groups. Why does Hastings think it should do this when there are excellent clubs and non-profits doing this? Would like to have public transportation to Rockefeller Park & Preserve from county or village.*
- *We do this any way Why does this need to be a Hastings event?*
- *More interested in biking tours*
- *It would be nice to organize a weekly walk / run / bike for exercise and community*
- *I don't use a bike but easy walking tours with knowledgeable guides would be great.*
- *Again...wrong track. We are pretty busy. Not out to make friends. We need a reason to stay in town. Please, give it to us.*
- *Great idea!*
- *I've been on River Walks and adored them!!*
- *I don't have the time for more stuff.*
- *Village needs to focus on its economic and infrastructure before we can hold hands a sing songs because we think life is so grand. The village is getting more flakey and grungy each day, I have had old friends who grew up in Hastings visiting recently and their comments were less than favorable, rundown and tired was their description of the new Hastings*
- *Probably.*
- *I'm too old to participate but it's a great idea.*
- *in small to medium group, with really knowledgeable guide, not This is Hillside Woods*
- *It would depend on how knowledgeable the leader of the tour would be, if it's a walking tour. Biking would be tough on our hills.*
- *If able.*

- *This is our biggest resource!!!!*
- *probably - if they were interesting*
- *There are nature walks with Wildman Steve.*
- *Again, no cost to village, only*
- *Again, if the event has a local community focus, and is not targeted to a broader regional area.*

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS

27. Please feel free to leave any additional feedback or comments.	
	Response Count
	123
answered question	123
skipped question	265

COMMENTS:

- *The problem in downtown Hastings is not necessarily with the businesses. It is with the overall feel of the town. The landlords have allowed the buildings to fall into disrepair making the town have a negative feel. The rents are too high and the businesses that exist are completely out of touch with the residents of the town. Everyone I know wishes downtown was nice and laments that it is not.*
- *Latest developments, including the new apartments on Main Street, are ugly and intrusive. Where was the Architectural Review board?*
- *Thank you for your efforts and contributions!*
- *The sidewalk and landscaping (or lack of) in front of Hastings High School is a terrible eyesore.*
- *I think that a lot of what is charming and idiosyncratic is being destroyed. A lot of artisans and artists have moved out in recent years. There has been a loss of true diversity in the population. I hope that this reverses or settles into an equilibrium.*
- *I like our village. I think our waterfront could greatly ad to our downtown.*
- *People complain about parking, even those who could walk to downtown but instead choose to drive. Hastings needs a walk to shop or walk to school campaign. roof on the A&P is an eyesore, particularly facing north from Farragut Av at Five corners.*

- *thanks and good luck*
- *One of the problems w /Hastings is quality control - lousy sidewalk renovation; lousy pool renovation; already the new Comm. Center looks shopworn - and I saw it a week after it opened and the floor tiles were coming up. Our summer camp is pitiful compared to the Ardsley School District; our school facilities are wanting. But we have a crossing guard AND police at the crosswalk in front of Farragut MS/HS. And a police officer at 5pm downtown to make sure that all the factory workers (remember them from 30 years ago!) can cross the street. We waste resources and people get annoyed when they see tangible waste but are asked to pay higher fees or taxes. BTW the new parking system at Boulanger is also a mess. You need to walk out of your way to get to paystations - if its raining you get soaked doing this - a nightmare for people with young children. I LOVE HASTINGS but feel that much is mismanaged.*
- *Feel strongly about seeing our waterfront property developed. Seems like a waste of prime location property.*
- *The waterfront development is the single most vital accomplishment that can be made. Allow a developer to build.*
- *Nice to be listened to. Thanks.*
- *Thanks and good luck :-)*
- *People need to understand that without a downtown, Hastings will just be 2 square miles of houses, much like Ardsley. That can happen any day, as so many businesses are struggling. People complain about the shabby downtown, but if a store is not making money, it's hard to upgrade. There has to be less of a hostile attitude towards the offputting downtown. If you want to live in Scarsdale, then move there. If you want to stay in Hastings, you need to at least try to support the downtown.*
- *thank you for helping in this important endeavor*
- *Good work!!*
- *Don't forget the Indian restaurant.*
- *I think Hastings should have a place for kids to go hang out, I.e. pool table, bowling, dance floor, Kid-O-robics type of place all in one.*

- *Hastings is struggling against some hard economic realities. I appreciate the hard work being done by the Committee, and hope for the best. But, unless we solve some of our economic problems, like how to pay for our excellent school system without driving seniors away, and how to keep merchants downtown, it will become a bedroom community, not the village it still is. Focus on projects which foster our connections.*
- *I know filling this out was a waste of time since you will not take the advice of the public and do what the Mayor and the village board wants. The downtown of Hastings is like a barren waste land. Take this from someone who has lived in Hastings 47 years and seen it all. This Mayor has let the village decline. They let nothing into the village that would help it out financially. We need some light industry to help with the taxes. Building new homes is not the answer.*
- *I will eventually be going on a fixed income so I don't feel I will be able to afford the last question about increase in cost for renewable energy.*
- *My name is Rob Freireich. Feel free to write me at rfreireich@capitalpreserve.com to send me updates and bulletins on your efforts. I commend you for examining what is a very important opportunity to turn Hastings business and culture into something that can come alive, and make people want to turn off the Saw Mill to visit, and patronize the Village.*
- ***I WOULD LIKE TO SEE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND MORE FACILITIES FOR SENIORS.***
- *How about a fast food restaurant somewhere? It is quite annoying to drive to Central Ave or Tarrytown every time I feel like eating at McDonalds or Burger King. Can't find a place to put it? How about opening up access to the Thruway rest area from Jackson Ave? Speaking of Jackson Ave, something needs to be done about the intersection at Jackson and Saw Mill River Rd (9A) The traffic on Jackson heading West is TERRIBLE at commuter times. A simple left turn lane and arrow at the traffic light would alleviate so much of the congestion. I would also like to see a gym open for playing basketball during the colder or rainy days. If people are worried about suffering business and high taxes, we need to bring more people to Hastings which can be accomplished by building some new commercial spots. To put it bluntly, some trees are going to need to be cut down and some green space is going to be lost. People need to stop halting all the*

development because they're afraid of harming the natural environment (as MANY Hastings residents are.) That's just the cost of doing business; even though a few squirrels may lose their homes, Hastings will benefit in the long run.

- *Hastings strength is being a stand-alone upstate style village, not a ritzy commuter suburb, and being part of the cultural and architectural heritage of the Hudson Valley*
- *As long as I don't get hit by a speeding car while pulling out of my driveway (125 Farragut) in the morning, I plan on being in town for quite a while!*
- *Many of the town's benches / bus stops are in disrepair. More public seating is needed. More trash receptacles in useful places downtown (near seating) Bench at base of Library entrance. More public garden spaces downtown (i.e. near Community Ctr entrance)*
- *Keep Hastings Hastings! The new construction on Main Street is a disaster. It will bring too much traffic, the stores will be impossible to fill and the nighttime will now be filled with the lighted windows of the apartments there instead of the nice quiet dark streets that we know and love. Every member of the Village Board that voted for this should be impeached. Certain members are so filled with themselves that they're in danger of suffocating on their own egos. The picture that adorned the construction early on showed the lovely old bank building just west of it still standing as a monument to our heritage and the new construction fitting in and lower than the bank! In reality, the old bank building is now a ghost in the shadow of this monstrous condo project. Shame on the Village Board and Planning Board. People move to Hastings and the property values escalate and escalate because it is unique in its resistance to urbanization and modernization. Its human scale is treasured by every resident, new and old. The change that we will experience inevitably will be in the people who live in Hastings as people die and move away. What need not change...or at least need not change in a quintessential way, is the physical nature of the community. Leave it primarily as is: it is a miraculous backwater in a tumultuous world where people share responsibility for the community in the best tradition of American democracy because they have the powers they need to do so and where neighborliness truly exists.*
- *Marginally useful poll. Some structural issues. You missed some biggies: walkability issues, development of remaining open space, what people would like to see developed on the waterfront, and others.*

- *Congratulations1 my 100th survey! Do I get a prize? You folks do nothing but talk. and waste our money on 'consultants'*
- *Southside Avenue is really a disgrace. Not a very nice image for Hastings as you come in from the city.*
- *I have lived in Hastings since 1981 and I love this village and I don't ever plan to leave. A comprehensive plan that considers the impact of any and all future development (or non-development) is an important step toward maintaining our vibrant, yet peaceful hamlet. Thank you for going forward with this work.*
- *I certainly hope I see some progress made through this planning process and the ultimate execution of the process' outcome. I've been here over 11 years and have see very little if any progress (the library addition, farmers market and Harvest are the only things I can think of). The JHCC is not progress when the building is a monstrosity and anything but 'green' and there's no resolution on the waterfront in sight*
- *It was a wonderful opportunity to provide input. Check this out www.thestoryofstuff.org. Thanks!*
- *I think it's important to do the following things: -Actually use the information you are collecting. -Make sure that you take into account whether the resources we currently have are being fully utilized and if not, why. Is it a management problem that is really a personnel issue? -When people are hired to do the work (architects, contractors, etc.), make sure the contracts are allotted fairly, not on patronage.*
- *Nicely laid out. Hope you will learn something from the responses. Yes, taxes are increasingly difficult to sustain, particularly school taxes.*
- *We definitely need to make Hastings a more pedestrian and bike friendly village by constructing safe sidewalks and bike paths. This would also help us in preserving our environment and way of life for future generations.*
- *My taxes are too high for the services and retail offered in Hastings.*
- *We have portable toilets at Uniontown and Zinnser. We are probably the only village in Westchester that uses them. It took two months to open the bathrooms last year. Why is it so hard to accomplish? Our kids deserve running water?*

- *Hastings needs to put more time and effort into designing and planting our public open spaces so that the Village looks cared for and not neglected. Also, it is critical to attract more vital shops and curb unsightly and oversized development projects that do little to nothing for the Village and just make money for developers. 45 Main is an example of thoughtless and poorly designed development, as is the project at Warburton and Division St.*
- *This village needs an overhaul good luck*
- *I have been living in Hastings for only 2.5 years.*
- *Thank you for doing this. Hastings is a very special place. One of the things that would be great is developing an 'age in place' agenda although it is difficult to live here on a fixed income.*
- *More walking, less driving, greener, cleaner, fewer loud machines like leaf blowers.*
- *The key to anything and everything in Hastings is the waterfront, which is a disaster, and the schools, which are mediocre. Any other concerns are petty distractions from the real issues.*
- *Clean renewable energy needs NOT cost more than current sources if thin film organic solar cells are supported.*
- *Hastings needs to clean up the DPW area. It is a disgrace! As are the asphalt curbing and eroded medians on Minturn St.*
- *The village desperately needs commuter buses to and from the train to eliminate the traffic of cars picking up commuters and taxis that aren't even always available the village also desperately needs SIDEWALKS. It is impossible to walk anywhere or bike anywhere with children in a safe manner. We all have to use our cars instead of being healthy and walking. It is also impossible to get to the bike train on the other side of the Saw Mill in any safe manner that does not involve a car. That is a tragedy and easily fixed.*
- *Be mindful that the village population is 20% aged 60+, and that demographic is growing, possesses vast resources of money, extra time to dedicate to community building, wisdom, experience, technical expertise and political activism /will. And, that demographic is growing fast. The long term plan for the village must accommodate and nurture the notion of keeping our elders in the village because A) they represent*

a vast resource and B) as a matter of justice, they should not be 'forced' to move away from the community they built.

- *I look forward to joining this committee*
- *Hastings has a number of things going for it: Location - proximity to city Location - on the Hudson River Other - excellent schools; above average educated populace; walkable downtown; good library; farmers market; open space. None of these should be ignored.*
- *I love Hastings. Will never move.*
- *Thanks for this!*
- *Thank you*
- *Litter is an awful problem. And so is just general decay: Sidewalks are broken street signs bent / rusted / missing are all left that that way indefinitely. Hastings sometimes looks awful. It's like nobody from the Village is actually walking around surveying the problems. Thanks for doing this!*
- *Thank you for asking*
- *Whatever a majority to Hastings residents say they want, do the opposite and we will have a vibrant community. There is no new thinking in Hastings. Same political bs for years. Not doing anything new has been the model and this is not efficient or responsible, but the easy way out for the old farts that are in government. Thank god that they are not involved in the school system.*
- *I like this town. I am worried that it will become like the upper west side or Scarsdale. We need sidewalks along Broadway and everywhere so that people can walk and children do not have to be driven everywhere. This place seems designed to discourage families without two cars and loads of money from living here.*
- *The only place I want to see action / construction is on the waterfront. I think we should have a great big park there with a not-fancy kayak launch, playing fields and an indoor pool / fitness center. Throw a branch of Sushi Mike's in there and Hastings will be perfect. NO ROUNDABOUT AT FIVE CORNERS!!! WORST IDEA EVER!!!! FIVE CORNERS IS GREAT THE WAY IT IS.*

- *Please know that Hastings is a lovely place to live and we'd like it to stay that way.*
- *Focus most energy on fixing the waterfront.*
- ***CHANGES ARE IN DESPERATE NEED FOR THIS VILLAGE IT IS ONE OF THE MOST DEPRESSING VILLAGES LOCATED ON THE RIVERFRONT. THE RECREATION DEPT SPENT ALL THIS MONEY FOR A BUILDING WHEN WE SHOULD HAVE STARTED WITH THE STAFF! OUR PARKS, SO MUCH TIME ON SAVING TREES WHAT ABOUT THE PARKS AND BALLFIELD'S? WHERE DO THE TAX DOLLARS GO? THIS TOWN NEEDS TO BE ASHAMED OF HALF OF THE NONSENSE THAT HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO EXIST!***
- *My family has lived in Hastings since 1971, and it has changed a great deal but it has never lived up to its full potential. A carefully thought out redevelopment plan would be fantastic!*
- *HoH has rapidly morphed into a very left-leaning population that seems to be totally clueless as to the economic issues that we face. The property taxes are outrageous, and it seems like only the Manhattan transplants can now afford to live here.*
- *Thank you for your efforts. Good luck.*
- *Hastings is a quiet, peaceful community and I would hate for it to grow too big and too crowded by increased development. By the way, I love the new leaf blower law even though I use landscapers. I hope it will be enforced.*
- *I would like to receive results of this survey, and I would like to know more about how any of these changes might be implemented and by whom. Isabella2@optonline.net*
- *Thank you! Please do this more often! it is great to be able to have a voice!*
- *To me the two biggest challenges to the future health and vibrancy of Hastings are the high and ever-rising real estate taxes (which are certain to become a drag on home values in a declining real estate market) and the generally poor economic and physical condition of the village's downtown (in part a secular problem for all small downtowns;*

in part a problem that zoning, planning and tax policy might be able to improve if not cure). Those problems and not, say, energy conservation (unless it serves to reduce energy costs and therefore the tax burden), should be the top priorities of any comprehensive plan and of the village board as a whole. To the extent that waterfront development can further the goals of expanded public access to the river and improved economic conditions for the downtown, it should be a priority but any waterfront zoning must preserve the viewshed for the village as a whole...the worst thing that could happen to Hastings would be the erection of a wall of waterfront highrises like the ones at Yonkers and Riverdale which serve to sever the rest of the community from the viewshed. Finally, there's nothing romantic about the waterfront water tower (more an eyesore if you ask me) or area's industrial character. If the saw-tooth buildings could be economically converted to other uses, that would be fine, but it would be wrong--and possibly a disincentive to potential development--to encode their preservation into any plan.

- *Thanks for asking us!*
- *Ease parking restrictions for pool.*
- *as a 20 yr old, not supporting myself or my family - the questions were not well formulated for me and I didn't know how to answer many - but this questionnaire forced me to give a response.*
- *There were a few questions that I had no opinion, but had to answer or this survey would not go forward. So all my answers are not real.*
- *We cannot raise taxes any more on homeowners, we need to find new ways to generate income. The library and the new rec center were a good use of tax payer funds and add a lot to the community.*
- *Thanks for the nice usable survey. There was no mention of our problem with deer. They are actually changing the character of the town as people put up fencing to stop their predations, thus changing neighborhood culture and interaction. Hastings is the perfect size of its own energy generation and sustainability - if we focus on that, things will get a lot cheaper and better for us here in Hastings.*
- *Please, get on track. It sounds like there are too many cooks here, everybody in for their own interest. I don't think kayaking is the answer. Have you tried to shop in this town? I drive to Yonkers or Ardsley for a bakery. Go to Riverdale for shoe repair. Go to*

Pleasantville for a toy. Go to Bronxville for a book. Go to Dobbs Ferry for dinner. Go to Pleasantville for a movie. Go to Manhattan for grocery shopping. Go to Elmsford to buy plants. Does it sound like I need to go on an historic walk or rent a kayak?

- *Thanks Hunter College Studio Students!!!!!!!!!!*
- *Hastings is already the long term best recycler--let us build on that to be the greenest place on the Hudson...this should be reflected in every decision that gets made from here on in...starting with every store giving up plastic bags in a noisy way (small, but a signal that Hastings is going to be different from now on) An emphasis on walking, on community activities--maybe block committees set up so that neighbors know one another--some sense that living in Hastings entails responsibilities--at least a few hours of labor for the village from each household, giving a high school kid an internship, that kind of thing. Anything to break down isolation and to promote sustainable community.*
- *Please let's not turn Hastings into a blank suburb with some pretty views.*
- *Keep Hastings sleepy. Avoid Smart Growth. Lower school taxes. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. PS--Hastings is fully developed; don't rezone to accommodate developers.*
- *Broadway is in dire need of a facelift (trees, light poles, sidewalks). Please help!*
- *Thanks for doing this!*
- *Stop letting special interest groups dictate what is happening (or should I say NOT happening) with the waterfront revitalization project. Just move on with it and that will be the key to bringing people back downtown.*
- *Thank you for the survey.*
- *Thank you for asking these important questions. Now, let's take some action.*
- *Waterfront development is the single most important issue. This town is simply thumbing its nose at its greatest natural resource. The fact*

that those disgraceful structures still stand there today is nothing less than criminal.

- *You kids should get into a more productive business. You're going to be real frustrated.*
- *Get the existing town and its issues into shape before considering branching out into other services and programs that will just cost more money to maintain and fund.*
- *Thank you so much for putting in this time. I hope it helps our little town. I work for the farmers' market committee and have fought very hard (why do we have to fight for it?) to keep it where it is and as vibrant as it is.*
- *Re: renewable energy--I would like to purchase it, but can't afford it. If taxes are reduced, I could apply the savings to paying for renewable energy, and would do so.*
- *There are too many committees and sub-committees; let's make a decision before even our grandchildren are dealing with this lack of development in the village. If we wait too long (its been too long already) other villages and towns will be more appealing to homeowners and businesses.*
- *Please do something quickly to help develop Hastings and improve the quality of life*
- *I am glad this survey is being conducted. I too often hear people state they are considering leaving Hastings due to a lack of a vibrant downtown etc.*
- *Thanks Michelle, Look forward to seeing you! Sincerely, Jim gargiulo*
- *There are a lot of great individual efforts but they are one-off. It's great you're trying to address the big picture! Key to harness teen energy on weekends-- need ongoing activities for teens, singles, adults, so that if something doesn't work one week there's always the next one. Hastings could become the destination for all the Rivertowns this way.*
- *Hastings needs a village income tax to replace property taxes as the principal source of revenue. Property taxes are regressive and hurt the elderly, the lower middle class, and the poor. Tax the rich.*

- *I would love to understand why Hastings has empty storefronts and / or a lack of diversity in terms of businesses (I.e., too many nail salons, not many restaurants) as compared to other villages. Are the rents too high? Is our town too small to support other businesses? It's a mystery to me - we end up going a lot to Dobbs and Irvington, but I would love to frequent restaurants / businesses in my home town.*
- *I would like the village to try to slow drivers down when driving residential streets.*
- *I appreciate the time you are taking to do this. I hear complaints all the time about the lack of economic development and shabby nature of the downtown. I hope we can move beyond continued dialogue to ACTION.*
- *I think the more outspoken members of the community exaggerate the value of protecting Hastings from change and are making it expensive and exclusive regardless of their intent.*
- *Would like to have had a little more flexibility in answering some questions.*
- *We need to work faster on the Riverfront Development. It's taking too long and not enough people are willing to compromise to get it moving. It shouldn't take 30 years. Also, the Farmer's Market is fabulous! It draws thousands of people every week to the downtown. The shop owners in town need to stop complaining about parking and starting getting creative with marketing to an expanded consumer base.*
- *People come to this village due to its proximity to NYC. If they do not like the lack of sidewalks or are uncomfortable with traffic or lack of sports fields choose another location.*
- *Some of the questions do not provide for the real answer among the choices. You should reformulate those. I think its worst when each choice has too much within it--for example the choice of hip / chic and upscale all in one. I hate upscale and I only like chic in its proper place--but hip might be good. However, you can't make that choice because all three of those elements are in it.*
- *It is possible to be progressive and yet quaint.*
- *Thanks for doing this.*

- *This town is still recuperating from the loss of the Hastings Center and is still suffering from a mediocre school system.*
- *The Farmers Market is the best thing the village has going. And while other existing businesses are great (Antoinettes, Chelsea's, Indigo, the Hardware Store) there are so many empty storefronts it feels like a village on the decline.*
- *The development of the river front should be a major concern for the village. Businesses and residents would benefit from this.*
- *Hastings needs to be more in sync with the majority of the residents in town. People yearn for a vibrant downtown and want to see other residents, they want to shop and dine locally, and we miss the mark entirely now. Despite that, some of us shop locally now even though it's there's a dismal selection of shops and eateries. If the Village could encourage new life, it would benefit Hastings through sales tax, parking, etc.. We should be a destination like Rhinebeck, for example.*
- ***THE VLLAGE IS NICE. DOWNTOWN WOULD LOOK MUCH BETTER IF ALL BUSINESS'S HAD A SIMILAR FACADE OR FACELIFT. THE REYNOLDS FOOTBALL FIELD NEEDS LIGHTS AND BATHROOMS.***
- *This is all rather lovely but if the community is more into being touchy feely and does not develop leadership on these issues and allow leadership to take a few leaps then we will forever have to allow deer to eat our woods and gardens for fear of offending every little splinter group - and I do mean that you could substitute deer for many other issues. How about a children's room at the library that is friendly to kids and not hostile!@*
- *Any expansion of the downtown business must be limited to the available parking spaces. Increasing parking fees will not create more parking spaces but penalizes people who patronize Hasting's stores. The new James Harmon Center as a community spot has insufficient parking for so many people.*
- *Hastings invests a lot into children and seniors. There does not seem to be much for people outside these age slots.*
- *Thank you for the effort you have put into this survey and the overall work you have done.*

- *Thank you for doing this!!!*
- *I think it would be helpful to have focus groups that encourage detailed discussion related to the revitalization of the downtown and would be willing to support that effort and put those types of discussion groups together.*
- *The waterfront provides a perfect locale for a photovoltaic array, which could be a showcase for ARCO and even make the town some money.*
- *I hope this study translates to economic development plan and ACTION. I've lived in Hastings for 13 years and have two elementary school age children. I'm tired of hearing about the town councils studys and resistance to development plans because they are not 100 percent. Sometime 80 percent is okay. Its time to revitalize the waterfront, reinvigorate the downtown business area and enjoy all our fabulous town has to offer!*
- *Thank you for conducting this survey.*
- *Better Girls Varsity Softball Field*
- *Need a great softball field for the Varsity Girls Like in Irvington*
- *Its fine the way it is. I have no difficulty finding a spot.*