



The Planning Commission

Town of New Fairfield

New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812

Planning Commission Town of New Fairfield

Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 13, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Community Room on the First Floor @ The New Fairfield Library
2 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield CT

Commissioners: Ms. Cynthia Ross-Zweig, Chair
Mr. Cory Neumann, Vice Chair/Secretary
Mr. Ernie Lehman
Mr. Jeff Morrell (absent)
Ms. Kirsten Bennett O'Rourke (absent)

Alternates: Mr. Dylan White
Ms. Olivia Micca
Mr. Gary Reetz

Guests: 4 members of the public (which included Selectman Khris Hall, new Planning Commissioner members, not yet sworn in: Keith Landa, Michael Oliva and Christina McCartney), Glenn Chalder

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

New Business

Discussion with Glenn Chalder regarding the survey results and the POCD

Glenn Chalder went over the survey results (see enclosure). 536 total participants. A conversation was held regarding the results and the thoughts of those that attended the meeting. Glenn Chalder stated that he has been looking at past POCD's and meeting with department heads to build strategies to move forward with development of the new POCD.

A suggestion was given to implement mid-term updates of the POCD. Also suggested was to shorten the survey to get more responses. Glenn Chalder stated that a pre-survey is needed to know which questions to ask in future surveys.

Education of the public is key in moving forward on the POCD and ensuring that the public knows the vision of the POCD.

A big question is how can the POCD be more effective. A comment was made to present the items of importance that include the realities of the decisions and that this should include a benefit analysis. Glenn Chalder stated that setting the stage at a strategic level, in the future the specifics of the project will come out, and that the POCD needs to be more strategic.

Glenn Chalder stated he needs guidance and recommendations on specific policies or action steps to move forward on and that the POCD needs to resonate with the community. Glenn Chalder suggested distilling the information down to the key elements and within some of the policy areas to get priorities for the POCD. He stated that it should be 5-10 action items. Cynthia Ross-Zweig stated to keep in mind that the POCD is used when applying for grants. A comment was made to look at what kind of business the Town of New Fairfield wants to attract. Glenn Chalder stated that businesses are not the only way to look at economic development. He stated that housing can also be a part of economic development. Education on this would be needed for the community.

A conversation was held regarding a community center and the pros and cons of building one in town. The community center could be utilized even when schools are in session by those in the community.

A conversation was held on the number of non-conforming lots in town and how the POCD can address these scenarios. This topic does not fall directly under the Planning Commission but the Planning Commission can make a recommendation to the Zoning Commission on these types of issues. The plan is to work with other commissions not against other commissions.

There is a second listening session on the 27th of November which will talk about the infrastructure and get ideas on other commissions on how to make the POCD more effective.

Glenn Chalder will put together a summary of what was learned from this survey and will share it with the board and the community.

Glenn Chalder requested a working session style meeting for some time in December. This idea will be addressed at the November 27, 2023 Planning Commission Regular Meeting.

Adjournment

Ernie Lehman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm. Gary Reetz seconded the motion. **(4-0-0) All in favor**

Enclosure

- 03 POCD Survey Results - CHARTS
- 03 POCD Survey Results - DATA
- 03 POCD Survey Results - Q9 Prouds 110223
- 03 POCD Survey Results - Q10 Sorrys 110223
- 03 POCD Survey Results - Q20 Greatest Challenge 110223
- 03 POCD Survey Results - Q21 One Thing Happen 110223
- 03 POCD Survey Results - Q26 Other Thoughts 110223

Q20 – What do you feel is the *greatest challenge or need* facing New Fairfield over the next 10 to 20 years?

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE CATEGORIES

1. Spending / Taxes (70 comments)
2. Ambience / Character (44)
3. Business / Economic Development (34)
4. Housing / Affordable Housing (28)
5. Education / Schools (24)
6. Government (19)
7. Town Center (17)
8. Cost Of Living / Affordability (13)
9. Discord (11)
10. Sewers (10)
11. Diversity (9)
12. Amenities / Activities (7)
13. Sustainability (7)
14. Sidewalks / Pedestrians / Bicycles (6)
15. Multiple Thoughts (41)
16. Other (22)

SPENDING / TAXES (70)
1. Getting the town to support anything that is going to cost money
2. improper spending, the push to turn New fairfield into Danbury. over loading the schools and needing additional space. pushing seniors out with high taxes.
3. Keeping spending under control. Preventing vanity projects from town officials. Reining in the education budget.
4. Living within a budget and not trying to do everything at once
5. Maintaining the quality of life we have with out excessive building projects which make it hard to live in town on a fixed budget.
6. Paying down or paying off town debt. We are way over what is appropriate for a town or size,
7. People think the public schools should give the kids EVERYTHING. We have to be able to balance our budgets. Sometimes you just can't have it all. When is it enough??
8. Proper funding for schools and town.
9. Raising taxes so we can keep New Fairfield moving forward with improvements in infrastructure while keeping the small town feel.
10. RE taxes - keeping the town affordable for residents at all stages of their live. Families with children can not take priority. older residents especially those who become widowed or for other reasons living on a fixed income need a break.
11. Residents not wanting to invest in the town
12. Resources and costs.
13. Retaining a strong sense of investment in community and connectedness in the face of divisive forces in our society. This means investing in our community through education, shared public spaces, natural resources, events and activities.
14. School budget funding
15. The town needs to be mindful about their spending. If the spending continues with the same pattern it has been spending over the last couple of years, the town will inevitably tax out homeowners. There seems to be a push to make all these changes to create affordable housing for the town (sewer, bigger schools, cell towers, etc) but in order to make these changes you are increasing taxes and making it unaffordable for the people who already own here. If this continues, the charm of town of New Fairfield will no longer be recognizable in the next 10 years and not for the good.
16. The town officials need to give back to our community and give the residents a break. We are constantly taking a hit
17. Property Tax Reduction
18. While the need for new schools was important keeping the tax base (mil rate) so those of middle class or on fixed incomes are not forced to move out of a town I love
19. Adequately funding all of the current and future challenges with not enough commercial business to help shoulder the tax load.
20. Affordability, property taxes
21. Continuing to enhance and improve the town with out forcing residents out because of higher taxes
22. Controlling budgets and using financial resources wisely.
23. Controlling over spending and to control / reduce tax's

24. Controlling spending!!!! Lower taxes!
25. Cost of living (taxes etc)
26. Economic growth/new businesses to lower taxes. They are rising much each year.
27. Encouraging business development to reduce taxes
28. Get rates lower
29. Having a tax structure to allow young families to move in and Seniors to be able to stay. Once kids are out of school should get a tax reduction (STAR) like NYC
30. High taxes
31. High taxes, and being able to afford living here.
32. High taxes, especially property taxes
33. Higher taxes and large tax increases forcing long time residents to leave.
34. Increase in taxes spurred by town projects that are pricing out many current and long-time residents.
35. Keeping taxes affordable
36. Keeping taxes affordable
37. Keeping taxes affordable !!!!
38. Keeping taxes down
39. Keeping taxes down.
40. keeping taxes level, promoting local business that will stay, addressing empty store fronts that people use as a tax cut states away from town
41. Keeping taxes low enough for people to stay
42. Keeping taxes low to maintain current residents
43. Keeping taxes reasonable
44. Keeping taxes reasonable for home owners
45. Keeping taxes reasonable so seniors can afford to stay in their homes
46. Keeping the cost of living & taxes low
47. Lower taxes
48. Lowering taxes, keeping out housing projects/ low income housing downsizing government
49. Maintaining a tax rate the middle income residents can afford while still maintaining the schools, essential services, and roads.
50. Maintaining fair taxes while keeping up with infrastructure work and schools.
51. My mortgage has been paid off for years and I want to live here, but taxes keep increasing every year and I may not be able to.
52. Reducing residential taxes.
53. Reduction of taxes
54. Rising property taxes
55. Tax base
56. Tax Base
57. Tax hikes pushing current residents out
58. Taxes

59. Taxes and cost of living. Paying GOOD teachers so they stay
60. Taxes and elderly housing
61. Taxes too high, education system is degrading
62. Taxes! Preserving rural feel, letting free market set housing, etc.
63. Taxes. They are too high, unfairly decided (different communities are taxed higher than others) and rising every year with no benefit seen.
64. Taxes; building a new high school for decreasing enrollment, and changing the plans after it was voted on; attracting new businesses. There is nothing to bring people here, I myself shop out of town, everything is in another town. I have to drive everywhere. The 2 attractions are Candlewood and Squantz Pond.
65. That we are not taxed out of our homes!
66. The greatest challenge will be how high the taxes go and seniors will not be able to afford to stay in their homes that they worked all their lives to obtain and maintain. Its disgusting that New Fairfield has a board of people to study affordable housing in town and we continually have large tax increases that make living in New Fairfield unaffordable for seniors and younger couples. If you want to make New Fairfield an attractive option to residents again, lower the taxes and get back to the small town feel that the town is rapidly losing!
67. The mass exodus of people due to rising costs and taxes
68. Very High Taxes
69. stop spending money like water, never in my life time here of 64 years has the taxes gone up so much
70. We are not competitive with towns with more infrastructure, shopping, recreation areas, etc., largely because everyone is resistant to pay more taxes which would be needed to fund such infrastructure
71. The higher taxes will eventually take us to the place of Hartford and Waterbury where the property values crashed due to poor govt spending. The school administrators are grossly over paid at \$230K + and we have cops that make \$190K. We don't have an income problem, we have a spending problem. For what we spend we have decent to good schools, not great.
AMBIENCE / CHARACTER (44)
72. Controlling growth in town. Keeping the rural feel and character of the town.
73. Development that is based on affordability rather than aesthetic appear or without long-range vision for how to make the town more desirable, and thus raise home values.
74. Green space
75. Keeping rural feel keep it a small town
76. Keeping small town charm
77. Keeping the quaint town while growing the town center and other businesses.
78. Keeping the small town feel and country aspect.
79. Keeping the small town feel. Not diving into Sustainability Goals which will fundamentally change New Fairfield for the worse. This town is a refuge from the rest of the state. Please don't ruin it.
80. keeping the town a quaint, rural, vibrant single family home community
81. Keeping what New Fairfield was. A tight knit community. This town is noth like it was.
82. Maintain its rural character. We do NOT want sewers!!! Less is more.
83. Maintaining a country-like atmosphere
84. maintaining a small town feel. worried it's on the path to become a cheap (described as "affordable") place to live; I'd rather live in Newtown than Bridgeport or Watertown

85. Maintaining rural character
86. Maintaining rural charm and keeping development sustainable
87. Maintaining small town feel, while expanding tax base.
88. Maintaining the character of the town while keeping taxes down and affordability intact
89. maintaining the natural charm while meeting the needs of the future
90. Maintaining the rural nature of the town. Providing relief for the seniors who have supported this town for many years.
91. Maintaining the small town feel and keeping the zoning struck to ensure the preservation of open space and wooded areas.
92. Maintaining the small town/community feel and protecting our natural resources (lakes, preserves, open spaces).
93. Maintaining the small town feel of NF. From the survey it seems the POCD strategy is wanting affirmation for sewers, more housing, commercial and industrial business and expanding current business which in the end increases taxes!
94. Not allowing over growth that is unsupported by our infrastructure, and endangers our terrific natural resources (ie: the lake, Squantz, and trails)
95. Not to be bullied into putting major housing developments into our town. We like the small town feel and it sets us apart from other towns as they over build like crazy.
96. Over-development.
97. Preserving the way of life that brought folks here in the first place.
98. Protecting Squantz Pond. I can't take my family here on the weekends because of out of state residents who take over the park. Additionally, the amount of bird/geese feces is unbearable.
99. Squanto pond is a danger in season, to all residents that live close by. Areas have a lot of kids living around pond, outsiders do not care or respect our town and abuse the environment and break laws
100. That the town government does not try to change the town so much, current residents decide to leave
101. To maintain and preserve the small town feel and sense of community. To preserve and encourage people to start their families and remain in town vs creating a transient community by ensuring only single family homes are built.
102. To preserve the town's character. To properly identify projects for local needs vs outside mandates.
103. Stopping the decline of the community. We are falling behind in student performance, recreational programs, business vitality & physical appearance.
104. Trying to keep the aesthetic and fiber of the town intact.
105. Attracting businesses and people to enjoy our amazing town because they have access to its beauty- reservoir, lakes etc and can walk or ride a bike around town (not just on sidewalks in the center of town but walking a dog or grabbing coffee and sitting by the lake, watching local musicians at the beach, going to a craft fair, etc
106. Acknowledging current residents choice and reasons for choosing New Fairfield and maintaining/nurturing those factors. Change and transformation is not necessary.
107. Becoming over crowded and over priced, I moved here because i liked the town the way it was. I don't want low income housing. I don't want apartment buildings. I don't want a bunch of new businesses. I don't want more population (traffic). Take care of the roads, the schools and keep the town safe that's about all I want from local government.

108.we do not want low income and affordable housing we will all leave!!!!!!!!!!!! do not destroy this town no low income no illegal migrants
109.no more development
110.Keeping open space! Once developed community will be awful Developers will develop anything
111.It is a residential/country town. Don't let the state turn it into Waterbury, Bridgeport, Hartford
112.It's to late you are one strip mall and condo complex away from there being no way to tell when you leave danbury and arrive in NF
113.Keeping a small quite country feel.
114.Retaining senior citizens and safety of town
115.Keeping it a friendly, small & safe town
BUSINESS / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (34)
116.Finding the right balance between commercial and residential properties and then keeping the commercial properties occupied
117.Filling and maintaining the empty commercial real estate
118.Attracting decent business into town- not vape shops and mail salons
119.Attracting new business to keep our town healthy. Without our schools and Candlewood Lake we would not have a town.
120.Attracting retail and other businesses in hopes of easing tax increases on residents
121.Bringing businesses that thrive and survive.
122.bringing in business to help with taxes across the town. and helping those businesses to sustain with the lack of foot traffic coming through the town
123.Keep the existing and grow the local businesses.
124.Keeping and attracting businesses
125.Keeping and expanding businesses in town.
126.Keeping businesses in the center of town
127.Keeping businesses in the Town Center. Would be great to have more local businesses.
128.Keeping businesses on town and bringing in new ones
129.Maintaining and expanding town businesses.
130.Maitain business in town
131.more shops / restaurants means more money spent in new fairfield. i do all my shopping outside of new fairfield.
132.Renting out empty storefronts
133.To fill the empty buildings with successful businesses
134.Adding/Retaining businesses
135.Building a commercial tax base
136.Attracting business and tax base
137.Businesses getting affordable rent to move in and grow the tax base
138.Commercial and industrial development to grow tax base
139.Economic development to provide the commercial service people need and expand the tax base.

140.Expanding tax base
141.Focus on expanding commercial and industrial businesses to expand tax base.
142.Increasing businesses and industry to grow tax base
143.increasing the commercial base
144.Increasing the tax base to help residents shoulder the budget burden
145.Lack of value centered employment diversity and opportunities.
146.Promoting business and growing a tax base
147.We need to be able to grow our tax base with more businesses to be able to have the money to pay for improving the town.
148.Diversifying the tax base
149.Small Business growth
HOUSING / AFFORDABLE HOUSING (28)
150.diverse housing options and increasing commercial development
151.Housing
152.Housing
153.Housing
154.housing affordability for not only younger adults but young families as well
155.Housing and a reason to stay/spend in town.
156.Housing and becoming pedestrian friendly
157.Housing and taxes
158.housing for first responders, teachers, and young who want to stay in town.
159.Housing for middle income is disappearing. More affordable options. Houses that are tiny are being rented for exorbitant rents.
160.Housing. Build tax base
161.Not enough housing options for younger adults/first time home buyers
162.Optional housing
163.Sr and starter housing
164.senior living options
165.Affordable and Senior housing
166.Affordable and senior housing.
167.Affordable housing for seniors
168.affordable housing
169.Affordable housing
170.Affordable Housing
171.affordable housing
172.Affordable housing for seniors and young adults
173.Affordable housing for young adults, young families, and seniors
174.Affordable housing, high interest rates causing real estate stagnation

175.affordable housing, low taxes
176.Affordable housing.
177.Affordable Senior Housing and Affordable Taxes
EDUCATION / SCHOOLS (24)
178.Attracting and retaining excellent teachers
179.Bringing educational achievement up to the level of other local towns such as Ridgefield, and Brookfield.
180.Education- budget cuts, teachers leaving the district
181.Education, community, accessibility
182.Ensuring the schools are high quality
183.Even though I don't have kids in the schools, having a good school system is important.
184.Getting better schools to have people want to move here who have money so you have a bigger tax base and then they spend money in restaurants etc. Can't just tax waterfront!!
185.Getting the school buildings finished and maintaining them. So sick of the slap-dash way they are handled
186.Good schools (which includes fair wages and GREAT facilities) bring in more families, which makes the infrastructure better for the town. You need to increase the tax base to make that happen, and that will never happen.
187.I don't know if this is what you mean but not sure how else to answer. we need the schools to recover from the pandemic and the teacher to assert ANY kind of authority because right now the school is like a zoo. i don't think my kid has absorbed one iota of information, or completed one long term project, or been told no by a single teacher since 2019 and it's affecting every part of our lives. it's a nightmare. the kids get away with so much, they comes home from school acting a complete fool from not being disciplined all day long. school year just started and their behavior is already deteriorating. they're almost in middle school yet can hardly write legibly, spell, multiply, etc. yet keeps getting pushed though to the next grade because not one teacher or authority figure will discipline them or speak up to us. i think the schools are a major problem and have been since 2019. one of my kids is self motivated so i'm not as concerned as they can take care of themselves but the older one is doomed. they need motivation, direction, discipline and they're not getting any of that at school.
188.Improve the school system.
189.Improving education system
190.Keeping the schools as top priority
191.Lack of funding for the school system, poor special education. If the schools are great people will be here and spend money.
192.Maintain school ratings while keeping costs in check. Bring more diverse small & large businesses to the area.
193.maintain the schools! work with state to handle ridiculous squantz pond situation. better security cameras and lights at marina/town park.
194.Maintaining the high level of education.
195.Our schools are in a steady decline and there is very little to draw families to town. Most parks can't be used during school hours, nor can the track.
196.Regaining status as a quality school system.
197.School system
198.Schools
199.Supporting the Educational System

200.The school system is losing its good standing reputation. Many move here for the schools and some good people and families are now leaving. We need to be able to provide better for the educators and students and also the idea of ever allowing other towns (with the exception of Sherman) to bus students to our district needs to never happen. There also needs to be more consideration for the older community, the seniors.
201.We must continue to invest in our schools. It is tough on the wallet at times, but if we want to attract people, we have to demonstrate our investment in the importance of education.
GOVERNMENT (19)
202.Appointing competent bipartisan elected officials who act on desired outcomes voiced by residents
203.Better Fiscal Responsibility & Overall Planning
204.BOF is the main current challenge. The biggest challenge are people who do not want to pay taxes because they don't care about the services needed for the town to grow.
205.Community Leadership , getting good people to be community and government leaders
206.Cooperation/Collaboration of both parties to meet resident needs in the face of partisanship as it relates to housing and zoning.
207.Dems and reps in office getting along and not ruining the school system or town
208.Elimination of political polarization that prevents progress. This polarization and the toxicity it creates originates in the Selectman's office
209.Getting a fair government
210.Maintaining functional government while providing avenues to meet the coming challenges of more severe weather, political dis-affection and alienation, and extremism
211.New selectman
212.New Town engineer, more support to the FD from town hall
213.People that work together for the common good of all! No personal agendas or vendettas!
214.Too many regulations and costs associated with building, maintaining, improving a home, and starting a business. Too much government regulation of everything and everyday life.
215.all the bureaucracy, an all or nothing mentality
216.Having people getting voted onto boards and commissions with the only goal of lowering taxes at the town's expense.
217.Bureaucracy
218.Leave big government money out. Deal with problems locally.
219.Seeing politicians working together for the people of the town and following through on what they were elected to do
220.Voting people against change out of power. We need innovative leaders if NF is to effectively compete with its neighbors over the next few decades.
TOWN CENTER (17)
221.Make the town center more pedestrian friendly including adding high density housing for residents to easily access the business by foot and bicycle.
222.A town center that enhances the community on multiple fronts (sidewalks, businesses, communal space, bike friendly, etc)

223. Addressing piped infrastructure in the center of town to expand the types of businesses that can survive and make the town center vibrant.
224. Allowing too many commercial properties to be owned by one landlord. Making the town more pedestrian friendly to support greater retail development in and around the center of town.
225. Creating a better atmosphere in the down town area. Creating an area similar to one like Ridgefield, where everything is walkable and can be used on a daily basis for the community. Attracting a variety of businesses would help to diversify the attractions and create a more versatile space. Ridgefield’s town center has a lot of local businesses with easy accessibility.
226. Creating a more vibrant town center
227. Creating a town center that’s desirable and walkable for local dining and shopping.
228. Creating safe pedestrian walkways to promote foot traffic in the town center.
229. enhancing the downtown to make it more appealing
230. Getting water and sewer to town center, to support current and new businesses
231. growing center of town. water, sewers, natural gas
232. High rents by single owner in town makes our main shopping center (food center) empty, run down and not welcoming.
233. Relocating municipal buildings and growing the town center
234. The appearance of the center of town. Look awful with all the empty store fronts. Business landlords do NOT maintain the building like they should. No one will rent if building looks in disrepair.
235. Town center/recreational/youth center
236. Vibrant downtown area.
237. Walkability and creation of a proper downtown
COST OF LIVING / AFFORDABILITY (13)
238. Affordability
239. City folk moving in with their “ bright” ideas then retiring and moving out. Look to service those who are here to stay and make it affordable to do so.
240. Cost of living and getting nothing in return Change in business all the time
241. Cost of living, infrastructure
242. Helping the large base of senior citizens to be able to afford to keep their homes
243. Keeping it affordable to live here for seniors
244. Keeping you from buying in their hometown. This town is insane to rent or buy.
245. Making it more affordable for seniors to keep their homes due to rising property taxes.
246. Making the town too expensive for current residents
247. There are a lot of people in town that bought their homes 30+ years ago that have now retired, no longer have the income they used to, and could not afford to purchase their own home today if they had to and for many the existing senior housing is too expensive. They’ve already put their kids through school and when the budget votes come up they vote it down because they can’t afford to have their taxes increase. I feel like they don’t want to leave this area which is completely reasonable but there’s really nowhere that’s both affordable and accessible for them to go. At the same time, there’s not much housing available for younger people to move into. The only reason I was able to live in NF as a younger adult was because I moved back into my childhood bedroom for a bit and then rented a relative’s home. If something were to happen in my family and we had to only rely on one income, we could not afford the house we live in and I don’t know

where we'd have to move. When I look at listings, anything that I could possibly afford on just half our income is less than 1000 square feet in desperate need of repairs. And then those are usually bought by flippers who turn around and make it unaffordable.
248.How to keep people from moving out. It's cheaper to live elsewhere
249.Taking care ion an aging population and making it more affordable for this population
250.Keeping the town affordable.
DISCORD (11)
251.Divided People and social media.
252.Getting along with each other. Accepting people for who they are and not rejecting them because they seem different from you.
253.Getting over the political dumb stuff and uniting the town again
254.Greedy rude politicians and out of towners
255.Political divide and disagreement within the town.
256.Political divisiveness
257.Politics
258.Politics. Just work together
259.PEOPLE NEED TO STOP ELECTING DEMOCRATS
260.The liberals
261.The political divide out ways common sense investing in our town.
SEWERS (10)
262.Adding sewers that are literally down the streets in Danbury to be able to get bigger businesses into town and help with taxes.
263.Convert from septic tanks to sewage pipes so more businesses can come to town.
264.Need to insure clean water for residents and business. This means that we need to address sewers for the center of town. The town also needs to monitor residents to insure on-going septic system maintenance
265.Sewer system for the center of town.
266.Sewers for town center and schools, and bringing in a Rec center
267.Sewers in town
268.The infrastructure of the plumbing. We need to get the center of town connected to sewer pipes. THEN we can improve things.
269.The push to add sewers will destroy this town. The town of NF is a small town and people love it because of that. It is not meant to be a city.
270.Tying to Danbury for sewer treatment to enable business growth in town
271.We need sewers and public water
DIVERSITY (9)
272.Accepting a diverse population
273.Affordability allowing population diversity
274.Affordable housing for a diverse demographic

275.Affordable housing. Everyone should have a chance to live here.
276.attracting and keeping humann population- diversity
277.Addressing all age groups needs
278.Addressing changing demographics
279.Demographic shifts (aging population) & climate change
280.Demographics, attracting young families
AMENITIES / ACTIVITIES (7)
281.Retaining its vibrancy
282.Competing with other area towns that are already achieving these goals. When people have a choice between moving to say New Fairfield and Ridgefield, with a family they're going to choose Ridgefield bc of all of has to offer for families.
283.Falling behind amenities offered by other communities.
284.Keeping young families happy, many drive to other towns for their amenities
285.Making the town more of a destination — for residents and out of towners. Even residents go elsewhere (Newtown, ridgefield, Kent etc) for a “day out”
286.We need to have more places for families- more “things” to do in town, but without sewers we cannot have this.
287.Need to be attractive to new families - diversity, younger etc. don't offer enough things for them.
SUSTAINABILITY (7)
288.Climate change and caring/promoting open space
289.Climate change and sustainability. Preserving natural environment; i
290.Climate change.
291.climate change/sustainability/conservation
292.Sustainability & climate resilience
293.The greatest challenge will be preparing for the complications of climate change, and preparing the community to deal w severe storms, power outages, poor air quality, and high temperatures. Becoming a more sustainable community should be the goal in these preparations, as the more “forward thinking” the community is about addressing these problems, the easier it will be for the generations to follow to adapt and survive.
294.Storms will get worse. We need resilient power, cell, water etc
SIDEWALKS / PEDESTRIANS / BICYCLES (6)
295.Making the town more pedestrian friendly.
296.Pedestrian friendly development. The town is designed to be very anti-social and is very much not friendly if you want to use anything other than a car for transportation.
297.Making the town more accessible to an aging population with sidewalks, trails and bus service
298.Sidewalks
299.sidewalks trail around marjorie lake
300.A walking trail around Marjorie reservoir- long overdue- there are no safe walking spaces

MULTIPLE THOUGHTS (41)

301. Brining in commercial and industrial opportunities for the town. Enhancing public areas with trails, playgrounds, recreational areas. I would love to see smaller affordable homes to help retain NF young adults. I don't want to see large apartment complexes. Townhouses would be okay if they matched the towns overall look.
302. better internet, more business
303. Enhance middle school as elementary and hs was done, build infrastructure for internet options expansion and more sidewalks
304. Failing infrastructure and loss of businesses in town.
305. Getting more business to come to NF -getting more thing for our young adults to want to stay in new Fairfield
306. Grow local shopping. Develop sewer system and fiber optics for internet
307. Growing businesses. Making town center more pedestrian friendly. Housing
308. holding expenses down. keeping up with road maintenance. limit size of government.
309. Improving school scores on standardized tests; improving the town center with viable businesses; right sizing school administration (we have too many administrators for a district this size); hire a town manager - a professional to run the town effectively- the board of finance and selectman are incapable of making objective decisions and have no experience in running municipalities
310. Inability to stimulate economic growth due to lack of a key selling point to any prospective/current residents. While investments in the new high school are a great step, the education budget should be the #1 priority to make the town stand out for its educational programs. Attracting business that could enhance this, from an arts, STEM, or cultural perspective could help
311. businesses population diversity
312. Increasing access for pedestrians throughout the town, while also preserving open space.
313. Infratructure, overpopulation
314. Investing in our children, schools and teachers and developing some sort of community center for families and children to play and learn
315. keep govt small. leave people alone. better preventative policing. less speed traps. school curriculum that actually teaches basics, and merit based.
316. keep our town small and tight-knit!!! No sewers or commercial businesses!
317. Keeping businesses here. Keeping school system good enough that families want to move in.
318. Keeping Candlewood Lake the focus of the community - maintaining its health for the future. Finding more businesses to move in to the vacant store fronts. Getting the Marjorie Reservoir Trail to Danbury moving forward. Getting better test scores for the expensive new schools we are paying for. More focus on Reading, Writing, Math versus other things that are not important.
319. Keeping New Fairfield residence affordable with paying off taxes, and lack of amenities.
320. Lack of infrastructure to support population and keeping the schools academic (not teaching ideology like they are increasingly doing)
321. Lack of water/sewer in center of town need for affordable housing controlled economic growth in Town Center
322. Need for sewer. Community pool. Without succumbing to housing requirements from the state
323. Need to get businesses to open here. Our town center is ugly and filled with vacant store fronts. Why?? Taxes are too high.

324. More business development to make up for the spiteful landlord years. I would love to see a Rec center/field house like Ridgefield or Newtown, or attract an entity like the Y.
325. New businesses and bicycle lanes and sidewalks
326. Not maintaining infrastructure and having to prematurely rebuilding
327. Providing resources for education and promoting business expansion.
328. School quality Too many new construction Too many people not enough infrastructure
329. Schooling, downtown development
330. senior housing & affordable housing, keeping and bringing business
331. The greatest challenge is to create a dynamic, forward thinking community with excellent education, business and recreation opportunities. If the Town moves in this direction residents won't have to drive to Danbury and other towns to satisfy their needs.
332. The lack of choice for students in education and the lack of protection around freedom of speech and opinion
333. The need for expanded tax base (businesses) to have a vibrant downtown as well as the ability to bring in piped services such as water and sewer.
334. Transforming the community away from cars. Gaining more local craft/ women owned businesses, walking/ bike friendly. Ethnic diversity stores/ foods.
335. New Fairfield needs to build their business tax base to take burden off of their residents and to create a more vibrant town. We also need to preserve our greatest draws/natural resources in Candlewood and Squantz. Continue working with the state to come to a better solution for Squantz. See if there is anyway to expand the amount of NF's town dock slips and go back to the proposed plan of dockage/restaurant at the town beach.
336. We are experiencing an influx of families in our town who are in need of more recreational opportunities for their children. There is a pressing need for additional sidewalks and bike paths to ensure children can ride their bikes and feel safe in their own town. Moreover, access to a recreational facility where children can engage in after-school activities is essential. It is crucial that we have a recreation center, and it is equally important to update the lakefront to ensure it is safe and sanitary for families. Currently, too many residents are traveling outside of the town to find these services. Adding these amenities to our town will not only increase our revenue but also help foster a stronger sense of community and belonging.
337. We need more businesses, restaurants, diners, etc. Keep the roads paved, hire more teachers. This means spending money, hence make the town more appealing to new businesses.
338. The taxes are unaffordable and so are the prices of homes/rent. No electricity during storms town center closed
339. We need to resist changing ourselves and coping what has wrecked our neighbor New York State, their taxes have become unaffordable, schools have become overrun with crime and gangs and all their residents are flooding into CT and attempting to bring and same crazy policies that have destroyed the once great a state on New York. It's pretty simple Watch, listen and learn from their massive stupid mistakes!!!
340. With the new school system being established and taxes going up it will be imperative to have an excellent staff in place, the new school district will just be lipstick on a pig without the right people and resources in place to make it great. Creating a better downtown for the residents of the town is something that is needed to create a wonderful sense of community, upgrading memorial field would be a great asset to the community, something like Ballard park in Ridgefield is a prime example. Move the ball fields to a different location and put a playground downtown with better parking, make a place for families to congregate, moms and dads with younger children need a place to go while schools are in session.

341. New Fairfield is affluent but boring. I have nowhere to spend my money. If I want to go out to eat I have to drive to Danbury or Brookfield. Rein was a lovely addition, but is technically in Danbury. Candlewood Cafe was nice, but was bullied by the town’s overzealous health inspector into closing. Yet somehow Bruno’s remains open despite decades of rumors that they deal drugs out of the store. Lame. Also, while I don’t expect New Fairfield to turn into Westport or Greenwich, it feels like despite residents begging for services and amenities that we will go without until the town resolves the water/sewer issue.

OTHER (29)

342. A better community center for our families

343. Recreational center for families

344. The town is in need of a community center where families can come to enjoy recreational activities that expand to the interests of all - arts/music and sports. The town beach also could use an update to include more recreational areas (like the Brookfield town beach).

345. Keeping the town facilities including the new schools maintained while keeping the town affordable for young families and seniors.

346. Making the lake accessible to residents

347. Maintaining the quality of Candlewood lake; addressing invasive species.

348. The abuse of Candlewood Lake by those who do not live here. Thereby making it a lousy experience for those who pay for the lake through taxes and the marinas.

349. Adapting to change -- both climate and demographic.

350. Keeping control of our town and not give the state the ability to give the developer more say than us.

351. protecting environment

352. Finding the funds to invest in long term projects. Some residents don’t care, some can’t afford.

353. Adding more light posts for night visibility

354. All factors that might contribute to highly valued real estate.

355. John McCartney

356. Keeping up with technological developments

357. Putting more effort into making the town more welcoming for all types of residents and losing the entitled mindest

358. Reduced tax base due to aging population voting down school budgets and young families leaving

359. Uniting

360. Young and old leaving

361. Improving roads

362. Safety ! Keeping our roads serviced in winter and Summer

363. Crumbling infrastructure

364. The increased number of people using our facilities that do not actually live here.

365. traffic on rural roads

366. City water and sewer

367. Getting better cable companies to serve us.

368. Public water / sewer for schools and town center

369. Drawing in young families (through great schools, community amenities etc) and competing with surrounding towns.
--

370. Reduce zoning restrictions

Q10 – Please list up to four things you are sorry about in New Fairfield

SUMMARY OF GENERAL CATEGORIES

1. Businesses / Town Center / Economic Development (335)
2. Amenities / Activities (159)
3. Services / Facilities (149)
4. Taxes / Spending (139)
5. Government (134)
6. Discord (119)
7. Schools / Education (86)
8. Character / Ambience (69)
9. Housing (57)
10. Squantz Pond (33)
11. Diversity (16)
12. Natural Resources (6)

13. Other (151)

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
BUSINESSES / TOWN CENTER / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (335)			
BUSINESS – LACK OF BUSINESSES (127)			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of businesses 2. Lack of businesses 3. Lack of businesses 4. lack of businesses in New Fairfield or close by 5. Lack of community shops in area 6. Lack of vibrant retail 7. Lack of high quality restaurants 8. Lack of quality restaurants 9. lack of restaurants 10. lack of diversity in businesses 11. Lack of restaurants that are not Italian 12. Lack of restaurants that are not Italian 13. Lack of retailers & restaurants 14. Lack of shopping - 15. Lack of shopping/restaurants 16. Lack of small businesses 17. Lack of stores 18. Lack of town businesses 19. Lack of town shopping area 20. Lack of variety in dining options 21. Lack of variety of restaurant types 22. Limited restaurants 23. low number of commercial establishments 24. More cafes and places to eat 25. No real shopping opportunities 26. No restaurants 27. No shopping 28. Not enough local small businesses 29. Not enough places to eat 30. Not enough restaurants 31. Not enough stores 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 35. lack of businesses for tax base 36. Lack of businesses 37. lack of businesses 38. Lack of businesses in the town to offset taxes 39. Lack of diverse shopping 40. lack of fine dining 41. lack of food options 42. Lack of good restaurants 43. Lack of restaurants 44. Lack of restaurants 45. Lack of shopping 46. Lack of shopping VARIETY 47. Lack of shopping venues 48. Few eat-in restaurant choices 49. Lack of shopping/dining down town 50. Lack of small businesses 51. Lack of small businesses 52. Lack of small shop opportunities with lack of sewers 53. Lack of store fronts 54. Lack of Stores 55. Lack of variety in shopping 56. Lake of restaurant options 57. limited businesses 58. Limited dining options 59. Limited restaurant options 60. limited restaurants 61. Limited shopping 62. Limited shopping / entertainment 63. Limited stores 64. need more diverse shopping 65. More diverse dining options 66. More diverse restaurant options 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 78. Few local shopping opportunities 79. lack of adequate shopping 80. Lack of Businesses 81. Lack of businesses 82. Lack of businesses in town 83. Lack of commerce 84. Lack of delicious restaurants 85. Lack of quality restaurants, shopping. Limited options and most are not good. 86. Lack of restaurants 87. Lack of restaurants 88. Lack of shopping areas (have to go to Danbury or NY) 89. Lack of shopping variety 90. lack of stores 91. Lack of stores: could use a CVS or general store that stays open past 7pm other than Stop and Shop 92. Limited businesses 93. Limited quantity and variety of restaurants 94. limited small businesses in town 95. More diverse shopping nearby. 96. need more diverse restaurants (including breakfast/brunch) 97. No restaurants other then italian 98. Not enough business 99. not enough restaurants 100. Not too many stores- have to go to Danbury 101. Over priced stores I rather drive to Danbury or new Milford for better prices 102. Poor shopping choices 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 107. Lack of business in town/lots of empty store fronts 108. Lack of businesses in town 109. Lack of high quality food (stop and shop has a horrible selection) 110. Lack of restaurant variety 111. Lack of restaurants 112. Lack of shopping space. We need to draw in larger companies like CVS, Chipotle, target. Places that people will travel to to increase ways to meet basic needs but also bring people to our town. 113. More testaurants 114. More vegan vegetarian and farm to table restaurants 115. need another drive thru food option 116. no where to stay for out of towners visiting 117. having to go to Danbury for most things 118. Not attracting small businesses that might make it attractive or a walker's destination 119. Not enough businesses/corporations to contribute to taxes 120. Not very good food 121. Outdated storefronts 122. Outdoor dining options 123. Selection/diversity of restaurants and amenities 124. Shortage of gas stations 125. VERY limited shopping

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
<p>32. not enough upmarket stores (sorry but most have dated or no vibe)</p> <p>33. Need for more diverse business base</p> <p>34. Need more shopping options</p>	<p>67. More retail/food (besides Italian/Pizza)</p> <p>68. No chain restaurants</p> <p>69. No children's clothing</p> <p>70. no good shopping</p> <p>71. No Mexican restaurant</p> <p>72. No shopping</p> <p>73. No shopping left</p> <p>74. Not enough places to shop</p> <p>75. Not enough restaurants</p> <p>76. Poor/limited local shopping</p> <p>77. restaurant choices</p>	<p>103. Shortage of restaurants/diners</p> <p>104. Variety of Restaurants in Town</p> <p>105. Verify if restaurants</p> <p>106. with we had a better variety of businesses, half the businesses are liquor, hair and dry cleaning</p>	<p>126. would love higher end restaurants. have to go to Ridgefield</p> <p>127. Lack of entertainment opportunities. Would love a good restaurant that isn't a pizzeria</p>
TOWN CENTER (77)			
<p>128. Better downtown is needed</p> <p>129. Can't really walk around town</p> <p>130. Disappointing town center; doesn't invite me to stay in town, walk around. I often go to other towns like Ridgefield where it feels more like a destination.</p> <p>131. Downtown</p> <p>132. Downtown is not visually appealing</p> <p>133. horrible downtown lacking new england charm</p> <p>134. Lack of a downtown</p> <p>135. Lack of a real downtown area</p> <p>136. Lack of a real downtown area. Two state highways intersecting with some strip malls is pretty lame</p> <p>137. Lack of a real town center with vibrant business. Ongoing businesses look worn and outdated. There are too many vacant buildings.</p> <p>138. Lack of commercial area</p> <p>139. Lack of connectivity in the CBD</p> <p>140. lack of 'down town' / main street</p> <p>141. Lack of downtown</p>	<p>157. Lack of outdoor community spaces in the CBD</p> <p>158. Lack of variety in downtown businesses</p> <p>159. No downtown/community aesthetic</p> <p>160. No real downtown or town center</p> <p>161. No sewers downtown to provide more businesses to open</p> <p>162. No town center</p> <p>163. No walkable downtown area</p> <p>164. Not much downtown appeal</p> <p>165. Lack of green space in the Food Center/Johnny's shopping center. This is one of four plazas/areas people see when coming into our town (residents and passers-by alike). If one looks past the red brick sidewalk while waiting at the light, it is not welcoming.</p> <p>166. Our town center isn't as vibrant/vital as other town. Business rent prices and the owner who monopolizes the town. No action is taken against him.</p> <p>167. High rents keeping out tenants ie barber shop</p>	<p>181. Downtown is not walkable</p> <p>182. Lack of a walkable and attractive town center</p> <p>183. Lack of downtown feel</p> <p>184. Lack of walkable downtown.</p> <p>185. Need more of a "downtown"</p> <p>186. No "downtown area" for people to walk around</p> <p>187. No green</p> <p>188. not a pretty center like Newtown</p> <p>189. Not a real walkable town center</p> <p>190. Not walkable downtown</p> <p>191. The lack of any down town or community area</p> <p>192. Town center is not walkable, no "Main Street"</p> <p>193. Walkable town non-existent</p> <p>194. Lack of Downtown walkability</p>	<p>195. Downtown not really appealing to visit</p> <p>196. Lack of a "true" town center.</p> <p>197. Lack of a definitive plan to develop town center socially and culturally - I often am embarrassed to say I live in NF</p> <p>198. lack of vibrant downtown</p> <p>199. Lack of vibrant town center</p> <p>200. More greenery/plantings at the center of town.</p> <p>201. No functional, walkable town center area</p> <p>202. No Main Street or area</p> <p>203. No town square, green space - not really</p> <p>204. Town center is vacant, where is the town green we voted on?</p>

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
142. Lack of real "downtown" 143. Lack of town center 144. Lack of Vibrant Down town 145. Lack of walking areas with sidewalks/shops 146. Lack of walkable downtown 147. Limited infrastructure to support town center development 148. No central green 149. No main street to speak of 150. no real main street 151. No town center 152. No Town Green 153. No walkable downtown 154. no walkable town center/main st 155. Town Center 156. Lack of sidewalks and stores to walk to	168. variety of food and stores 169. Town center vibe 170. Doesn't have a proper downtown 171. i feel like the center of town isn't great for walking around, shopping, etc and it could be 172. I wish we had more of a downtown - shopping, restaurants, etc. 173. Improve down town 174. Lack of a charming town center; all parking lots 175. Lack of a distinctive central business area, like Kent has 176. Cafes, Outdoor-eating areas 177. Commercial rental properties vacant or stores being forced to close 178. Need more shops in town (a sewer would help alliviate that) 179. Only nail salons, liquor stores and Italian restaurants 180. The endless issue of sewer/septic in the town center		
BUSINESS – VACANT BUILDINGS (74)			
205. all the vacent buildings 206. All vacant space in town/ High Rents for businesses 207. Empty businesses 208. Empty businesses 209. Empty commercial sites 210. Empty real estate in town 211. Empty rental/store/retail stores 212. Empty shops 213. Empty shops 214. Empty store fronts 215. Empty store fronts 216. Empty store fronts 217. Empty store fronts 218. Empty store fronts	241. Vacant commercial buildings 242. Vacant storefronts 243. Vacant store fronts 244. Our empty storefronts 245. all the empty stores 246. Can't seem to fill the empty commercial space 247. lots of empty store fronts 248. Commercial vacancies 249. Empty business and storefronts 250. Empty commercial spaces downtown 251. Empty local storefronts. 252. Empty lots in town 253. Empty store front	265. Empty store fronts 266. Empty store fronts 267. Empty store fronts 268. Empty store fronts because rent is too high 269. number of vacant store fronts 270. The number of vacancies in town causes by an owner who Jack's up rents 271. Too many closed store fronts/businesses 272. Too many empty storefronts	273. The empty stores (again) 274. Too many vacant retail spaces 275. Too much empty commercial space 276. Vacant store fronts in town 277. Empty commerical buildings everywhere 278. Empty stores

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
219. EMPTY STOREFRONTS 220. Empty storefronts 221. Empty storefronts 222. Empty storefronts 223. Empty stores 224. Empty stores and no support for our businesses 225. Empty stores in town 226. Empty strip mall by bright beginnings 227. Number of empty store areas 228. Number of empty stores 229. so many vacant buildings 230. The empty business buildings 231. The empty stores 232. Too many empty store fronts 233. Vacant commercial buildings 234. Vacant Real estate downtown 235. Vacant store fronts 236. vacant stores 237. Vacated businesses 238. center of town like a ghost town 239. Years spent with empty commercial space 240. Storefronts being empty/ horrible landlord	254. Empty storefronts 255. Empty storefronts 256. Empty storefronts 257. Empty storefronts 258. Empty storefronts because 1 landlord owns too much 259. Empty stores 260. Empty stores 261. empty unoccupied stores 262. The empty store fronts 263. Too many vacant storefronts 264. Too many vacant storefronts		
BUSINESS – OTHER (57)			
279. Exiting Retail Shopping/Eating businesses 280. Too many smoke/liquor stores 281. We don't leverage natural resources (Lake, Ponds, Trails) for economic gain 282. Mostly travel outside of New Fairfield for shopping & services 283. need better supermarket/ grocery store option 284. No American food menu restaurants	297. Low-quality restaurants and no appealing shopping choices 298. That we allowed one landlord to take over our town 299. The high rent on commercial properties driving businesses out of town and leaving empty store fronts 300. No well inventoried hardware store 301. Shopping 302. Shopping opportunities 303. Vape shop 304. Vape shop added	318. 2 vape/smoke shops are now in our town 319. Abundance of smoke shops. 320. Better supermarket 321. Does not expand/commercial 322. DOWn the Hatch is so low brow. Still uses styrofoam. They don't try at all. good for kids lunch. 323. hard for small businesses to survive 324. minimal business in tax base 325. Stop & shop 326. Too many non essential businesses	329. 3 liquor stores and a vape store 330. Commercial business zoning restrictions too strict 331. Hardware store very disappointing 332. Incentives for business 333. the business environment is not welcoming 334. Too many vape/smoke shops and liquor stores. It is too hard for small businesses to stay afloat in our town. Thank goodness for the stationary section of the

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
285. No barber shop 286. NO FAST FOOD AMENITIES 287. Poor restaurant choices 288. Restaurants are — as Southerners would put it — “low rent” 289. retail stores 290. Shopping opportunities 291. Shopping/resultants in town 292. Small number of restaurants 293. Stop and shop lately 294. The lack of business opportunities 295. The single Mobil station as the only gas option in town 296. Very little restaurant options	305. Lack of continuous shopping area 306. Small businesses that struggle 307. Small number of commercial shopping locations 308. Some businesses get forced out due to rent 309. Stop and Shop- terrible business, lacking in stock 310. Stores in town going out of business 311. Tasteful and attractive shopping areas and stores 312. Too many nail salons and liquor stores 313. Too many nail salons and vape shops 314. Very very limited retail 315. We need more commercial / industry on a smaller scale 316. Wegmans should move in where Stop & Shop is 317. would love dining over the lake/or water body	327. Worst town for pizza 328. would love to see more variety in businesses/ more support for local businesses	Candlewood pharmacy for small and unique gifts. 335. Too many vaping shops

AMENITIES / ACTIVITIES (159)

BIKE / PEDESTRIAN (75)

1. Lack of Safe places to walk, bike, enjoy nature 2. Lack of walkability 3. Lack of walking due to hilly landscape 4. Lack of walking or bike paths 5. Need more recreational paths, trails, centers 6. Not enough sidewalks 7. Side walks ,waste of money 8. Minimal sidewalks / pedestrian passages 9. Lack of sidewalks 10. No sidewalks	23. Lack of available safe walking track 24. Lack of bike trail 25. Lack of sidewalks 26. Lack of sidewalks around town 27. Lack of sidewalks/bike paths 28. Lack of walkability 29. No bike/walking path 30. No good walking trails 31. No sidewalks 32. No sidewalks and limited community spaces despite plenty of space 33. No walking / biking trail 34. not enough sidewalks 35. Not walkable at all	42. Accessibility (no sidewalks for kids to ride bikes) 43. Can't seem to take advantage of Marjorie reservoir for scenic paths / exercise 44. Lack of infrastructure for pedestrians. No shoulders on some of the roads for walkers, runners and cyclists 45. Lack of walkability 46. lack of walking trails 47. Lack of walking trails 48. Lack of walking, biking safety along Rt 37, 39 49. More of a walking town	66. lack of walking trails 67. Many local roads aren't safe to walk/bike 68. No bike and/or stroller trails; people having no other option but to to jog/bike on dangerous roads 69. No easy walking trails/No community recreation building 70. No sidewalks connecting Gillotti Rd (school children) to town center 71. No trail on Margerie reservoir 72. Not having any paved walking paths 73. Places to walk safely during the day side walks needed
---	--	---	---

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
<p>11. no sidewalks 12. No sidewalks 13. No sidewalks !!! 14. No sidewalks on side streets 15. Lack of walking trails 16. No walking or bike paths 17. no walking paths 18. no walking trail, poor dog park (is that even NFF or Danbury?) 19. No walking trails 20. No walking trails, plenty of hiking but no walking 21. walking paths/ paved trails for familys 22. Lack of a single sidewalk that connects the high school to the senior center. Every social building is in direct line to our library and town offices, and the town center. Gillotti Road and Brush Hill Road need a space for people to be able to SAFELY move from building to building. I know many people who move here from urban areas do not like sidewalks for various reasons, but it confounds me that we do not have a sidewalk the connects the most important buildings in our town.</p>	<p>36. Nothing for average citizen to use IE.walking paths or tracks 37. walking trails 38. Stupid sidewalks going nowhere 39. The sidewalks don't extend to the neighborhoods 40. The lack of amenities 41. The loss of the playhouse, pizza castle and the ala mode</p>	<p>50. No lighted crosswalks in front of school 51. No paved walkway (rail trail) for biking or walking 52. No place to walk distance safely for exercise 53. No run or bike paths 54. No sidewalks & far driving distances 55. No sidewalks between schools and center of town 56. No sidewalks in any communities 57. No sidewalks that lead from a place to park, to anywhere I might want to go and enjoy. 58. No walking trails 59. not enough walking trails/outdoor recreation (non-water) 60. Not having bike/walk path by reservoir 61. Not walkable in town or on roads 62. People walking on 39 Rt 63. Sidewalks in need and a town center with more shops 64. Sidewalks outside of town 65. Walkability / lack of connecting side walks</p>	<p>74. Walk path 75. We need more sidewalks to walk more places</p>
ACTIVITIES / RECREATION / SPORTS (27)			
<p>76. Activity's for preteens/teens 77. Lack of business/recreational activities 78. lack of cultural activities 79. limited activities available for adults 80. More things to do 81. Lack of arts and culture 82. Not enough for kids 83. Not enough for young people</p>	<p>84. lack of activities for teens 85. Lack of arts 86. lack of resources/ outlets for kids, particularly teenagers 87. More activities are needed for the kids other than sports 88. The lack of activities for young children 89. Too much emphasis on sports</p>	<p>91. Lack of more cultural activities 92. lack of programming for kids 93. Lack of recreational facilities for adults 94. lack of teen activites 95. Lack of toddler activities 96. Lack of Youth/teen activities 97. Park and Rec should have more activities for adults and teens</p>	<p>99. activities 100. Activities for youth (rec center/skatepark 101. Entertainment for families 102. Lack of activities for children</p>

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
	90. too much sport emphasis and fields	98. Parks and recreation could be more proactive in providing residents more access to town events.	
GENERAL (57)			
103. Lack of amenities 104. Lack of recreational sites (youth center) 105. Lack of town ice rink/roller rink 106. No more playhouse 107. No theater 108. No outlet for kids/teens 109. Not a lot to do here. 110. not conducive to two working parents 111. Not enough to do for kids 112. Outdoor amenities 113. Lack of ammenitiea	114. A high quality fitness center/gym 115. Lack of live entertainment 116. Lack of social activities for families 117. Limited cultural opportunities 118. More activities needed 119. More draws like ridgefield’s CHIRP music in the summertime 120. No concert venues 121. No more playhouse 122. No theater 123. Not enough activity 124. Not enough After-school Activities 125. Not much for children to do outside of school 126. Nothing for kids to do (besides sports)	127. Lack of amenities 128. loss of Playhouse 129. Loss of the playhouse 130. Need more activities for kids 131. No night entertainment 132. No teen community center 133. Not enough Arts programs 134. Not enough children/teen acitivites/places to go. 135. not enough events 136. Not enough outdoor recreation spaces 137. Not much for new young families 138. Nothing to do at night for adults & families 139. Playhouse gone 140. The fact that the Playhouse closed 141. the lack of public amenities offered with how high the taxes are 142. Town events often basic/boring 143. Town support of our younger community - no plan for any programs, or places for our children to “hang out” 144. Wish there were more things and activities for children to do in town 145. culture	146. Lack of events for entire community, no creative events throughout the summer 147. Lack of places for community connection 148. Limited social events 149. more places to hang out for the community 150. No places for preteen/teen kids to hangout or do 151. No summer concert series 152. not a lot for teens to do 153. Not enough to do for kids 154. Not having a skate park for kids 155. programs for teens 156. The lack of things to do, often having to go to other areas. Especially for the children/teens 157. Town needs a golf course and other recreation center that provides services to all residents. 158. Town pool 159. Town pool
SERVICES / FACILITIES (149)			
PARKS / RECREATION (86)			
1. Beach 2. beach area decline 3. Decay of town park	16. Rec center needed 17. Access to parks and beaches during summer	45. Sad new Fairfield town park 46. The new HS didn't include plans for a new pool that community can use. 47. Town beach appearance and hours	70. Lack of recreation 71. Lack of community center for youth 72. Lack of recreational amenities compared to other towns

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
<p>4. no town pool (I know we have a lake, but not the same)</p> <p>5. Improve parks and rec</p> <p>6. New Fairfield town park (beach) horrible shape needs to be taken care of better</p> <p>7. No community access to pool</p> <p>8. Overcrowding of public beaches</p> <p>9. People don't appreciate/use our Town beach</p> <p>10. Recreational facilities</p> <p>11. The beach hours</p> <p>12. Town beach</p> <p>13. Town park needs to be open more</p> <p>14. Town park/ beach needs a face lift</p> <p>15. Upkeep of play areas</p>	<p>18. Terrible beach access compared to Sherman</p> <p>19. Town beach / needs big improvements</p> <p>20. Town beach is awful</p> <p>21. Town beach upkeep (lack of)</p> <p>22. Town Park Building is ugly, poor and access to lake</p> <p>23. Town Park is lacking appeal vs 10yrs ago (swim lessons, snack shack)</p> <p>24. Wish we had a town pool</p> <p>25. Beaches access & cleanliness</p> <p>26. Dedicated pickle ball courts</p> <p>27. Lack of access to town park/lake</p> <p>28. Lack of community center</p> <p>29. Lack of open gym/ open pool hours for families</p> <p>30. Lack of play areas</p> <p>31. Lack of year round access to town park</p> <p>32. No community building</p> <p>33. No community center for activities</p> <p>34. No community center for kids</p> <p>35. No community center like Newtown or Ridgefield</p> <p>36. No community center/town pool</p> <p>37. No community pool</p> <p>38. No community space for all residents</p> <p>39. no park & rec building</p> <p>40. No rec center</p> <p>41. No where for teens to hang out</p> <p>42. Not using lakefront for residents beyond beach- what about beach during evening hours, for music or movies in summer/ice skating in winter</p> <p>43. Not utilizing town lake property to it's fullest</p> <p>44. Outdoor spaces investment (beach, parks etc)</p>	<p>48. Town beach less appealing due to being rundown and staffing issues</p> <p>49. Town park and lake access is no handicap accessible</p> <p>50. Town park more inviting to boaters than anyone else</p> <p>51. Being so close to a beautiful resevoir, but not being able to enjoy it</p> <p>52. Failure to create a public area and park for kids</p> <p>53. Lack of activities outside of sports</p> <p>54. Lack of community center</p> <p>55. lack of community center/rec center</p> <p>56. Lack of community/rec center, or splash pad</p> <p>57. Lack of municipal space: a center, playgrounds, walking paths that adults and children can utilize</p> <p>58. Lack of non-sport youth opportunities</p> <p>59. More trails/parks/outdoor exercise areas. We have some underutilized outdoor spaces.</p> <p>60. No community / Rex center</p> <p>61. No community center for evening activities</p> <p>62. No community center/ playground not on School property</p> <p>63. No community pool/rec center</p> <p>64. No community recreation center</p> <p>65. No significant parks & recreation programming</p> <p>66. Our lack of ability to use Ball Pond at the NF Town Beach</p> <p>67. Pickle ball / paddle courts</p> <p>68. Wish we had more pickleball courts/walking track/that could be used during school hours(like Sherman dog path courts and fields)</p>	<p>73. More Park and Rec offerings- fun things to do in town</p> <p>74. need more varied recreation opportunities (skatepark, pickleball, splash park, etc.)</p> <p>75. No adult ed classes</p> <p>76. No community center</p> <p>77. No community center or place for our children to play (especially in winter).</p> <p>78. No community recreation center</p> <p>79. No recreation center for adolescents and teens/ no town pool</p> <p>80. Not enough community spaces, especially for teens</p> <p>81. Park and Rec activities don't even compare to surrounding towns</p> <p>82. The way the town is handling the use of 302 Ball Pond Rd -- this should be a recreation/green space</p> <p>83. There is no community or teen center and drug use is incredibly high because of lack of things for them to do if they are not into sports</p> <p>84. Town beach at ball pond closed</p> <p>85. town beach not being for just residents and not well developed</p> <p>86. Town beach should only be for residents</p>

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
		69. Would like more use of the beach, example concerts again. Weekly	
PUBLIC WORKS (32)			
87. Roads 88. Roads 89. Roads / Paving 90. speeders on 25 MPH roads 91. Speeding on Gillotti RD 92. state road conditions 93. The town doesn't plow or maintains my neighborhood	94. Condition of our roads 95. Fixing Bumps and cracks in our roads fixed. 96. Roads 97. Public works - snow plowing and paving and lining roads 98. Roads need repair 99. The town not taking care of our roads	100. road maintenance 101. Decline in road maintenance 102. Impatient, tailgating motorists 103. Our roads , pot holes 104. Plowing in winter, roads clear. 105. Poor road conditions 106. Road Lighting 107. Speed enforcement Ball Pond area 108. Too many impatient drivers 109. Traffic uptick/speeding	110. Clearing debris off our N.F roads in summer & Winter 111. In town speeding, lack of respect 112. Lack of road maintenance 113. No salt on roads during winter (sand does little but makes a mess 114. poor road maintenance 115. Roads are a mess 116. Speed cars..on main roads 117. Speed enforcement (Milltown Rd) 118. widening of Routes 37 and 39
LIBRARY (5)			
119. I wish the library were better funded/maintained. I wish it were part of the local library system. 120. Library could improve, esp for kids, and the website and programs. Please visit ridgefield's		121. Better library building 122. poor support of library 123. The minuscule, library	
EMERGENCY SERVICES (FIRE / POLICE / EMS) (5)			
124. No independent police department		125. Don't have our own police department/use State Police	126. Too few new members for volunteer fire department 127. Police Offer little to No Assistance to Residents Bordering NY State 128. Lack of First Responders
GENERAL (21)			
129. Demo of consolidated when it could be something for the community 130. Demolition of consolidated school 131. Not useful community space- Sherman and Brookfield use Candlewood lake area for walking path/sports/community	134. Consolidated school was a lovely building before the addition. I'd love to see it maintained for some town function. 135. Getting rid of consolidated 136. Not being able to get a boat dock 137. poor dog park (is that even NFF or Danbury?)	141. An extreme emphasis on sports at the high school and being sure those groups are maintained above academic electives and clubs that kids who are not interested in sports would love. 142. Expensive pay for play (\$ money) and it's not fair play youth sports	145. Senior Center has very limited hours and activities for younger seniors 146. Few town services 147. Lack of town funded trash removal services 148. Please do not allow buses to park at Consolidated

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
132. The people who want to destroy our town and schools to save \$14/year 133. Upkeep of town property	138. Investment in outdoor spaces 139. Poor building plans that change frequently 140. Town services	143. No garbage collection or bulk pickups included in our taxes 144. Possibility that Consolidated School location will be a bus lot	149. Thinking of parking busses at Consolidater site

TAXES / SPENDING (139)

1. Education budget out of control 2. Ever increasing taxes 3. extremely high property costs 4. Getting too expensive 5. High Tax 6. High taxes 7. High taxes 8. High taxes 9. High taxes 10. High Taxes 11. High taxes 12. high taxes 13. high taxes 14. High taxes 15. High taxes 16. High Taxes! 17. High taxes, raising them every year 18. higher taxes 19. Increase in school taxes 20. Increasing taxes 21. Motor vehicle tax 22. nobody wants to pay taxes to receive services 23. Rise in taxes 24. Rising taxes 25. Rising taxes 26. Rising taxes 27. Rising taxes 28. Rising taxes 29. Rising taxes 30. skyrocketing taxes 31. Tax hikes 32. Tax increases due to careless spending for unnecessary	60. Basic services are expensive 61. Climbing mill rate property taxes 62. Feel that seniors cannot afford to live here 63. Taxes going up 64. Taxes going up 65. very high taxes 66. Very high taxes 67. High taxes 68. High taxes 69. High taxes 70. High taxes 71. High taxes (side effect of few businesses!) 72. High taxes. Raising them EVERY YEAR: not sensitive to residents on a fixed income 73. Higher taxes 74. Increase in taxes 75. Lack of vision to see the damage that increasing taxes will do to our home values 76. Long time residents are being taxed out of town 77. Property Taxes 78. Rising taxation 79. Rising taxes 80. Rising Taxes 81. Tax increases 82. Taxes 83. Taxes 84. Taxes 85. Taxes 86. Taxes	96. Cost of living 97. Cost of living 98. Cost of living is getting too high to live in New Fairfield 99. higher cost of living 100. Ever-increasing taxes 101. High mill rate 102. High Taxes 103. high taxes 104. high taxes 105. high taxes 106. High taxes 107. High Taxes 108. High taxes 109. High taxes with nothing to show for it (better streets, no garbage pick up, 110. Rapidly increasing taxes 111. taxes 112. Taxes 113. Taxes give no bang for the buck out of control 114. Taxes are becoming high 115. Taxes are now too high 116. Taxes/cost versus services 117. The high taxes 118. The taxes 119. We need to keep the taxes lower or offer more services	120. Can't afford a bigger house here 121. Elderly get priced out 122. High rent 123. Again, constantly increasing taxes. Higher than Newtown's! 124. All senior citizens should receive a discount on property and personal property taxes 125. High taxes 126. I get zero services from the town for the taxes I pay 127. Increase in taxes 128. Increasing taxes 129. Lack of funding / tax base 130. Mill rate too high and not getting what we pay for 131. rising taxes due to poor planning 132. Taxes 133. Taxes 134. Taxes are going threw the roof 135. Taxes are higher but nothing in return 136. taxes getting higher 137. Taxes going up way too fast 138. Taxes keep increasing significantly but town services are limited and decreasing. 139. Twin Taxes going up .. very unwelcomed & not needed!!
---	---	--	--

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
<p>improvements. For example, 28 year old school is not an aging school that requires the town to spend money they do not have on a new school building.</p> <p>33. tax rate</p> <p>34. Taxes</p> <p>35. TAXES</p> <p>36. Taxes</p> <p>37. Taxes</p> <p>38. taxes</p> <p>39. Taxes</p> <p>40. Taxes</p> <p>41. Taxes</p> <p>42. taxes</p> <p>43. taxes</p> <p>44. taxes</p> <p>45. Taxes</p> <p>46. Taxes</p> <p>47. Taxes</p> <p>48. taxes are extremely high and I still have to pay to use the dump</p> <p>49. Taxes are on an insane rise</p> <p>50. Taxes are too high</p> <p>51. Taxes continue to rise</p> <p>52. Taxes going up</p> <p>53. Taxes going up every year</p> <p>54. Taxes rising</p> <p>55. Taxes taking meteroric rise without increase in services</p> <p>56. Taxes too high</p> <p>57. the increase in taxes</p> <p>58. The taxes are way too high!</p> <p>59. Very expensive to live, being pushed out by increasing taxes</p>	<p>87. Taxes!!</p> <p>88. Taxes too high</p> <p>89. Property taxes are high</p> <p>90. taxes are high for not many amenities</p> <p>91. Taxes being raised constantly</p> <p>92. taxes do not cover me to use the town beach or garbage pick up like in NYC</p> <p>93. The high tax increase</p> <p>94. Town budget (too low)</p> <p>95. Town budget out of out of control</p>		
GOVERNMENT (134)			
1. Inability of BOS/Zoning to settle bus lot location	28. Poor government management	79. Minimally proactive leadership	113. Poor planning and communication from town leadership

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
<p>2. Lack of funding and support for board of education and school system</p> <p>3. Lack of services , police, fire garbage dept.</p> <p>4. Not holding past and present employees accountable for corruption and incompetence</p> <p>5. Parks and Recreation</p> <p>6. POOR LEADERSHIP</p> <p>7. Poor leadership decisions resulting in increasingly higher taxes</p> <p>8. Poor Town Management/ Expensive ...Poor Winter Services</p> <p>9. ridiculous way school system is run</p> <p>10. The current first selectman who is untrustworthy. She will not take "NO" for an answer and continues to push for school busses to be parked at COnsolidated School, the entranceway to N, plus wasting the towns money, my taxes, to have the town suing itself over this!!</p> <p>11. The direction the town is going</p> <p>12. the zoning board</p> <p>13. Too much gov't regulation</p> <p>14. Town engineer</p> <p>15. Town Hall is difficult to deal with</p> <p>16. Town not willing to raise taxes for necessary improvements</p> <p>17. Board of Finance</p> <p>18. Board of Finance</p> <p>19. Board of Finance</p> <p>20. BOF</p> <p>21. BOF</p> <p>22. Budget fighting- BOF</p> <p>23. Current Board of Finance</p> <p>24. Lack of listening to town by BOF</p> <p>25. The BOF playing politics with education</p>	<p>29. Elected officials are hyper focused on their own agenda and not what is best for the town in the long run.</p> <p>30. Fight for appropriate budget</p> <p>31. Government body that doesn't listen to citizens</p> <p>32. Misplaced municipal priorities</p> <p>33. Budget process</p> <p>34. Clueless planning/building committees</p> <p>35. Contracts over budget</p> <p>36. Cut on school budgets</p> <p>37. education budget seems to overwhelm other services</p> <p>38. Education needs to be improved</p> <p>39. education quality decline</p> <p>40. Fees for everything</p> <p>41. Financially sound decisions</p> <p>42. High cost of school</p> <p>43. Lack of accountability</p> <p>44. lack of environmental protection</p> <p>45. Limited town services</p> <p>46. No transparency</p> <p>47. Ongoing dispute about BOE funding...main draw was new educational facilities and funding.</p> <p>48. Poor fiscal management of town and schools</p> <p>49. Poor handling of big projects, I.e. schools (new and old)</p> <p>50. poor management of the existing school system we had</p> <p>51. poor quality of government leadership</p> <p>52. Poor voter turnout/participation in decisions that effect the quality of the town</p> <p>53. Poorly planned school lots</p> <p>54. Possible to hurt scenery (bus lot)</p>	<p>80. Town Leadership seems to be lacking - this includes school leadership. Get down the education basics!</p> <p>81. Unresponsive Town Hall staff (a few)</p> <p>82. A small minority has way too loud a voice in this town.</p> <p>83. Bloated school administration</p> <p>84. Budget delay</p> <p>85. Building new schools rather focusing on long term maintenance</p> <p>86. Building schools without adequate planning</p> <p>87. Difficulty getting people to do project</p> <p>88. Government incompetency</p> <p>89. Improve government functionality</p> <p>90. internal fight within the town to make decisions</p> <p>91. lack of communication between BOS, BOE, and BOF</p> <p>92. Lack of funding for education</p> <p>93. Lack of zoning</p> <p>94. Last minute notices on voting</p> <p>95. Leadership in town government</p> <p>96. Missed opportunity for more organized Parks and Rec dept.</p> <p>97. No accountability</p> <p>98. Not enough money per pupil for the schools</p> <p>99. Out of touch local government officials</p> <p>100. Over spending on police/constable/ state police</p> <p>101. Overspending in our town govt</p> <p>102. poor planning and constuction of school and town buildings</p> <p>103. Poor school board management</p> <p>104. Responsiveness of town bureaucracy</p> <p>105. Selectman prefers to work with her self appointed committees rather</p>	<p>114. Bad communication of community events</p> <p>115. Boards run by amateurs</p> <p>116. BOE dictating property tax</p> <p>117. Empty promises from leadership</p> <p>118. existing politicians</p> <p>119. Inconsistent zoning regulations that prevent improvement</p> <p>120. Lack of attention to senior issues by the administration</p> <p>121. lack of communication of events</p> <p>122. Lack of information on vision and works in progress</p> <p>123. Little input at town meetings little input on town projects</p> <p>124. No more democracy in town government</p> <p>125. Political anger fueled by our politicians</p> <p>126. Sucky board of finance</p> <p>127. the current leadership</p> <p>128. the current town leadership</p> <p>129. The dysfunction of BOTH political groups in this town who seem to feel if you don't agree with their party line, there is something wrong with you. They need to be more flexible and open-minded.</p> <p>130. The town government</p> <p>131. Too much town control over personal land use</p> <p>132. Too willing to spend money before knowing what is actually needed</p> <p>133. Town boards and the lack of listening to the towns people.</p> <p>134. Finance committee</p>

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
<p>26. The fiscal crisis created by the BOF this year</p> <p>27. this year budget process - how our elected official were not listening</p>	<p>55. Pour marketing and planning of parks and rec with conflicting town events</p> <p>56. Proposed location of school buses</p> <p>57. Recent solicitations for solar or pest control</p> <p>58. Republican School board antics</p> <p>59. Republicans in town are too MAGA</p> <p>60. Rudeness of some citizens</p> <p>61. School reputation and education levels</p> <p>62. School scores on standardized test</p> <p>63. schools aren't as good as they were</p> <p>64. SCHOOLS DONT HELP KIDS FALLING BEHIND</p> <p>65. Schools in need of better quality of facilities</p> <p>66. Schools pushing political agenda</p> <p>67. Special Education, Education in General</p> <p>68. Strictness from town approval to improve things on my own property</p> <p>69. The board of finance</p> <p>70. The BOF that conducts business in secret and does not adhere to what the public wants</p> <p>71. The lack of transparency in the town govt</p> <p>72. Town Hall w/ LOUSEY, Hours. Unavailable to Working People</p> <p>73. Unprofessional ZBA members</p> <p>74. Board of Finance not listening to residents on their acceptance of the need to raise taxes to an appropriate level to support town needs</p> <p>75. BoF</p> <p>76. TOWN GOVERNMENT</p> <p>77. Zoning and building regulations</p> <p>78. Zoning rules that count gravel as impervious</p>	<p>than other elected officials and boards</p> <p>106. The board of finance</p> <p>107. The BOF and their ignorance concerning our school and town budget</p> <p>108. The recent voting debacle</p> <p>109. the way we were 100 percent misled on new high school</p> <p>110. Too much financial reliance on bonding</p> <p>111. Town seems to be in a time warp with little vision.</p> <p>112. Finance board! Horrific!!</p>	

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
DISCORD (119)			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A politically divided community with ignorant and loud right-wing sector 2. A red town in a blue state 3. Close mindedness of older residents 4. Closed minded residents 5. Conservative politics 6. Disagreements on education funding 7. Division and political strife 8. Division in town/ school meetings 9. Divisive politics 10. Divisive politics 11. Divisiveness in the political and social climate 12. Fighting between political parties 13. Fighting over budget 14. Increase in partisan politics on Board of Finance 15. Current BOS 16. current leadership 17. Democratic Leadership 18. Lack of civility by some boards 19. Narrow mindedness/short sightedness of zoning boards, etc 20. Town page opinions 21. Liberals 22. Local Political Agendas 23. many new members of the community moving in with liberal woke values 24. Many selfish people with bigoted attitudes 25. Negative people 26. Negativity in town politics 27. Obstructionistic politics 28. People in the community who express bigotry and fight diversity, including low-income housing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 66. all the new people moving in trying to change it to what they LEFT 67. Divided politics 68. Divisiveness in politics 69. Everyone fights about the smallest stuff 70. Feeling that there is resentment against people in lake communities 71. Finger pointing/partisanship on both sides 72. How democratic leadership divides the town 73. In-fighting amongst town leadership 74. lack of collaboration between political parties after local elections to work effectively on town boards 75. Lack of understanding of other peoples opinions 76. new residents trying to change the town 77. NIMBY bickering over bus lot 78. Outsiders coming in and changing the town to what they want. 79. Partisan obstruction to efforts to better the town 80. People in the community who don't want to support the community or some people in it (both through taxes and in other ways) 81. People only voting among part lines 82. Political / Personal attacks - attitude in town 83. political animosity 84. political division 85. Politics 86. Politics 87. Politics divided the town 88. Republicans fighting Democrats 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 96. Increasing tension/lack of trust within NF government 97. Intolerance of pronouns, and BOOKS by republican representatives 98. Longtimer vs newcomer division /acrimony 99. Many of the Republican Party representatives right now (and I'm a registered Republican) 100. Political discourse 101. Political discourse and online bullying 102. Political Turmoil- negative leadership 103. Politics before what's good for all people 104. Politics out of control 105. PUSHING LIBERAL AGENDAS CONFUSING KIDS ON IDENTITY 106. Split political views/nastiness because of it 107. The budget cuts and most certainly the behavior of some of the school employees, board members and educators. I would honestly say that it's absolutely unacceptable that some of these people have been able to keep their positions here in town. 108. The constant battle between parties 109. The fighting of board members 110. The hate on the Facebook pages 111. To many liberals 112. Too many democrats and their liberty robbing stupid and expensive policies 113. Too many republicans and guns 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 114. Conservative nature of town 115. Division among residents 116. New residents are coming in trying to change everything about NF 117. New residents expect similar experience here as at old residence 118. Too many democrats an their liberty robbing stupid and expensive policies 119. The vitriol on the Facebook page.

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
29. petty bickering 30. Political agenda to stop town from moving forward 31. Political animosity 32. Political bickering 33. Political Conflicts 34. Political conflicts 35. Political divide 36. Political divisiveness 37. Political infighting 38. Political nonsense 39. Political partisanship 40. Political polarization on the board of finance (bad R candidates) 41. Politically divided 42. Politicians 43. Politicians stunting the growth 44. Politics 45. Politics 46. Politics 47. Politics 48. Politics 49. politics interfere with common sense across the board 50. Politics interfering with education 51. Small town politics 52. Some very negative people 53. Stubborn politicians 54. That the liberals from the city keep ruining it day by day 55. The amount of people that do not respect others opinions 56. The division and nastiness of residents 57. The hate and disrespect that people show online 58. The ignorance of many 59. The racists 60. The recent vitriol generated by Republican party over town budget	89. Too many poor republican policies 90. Town is completely divided politically 91. too much negative politics 92. Both political parties placing politics before all else 93. The Facebook town pages 94. Unkind ways people are treated on NF social media pages 95. uneducated rednecks in public office		

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
61. The way republican/democrats respond to each other on the town page 62. town politics 63. Town politics - too conservative 64. Trump Flags, Lets Go Brandon crap, Republican reputation of town. 65. Two party nonsense. Town is too small to imitate national.			

SCHOOLS / EDUCATION (86)

1. Large school buildings are thought to improve education, not teachers 2. Poor school system (low scoring level) 3. That children are bussed from other towns 4. Education 5. Education investment 6. Education system 7. Education system 8. Education system not as good as it was 15 years ago 9. How education is treated in this town 10. I would like education (public school system) to be valued more. 11. Lack of interest/support in investing money into town/school improvements 12. New schools 13. New schools & other inefficient building projects; building a parking lot at Consolidated 14. Not supporting schools 15. People trying to devalue the schools 16. Poor Educational system 17. Quality of education 18. Quality of education	43. School building planning 44. Special education program 45. Inappropriately excessive spending on schools without actually improving education. Instead of spending money on new buildings, should treat teachers well, give more freedom to teach and not overwhelm teachers with administrative duties (paperwork, etc.) 46. Level of rigor of education 47. Low student test scores 48. Mediocre std test results 49. New schools but probably not better test scores for all the money. 50. Not enough emphasis on education 51. The care and maintenance of school buildings 52. The new high school features are over and beyond what is needed. 53. the quality of the school system 54. underpaid teachers and paras. We lose great talent to other towns. 55. All newer school administrators are inexperienced 56. Letting the middle and high schools fall into disrepair 57. school maintenance 58. School Projects	64. Declining quality of schools 65. Defunding schools and education quality going down 66. Diminishing Scholastic Aptitude 67. schools 68. schools aren't rated very highly 69. Too much emphasis on school safety 70. Too much focus on taxes going to schools 71. New high school look 72. New schools 73. New schools built without regard for inflation 74. New schools but lots of issues (no parking/ac) 75. Low teacher salaries	76. Education opportunities, most students end up in the Connecticut State Universities System 77. Education systwm wasting money 78. Future of schools in question (budget issues) 79. Getting bamboozled by Dr Pat into building more than we can staff or afford. 80. Low salaries for teachers and school support staff causing great staff to seek jobs elsewhere 81. New HS without inputs from teachers 82. Not enough support for quality education 83. School has terrible reputation 84. The direction our BOE is headed with its newest members 85. Took away track and parks because of BOE 86. Education - to many admin and lack of teacher empowerment
--	---	---	---

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
<p>19. Reputation for denying special ed services</p> <p>20. Reputation of education system</p> <p>21. School budget (too low)</p> <p>22. School decline</p> <p>23. School System extremely disappointing</p> <p>24. School system has gone south from when we moved here 30+ years ago.</p> <p>25. School/education reputation isn't great (deprioritizing school budget)</p> <p>26. Schools and center are not on public water/sewer</p> <p>27. Schools have lost value. Grades have slipped significantly in the past 10 years.</p> <p>28. Schools not performing</p> <p>29. Special education is horrible</p> <p>30. The lack of ac in the schools</p> <p>31. The lack of funds for our educational system</p> <p>32. The new school</p> <p>33. The new schools being built</p> <p>34. The school system</p> <p>35. the schools</p> <p>36. The state of the schools</p> <p>37. Academics in school in a shambles for the past MANY years . Especially the Math Department</p> <p>38. Budget cuts for the school</p> <p>39. Building 2 new schools at the same time</p> <p>40. declininug quality of education curriculum</p> <p>41. Investment in education</p> <p>42. having to build new schools (original high school about 50 yrs old). graduated from NFHS in 1980</p>	<p>59. School system</p> <p>60. School system</p> <p>61. Schools</p> <p>62. Terrible schools</p> <p>63. No public access to educational facilities</p>		

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
CHARACTER / AMBIENCE (69)			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shopping is lousy/library is not great 2. Blight 3. No blight law 4. Lack of upkeep 5. Liter 6. loosing the small town atmosphere 7. Need to do better maintaining historic buildings 8. No interest in preserving the town's history and historic buildings 9. Poorly planned. No overall visual appeal: ie, Turned it's back on the beautiful reservoir 10. Potential bus lot in the center area of town 11. Reputation as not friendly 12. Roadside litter 13. Town apperance 14. Tree lines being cut down at top of mountains from new houses 15. Ugly town w no charm 16. Uptick in crime 17. Where the school buses are currently parked 18. Gives off sundown town vibes 19. Residents not wanting to invest in town 20. Rush to grow 21. to much development 22. To much Over building 23. Development 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24. Town appears disorganized 25. Youth Athletic Opportunities 26. No blight ordinance 27. No blight ordinance; neighbor's property dragging our values down 28. community members trying to envision NF as if it were Ridgefield, I moved here for the small town feel, let's keep it that way 29. Cost, location and appearance of new school 30. Lack of maintenance to landscaping 31. Lack of regulations re: unkept/unsafe homes. Lowers value of other homes. Eyesores. And some are even dangerous. 32. New houses seem to be too large for their lots 33. No tree ordinance-too many trees taken down 34. Overgrown/unkept vegetation along roads (obstructed view of reservoir) 35. Urban sprawl 36. Could become overdeveloped 37. Difficulty/Limited to what you can do on your own property/Town strict and lots of red tape 38. loss of open space 39. Over development 40. Excessive music volume from business bordering state park and state forest 41. Hearing gunshots from the dump 42. Lack of a noise & blight ordinances 43. noise from vehicles 44. Noisy neighbors 45. some Neighborhoods/Homes are poorly maintained. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 48. Car centered culture 49. Few artisans 50. Light pollution -Too many lights on home lots at night 51. Needs a draw to keep residents here 52. Newer developments are boring. Again, no visual or historic appeal. Generic. 53. overall design of schools-they are all different (high school campus in particular) the town is unable to decide what the overall look should be. the 2nd high school (the lego building as I call it) is imo ugly. the new building is completey different design, both completely different from the original building. New Milford high school is a beautiful new england looking building. 54. overgrowth not taken care of 55. People cutting down all trees on their property and not planting new 56. People who don't take care of their homes/property 57. Putting busses in the middle of town 58. Trash on street and neighborhood 59. unfriendly people 60. Very clicky 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 61. again, trying to change what makes this town what it is 62. Buses even being debated kept in the center of town 63. Buses on Middleton Drive with little concern for residents 64. Lack of quant town appearance 65. Prominent property overlooking what could be a pretty town was turned into storage?!? Wow, that could have been a beautiful park or restaurant/shopping setting which would feel special. 66. Roadside litter 67. Unfriendly people 68. Drive to increase density 69. Town development

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
	46. Some town landscapes are not taken care of 47. The conditions of homes that hoarders occupy		
HOUSING (57)			
1. Cost of housing 2. Cost of living 3. housing unaffordable 4. Insufficient Sr housing 5. Lack of affordable housing 6. Lack of affordable housing 7. Lack of senior housing 8. Less affordable housing 9. Minimal quality affordable senior housing 10. No affordable housing for first responders, teachers, young adults who would like to stay here and seniors 11. no low income housing 12. Not enough affordable senior housing 13. Not enough housing opportunities for people to downsize 14. hope they do not destroy our community with low income housing 15. Multiple dwellings on Saw Mill 16. the rising number of rental homes vs owners 17. Too many renters 18. Very little senior living availability 19. We need more housing for seniors	20. Affordable housing 21. Affordable senior housing 22. Cost of housing 23. Lack of affordable housing 24. Lack of affordable housing for young families 25. Lack of affordable rentals in general 26. Lack of senior housing 27. Lack of senior housing 28. Limited housing choices 29. More diversity in housing options for the elderly. I would like to move my mom here, but there is not a cost effective option. 30. Needs more housing for older residents 31. No senior housing 32. Not many housing options	33. affordable house for seniors 34. Idea of affordable housing coming to 06812 35. lack of affordable housing 36. Lack of affordable housing options across demographic groups 37. Lack of any rentals for seniors 38. lack of diverse housing 39. no Affordable housing for single parents 40. No affordable rentals for seniors 41. No diversity and lack of housing 42. No inexpensive senior housing 43. No main level senior housing 44. Not enough housing diversity 45. Not enough senior housing 46. People resistant to multifamily housing/condos 47. Resistance to providing affordable housing options within our community 48. the lack of affordable senior housing	49. Home prices are too high 50. lack of affordable housing 51. Lack of housing for single and empty nesters 52. Limited lower cost housing (homes / condos) 53. More affordable housing for seniors, lower property taxes. 54. Optional housing (apartments/townhouses) 55. Possible multiple family expansion 56. senior housinr 57. The value of homes is not commensurate with neighboring communities
SQUANTZ POND (33)			
1. Squantz Pond 2. Squantz pond	14. Can't use the park do to people coming in from other areas 15. Lack of dedicated access to Squantz	21. lack of adequate state support of help with managing visitors to local lakes	30. Access to squands pond 31. Overwhelming out of states at squants pond

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
3. squantz pond being dirty and crowded, rangers doing nothing, the ugly fence 4. Squantz Pond- should be restricted. Its dangerous every day in the summer with traffic and parking 5. Squantz Pond Traffic 6. Squantz pond weekend traffic and garbage all over from out of state ppl that don't respect our town 7. Traffic at Squantz 8. Summer traffic 9. Losing Squantz Park in the summer 10. Too many New Yorkers on weekends at lake/pond 11. The influx of people who disrupt and disgust the natural beauty 12. Catering to out of state transients 13. Infrastructure inadequate in summer	16. Mismanagement of Squantz park 17. Over crowding of squantz pond on weekends 18. Squantz Pond in the summer 19. Squantz pond traffic/lack of adequate enforcement 20. The Squantz situation. Can't use it in the summer or bring my dog	22. Lack of police presence dealing with Squantz pond summer traffic and parking 23. Squands pond is a diaster 24. Squantz pond out of towners 25. Squantz pond traffic/summer issues 26. Tourists who bring in revenue by seem to create issues for residents such as congestion 27. traffic on weekends at state park 28. While I don't live near Squantz Pond, I feel badly that it gets so overcrowded it becomes an issue for those who do 29. Out of state traffic (Squantz pond)	32. SQUANZ POND LOCALS CANNOT EVEN ENJOY BECAUSE ITS PACKED FROM PEOPLE FROM THE BRONX 33. Not being able to use our town amenities (lake, pond, etc) because of out of towners.
DIVERSITY (16)			
1. Lack of diversity 2. Lack of diversity 3. lack of diversity 4. Lack of diversity 5. Lack of diversity 6. Lack of diversity	7. Lack of diversity 8. Lack of diversity 9. Lack of diversity 10. lack of diversity 11. Lack of inclusivity and diversity 12. Not much diversity	13. Lack of diversity 14. Lack of ethnic diversity 15. Lack of racial diversity	16. Lack of diversity
NATURAL RESOURCES (6)			
1. Invasive species 2. Keeping Candle Lake water clean and safe. 3. Lack of environmental programs - town compost pickup		4. Invasive species-zebra mussels, milfoil 5. Poor management of the lake, from water quality to patrolling 6. Too many people have to buy bottled drinking and cooking water.	
OTHER (151)			
1. Lack of a noise ordinance	26. Poor infrastructure management	70. Misguided approach to development	116. Homophobia

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
2. Noise from speeding cars, trucks and motorcycles	27. Questionable drinking water	71. Over Development	117. limited management of boaters/ lake users on the islands
3. Noise/Loss of privacy due to new construction	28. Too many weekenders	72. People trying to build up the town	118. Imbalance in lake (no millfoil) caused allergic reaction in my kids this summer
4. My backyard being a swamp	29. Stop n Shop	73. No blight or sound ordinances	119. The horrible and restrictive storm water management regulations
5. Rule #6: Never Say You're Sorry - It's a sign of weakness	30. Some nasty people	74. No noise ordinance	120. No blight ordinance/noise ordinances
6. N/A	31. Quality of education	75. No noise ordinance	121. Better USPS facility
7. To much snow	32. Lack of progress in building Margerie Res. hiking trail	76. No noise ordinances	122. Crime
8. Too dark	33. Beach house	77. Noise late at night on lake in summer	123. Current residents not wanting to try new things
9. Town is lacking in all aspects	34. communities allowing only them	78. Holiday decorations in town center are amateur	124. Distance to necessities
10. Infrastructure	35. expensive contractors/businesses	79. Land on corner of Saw Mill/37 is just vacant	125. Got nothing
11. Lack of "preparation and planning" instead of "doing then reacting"	36. if they add drug clinics they will add crime	80. Meetinghouse parking/bus drop off,pickup	126. Lack of progressive ideals and initiatives
12. Racism	37. Lack of people my age (millennial)	81. No 24 hr medical services only appmt	127. Lack of upper level employment opportunities
13. Racism	38. new york plates in driveways town does nothing	82. No concern for those who have lived here and made it beautiful now are pushing us out	128. Masking our children during covid
14. Racism is rampant	39. Difficulty in doing property improvements	83. Not enforcing out of state plates to avoid taxes	129. Neighbors yards being unkempt is ok
15. No sewers	40. No busing to nearby private schools	84. part time residence	130. Our electric bills
16. Poor internet connection	41. Non full time residents	85. Post office is an embarrassment.	131. Poor business acumen. Bring business's in, take revenue from Squantz parking to help the fire dept
17. Would like town water	42. tailgaters	86. Purchasing swamp land	132. Pushing the LGBTQ+ agenda in our schools
18. Individual selfishness/ignorance of what it means to be a community	43. Tony iadarola	87. Reputation for not following written policies regarding students who have been harassed in school	133. residents not voting
19. Lack of community	44. Dislike of those who don't reside year round but pay high taxes	88. Residents who put their entitlement over kids	134. The lack of care from the town
20. people not very friendly	45. Population growing	89. small post office	135. The majority of citizens who voted for Donald Trump
21. Horrendous traffic going in & out of town	46. Failure to plan ahead for big projects	90. The town poorly executing the water shed behind my house which is causing damage to my backyard and foundation	136. The mommy klatches wield too much power and it's annoying
22. Too many cars speed on winding roads	47. Lack of proper planning/zoning for the future	91. Too low boe budget	137. Wealth disparity creating haves vs have nots
23. Happy that we have new traffic lights at the 4 corners, BUT we desperately need a turn light in all 4 directions. There's 3 turn lights but to get from Brunos to Union savings Bank theres no light to make a left turn while stopping oncoming traffic.	48. Very polarized politically	92. Town needs to wean off use of fossil fuel	138. Racist mentions of Squantz pond by republican state reps, and town officials
24. High speed of traffic on Rte 37, need stop signs, traffic signal, or rotary to slow traffic beyond the Senior center.	49. Racism/bigotry	93. Young people leave and don't come back	139. Lack of compassion for others from many in the community
	50. The Bigotry	94. Bullying and racism is rampant in the schools	140. More people volunteering
	51. White nationalism	95. Racism	
	52. Vacant retail space		
	53. Lack of reliable taxi, Uber, Lyft, busses or public transport		
	54. Lack of sewer		
	55. Lose power for days in town and residence		
	56. No public water		
	57. poor electrical lines		
	58. allow only residents to parks		

Sorry #1	Sorry #2	Sorry #3	Sorry #4
<p>25. Lack of police, patrol to control roadways - speeding, noise level, wreckless driving is an increasing issue and hazard. Nothing is being done.</p>	<p>59. Still using well water in areas near town 60. The press toward urbanization is unnecessary 61. The historical homes, waste of money 62. the inaccurate reporting of what's happening in town 63. The lack of a vision for the community beyond school sports 64. There is no use solar power for schools&business 65. Too many big lawns that use pesticides 66. too many town projects raise taxes 67. We have no local theater as other towns do 68. Disinterested residents 69. Entitled people</p>	<p>96. Racist and classist people 97. The unsupportive community towards one another 98. Fix the septic problems with stores and school buildings 99. Backwardness, selling off our water to AQUARION 100. Electric rates doubled 101. Lack of Cellphone Service 102. Lack of Town Services Sewer and Water 103. No sewers 104. No sewers 105. Still using septic systems in areas near town 106. The lack of sewers which results in fewer restaurants and no recreation center 107. All the New Yorkers moving in 108. Emerging liberal mindset amongst citizens 109. Poor Physical Planning. NO Comfortable Walking, Or Biking Areas. Zoning Offers NO Plan/ Structure 'Harmony'. Zoning & Sanitation Departments Mostly Unhelpful 110. Poor school grades 111. Quality of life 112. Teacher/Admin centered school system rather than student focused 113. The available options for those who live in New Fairfield / can't utilize outdoor areas on many occasions 114. the high cost 115. Uncivilized people on lakes and ponds</p>	<p>141. No public transportation/disability services 142. No railroad 143. the lack of senior transportation 144. No sewers, etc to attract more restaurants/businesses 145. No town water system 146. Phone Reception 147. Septic wells instead of public water and waste 148. Lack of adequate lake accessibility 149. Lack of public transportation 150. The beach isn't maintained and not enforced to be just for NF residents, and squantz pond is not just for CT 151. Very limited civic participation such as voting</p>

Community Survey - New Fairfield POCD

DATA

Monday, September 18, 2023

536 Total Participants

Powered by  SurveyMonkey

Q1: How did you learn about this on-line survey?

Answered: 536 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I read about it in a newspaper	9.33%	50
I heard about it / read about it on-line	7.84%	42
I heard about it on social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)	40.49%	217
I found it on the Town website	9.51%	51
I heard about it at a Town meeting	0.93%	5
Someone told me about it	14.74%	79
Other	17.16%	92
TOTAL		536

Q2: What is your main connection to New Fairfield?

Answered: 534 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am a full-time resident (owner)	94.38%	504
I am a full-time resident (renter)	2.06%	11
I live in New Fairfield part-time / seasonally / weekends	3.18%	17
I operate a business in New Fairfield	0.19%	1
I work in New Fairfield	0.19%	1
I don't live or work in New Fairfield, I just like the community!	0%	0
TOTAL		534

Q3: If you live in New Fairfield, how would you best describe where you live?

Answered: 530 Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Lake Communities- Candlewood Isle, Candlewood Knolls, Kellogg Point, Squantz Pond, Sail Harbor, etc.	22.83%	121
South Central - New Fairfield Center, etc.	33.40%	177
Southwest- Ball Pond / Putnam Lake Area	32.45%	172
Northern / Western Areas	11.13%	59
I don't live in New Fairfield	0.19%	1
TOTAL		530

Q4: If you live in New Fairfield , how long have you lived here?

Answered: 535 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 5 years	17.01%	91
5 to 9 years	9.53%	51
10 to 14 years	9.16%	49
15 to 19 years	8.60%	46
20 years or more	45.23%	242
My whole life	10.09%	54
I don't live or operate a business in New Fairfield	0.37%	2
TOTAL		535

Q5: If you live in New Fairfield , where did you live before coming to live here?

Answered: 501 Skipped: 35

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Abutting Municipality (Sherman, New Milford, Brookfield, Danbury, Southeast NY, Patterson, NY)	19.36%	97
Elsewhere in Fairfield County	10.18%	51
Elsewhere in Connecticut	6.59%	33
Elsewhere in New York State	48.90%	245
Elsewhere in United States	13.97%	70
Another Country	0.20%	1
I don't live or operate a business in New Fairfield	0.80%	4
TOTAL		501

Q6: If you live in New Fairfield, which type of housing do you currently live in?

Answered: 532 Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Single-family home (< 1-acre)	41.92%	223
Single-family home (1+ acre)	56.39%	300
2-4 family building	0.19%	1
Apartment building / complex (5+ units)	0%	0
Condominium development	0.94%	5
Other	0.56%	3
TOTAL		532

Q7: If you live in New Fairfield, please rate the following factors in your decision to live here or in terms of your overall quality of life today?

Answered: 529 Skipped: 7

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT A FACTOR	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Education system	66.48% 347	16.67% 87	14.94% 78	1.92% 10	522	1.50
Water amenities (Candlewood Lake, Squantz Pond, Ball Pond, etc.)	40.76% 214	32.76% 172	25.52% 134	0.95% 5	525	1.14
Outdoor amenities such as parks, trails, etc.	45.04% 236	41.60% 218	12.79% 67	0.57% 3	524	1.32
Community appearance / ambience	65.01% 340	28.30% 148	6.31% 33	0.38% 2	523	1.58
Shopping opportunities	20.11% 105	47.51% 248	31.61% 165	0.77% 4	522	0.88
Community reputation	54.23% 282	35.58% 185	8.08% 42	2.12% 11	520	1.44
Overall vibrancy	38.92% 202	43.74% 227	15.61% 81	1.73% 9	519	1.22
Housing (type, value, etc.)	67.81% 356	27.24% 143	4.00% 21	0.95% 5	525	1.63
Location (close to work, close to family, etc.)	45.54% 240	34.72% 183	18.41% 97	1.33% 7	527	1.26
Town services	41.97% 217	42.75% 221	14.31% 74	0.97% 5	517	1.27

Q8: How would you rate the overall quality of life in New Fairfield?

Answered: 527 Skipped: 9

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	12.71%	67
Very good	51.04%	269
Good	25.62%	135
Fair	9.68%	51
Poor	2.47%	13
TOTAL		535

Q11: Do you see yourself living in New Fairfield in 10 years?

Answered: 512 Skipped: 24

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	68.95%	353
No	32.42%	166
TOTAL		519

Q12: What type of housing do you see yourself living in 10 years from now?

Answered: 521 Skipped: 15

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Smaller single-family home	21.69%	113
Larger single-family home	13.44%	70
2-4 family building	0.19%	1
Apartment building/complex (5+ units)	1.73%	9
Condominium development	6.91%	36
Same place I live in today	49.90%	260
Other	6.14%	32
TOTAL		521

Q13: The Conservation part of a Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) might identify things New Fairfield wants to preserve or protect. How would you rank the following topics in terms of how important you feel they are to you or to the future of New Fairfield ?

Answered: 508 Skipped: 28

	#1 RANK	# 2 RANK	#3 RANK	#4 RANK	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Water Resources (surface water quality, groundwater quality, wetlands, etc.)	50.0% 232	17.46% 81	18.75% 87	13.79% 64	464	3.04
Other Natural Resources (steep slopes, wildlife habitat, invasive species, etc.)	4.09% 19	23.87% 111	31.83% 148	40.22% 187	465	1.92
Open Space (preserved land, interconnected trails, etc.)	15.06% 72	36.61% 175	31.59% 151	16.74% 80	478	2.5
Overall Ambience / Sense of Place (historic character, farms, scenic characteristics, visual appearance, etc.)	34.46% 174	23.76% 120	16.44% 83	25.35% 128	505	2.67

Q14: The Development section of a POCD might identify how New Fairfield wants to guide growth or change in the future. How would you rank the following topics in terms of how important you feel they are to you or to the future of New Fairfield.

Answered: 499 Skipped: 37

	#1 RANK	#2 RANK	#3 RANK	#4 RANK	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Town Center (economic vibrancy, development design, compatible uses, sense of place, overall character, etc.)	48.73% 230	33.05% 156	11.44% 54	6.78% 32	472	3.24
Business / Economic Development (support existing business, attract new business, enhance tax base, etc.)	30.56% 147	42.00% 202	19.54% 94	7.90% 38	481	2.95
Housing Needs (diversifying housing options / choices, etc.)	10.15% 48	13.11% 62	28.33% 134	48.41% 229	473	1.85
Sustainability / Resiliency (becoming "greener", addressing climate change, being flexible, etc.)	12.78% 62	11.55% 56	39.18% 190	36.49% 177	485	2.01

Q15: In terms of housing, do you feel New Fairfield has too much, not enough, or about the right amount of the following types of housing?

Answered: 500 Skipped: 36

	TOO MANY	ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT	NOT ENOUGH	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Age-restricted housing (seniors)	4.70% 23	49.69% 243	45.60% 223	489	0.41
Assisted living facilities	5.50% 26	45.24% 214	49.26% 233	473	0.44
Housing that is more affordable (for young people / families, local workers, seniors, etc.)	5.49% 27	43.90% 216	50.61% 249	492	0.45
Smaller single-family homes	3.25% 16	69.98% 345	26.77% 132	493	0.24
Larger single-family homes	28.22% 138	64.01% 313	7.77% 38	489	-0.20
Condominiums or townhomes	17.53% 85	49.28% 239	33.20% 161	485	0.16
Apartments (5+ units)	25.73% 123	44.14% 211	30.13% 144	478	0.04
Multi-family homes (2-4 units)	24.12% 116	53.22% 256	22.66% 109	481	-0.01

Q16: The Infrastructure section of a POCD might address how New Fairfield wants to provide for the services and facilities to meet community needs. How would you rank these in terms of how important you feel they are to you or to the future of New Fairfield.

Answered: 494 Skipped: 42

	#1 RANK	#2 RANK	#3 RANK	#4 RANK	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Community Facilities (schools, public safety, public works, recreation, library, senior center, government, etc.)	63.11% 296	18.98% 89	10.02% 47	7.89% 37	469	3.37
Vehicular Transportation (roads)	10.38% 49	22.03% 104	32.63% 154	34.96% 165	472	2.08
Other Transportation (sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, transit, etc.)	10.62% 50	25.69% 121	29.94% 141	33.76% 159	471	2.13
Utility Infrastructure (water supply, sewage disposal, storm drainage, electricity, cable, internet, wireless, etc.)	18.74% 92	33.81% 166	26.27% 129	21.18% 104	491	2.50

Q17: Now, for community facilities and services in New Fairfield, how would you rank the following in terms of importance to you?

Answered: 494 Skipped: 42

	#1 RANK	#2 RANK	#3 RANK	#4 RANK	#5 RANK	#6 RANK	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Schools	45.57% 180	19.24% 76	9.87% 39	6.33% 25	3.80% 15	15.19% 60	395	4.51
Public safety (police, fire, emergency medical)	39.01% 181	31.47% 146	13.15% 61	7.54% 35	5.60% 26	3.23% 15	464	4.81
Public works (roadways, plowing, storm drainage, etc.)	10.02% 48	23.17% 111	31.73% 152	20.88% 100	11.69% 56	2.51% 12	479	3.91
Recreation / leisure (recreation facilities / programs, library, adult education, etc.)	10.23% 48	17.48% 82	25.80% 121	27.93% 131	10.66% 50	7.89% 37	469	3.65
General government (Town Hall, land use, finance, etc.)	3.42% 16	6.20% 29	9.62% 45	18.16% 85	35.04% 164	27.56% 129	468	2.42
Social services (social services, senior center, etc.)	2.73% 13	7.14% 34	11.34% 54	14.71% 70	29.62% 141	34.45% 164	476	2.35

Q18: From an overall perspective, **how important do you feel the following POCD strategy areas should be to New Fairfield over the next 10 to 20 years?**

Answered: 482 Skipped: 54

	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Protecting Natural Resources	43.70% 208	36.34% 173	16.39% 78	3.15% 15	0.42% 2	476	2.20
Preserving Open Space	33.19% 158	35.92% 171	22.48% 107	7.56% 36	0.84% 4	476	1.94
Maintaining / Enhancing Visual Appearance / Characteristics	29.29% 140	39.96% 191	22.18% 106	7.11% 34	1.46% 7	478	1.90
Promoting New Fairfield Center	25.73% 123	34.10% 163	28.87% 138	9.83% 47	1.46% 7	478	1.74
Retaining and Expanding Existing Businesses	37.37% 179	38.20% 183	17.54% 84	6.05% 29	0.84% 4	479	2.06
Pursuing New Commercial And Industrial Development To Grow The Tax Base	23.27% 111	29.98% 143	25.37% 121	18.87% 90	2.52% 12	477	1.55
Addressing Housing Needs	15.51% 74	22.01% 105	26.21% 125	33.75% 161	2.52% 12	477	1.17

(continued on next page)

Q18: From an overall perspective, **how important do you feel the following POCD strategy areas should be to New Fairfield over the next 10 to 20 years?**

Answered: 482 Skipped: 54

(continued from previous page)

	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Promoting Sustainability / Resiliency	20.68% 98	31.43% 149	29.11% 138	14.77% 70	4.01% 19	474	1.54
Enhancing Community Facilities	26.37% 125	35.02% 166	29.32% 139	8.23% 39	1.05% 5	474	1.78
Making The Town More Pedestrian-Friendly	28.54% 137	26.25% 126	23.12% 111	20.83% 100	1.25% 6	480	1.61
Making The Town More Bicycle-Friendly	13.42% 64	18.24% 87	28.93% 138	37.11% 177	2.31% 11	477	1.06
Addressing Piped Infrastructure (water, sewer, natural gas, etc.)	26.74% 127	23.58% 112	25.89% 123	21.05% 100	2.74% 13	475	1.53
Addressing Wired/Wireless Infrastructure (internet, cell phones, etc.)	23.01% 110	35.77% 171	27.20% 130	11.92% 57	2.09% 10	478	1.68

Q19: How well do you think the Town of New Fairfield has been doing addressing these strategy areas?

Answered: 481 Skipped: 55

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Protecting Natural Resources	5.29% 25	42.71% 202	30.87% 146	8.46% 40	12.68% 60	473	1.32
Preserving Open Space	5.25% 25	40.13% 191	32.77% 156	9.03% 43	12.82% 61	476	1.29
Maintaining / Enhancing Visual Appearance / Characteristics	6.98% 33	40.17% 190	35.31% 167	13.32% 63	4.23% 20	473	1.37
Promoting New Fairfield Center	3.38% 16	28.33% 134	40.80% 193	18.82% 89	8.67% 41	473	1.08
Retaining and Expanding Existing Businesses	1.91% 9	14.26% 67	38.51% 181	36.81% 173	8.51% 40	470	0.73
Pursuing New Commercial And Industrial Development To Grow The Tax Base	1.90% 9	8.03% 38	32.35% 153	40.17% 190	17.55% 83	473	0.54
Addressing Housing Needs	2.54% 12	16.07% 76	30.66% 145	27.06% 128	23.68% 112	473	0.70

(continued on next page)

Q19: How well do you think the Town of New Fairfield has been doing addressing these strategy areas?

Answered: 481 Skipped: 55

(continued from previous page)

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Promoting Sustainability / Resiliency	1.92% 9	16.42% 77	41.15% 193	15.99% 75	24.52% 115	469	0.80
Enhancing Community Facilities	2.79% 13	30.04% 140	33.69% 157	23.82% 111	9.66% 45	466	1.02
Making The Town More Pedestrian-Friendly	1.69% 8	19.62% 93	34.81% 165	31.65% 150	12.24% 58	474	0.79
Making The Town More Bicycle-Friendly	1.05% 5	6.12% 29	18.14% 86	48.31% 229	26.37% 125	474	0.34
Addressing Piped Infrastructure (water, sewer, natural gas, etc.)	2.54% 12	14.41% 68	28.81% 136	28.18% 133	26.06% 123	472	0.65
Addressing Wired/Wireless Infrastructure (internet, cell phones, etc.)	2.78% 13	19.66% 92	32.91% 154	21.58% 101	23.08% 108	468	0.81

Q22: What age group are you part of?

Answered: 476 Skipped: 60

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 20 years old	0.21%	1
Age 20 to 34	6.51%	31
Age 35 to 44	21.85%	104
Age 45 to 54	22.90%	109
Age 55 to 64	19.75%	94
Age 65 to 79	25.42%	121
Age 80 or over	3.36%	16
TOTAL		476

Q23: To which gender do you most identify?

Answered: 477 Skipped: 59

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	35.01%	167
Female	58.49%	279
A gender type not listed here	0.42%	2
Prefer not to answer	6.08%	29
TOTAL		477

Q24: Which of the following do you feel best describes you?

Answered: 478 Skipped: 58

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Asian	0.21%	1
Black / African American	0.63%	3
Hispanic / Latinx	2.09%	10
Native American / Alaskan Native / Pacific Islander	0%	0
White / Caucasian	79.71%	381
Biracial / Multi-racial	0.84%	4
A race / ethnicity not listed here	0.84%	4
Prefer not to answer	15.69%	75
TOTAL		478

Community Survey - New Fairfield POCD

CHARTS

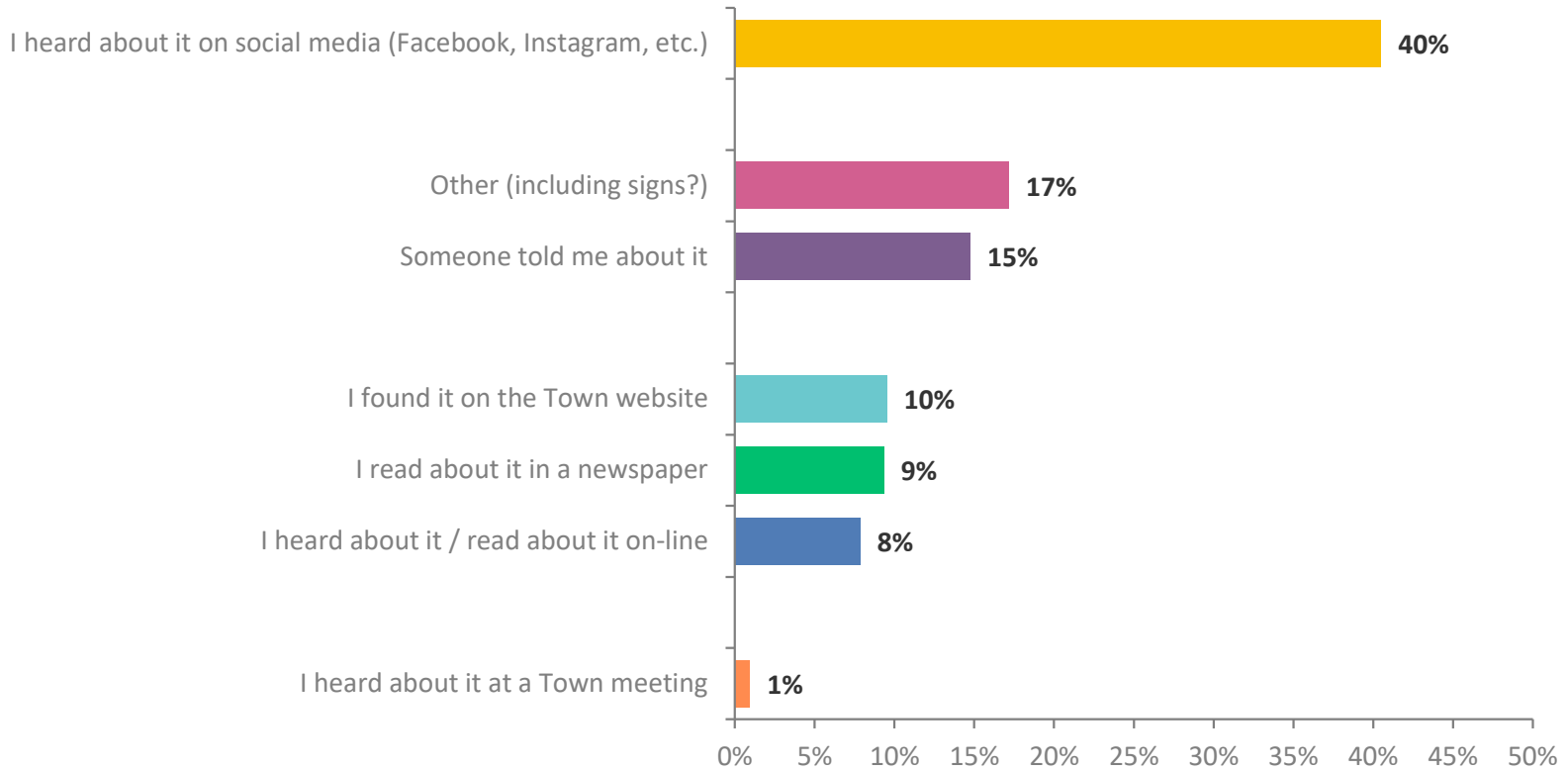
Monday, September 18, 2023

536 Total Participants

Powered by  SurveyMonkey

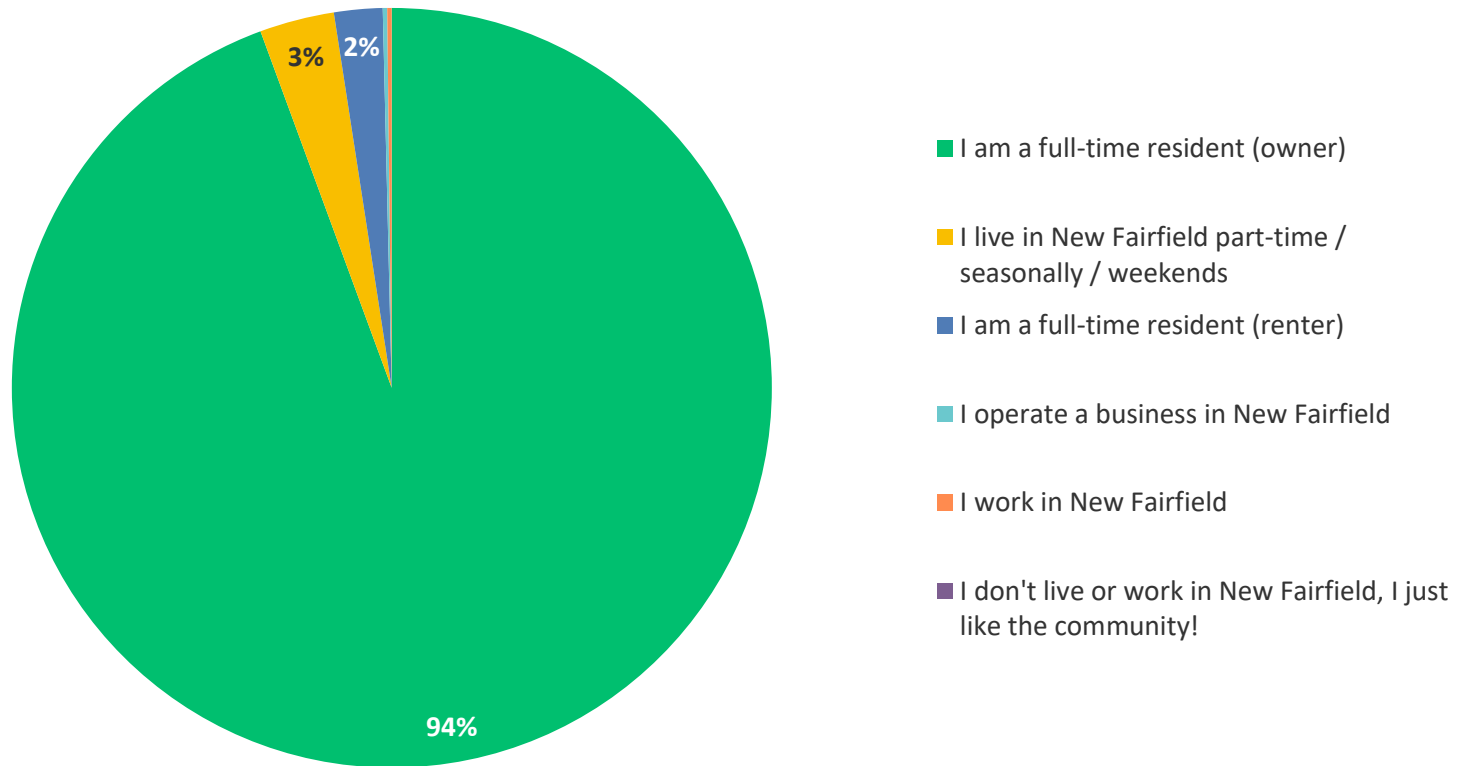
Q1: How did you learn about this on-line survey?

Answered: 536 Skipped: 0



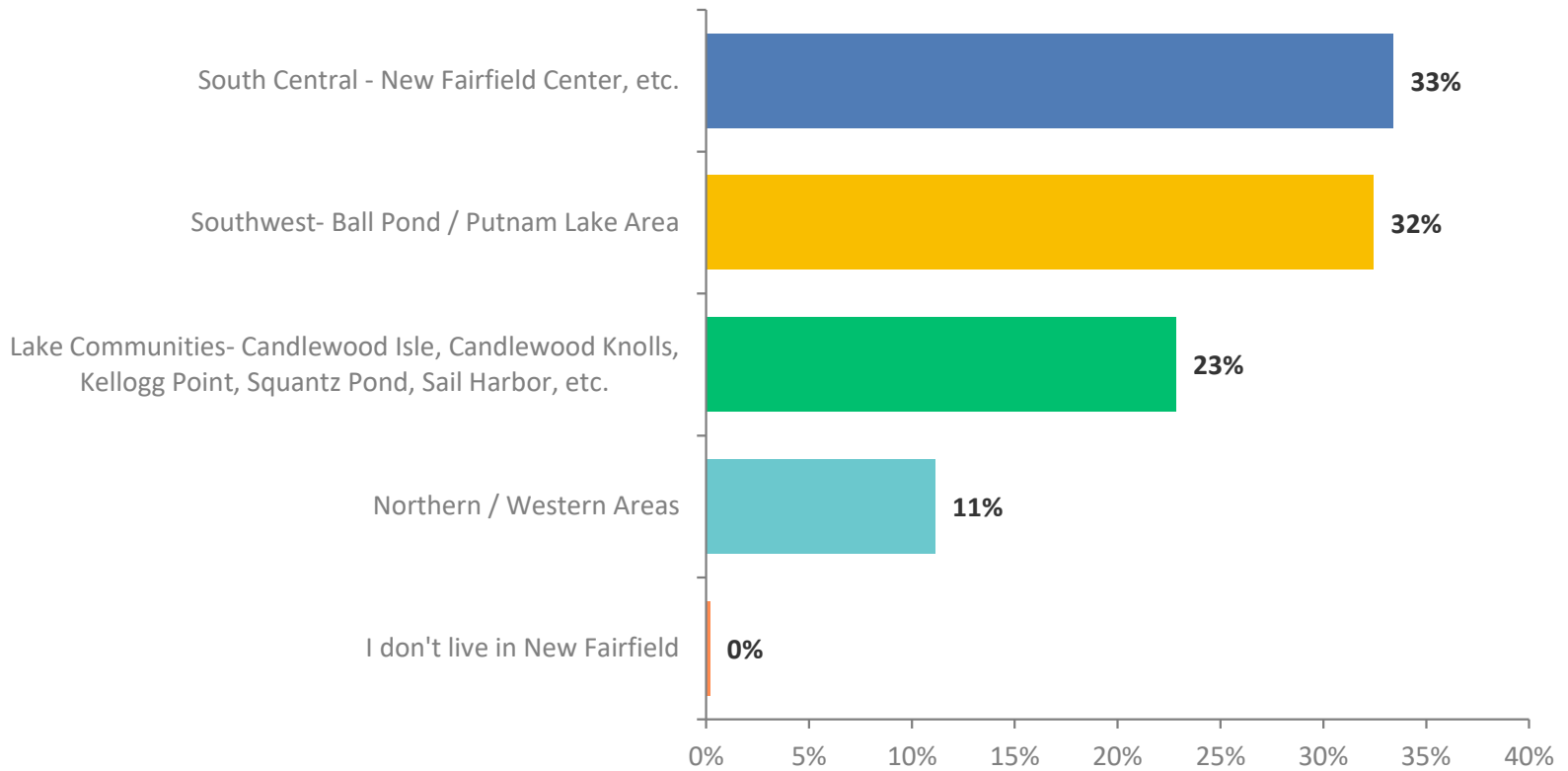
Q2: What is your main connection to New Fairfield?

Answered: 534 Skipped: 2



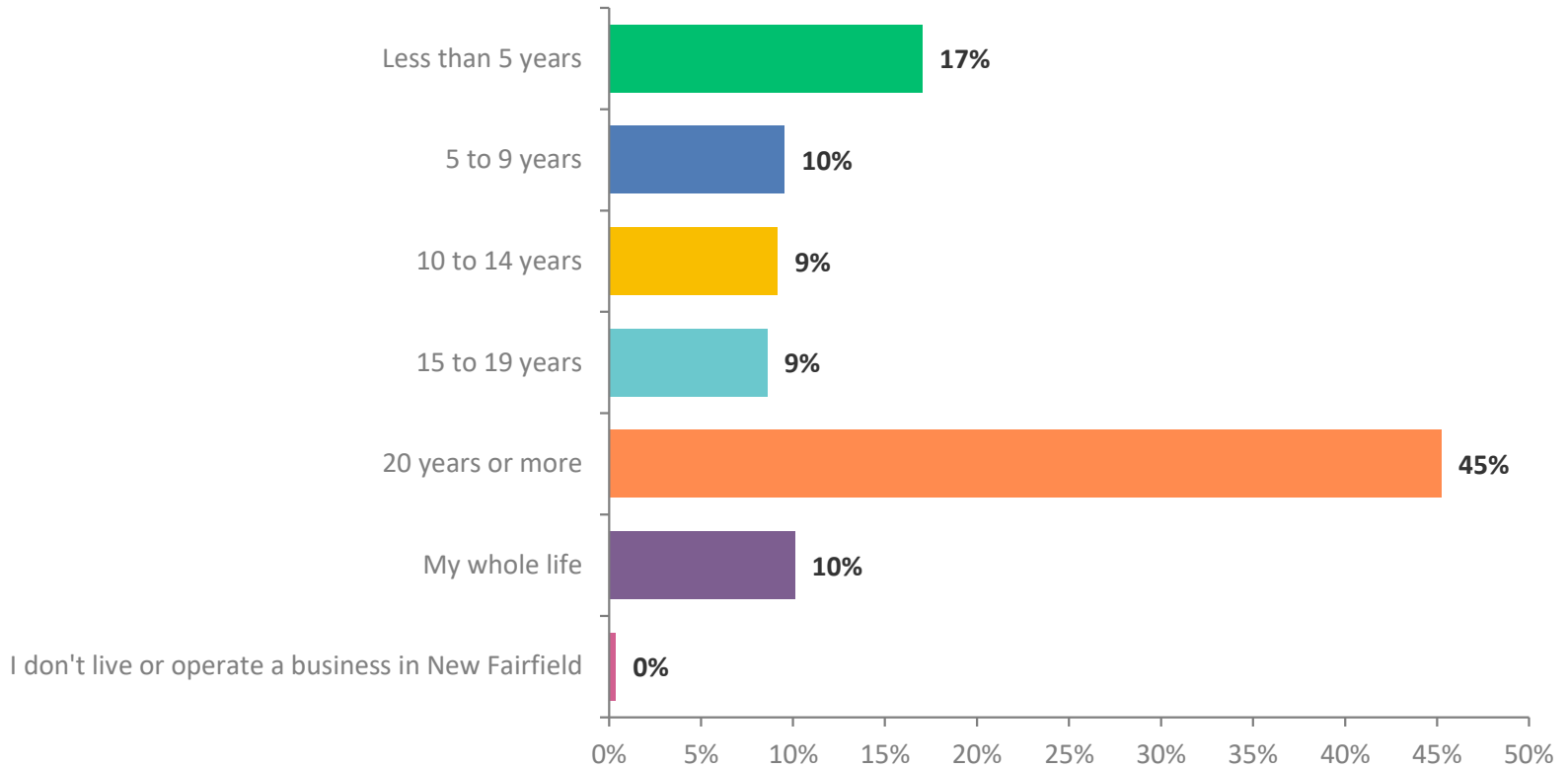
Q3: If you live in New Fairfield, how would you best describe where you live?

Answered: 530 Skipped: 6



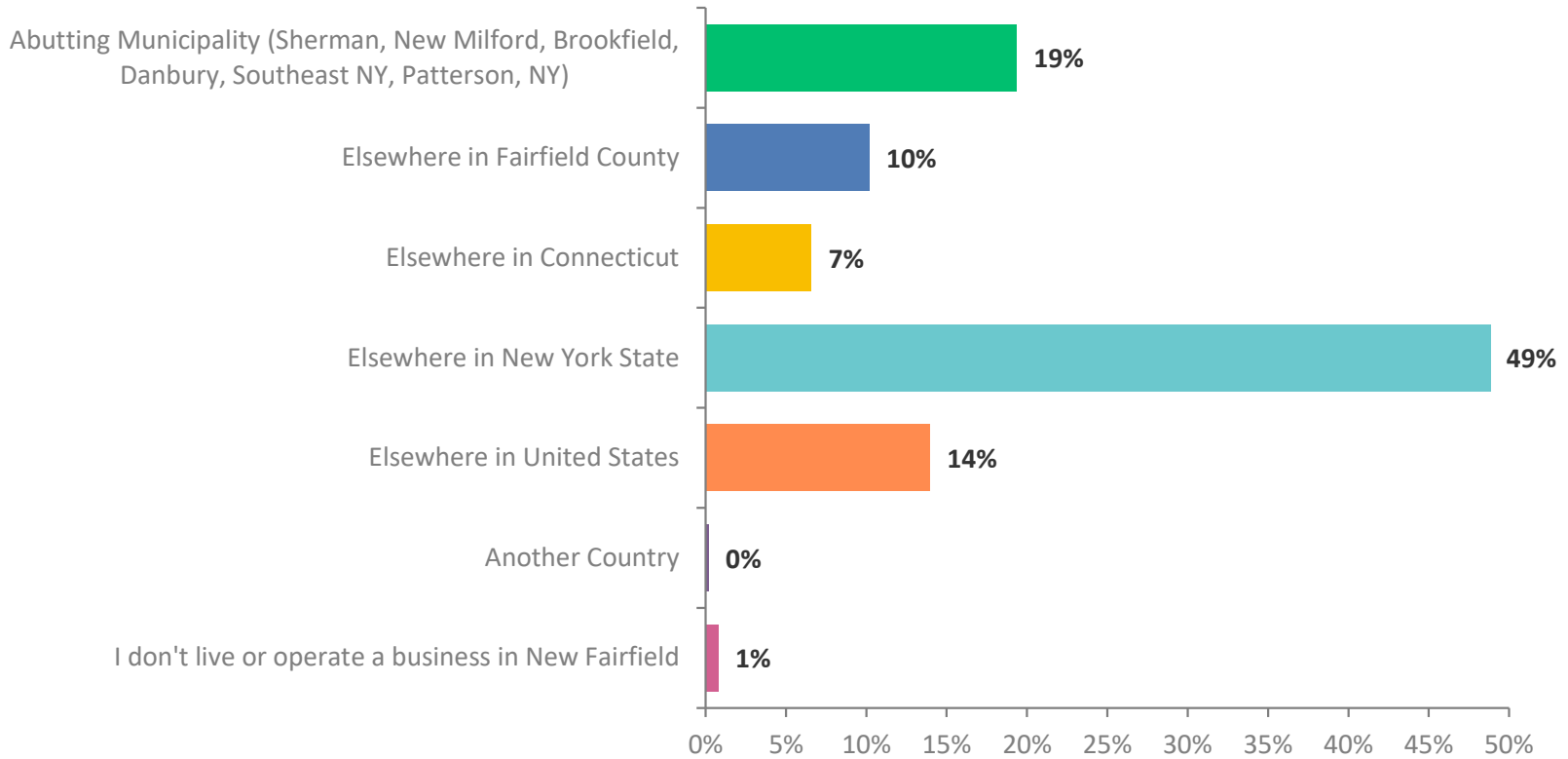
Q4: If you live in New Fairfield , how long have you lived here?

Answered: 535 Skipped: 1



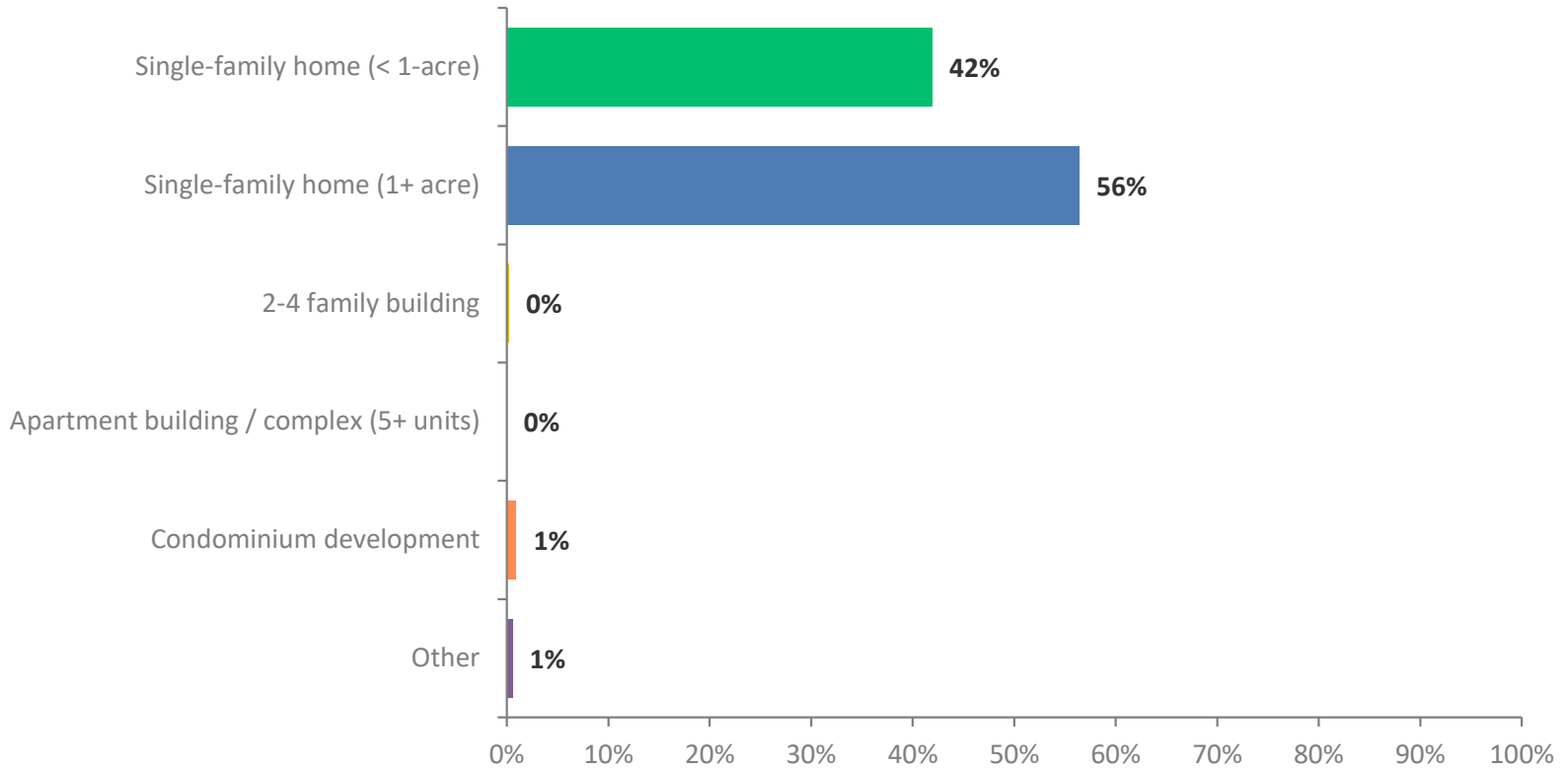
Q5: If you live in New Fairfield , where did you live before coming to live here?

Answered: 501 Skipped: 35



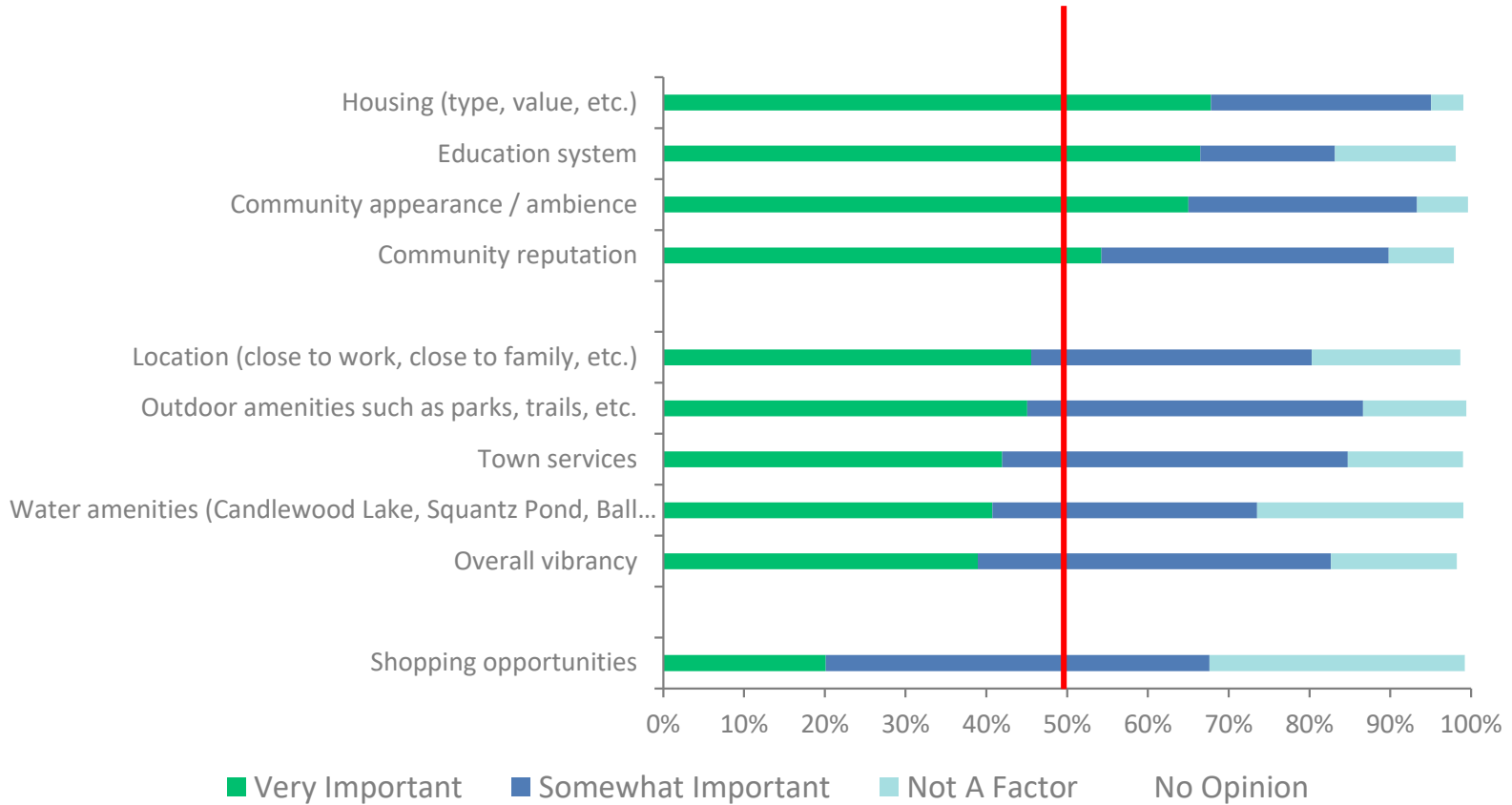
Q6: If you live in New Fairfield, which type of housing do you currently live in?

Answered: 532 Skipped: 4



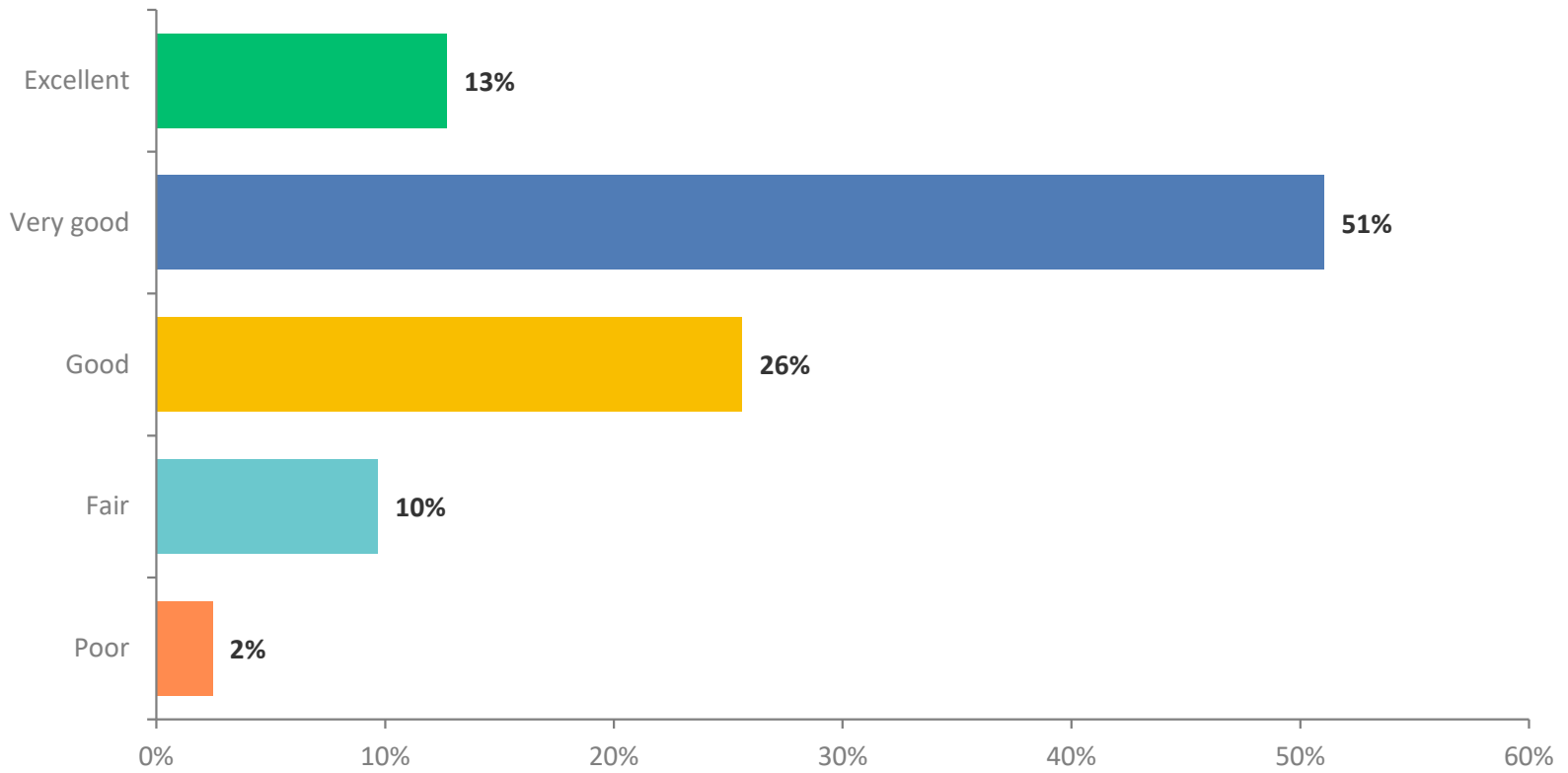
Q7: If you live in New Fairfield, please rate the following factors in your decision to live here or in terms of your overall quality of life today?

Answered: 529 Skipped: 7



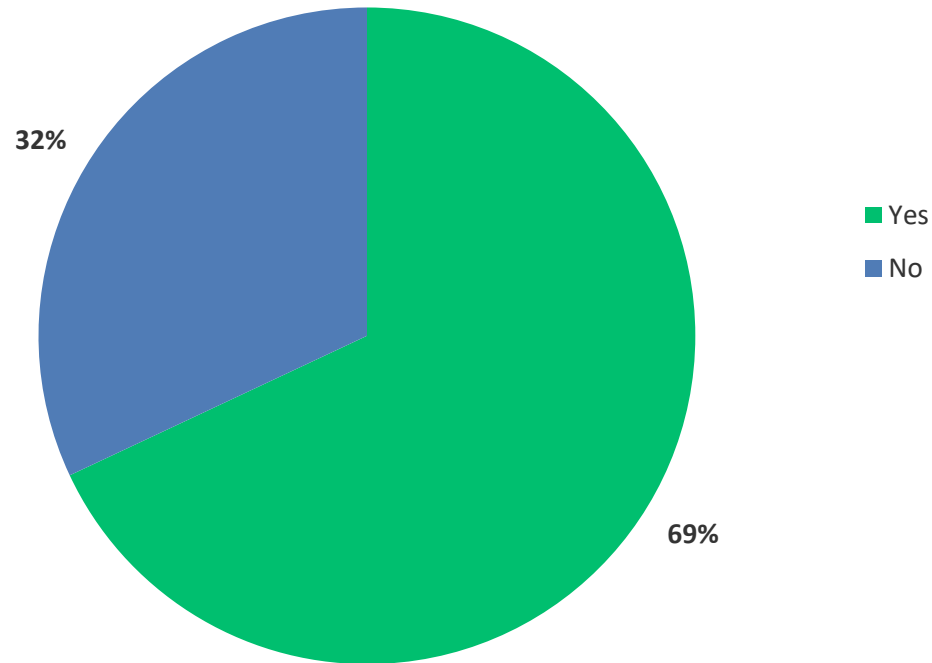
Q8: How would you rate the overall quality of life in New Fairfield?

Answered: 527 Skipped: 9



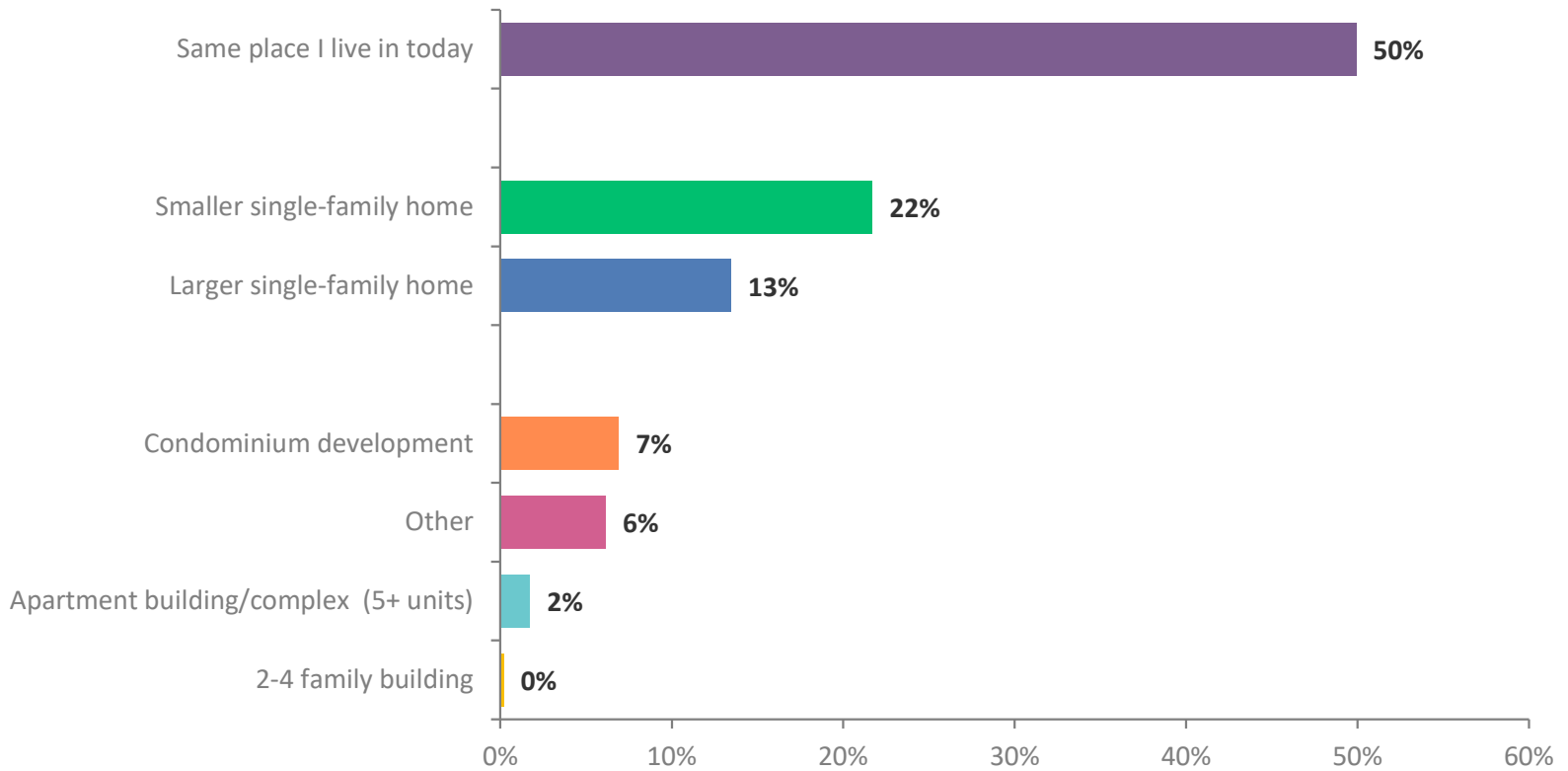
Q11: Do you see yourself living in New Fairfield in 10 years?

Answered: 512 Skipped: 24



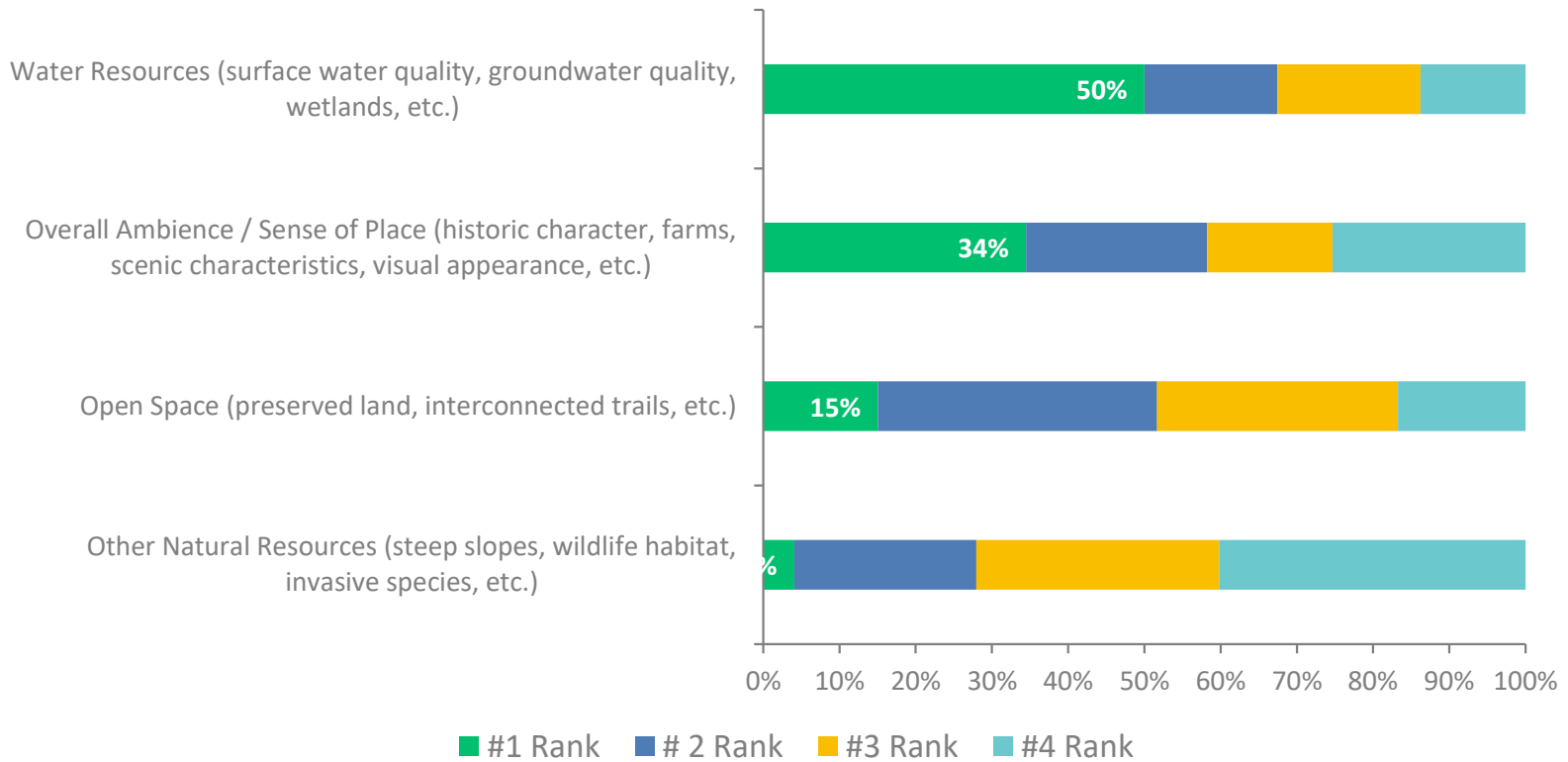
Q12: What type of housing do you see yourself living in 10 years from now?

Answered: 521 Skipped: 15



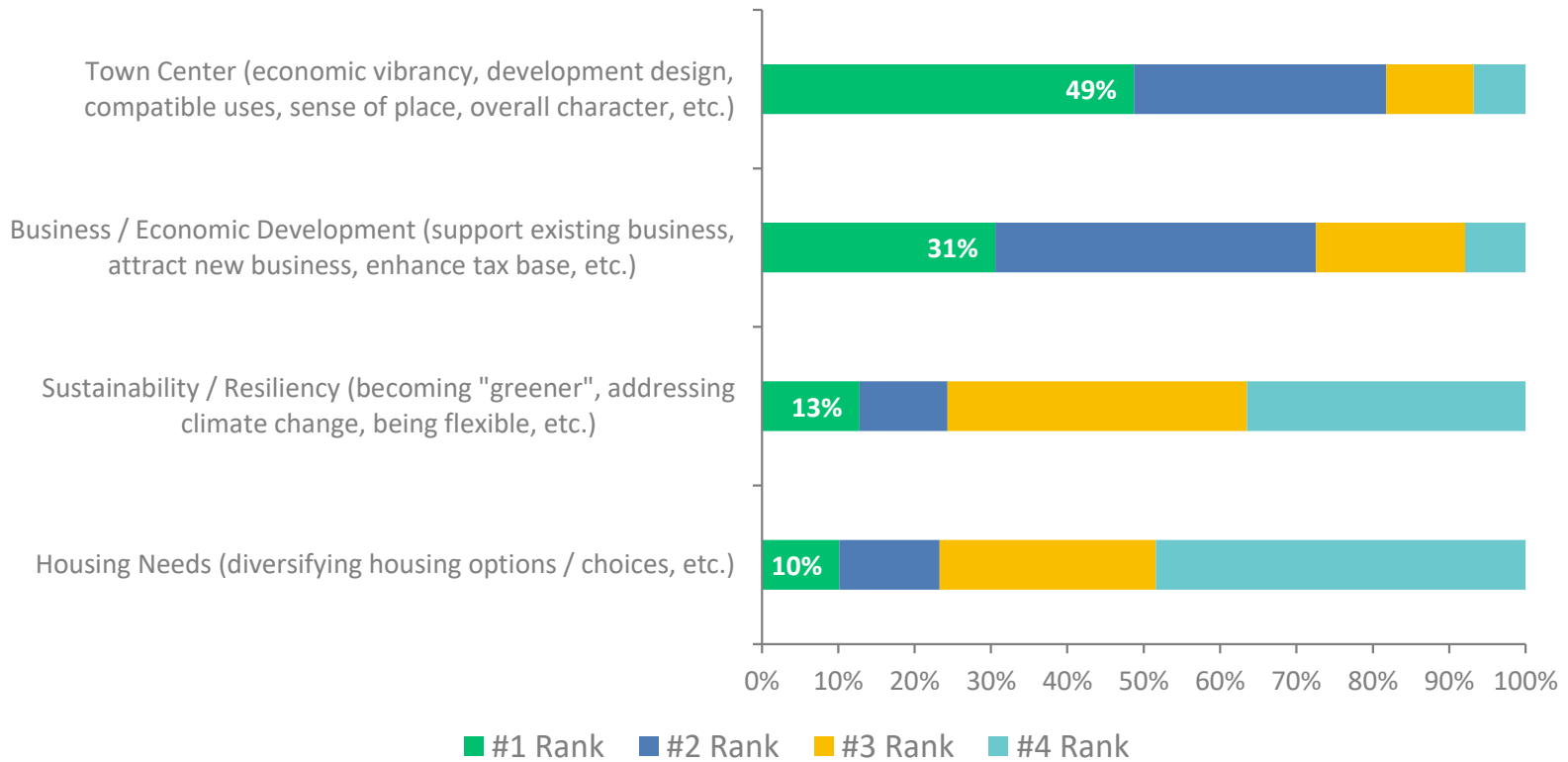
Q13: The **Conservation part of a Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) might identify things New Fairfield wants to preserve or protect. How would you rank the following topics in terms of how important you feel they are to you or to the future of New Fairfield ?**

Answered: 508 Skipped: 28



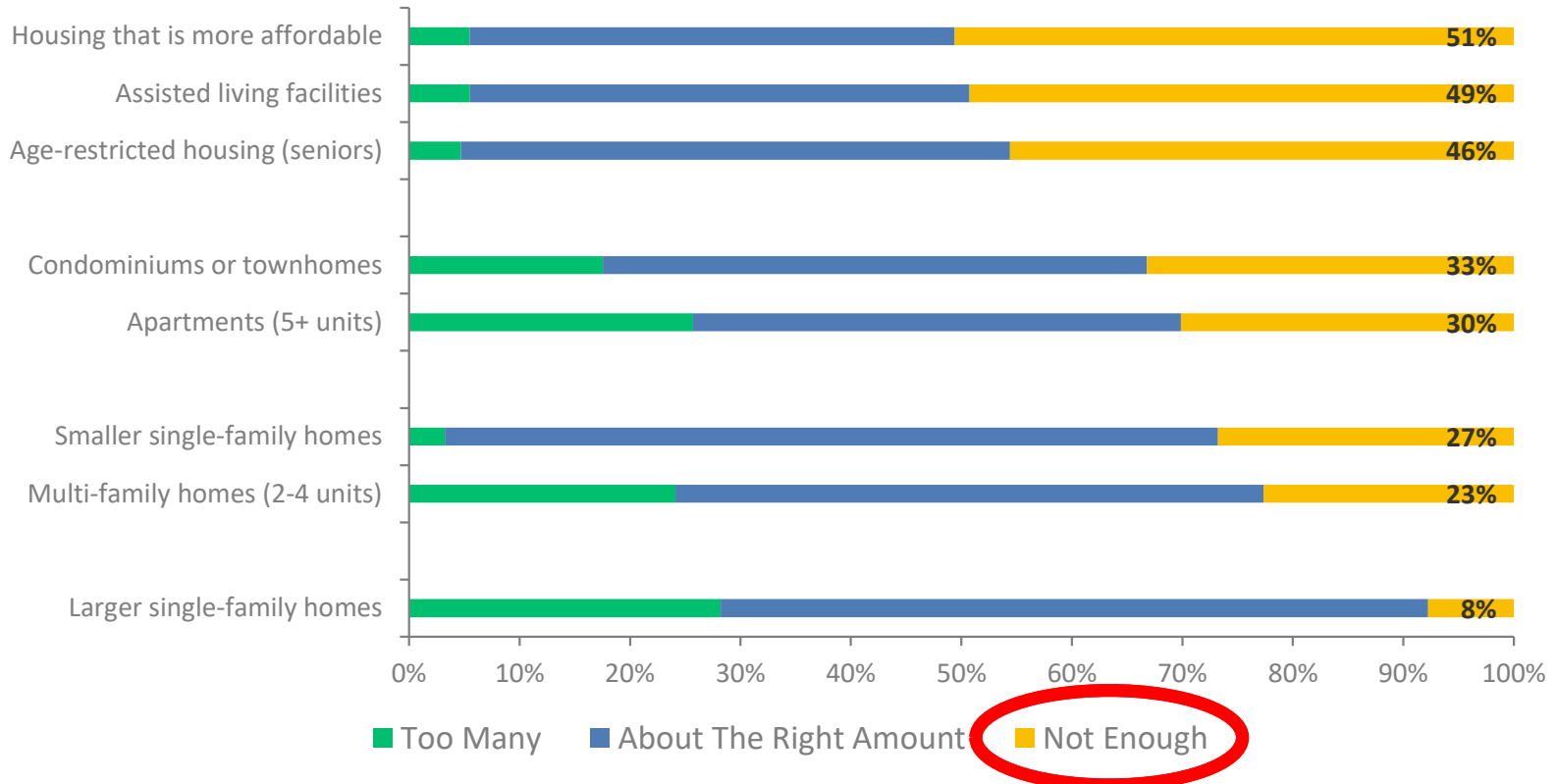
Q14: The **Development section of a POCD might identify how New Fairfield wants to guide growth or change in the future. How would you rank the following topics in terms of how important you feel they are to you or to the future of New Fairfield.**

Answered: 499 Skipped: 37



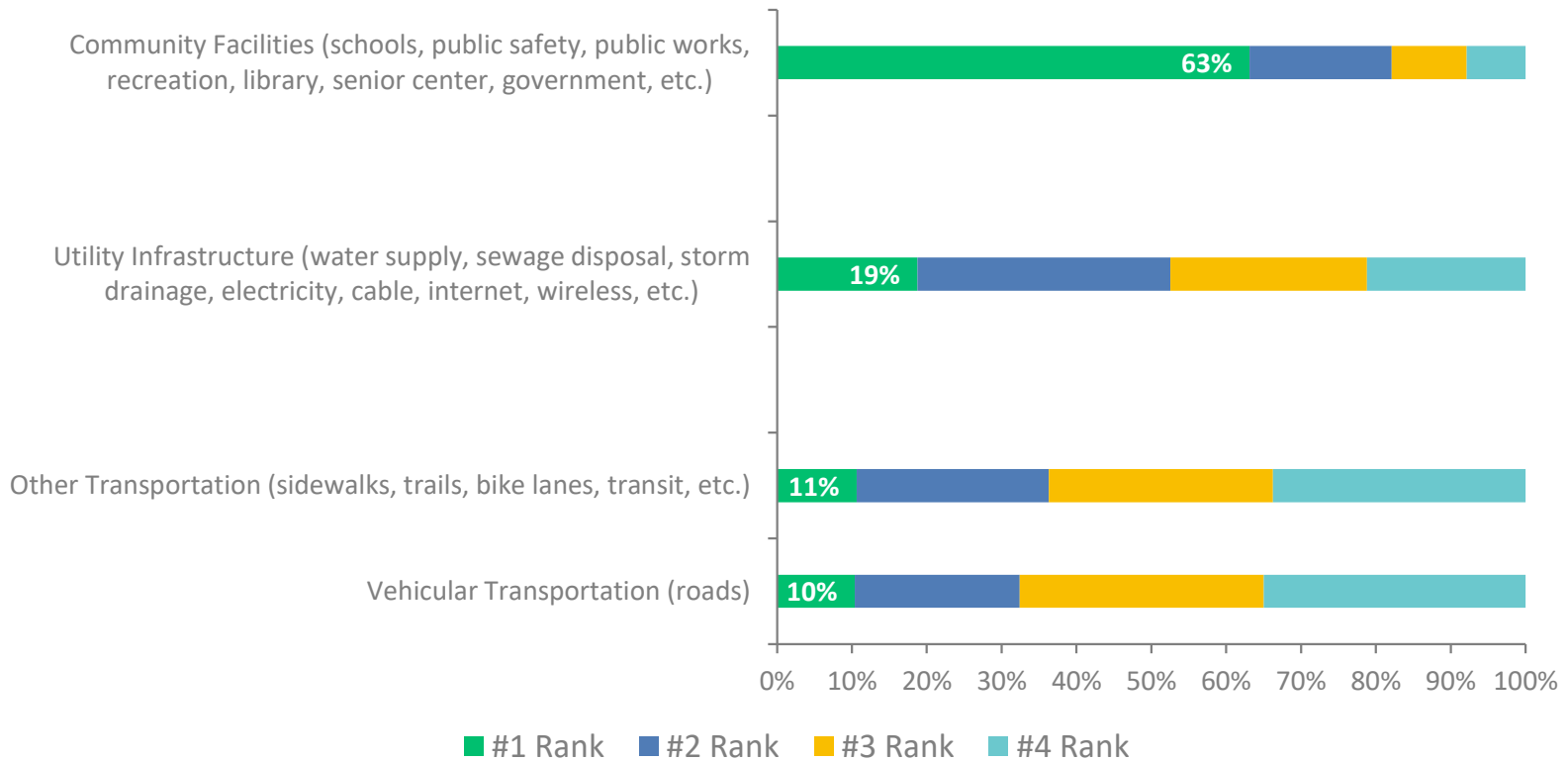
Q15: In terms of housing, do you feel New Fairfield has too much, **not enough, or about the right amount of the following types of housing?**

Answered: 500 Skipped: 36



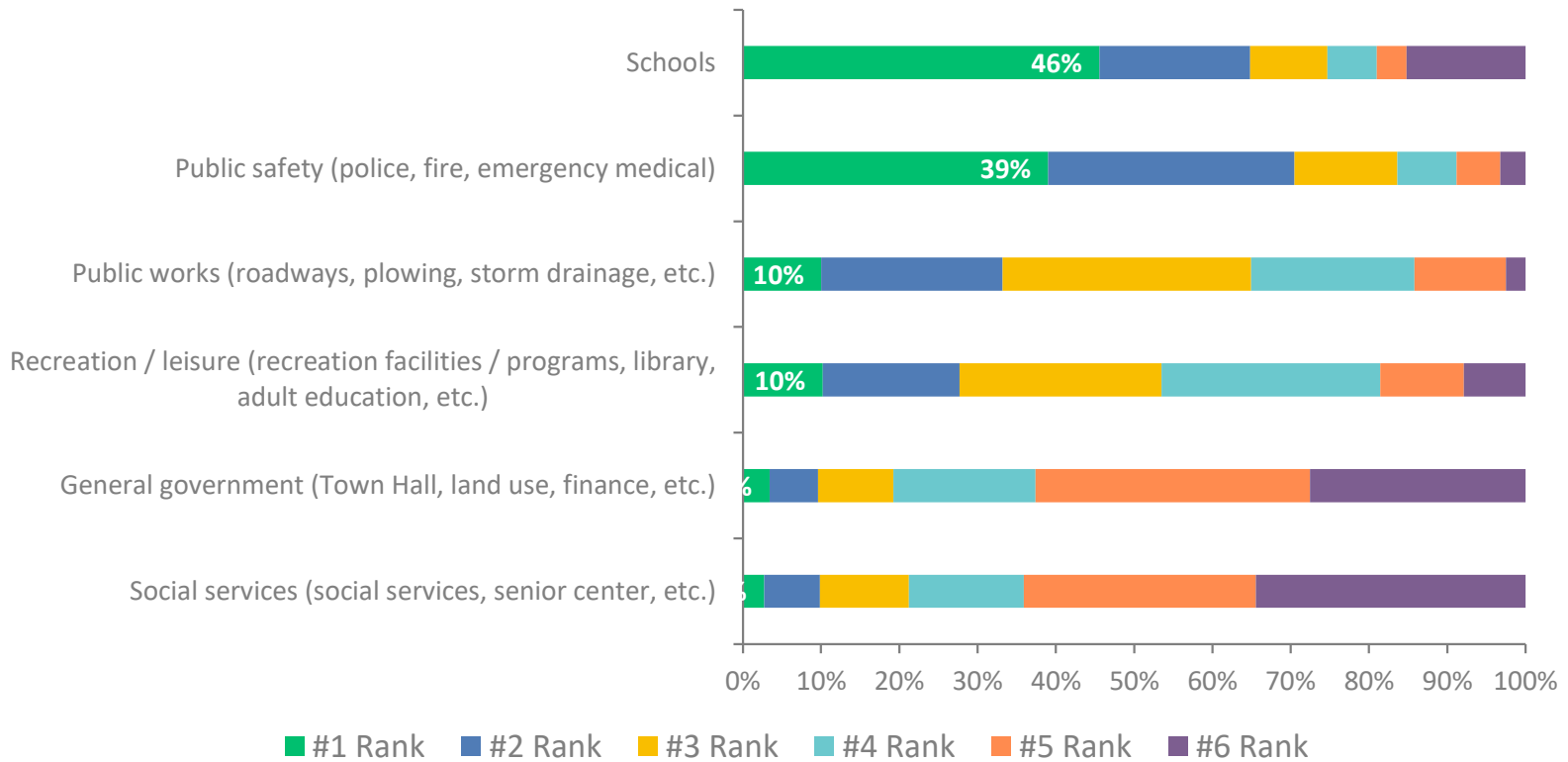
Q16: The **Infrastructure section of a POCD might address how New Fairfield wants to provide for the services and facilities to meet community needs. How would you rank these in terms of how important you feel they are to you or to the future of New Fairfield.**

Answered: 494 Skipped: 42



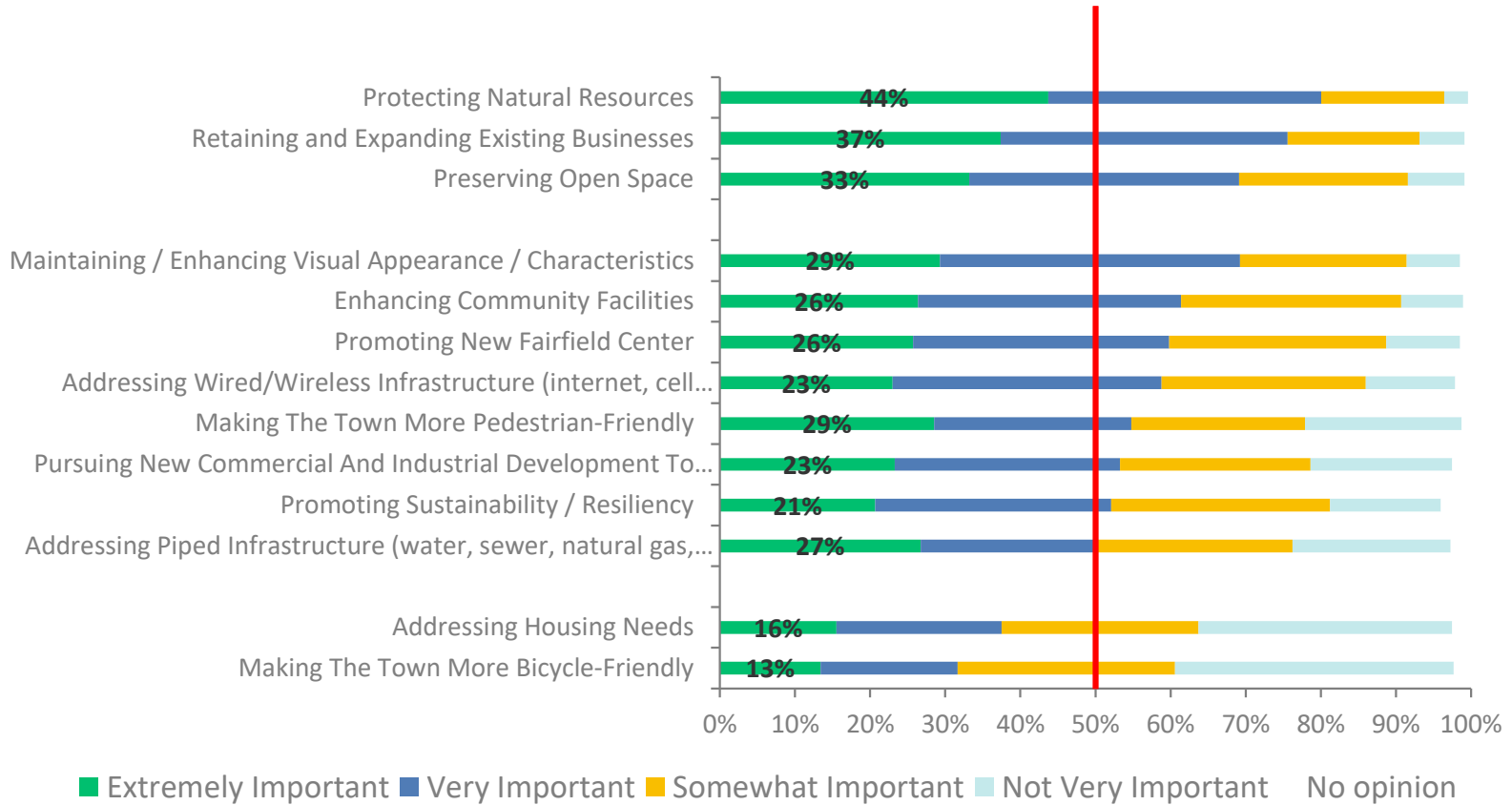
Q17: Now, for community facilities and services in New Fairfield, how would you rank the following in terms of importance to you?

Answered: 494 Skipped: 42



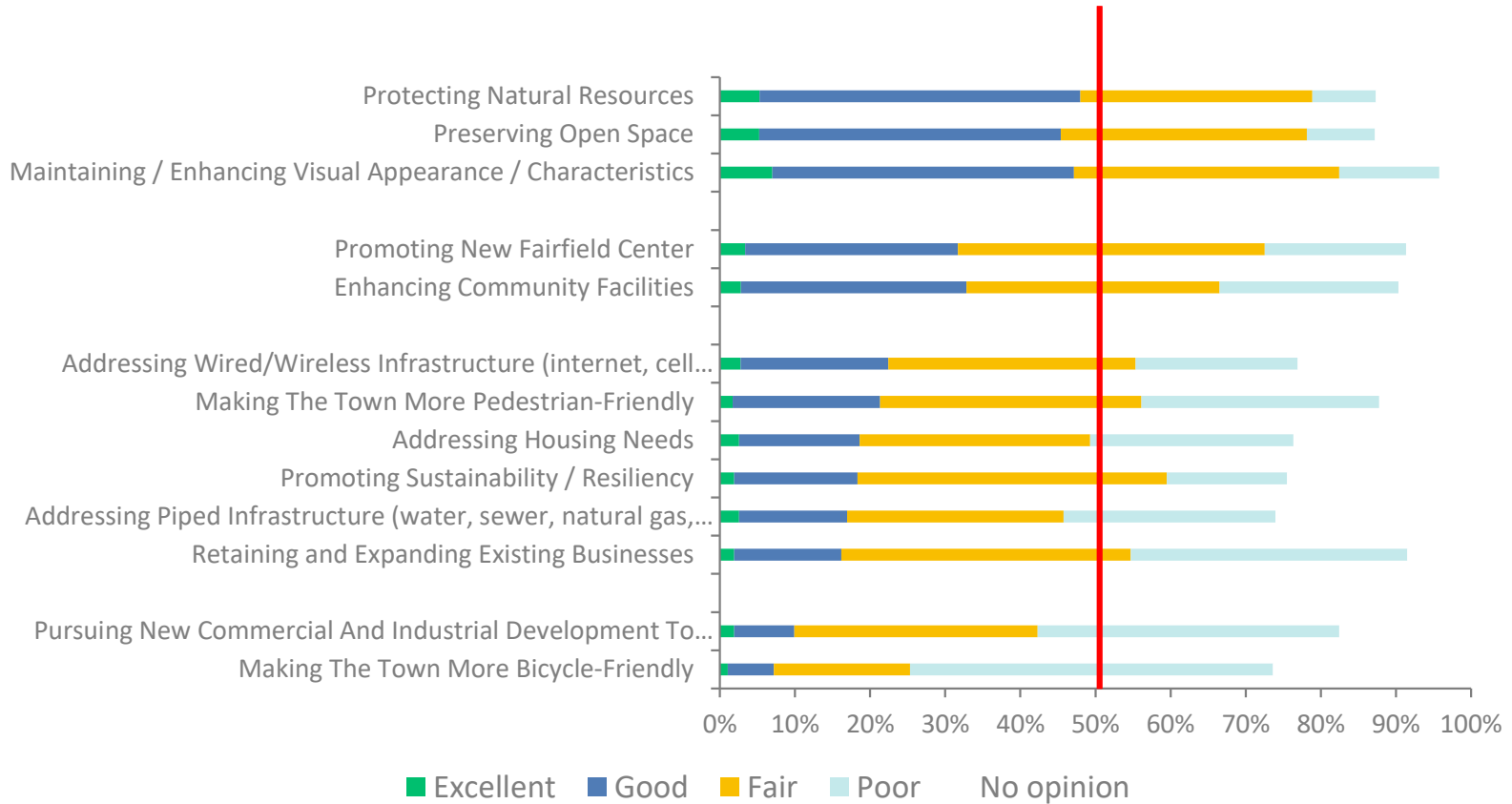
Q18: From an overall perspective, *how important* do you feel the following POCD strategy areas should be to New Fairfield over the next 10 to 20 years?

Answered: 482 Skipped: 54



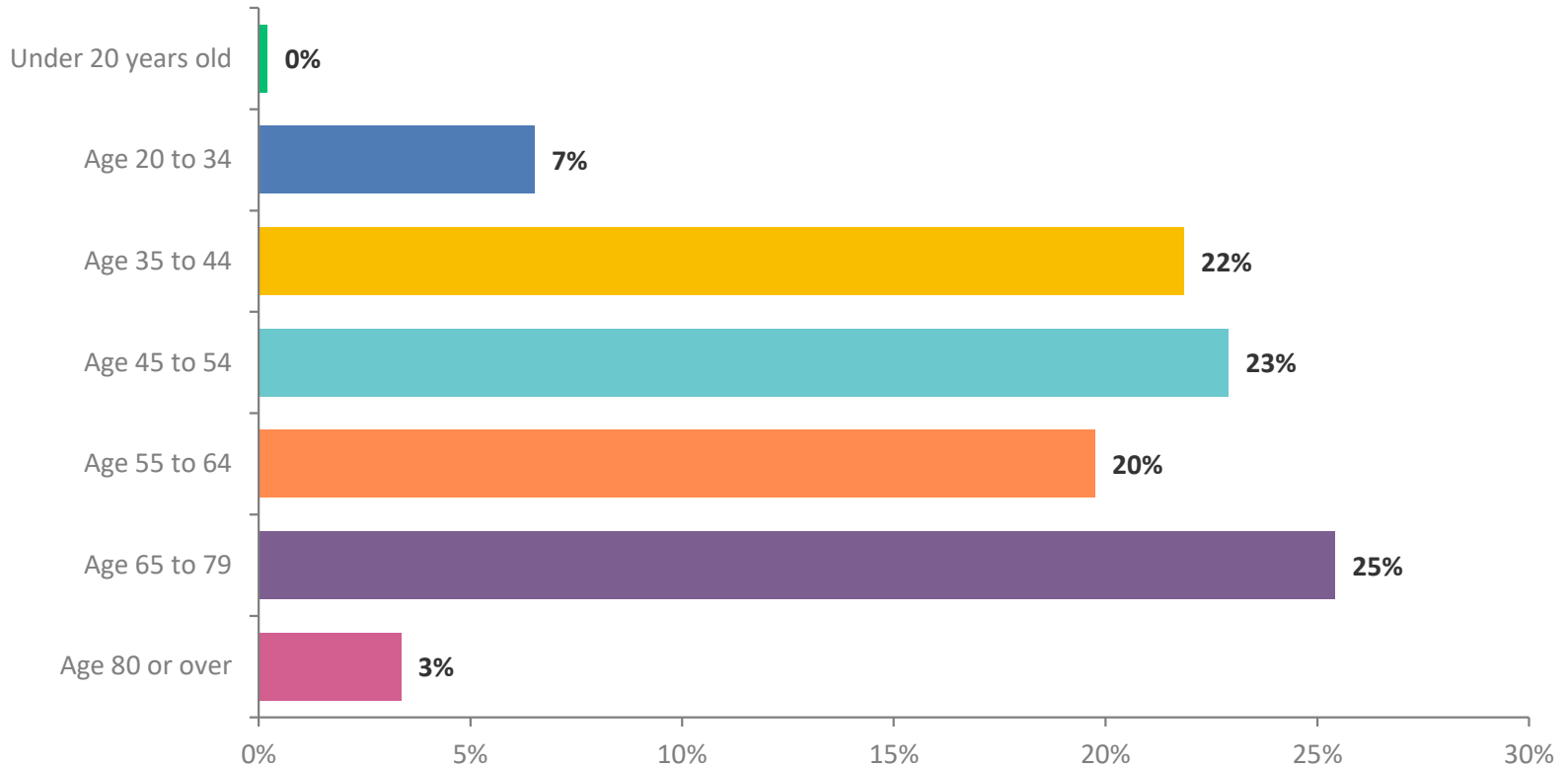
Q19: How well do you think the Town of New Fairfield has been doing addressing these strategy areas?

Answered: 481 Skipped: 55



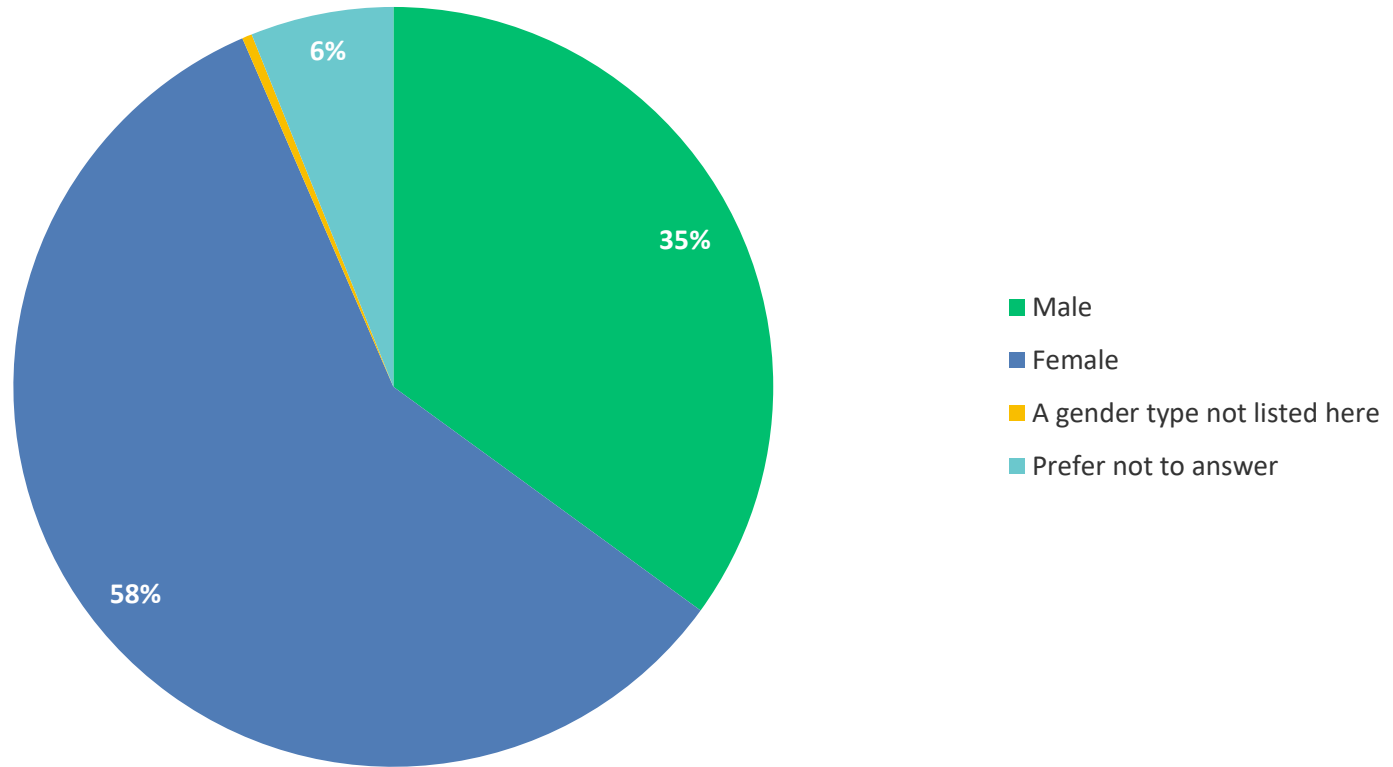
Q22: What age group are you part of?

Answered: 476 Skipped: 60



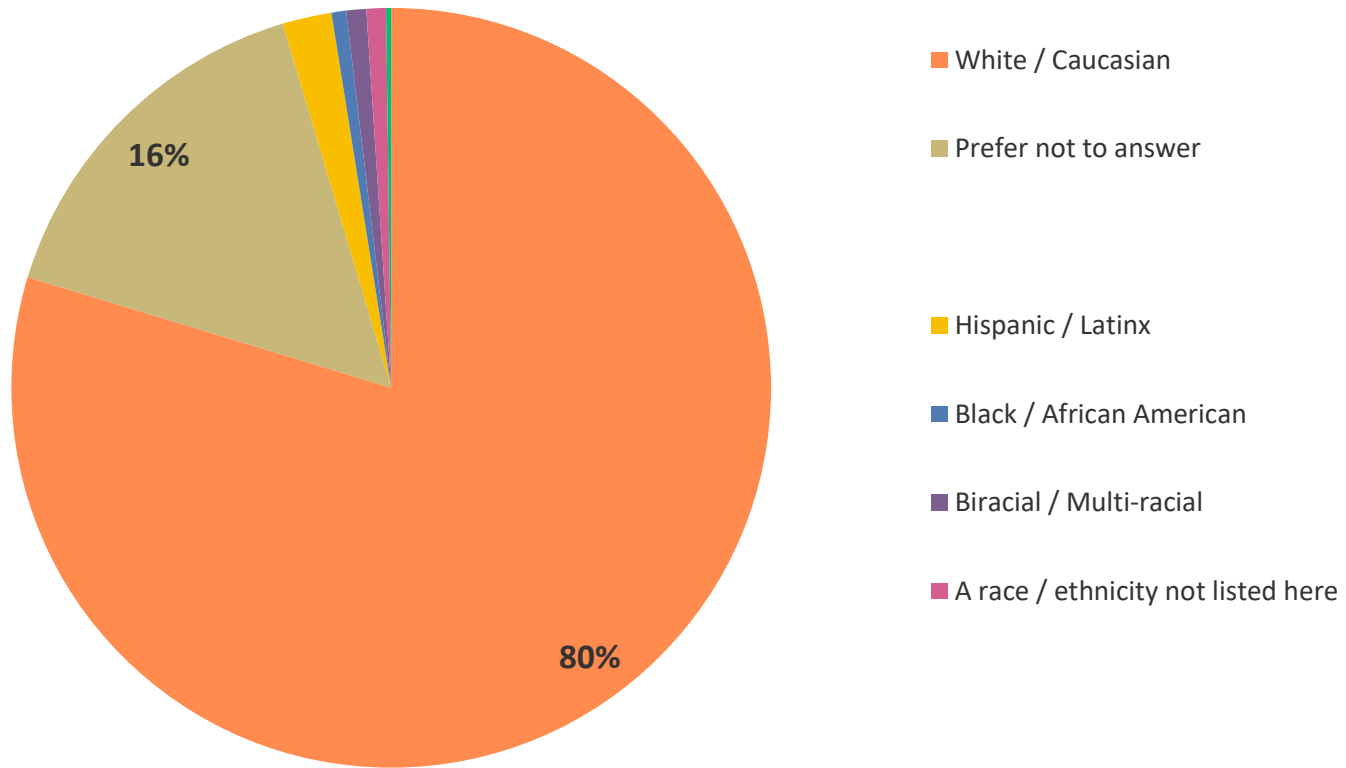
Q23: To which gender do you most identify?

Answered: 477 Skipped: 59



Q24: Which of the following do you feel best describes you?

Answered: 478 Skipped: 58



Q9 – Please list up to four things in New Fairfield you are *proud of*

SUMMARY OF GENERAL CATEGORIES

1. Character / Ambience (331)
2. Sense Of Community (245)
3. Schools / Education (185)
4. Services / Facilities - Library (133)
5. Lakes / Ponds (122)
6. Amenities / Activities (122)
7. Businesses / Town Center (66)
8. Location (41)
9. Government (19)
10. Housing (9)
11. Taxes (9)
12. Other (104)

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
CHARACTER / AMBIENCE (331)			
BEAUTY / APPEARANCE (84)			
1. Astetically Beautiful 2. beautiful area 3. Beautiful land / natural features 4. beautiful property 5. Beautiful scenery 6. Beauty 7. Beauty 8. Beauty 9. Cute town 10. Well maintained town façade 11. It's beautiful 12. Natural Beauty 13. Natural beauty & public access to it (lake, hiking) 14. Natural bucolic beauty 15. Natural setting and very bucolic 16. The beautiful landscapes and ponds/lakes 17. The beauty 18. The natural beauty of the area 19. The natural beauty. 20. Rural 21. rural atmosphere 22. rural location, being in the woods 23. Rural quality 24. Rural setting 25. Rural setting	26. Beautiful landscape of the area 27. Ambiance 28. Beautiful appearance 29. Beautiful area 30. Beautiful lake 31. Beautiful land with state parks, lakes, ponds, hiking, kayaking, etc 32. Beautiful natural parks 33. Beautiful parks 34. Beautiful scenery 35. Beauty 36. Beauty 37. Beauty 38. Beauty 39. Beauty, lakes 40. Character of town 41. Natural beauty 42. Natural beauty 43. Natural beauty 44. Natural beauty - lake pond green 45. Natural beauty/ environment 46. Open Space 47. Our Beautiful Quaint New England look/feel 48. Overall appearance 49. Rural scenic area 50. Scenic 51. Space 52. Stunning vistas 53. The environment 54. The historic look of some of the buildings	55. Character 56. Lake, mountains and parks 57. beauty 58. Beauty of area 59. Beauty of the area 60. Its overall beauty 61. Quaint appearance 62. It's a beautiful place and people appreciate it 63. Landscape 64. like that the town still has a rather rural presence 65. Natural beauty 66. Natural beauty 67. Natural beauty 68. Abundant greenery 69. Greenery 70. Greenery and scenery 71. community look 72. Country atmosphere 73. How it's more country than city 74. Pretty 75. Scenery/natural attributes 76. Scenic 77. Towns appearance	78. Beautiful surroundings 79. Beauty 80. Beauty 81. The beautiful lands 82. the beauty of the town 83. Picturesque small town 84. Rural character
SAFE / QUIET / CLEAN (77)			
85. Safe	108. Low crime	125. Low crime	140. Safe

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
86. Safe community 87. safe no drugs low crime 88. few crimes, if any 89. Low crime 90. Safety 91. safety 92. Safety 93. Safety 94. Safety 95. Safety and low crime rate 96. very quiet 97. quiet 98. Quiet ambiance 99. Quiet town 100. Peace and quiet 101. Peaceful and quiet neighborhood 102. Clean 103. Clean 104. Cleanliness 105. Cleanliness 106. Cleanliness 107. Cleanliness	109. Low crime 110. Low Crime Rate 111. Quiet 112. quiet 113. Quiet 114. Quiet atmosphere 115. Quiet town with less noise and light pollution 116. Quietness of neighborhood 117. Quite 118. Clean 119. Clean 120. Cleanliness 121. Cleanliness of town 122. quaintness 123. Safe place 124. Safety	126. Low crime 127. Quiet 128. Quiet 129. Quiet peaceful town 130. Quiet setting 131. Quiet small town 132. Safe 133. Safety 134. Clean 135. Clean 136. cleanliness 137. Cleanliness 138. Overall, it is a safe community. We are comfortable being out and about. 139. Peacefulness	141. Safety 142. Safety 143. Safety 144. safety of community 145. Quiet 146. Quiet 147. Little crime 148. Low crime 149. Low crime 150. Low crime rate 151. law and order 152. No crime and is a place to be proud of 153. Quiet 154. Quiet/Safe 155. Clean 156. clean 157. Cleanliness 158. Cleanliness 159. Cleanliness 160. Cleanliness and upkeep of town buildings 161. Tranquility
SIZE (61)			
162. I like small-town life 163. Small community 164. Small quaint town 165. Small town 166. Small town 167. Small town 168. Small town 169. Small town 170. Small town 171. Small town ambiance 172. Small Town Atmosphere 173. Small Town Atmosphere 174. Small town atmosphere 175. Small Town Atmosphere 176. Small town community	198. Small town feel 199. Small town feel 200. Small town feel 201. Small town feel 202. Small town feel 203. Small town feel 204. Small town feeling 205. Small town life 206. small town non commercial 207. Small Town Politics 208. small town vibe 209. small town	210. Small town 211. small town atmosphere 212. Small town atmosphere 213. Small town feel 214. Small town feel 215. small town feel 216. Small town feel 217. Small town feel with access to town government 218. Small town feeling 219. Small town living 220. Small town warmth and congeniality	221. Small town charm I.e. tree lighting, 4th July parade, etc 222. Small town community

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
177. Small town feel 178. Small town feel 179. Small town feel 180. Small town feel 181. Small town feel 182. Small town feel 183. Small town feel 184. Small town feel 185. Small town feel 186. Small town feel 187. Small town feel/community 188. Small town feeling 189. Small town feeling 190. small town pride 191. Small town quaint 192. Small town vibes 193. It was a small community vibe 194. it's a small town 195. I don't have four things, its a basic small town 196. Still somewhat of a small town feel 197. The small town vibe			
OTHER (108)			
223. Community setting 224. country style living 225. Flags Downtown 226. Good reputation as a good place to live 227. Great place to raise a family 228. HS sports accomplishments 229. It's not over developed 230. land: trees, rocks, water 231. Lush and green 232. Nature 233. No low income housing 234. No wild commercial growth as in McDonalds etc. 235. Overall appearance of neighborhoods & town center	254. Community appearance 255. Country setting 256. Countryside 257. it's a beautiful town 258. lots of green space 259. maintained neighborhoods 260. Natural environment 261. Natural Recreation 262. Nature 263. Nature - woods, natural bodies of water 264. Nature/ outdoorsa 265. Nice community 266. Nice neighborhoods 267. No apartment buildings 268. No high density housing	297. People 298. People 299. Relaxed atmosphere 300. Neighborhood 301. Support for athletics 302. few stop lights - small town 303. Few traffic control devices 304. Historical interest in our town's history. 305. It was a great place to raise our kids 306. New Fairfield is well maintained 307. Nice community 308. Not crowded 309. Not overrun by unruly people 310. open space 311. People were friendly	320. appearance of town 321. Country life with access to amenities 322. Lack of over developed areas like Brookfield is inflicted on it by the town planners 323. natural surroundings 324. No big box stores except stop n shop 325. Not overcrowdedi 326. Only 2 traffic lights in town 327. Open land 328. the town is not congested with homes and traffic 329. Views 330. Quality of Life 331. Little traffic

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
236. Parks 237. Pride of homeownership/property maintenance 238. Pristine water 239. Privacy 240. quaint town area 241. quietness/ no major highway 242. Single family homes & neighborhoods 243. small businesses still in business 244. state forest 245. State Parks 246. The lack of public housing 247. The people I have met 248. Town looks and overall conditions 249. Town pride 250. Town reflection 251. Abundant nature 252. Town infrastructure is well maintained 253. Town upkeeping	269. No Sewers or Public Water. Home owner Independence 270. No traffic 271. Only two traffic lights 272. people 273. People 274. People are for the most part kind 275. People are friendly 276. People look out for each other 277. people work hard for their homes and family 278. Polite 279. Pretty area/peaceful 280. Pretty views 281. Pride around sports 282. Pride in homeownership 283. Pride of community 284. Respectful neighbors/good people living here 285. The lack of condominium complexes 286. The open space/large wooded areas- I hate over development 287. The views of the lake are breathtaking 288. Water front 289. Woodlands 290. Bucolic setting 291. Land preservation 292. Public lands 293. Public spaces 294. Quality of life 295. Quality of people 296. rural/suburban vibe	312. Privacy 313. Quaint 314. Quality of life style 315. Residents pride/care in the town 316. Town pride 317. Wonderful natural surroundings - lakes, ponds, trails 318. Lifestyle is reserved 319. Maintenance of natural resources	
SENSE OF COMMUNITY (245)			
1. SENSE OF COMMUNITY 2. Sense of community 3. Sense of community 4. Sense of community 5. Sense of community	94. A community that pulls together in a crisis 95. Beach communities 96. Civic engagement 97. Close community	170. Amazing neighbors 171. Community 172. Community 173. Community 174. community	211. Caring community 212. community 213. Community 214. community feel 215. Community feel

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
6. Sense of community	98. Close knit community	175. Community	216. Community Involvement/Dedicated
7. Sense of Community	99. Communities commitment to excellent education	176. Community	Volunteers/Town Employees
8. Sense of community		177. Community feel	217. Community members support local
9. Sense of community	100. community	178. Community	businesses
10. Sense of community	101. Community	involvement...volunteerism	218. community of school and athletics
11. Sense of community -people rally to help each other	102. Community	179. Community that cares about its schools	219. Community togetherness
12. Strong sense of community	103. Community	180. Community Thrift store.. caring for residents	220. Community, the people are incredible that I have to say this twice
13. Strong sense of community	104. Community	181. compassionate people	221. Community-oriented
14. Caring community	105. Community	182. Feel of the community	222. Cordial people relations
15. Caring community	106. Community bond	183. Feeling of community	223. Family friendly
16. Caring for seniors and vets	107. Community comes together in difficult times (microburst)	184. Feeling of community	224. family friendly community
17. Caring people	108. Community comes together in times of need	185. friendliness	225. Friendliness of residents
18. Church community	109. Community engagement	186. Friendly atmosphere	226. Friends and neighbors
19. Close knit community	110. Community feel	187. Friendly citizens	227. Generally friendly folks
20. Community	111. Community involvement	188. Friendly community	228. Great neighbors
21. Community	112. Community members	189. friendly neighbors	229. How friendships blossom and stick
22. Community	113. Community oriented	190. Friendly people	230. Nice community
23. Community	114. Community relations	191. Friends I have made	231. Nice people
24. Community	115. Community sense	192. Generally friendly and welcoming citizens	232. Our Care for Seniors and Veterans
25. community	116. Community Spirit	193. Good community feeling	233. People
26. Community	117. Community support	194. good neighbors	234. People are caring
27. Community	118. community support for local animal shelter	195. Good neighbors	235. Response to neighbors in need
28. Community	119. Community-May 15 Storm	196. Great neighbors	236. Sense of community
29. Community	120. family oriented community	197. Great neighbors	237. small town caring
30. Community	121. Family-Oriented	198. Neighborliness	238. Small town feel
31. Community	122. friendliness	199. Neighbors and Friends	239. Small town feel
32. Community	123. Friendliness	200. neighbors helping each other	240. Small town feel, but close to other things
33. Community coming together in crisis	124. Friendly	201. Our community of long term residents	241. The overall small town feel
34. Community engagement/activities	125. Friendly Neighborhoods	202. Sense of Community	242. tight knit
35. Community feel	126. Friendly people	203. Sense of community	243. volunteers
36. Community help	127. Friendly people	204. Support for those in need	244. Welcoming Small town feel
37. community members who volunteer their time	128. Friendly People in town!	205. support the volunteer organizations get from the community	245. Being friendly with some of the businesses and owners
38. Community of good people who live here	129. Friendly residents	206. the community we have	
39. Community outreach for those in need	130. Friendliness of the people	207. The sense of community	
40. Community spirit	131. Good neighbors	208. Very friendly community	
41. Community spirit	132. Having a strong community		

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
42. Community spirit / volunteerism	133. many like minded people who are community minded	209. Willingness of businesses to support youth activities	
43. community spirit and neighborliness	134. Neighborhood	210.	
44. Community support	135. Neighborliness		
45. Community support for new schools	136. Neighborly love		
46. Community supports kid sports	137. Nice neighbors		
47. Community that seems to care	138. Overall friendly people		
48. community vibe	139. Parents and citizens are willing to fight for quality education		
49. Community/friendliness	140. part of community		
50. Family friendly	141. Residence are proud of their town		
51. Family oriented	142. Responds well to emergency situations (ie macroburst)		
52. Family oriented	143. Sense of community		
53. Friendly	144. Sense of community		
54. friendly people	145. Small close community		
55. Friendly people	146. small community		
56. Friendly people	147. Small community		
57. Friendly people	148. Small community		
58. Friendly, helpful people	149. Small community experience		
59. Great community	150. Small Town community feel (ie, 4th of July Parade)		
60. Great neighbors	151. Support for the school system		
61. Has kept small town feel	152. The dog park community		
62. how most residents look out for one another	153. the friendliness of the people		
63. How we come together when it matters	154. The People		
64. Kind people	155. The people		
65. Kind. Fellow residents	156. the people		
66. Maintains a small town feel	157. The residents		
67. My neighborhood and neighbors	158. The sense of Community		
68. Neighborhood	159. The sense of community		
69. Neighbors	160. the small town atmosphere		
70. Nice Community	161. The small-town feel		
71. nice community	162. The small-town/semi-rural character		
72. nice community	163. The town is filled with nice people		
73. Nice People	164. tight community		
74. number of volunteer organizations	165. Tight knit community		
75. Our community	166. Town pride		
76. Overall sense of community - people supporting eachother	167. Town working to keep residence safe during Pandemic		
77. People			
78. People			

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
79. People care about and for once another 80. people friendly 81. Spirit and community 82. Strong community support 83. Strong involved non-profits with public activities 84. That it still has a small town feel 85. The abundant church communities 86. The community 87. The family-oriented town & events that take place 88. The kindness of the community 89. The life-long towns people who try to keep NF a samll town, tight cummunity. 90. The people 91. town spirit 92. Volunteers in civic and educational organizations 93. when the chips are down, we rally together (hurricanes, macro burst, freak snow storm)	168. Volunteerism by residents 169. Businesses who support town and school programs		

SCHOOLS / EDUCATION (185)

1. Dedication to good public schools	90. Brand new schools	137. Approval to build new schools	171. Good education facilities
2. Education	91. Quality of schools	138. Education	172. Quality of Education
3. Education	92. Education	139. Education	173. School
4. Education	93. Education	140. Education	174. School system
5. Education Reputation	94. Education	141. Education system	175. Schools
6. Education System	95. Education system	142. Good teachers	176. Schools
7. Education system	96. Excellent education for our children	143. Great (New) Schools	177. Schools
8. Education system	97. Excellent school system	144. Great school system	178. Schools
9. Educational System	98. Good schools	145. Great schools	179. Schools
10. Invested in new HS and grade school	99. Good schools	146. new school	180. Schools
11. New High School	100. Great schools and teachers	147. New schools	181. Schools
12. New high school	101. Kind teachers	148. New schools	182. dedicated school parents
13. New School	102. New school is nice	149. New Schools	183. New school buildings
14. new schools	103. new schools	150. Our new school building	184. New schools
15. New schools	104. New schools	151. Our teachers	185. New schools

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
16. New schools	105. New schools	152. Parents are engaged & active in the schools	
17. New schools	106. New schools	153. School District	
18. New schools	107. New schools	154. School environment	
19. New schools	108. New schools	155. School system	
20. New schools	109. Nice school system	156. School system	
21. New Schools	110. Our schools	157. school system	
22. New schools	111. Our schools, the community in and around our schools, and community investment in schools and education	158. Schools	
23. New schools being build		159. Schools	
24. our new schools		160. Schools	
25. Our schools	112. Our teachers	161. schools	
26. School	113. School district	162. schools	
27. School	114. School system	163. Schools	
28. School progress	115. school system	164. schools	
29. School ratings	116. School system	165. Schools	
30. School safety officers	117. School system in general	166. Schools	
31. School spirit	118. School teachers are caring	167. Solid school system	
32. School system	119. Schools	168. The new high school	
33. School system	120. Schools	169. The schools	
34. school system	121. Schools	170. New consolidated school	
35. School system	122. Schools		
36. School system	123. schools		
37. School System	124. Schools		
38. School system	125. Schools		
39. School system	126. Schools		
40. School system	127. Schools		
41. School System	128. Schools		
42. School system tries it's best for our kids	129. Schools		
43. Schools	130. Schools		
44. Schools	131. Schools		
45. Schools	132. Schools		
46. Schools	133. Schools & Sports		
47. Schools	134. The school system (although it needs work, our educators are rockstars)		
48. Schools	135. High school-staff, programs		
49. Schools	136. Teachers		
50. Schools			
51. Schools			
52. Schools			
53. Schools			
54. Schools			

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
55. Schools 56. Schools 57. Schools 58. Schools 59. Schools 60. Schools 61. Schools 62. Schools 63. Schools 64. Schools 65. Schools 66. Schools 67. Schools 68. Schools 69. Schools 70. Schools 71. Schools 72. Schools 73. Schools, Teachers 74. Small schools 75. Teachers 76. Teachers in our schools _the best! 77. The new high school building 78. The new high school building 79. The new schools 80. The new schools 81. The new schools 82. The New Schools 83. The schools 84. The schools are great 85. The schools when I graduated, not current state 86. Building of 2 new schools 87. Building Two New Schools 88. Good schools 89. Great schools			
SERVICES / FACILITIES - LIBRARY (133)			
LIBRARY (36)			

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
1. Library 2. Library 3. Library 4. Library 5. library 6. library 7. Library 8. Library 9. Our library 10. The library 11. The library 12. The library and historical conservation organizations. 13. the library is so nice 14. Library 15. Library 16. Library 17. library 18. Library and library programs 19. Local library 20. Great library	21. the library	22. Library 23. Library 24. Library activities 25. Library and its offerings 26. Library has increased it's activities for kids and adults 27. library programs for kids 28. Library/librarians 29. Town library	30. Library 31. Library 32. Library 33. Library 34. Library 35. New Fairfield Free Public Library 36. Public Library
EMERGENCY SERVICES (FIRE / POLICE / EMS) (32)			
37. Our volunteer fire departments 38. The volunteer fire department 39. Volunteer fire dept 40. Safety, strong police force 41. State troopers 42. Police & fire dept	43. Volunteer fire dept 44. Volunteer firefighters and firehouses 45. 24/7 paid EMS and other well-staffed emergency services 46. Ball pond fire department 47. Fire department 48. Fire departments/ Emergency Response Teams 49. Fire/police involvement 50. Our police force 51. Police 52. Police department 53. Police department. 54. Law Enforcement	55. Emergency response 56. Emergency services- Police, Fire, Ambulance 57. Volunteer Fire Dept 58. Volunteer Fire Department 59. Volunteer fire department 60. Fire Department 61. Law enforcement/fire department 62. Police 63. police good	64. First responders 65. Our fire department and police department. 66. Our town police and volunteers fireman 67. Police department 68. Small Town Police Force
SENIOR CENTER (26)			
69. Senior center	76. Great senior center	83. Active senior center	91. Senior Center

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
70. Senior Center 71. Senior Center 72. Senior Center 73. Senior Center 74. Senior Center 75. Senior center	77. Lots of activities for seniors 78. senior center 79. Senior center 80. Senior center 81. Senior Center 82. Senior center activities	84. NF Senior Center 85. Senior Center 86. Senior center 87. senior center and activities 88. Senior Citizen support 89. sr center 90. Top notch senior center	92. Senior center 93. Senior center 94. Active senior center
PARKS / RECREATION (17)			
95. Town Park Beach 96. Playground , basketball, bocce courts 97. Track	98. Athletic fields 99. Park and rec programs 100. Parks 101. Marty Morgan field 102. The town park 103. Sports 104. Sports fields 105. Sports fields 106. Sports fields	107. Parks/Recreation 108. Athletic fields 109. Park and Recreation 110. Parks and recreation	111. Town beach
PUBLIC WORKS (9)			
112. road maintenance 113. roads well maintained.	114. Public roads/department of public works 115. Town maintenance of roads, especially winter 116. Town roads	117. The street maintenance in rough weather 118. Town maintenance 119. Decent conditions of Town roads, good upkeep	120. public works department is grt
OTHER (13)			
121. Town services 122. dog parks	123. Volunteers (like NFVFD) 124. nice town services - library is lovely, town hall staff is friendly and helpful 125. Senior center/town activities 126. Social Services and Senior Services 127. Strong youth and senior services	128. Animal control officer 129. Parks & rec and library trying new programs/ideas 130. Parks and lakes 131. Town marina/lake access 132. Services available	133. Senior Center; Library
LAKES / PONDS (122)			
CANDLEWOOD LAKE (41)			
1. Candlewood 2. Candlewood Lake 3. Candlewood Lake	19. Candlewood Lake 20. Candlewood Lake 21. Candlewood Lake	31. Candlewood 32. Candlewood Lake 33. Candlewood lake	36. Candle wood lake 37. Candlewood Lake 38. Candlewood Lake

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
4. Candlewood Lake 5. Candlewood Lake 6. Candlewood Lake 7. Candlewood Lake 8. Candlewood lake 9. Candlewood Lake 10. Candlewood Lake 11. Candlewood Lake 12. Candlewood lake 13. Candlewood Lake 14. Candlewood Lake 15. Candlewood lake 16. Candlewood lake 17. Proximity to Candlewood Lake 18. Candlewood Lake; also Existence of CLA	22. Candlewood Lake 23. Candlewood Lake 24. candlewood lake 25. Candlewood Lake 26. Candlewood Lake 27. Candlewood Lake 28. Candlewood Lake 29. Candlewood lake 30. Candlewood lake	34. candlewood lake 35. Candlewood Lake	39. Candlewood lake 40. Fun times at Candlewood Lake 41. Our Lake Candlewood
SQUANTZ POND (8)			
42. Squantz Pond	43. Squantz Pond 44. Squantz pond state park	45. Squantz 46. Squantz Pond 47. Squantz Pond 48. Squantz Pond 49. That walk ins are no longer allowed in Squantz pond.	
BALL POND (4)			
50. Ball Pond 51. Ball Pond		52. Ball pond	53. Ball pond
OTHER (69)			
54. Candlewood Lake & Ball Pond 55. Lake 56. Lake 57. Lake 58. Lake 59. Lake 60. Lake 61. Lake 62. Lake 63. Lake	80. Clean Bodies of Water 81. Lake 82. Lake & Ponds 83. Lake access 84. Lake, ponds, ballfields 85. Lakes 86. Lakes 87. Lakes 88. Lakes 89. Lakes, ponds	93. access to lake 94. Lake 95. Lake 96. Lake 97. lake 98. Lake 99. Lake 100. Lake 101. lake life 102. Lake/ pond	108. Beautiful lakes and parks for residents to use 109. Focus on protecting Candlewood Lake and Ball Pond 110. Lake 111. Lake 112. Lake access 113. Lake access 114. Lakes 115. Lakes

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
64. Lake 65. Lake access 66. Lake and natural surroundings 67. Lake Life 68. Lakes 69. Our lake 70. Our lake 71. Our lake 72. The Lake 73. The lake 74. The lake 75. The lake and lake communities 76. The Lakes & ponds 77. Access to water bodies 78. Beaches and lakes 79. water	90. lakes/pond 91. Proximity to lake 92. waters	103. Local lakes 104. Our Beautiful Lake 105. Ponds and Lakes 106. The lake and 2 ponds in town 107. Water access	116. Lakes 117. Lakes, outdoor activities 118. The lake and community 119. the lake is part of our life 120. the lake!! 121. The lakes 122. Water access

AMENITIES / ACTIVITIES (122)

ACTIVITIES / RECREATION / SPORTS (38)

1. Lots of activities for children 2. Recreational opportunities 3. Sport clubs 4. Sports teams 5. Youth sports programs 6. Youth sports programs (football, baseball)	7. Activities relating to all residents 8. community activities 9. Community activities 10. family activities 11. Family Programs 12. Holiday Activities 13. Holiday decorations, parades,etc 14. Lions club events 15. School activities/ traditions: scarecrows etc 16. growing opportunities for youth 17. Lots of volunteer opportunities 18. New Fairfield Baseball 19. seasonal family programs 20. Sports 21. Youth activities/sports	22. Programs 23. Activities for families 24. Community is lively 25. Family friendly activities 26. Opportunities for families 27. Recreation opportunities 28. Recreational activities 29. Sports programs 30. Sports programs 31. Youth/High School sporting programs	32. Athletics 33. Community activities 34. Families at sports areas 35. opportunity for outdoor activities 36. Sports 37. Sports fields 38. Sports opportunities
---	--	--	--

EVENTS (29)

39. Holiday parades/ community events 40. Town activities	43. The 4th of July parade	52. Christmas Parade 53. Community events	59. 4th July Parade 60. 4th of July parade
--	----------------------------	--	---

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
41. Town activities (I.e. parades) 42. Parades & Events	44. Town community events...sip and stroll, concerts, etc 45. I love a good parade 46. July 4 th parade 47. Sip & Stroll 48. Sip and stroll 49. Community events 50. Town events 51. Town has some entertainment in summer	54. local celebrations. 55. Lions Club events 56. Love the efforts to create community activities - parades, NFF days, holiday activities, sip and stroll 57. Town events are enjoyable to attend 58. Trick or treat walk	61. 4th of July parade 62. 4th of July Parade 63. Town events 64. Town events (concerts etc) 65. local events/town fair day 66. Relay for life 67. Community club events
PROXIMITY / ACCESSIBILITY (21)			
	68. Access to Candlewood ,Squantz and other green areas 69. Access to natural settings for recreation and hiking 70. Access to nature 71. Having access to Squantz Pond and Ball pond 72. Having everything I need right in town 73. Proximity to state park 74. Being close to amenities such as nature walks and shops 75. Playground access	76. Everything is pretty close- Deli, gas, pizza, hair salons etc. 77. Access to medical care 78. Access to town services & food shopping 79. Access to trails and waterways 80. Access to water 81. Accessibility to town, one mile 82. Accessible natural areas 83. Local access to services 84. Necessities are all close by	85. Availability of outdoor activities 86. parks 87. Parks and trails 88. Parks, trails
TRAILS (17)			
89. Hiking trails 90. Hiking trails/side walk walking areas 91. Lots of hiking trails 92. Places to hike 93. The parks and trails	94. Hiking trails 95. hiking trails nearby 96. Number of places to hike and enjoy the outdoors	97. Hiking trails 98. Hiking trails 99. Hiking trails 100. Hiking trails 101. Plans for added walking trails 102. Pootatuk trails 103. Trails	104. Hiking trails 105. Hiking trails in the area
OTHER (17)			
106. The amenities 107. Community services aka playground, dog park, historical society	108. Wonderful community oriented organizations such as scouts, the Lions Club, etc	115. Ammenities 116. enjoy the lake 117. Great Hollow 118. Great Hollow	120. Service organizations...Scouts, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Lions Club, 121. Library, Johnny's Food Center, proximity to Danbury Hospital

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
	109. Green space / land trust activity / natural areas 110. Local veterans association 111. Outdoor amenities 112. State Forest 113. water amenities 114. Water Amenities	119. hidden valley, squantz pond, etc	122. Non School System Community Sports Availability

BUSINESSES / TOWN CENTER (66)

BUSINESS – GENERAL (33)

1. Lack of chain stores 2. No chain stores	3. Convenient grocery shopping 4. Good local businesses 5. Local business 6. Local businesses 7. Mom and Pop stores 8. Shopping 9. small amount of major commercial businesses 10. Small Strip Malls 11. The nearby shops 12. Renewed support for economic development 13. Locally run businesses	14. Family owned businesses 15. Good local resturants 16. Good service from local buisnesses 17. Grocery stores located in middle of town 18. Local business owners 19. Local businesses 20. Close to shopping center 21. Current businesses 22. Shopping 23. small businesses in town 24. the friendliness of the merchants 25. The string small businesses 26. Trend store	27. Existing Local businesses 28. Great small businesses 29. Local businesses 30. Necessary shopping availability 31. Restaurants 32. Small business owners 33. small businesses
---	---	--	--

BUSINESS – SPECIFIC (21)

34. Johnnys Market	35. Johnny's food center 36. New Fairfield Food Center and Goodie Shop and other locally owned businesses 37. NF Food aka Johnny's 38. Starbucks 39. the bakery 40. Food center 41. Local grocery shopping/especially- Johnny's	42. New Fairfield Food Center 43. New Fairfield Liquor Shop 44. Rein the restaurant	45. Bruno's Buffalo Chicken Pizza 46. Chatterton Marina 47. Johnny's 48. Johnnys deli 49. local/family businesses like Gil's and Johnny's Food Center 50. NF Food Center 51. Sandwiches from Johnny's Food Center 52. Food center 53. New Fairfield Food Center as a community business 54. Supermarket
--------------------	---	---	--

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
TOWN CENTER (12)			
	55. Center of town - everything in one place 56. Many resources in center of town 57. small town center -few retail stores 58. Village	59. Town center 60. Town center 61. Appearance of main town area 62. Cute downtown 63. Not a built up town center 64. The desire to keep green spaces in the town center	65. Center of town 66. Walkability in town
LOCATION (41)			
1. Accessible to NY and greater Danbury 2. Close proximity to other areas 3. Close to everything 4. Convenience to 84 and 684 5. Fairly easy commute to NY 6. Good access to major roads 7. Location 8. location 9. Location of town 10. short commute time 11. Access to NYC	12. close to family 13. Close to NYC 14. closeness to ny 15. Location 16. Location 17. Proximity to all 18. Proximity to danbury 19. Proximity to Danbury goods/services 20. Relatively easy access to Danbury and NYC 21. The location	22. Close proximity to nyc 23. Close to commuting routes 24. good access to NYC 25. Location 26. Location peaceful 27. Proximity to 684 28. Proximity to Danbury and Brookfield	29. A quick drive from central NF to the highway or train 30. Access to NY 31. Access to shopping / Doctors, etc. 32. Access to some shopping 33. Accessibility 34. Accessibility to other places 35. Close to nyc 36. Commuting 37. Location 38. Location 39. Location 40. Proximity to NYC and beautiful sports fields 41. Relative proximity to major transit hubs
GOVERNMENT (19)			
1. form of government 2. Our selectmen(women) 3. Present town leadership Hall and Delmonico 4. Town government 5. Town Government 6. Town hall staff	7. Current administration is competent and reliable 8. Government officials 9. How responsive the City is when there is an issue 10. Local government responsiveness 11. Our leaders 12. our town leadership	13. Fabulous selectmen that fights for what I believe 14. Level of communication by selectman, municipality 15.	16. efficiencies of the local town government - public works; police; tax collections; management 17. Our Selectmen 18. Plans by Selectpersons to better the town 19. The passion of our community leaders
HOUSING (9)			

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
1. Housing		2. home values 3. Majority single family housin 4. No low income housing	5. housing 6. No condominiums 7. No housing comlex 8. No over crowding condos 9. Used to be slightly lower priced homes
TAXES (9)			
		1. average property tax 2. Low taxes 3. low taxes compared to NY 4. Lower taxes 5. Taxes 6. Used to be lower taxes 7. Used to have low taxes	8. Low taxes 9. Lower taxes than NY
OTHER (104)			
1. Local Shops 2. New Fairfield Food Center 3. NONE 4. Nothing 5. Nothing 6. Nothing 7. ? 8. BSA troops 9. Cindy White, Town Social Worker 10. Family part of the original prospectors that founded NF 11. Multi generational lived in town 12. My families heritage 13. My personal Connection to community members 14. na 15. Nice place to live 16. Raised family here 17. Relatively progressive 18. The friends that I have made here 19. The history of the playhouse 20. Was affordable	31. Affordability 32. Affordability 33. Nothing 34. ? 35. Family 36. Freinds 37. Friendships 38. Historical society 39. house values 40. Importance placed on water/land conservation 41. Increasing diversity 42. Julie Kushner 43. My family history 44. our animal welfare society 45. OVERATED 46. Privacy 47. Property value 48. St Edwards 49. The memory of what the town WAS 50. The newspaper 51. Value	59. Affordability 60. Affordability of homes 61. Affordable taxes relative to Westchester County 62. ? 63. Cheryl Reedy 64. Easy to get around 65. History 66. Honoring veterans 67. i grew up here 68. my church 69. N/a 70. NEW WATER MAINS INSTALLED, IT FUCKED EVERYONES DRIVEWAYS AND SOME HOUSES NOW HAVE WATER ISSUES. 71. Nothing 72. notification system 73. Our parishes 1. Parish 2. Bald eagles 3. Natural environment	86. Diversity is increasing 87. Ability/ cost to live here (as opposed to NY) 88. Health department closing blueberry island 89. ? 90. Active church community 91. Church St. Edwards 92. Hidden gem 93. Improvement of Infrastructure 94. Moderate conservative tone 95. N/a 96. NF Community Thrift Shop 97. Nothing 98. Our local tradesmen 99. Seasons 100. The fact that you are asking for the community's opinion 101. easy car ride to my old neighborhood 102. Politicians used to care for ALL age groups 103. Town investing

Proud #1	Proud #2	Proud #3	Proud #4
21. its history 22. Comparatively low land/school taxes 23. Low taxes 24. Low taxes 25. Previous low tax bill 26. Our town center 27. SHOPPING VENTER 28. Well water & septic 29. 2-acre zoning 30.	52. Well water tastes great 53. Relative affordability 54. Relatively inclusive 55. Saint Edwards 56. Low taxes 57. Lower taxes than NY 58. We had low taxes	4. Nature 5. Our Natural Resources lake, pond, etc 6. Wildlife 74. 75. Saint Edwards Church 76. St. Edward's 77. The vaccine clinic run here in town 78. Alert now notification system 79. Old school 80. Town votes are actually influential 81. Vaccine Clinic 82. No public transportation into town 83. SweetHart Bus 84. Mix of viewpoints 85. Multiple Generations	104. Ability/ cost to live here (as opposed to NY)

Q21 – If the POCD could make one thing happen for New Fairfield over the next decade or so, what would you want that to be?

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE CATEGORIES

1. Facilities / Services (39 comments)
2. Business / Economic Development (37)
3. Town Center (35)
4. Housing / Affordable Housing (33)
5. Sidewalks / Pedestrians / Bicycles (29)
6. Ambience / Character (28)
7. Spending / Taxes (26)
8. Sewers / Utilities (26)
9. Education / Schools (10)
10. Amenities / Activities (8)
11. Government (7)
12. Sustainability (5)
13. Cost Of Living / Affordability (3)
14. Lakes / Ponds (4)
15. Multiple Thoughts (30)
16. Other (41)

FACILITIES / SERVICES (39)
1. A community center with a town pool to have a place where young people between the ages of 12-18 can go with activities
2. A community center/new library with a gorgeous fountain in front with seats for community connection
3. A community recreation center would be a wonderful addition to our town, monthly family memberships could pay for the upkeep and to pay to staff the center. Charge more for out of town users, such as NY residents or Sherman or New Milford
4. Turn Consolidated into a community center
5. Turning the old Consolidated school into a community center
6. A place for the children and teens to go
7. Build a community center on consolidated school property
8. Build a multipurpose Community Center with indoor & outdoor activities in the town center and connect it to all parts of the center with sidewalks.
9. Building a community center and town square
10. Community center
11. Community center
12. Community center
13. Community center for kids
14. Community center for teens/young adults
15. Community center with programs. Park an Rec building.
16. Community facilities for kids.
17. Convert Consolidated into a town rec center
18. Create a recreation area and center for kids and residents to use
19. Create recreational center for all age groups.
20. develop a town facility that supports the children and others in their activities and invites people from other towns into our town while making it accessible to our people via sidewalks
21. Have a community center or open gym/ pool times for families and activities that are not sports related for the children and adults in the community.
22. I would like to see a nice community area constructed where the old Consolidated School was.
23. Indoor Recreational facilities for the children!
24. look to open space to create a youth center to give young adults a place to socialize, outside of the school setting.
25. Make the former Consolidated School into a new parks and recreation space for the town. There is nowhere for younger people to go in this town.
26. More things for teens ...there is nothing in this town if you do not play sports.
27. Recreation center for kids and teens
28. Recreational center
29. Recreational/youth center at old October house
30. Some type of town recreation center

31. Special-needs facility for all ages
32. We need a rec center for all residents only
33. Top notch educational and athletic programs for our children.
34. At the very least expand the parks andrew beyond the cess pool of candlewood lake . Public tennis courts , concerts ,etc
35. Enhance community facilities
36. Use the consolidated field for a 1/2 mile walking path and pickleball courts on some of the paved area- make it part of a town center we can all drive by to see neighbors and friends and improve the Candlewood beach so we could get revenue renting the space overlooking the beautiful lake and also use it for fun town events- music night, bingo, poetry readings.
37. Support the FD!!!!
38. Proper upkeep of the new and existing school buildings
39. We need a better library! Perhaps building a library on the Consolidated property, and transforming the current library into community spaces?
BUSINESS / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (37)
40. Attract more small business
41. Bring in business and lower taxes.
42. Adding more businesses so we don't necessarily need to go to Danbury for everything
43. Attract more business (not vape shops)
44. Bring in more respectable businesses. No more vape shops!!!!!!!!!!!!
45. bring more business variety into town.
46. Build tax base
47. Building & sustaining new businesses
48. Develop a small area for business/small manufacturing/etc
49. Easier accessibility in promoting new business opportunities to new residents.
50. Economic development to provide the commercial service people need and expand the tax base.
51. Encourage new small business / take pride in the small town feel that makes New Fairfield special
52. expand the existing business community
53. Facilitate commercial growth
54. Fill in empty retail space!
55. Fill our vacant store fronts and expand business as had been previously proposed at the old October House area. Start spreading the tax base around to more commercial clients.
56. Fill vacant shore fronts with desirable shops/cafes/places to eat. Get rid of the smoke shop.
57. Get more businesses and diverse restaurants
58. I would love to see a higher occupancy rate of all the buildings / facilities in town which would have a trickle down effect in many areas.
59. Incease business and industry to grow tax bade
60. Increase businesses and walkability in town...think Ridgefield....New Milford
61. Increase of shopping options and amenities.

62. Increase the business tax base to reduce tax burden on residents.
63. make it so one family can't own more than a small percentage of commercial space
64. More Business needs to come into town restaurants shopping adult activities
65. More commercial space, more owners
66. More industry
67. promote projects / activities in town that make it more business friendly
68. Promote some incredible restaurants to open in town
69. Promotion of a business-friendly environment that would allow existing businesses to flourish and prosper.
70. See above. More business opportunities equals more tax revenue.
71. Set a maximum per Sg Foot rate for Rent in existing commercial buildings. (Bethel has something similar in their town/main street).
72. Small businesses in town
73. Create a vacancy tax to encourage landlords to rent vacant commercial properties. Wasted tax opportunity.
74. More high end restaurants on the lake. Its odd that down the hatch only place!!
75. New business opportunities and trade school opportunities.
76. growth
TOWN CENTER (35)
77. A more walkable/parkable pedestrian town center would be amazing
78. A town green
79. A town green. Make the intersection at Mobil a giant traffic circle.
80. A vibrant down town
81. controlled economic growth in center of Town
82. Create a larger, more expansive, more beautiful downtown area so that residents do not have to constantly leave town and spend time & money elsewhere.
83. Create a more vibrant, walkable, destination town center.
84. Create a space similar to Ridgefield, where businesses are close by and have a variety of services for families/tourists. This would help boost the local economy, enhance the atmosphere, and promote cohesion within community.
85. Create a thriving downtown, one that brings out of town people to it, businesses and at least one attraction, a museum or a theatre or an event space, one significant attraction. Year-round. Not just for summer.
86. Create safe walkways for pedestrians in the town center and bring in small businesses to fill every vacant space. And, adhere to strict building codes aimed to preserve a historic appearance
87. creating a walkable community , shops and restaurants people actually want to walk to and shop at
88. Develop the center of town to be more business friendly and aesthetically pleasing
89. development of town center area that has commercial entities with housing/apartments above with more walking and connection like trails
90. Expanding town center including sewers that allow for a variety of business and housing options
91. Find a cheap way to complete sidewalks in the center of town to make it pedestrian friendly.
92. growing of services and businesses in center of town

93. Have more small businesses in the town center. There are a lot of empty prime storefronts or entire plazas are taken up by daycare facilities- these would be better if filled with businesses
94. Improve downtown, make it more sustainable... better public transport, restaurants (organic, vegetarian options), EV chargers, walking/ bike paths.
95. Improve the character and walkability of our downtown by supporting and attracting local businesses as well as investing in community spaces to enhance connectedness and sense of community (I know that's more than one thing)
96. Keep school buses out of town center
97. Make a nicer downtown area.... Not just shopping centers.
98. Make downtown more inviting and walkable. Make people want to come here to eat, shop etc when they don't live here
99. Make the center feel less like a series of adjoining strip centers and more like a walkable/bike-able downtown.
100. Make the town center more pedestrian friendly including adding high density housing for residents to easily access the business by foot or bicycle.
101. Making downtown a destination where you can park your car and then walk around to different shops, restaurants, activities. Nothing huge, similar to Bethel or Ridgefield. I'm hopeful the trail along the reservoir becomes a reality and the property recently purchased behind the 37 Grille gets developed into a town green. We've got some restaurants in that area, maybe one or two more will open. Add a small playground on the town green property or memorial field. Add a crosswalk on the 37 north side - like to go from Bruno's to the veteran memorial. It would be a great place to hang out.
102. Vibrant, walkable downtown
103. Making downtown area more attractive for businesses such as restaurants and entertainment.
104. Making the town more pedestrian friendly to support greater retail development in and around the center of town
105. Modifying the center of town to be more desirable to be in. Creating a pedestrian safe town with businesses and restaurants. Bethel has done it well.
106. More businesses/more vibrant and pedestrian friendly town center
107. More to do downtown- walkable areas with restaurants and shopping like I see in Ridgefield and New Milford
108. Redo the center of town and make it more bike and pedestrian friendly with business, a park, etc
109. re-plan the downtown to make it an appealing, charming town to visit like Kent, New Millford, Ridgefield, etc
110. Revitalize down town, Bike path to Danbury
111. Town center improvements. Walkable, cafes, small businesses, etc.
HOUSING / AFFORDABLE HOUSING (33)
112. A plan to bring more affordable housing
113. A variety of different types of housing
114. Address housing needs
115. ADU's
116. Affordable housing
117. Affordable housing

118.Affordable housing
119.Affordable housing for a diverse demographic
120.Affordable housing for seniors and young families
121.Affordable senior housing
122.AFFORDABLE SENIOR RENTALS!
123.Allow for more two-family houses in ALL neighborhoods
124.Build a 55+ Senior living residence in New Fairfield.
125.Condo/townhouse/apartment living
126.Diversify housing options
127.Do not let low-income housing happen!
128.Have housing that young families can afford to purchase.
129.Housing
130.Housing
131.housing affordability
132.housing for first responders, teachers, and young who want to stay in town.
133.Housing for seniors and bringing more businesses to the town
134.More affordable housing and housing choices for seniors.
135.More affordable housing so moyr young people can remain in town.
136.More diverse housing
137.More housing affordability for young families and seniors. More closely aligning available housing with demographics will keep NF vibrant.
138.More options for housing
139.More senior housing.
140.Provide affordable housing giving priority to town residents first then surrounding towns.
141.Provide attractive affordable senior housing
142.provide for housing for younger families. become more attractive to them to support the towns future
143.Senior housing opportunities for seniors who have raised their families here and would like to stay in town.
144.sr housing
SIDEWALKS / PEDESTRIANS / BICYCLES (29)
145.more sidewalks
146.Side Walks
147.Sidewalks
148.sidewalks
149.Sidewalks
150.Sidewalks & speed bumps.
151.Sidewalks and more local businesses
152.Sidewalks from Barnum all the way to downtown.

153.Sidewalks from the school to town & cutting down on speeding
154.Sidewalks throughout town and communities
155.a really nice park/dogpark/walking/running trail from town center to the lake for people to enjoy. I think this would help revitalize the town center and allow people to enjoy all our open/native spaces, and the lakes for those of us who don't live on them.
156.Bike/walking paths important to everyone's health
157.Build a bike trail around Marjorie reservoir.
158.Complete the reservoir walking trail and clear the tree lines that obstruct the view from the roads. Simply seeing the reservoir from the road would increase perceived value of the town for residents and visitors, which could lead to economic growth needed to continue reinvesting into the educational budget
159.Hiking & Biking trails
160.Margerie Lake bike/hiking trail from the center of town to Danbury - with a connection to Bear Mtn Park in Danbury
161.Margerie trail
162.Marjorie Reservoir Trail
163.Marjorie reservoir walking path.
164.Paved path around Marjorie Reservoir or old Consolidated
165.The margery reserve trail
166.the Marjorie Reservoir walking trail.
167.The new proposed walking trail around the resevoir.
168.Walking / bike track around Marjorie Res
169.walking paths/trail
170.Walking trail around Majorie reservoir
171.Walkway from schools to town center
172.Make more pedestrian friendly roads.
173.Safe, accessible location(s) for cyclists and pedestrians to enjoy nature without fighting traffic
AMBIENCE / CHARACTER (28)
174.clean up the unsightly area's.
175.Establish effective laws/regulations identifying and eliminating residential and commercial blight.
176.Keep NF beautiful
177.Keep our Small town atmosphere with the character and feel it has.
178.Keep the charm of this quiet lake town. Increase the accessibility of the town to the people who already are here.
179.Keep the current small town feel and not bring in low income housing, industrial parks, etc. don't make us into a "city."
180.keep the town with a small town atmosphere as it is today
181.Keeping the town family friendly.
182.Maintain small town feel.
183.More community cleanup days. Litter really makes me angry.

184.Preserve more land for nature walks and wildlife. Keep the population from growing too large- small town atmosphere is wonderful.
185.Preserve more open space No multiple dwellings
186.preserve present character. stop throwing money at pie in the sky programs. With each tax increase you're driving retirees out of town. Think of the repercussions when you decide to spend taxes. \$700,000 to rebuild the bathrooms at the town beach is outrageous!
187.Protect character- keep low income multifamily housing out
188.Reverse the tendency for overdevelopment. Return our town to the country town that brought so many long time residents here. We don't need anymore transients.
189.Bring the small town feel back and preserve it before we end up being just like Danbury!
190.Find a place for the bus lot out of sight.
191.Maintaining our town family as it is. That's why people move here and stay here. Don't turn us into something we're not.
192.No low income housing. No trash please we left the big city to avoid low income stuff
193.To keep New Fairfield a small town and tight community by only allowing single family homes, and not allowing apartments, condos, multi families.
194.Safe, secure environment
195.Preserve open land
196.Preserve our country character
197.Preserve our town, no more building
198.Preserve the feeling, lower taxes
199.Keep space undeveloped. Stay green
200.Protect open space.
201.Protect the "open" space we have.
SPENDING / TAXES (26)
202.Lower taxes
203.Lower taxes
204.bring down taxes
205.Cut taxes
206.Decrease taxes
207.Reasonable taxes that allow the "old timers" to stay in the town they helped shape.
208.Address level of municipal debt by limiting size of government
209.Affordable taxes for the senior citizens
210.Base municipal spending on revenue
211.Disband and save taxpayers money
212.DO NOT LOSE CONTROL OF YOUR TAXES
213.Don't let the property taxes get out of control
214 Freeze tax increases
215.GET RID OF CAR TAXES

216.go back to reality stop spending money so foolish
217.Keep taxes low
218.Less taxes
219.Lower property taxes for seniors.
220.Lower real estate taxes for senior that have lived here a long time and have put money into the community.
221.Lower taxes and preservation of human rights.
222.Lower taxes to something comparable to the surrounding towns.
223.mitigate taxes!
224.Reduce taxes and spend tax payer's money wisely.
225.Reduce town spending, control costs, reduce tax increases.
226.Reducing property taxes
227.Stop increasing the taxes.
SEWERS / UTILITIES (26)
228.City water and sewer
229.Getting off well water
230.Harden the infrastructures - wired and piped
231.Natural gas lines
232.Addressing Wire/Wireless infrastructure
233.Town sewer and water
234.Town sewer to promote development in center of town
235.Water and sewers to center of town
236.Addressing piped infrastructure in the center of town to expand the types of businesses that can survive and make the town center vibrant.
237.Connect to the sewer system
238.Install sewers for central business area and schools, and protect our water supply
239.Sewer
240.Sewer hookups so we can bring in services, amenities, and a stronger business tax base.
241.Sewer Service
242.Sewers
243.Sewers
244.Sewers
245.Sewers
246.Sewers and public water
247.Sewers in town.
248.Sewers or natural gas
249.Sewers which will allow people to socialize more in town. More restaurants and bars are needed.
250.Sewers, water and bury the utility lines.

251. Stop the sewers
252. Water and sewer to town center
253. water for possible incoming businesses
EDUCATION / SCHOOLS (10)
254. Education
255. Education and children as a top priority
256. Fix the quality of education.
257. Full Funding of the school system
258. Get the school system into the top 10% in the state of CT.
259. Improve our school system for special education, get air conditioning in all the schools
260. Improve pay for teachers so we attract more.
261. Maintain our school buildings properly
262. Middle school enhancement
263. The school district to improve drastically. Our schools need to be competitive with our neighboring schools, newtown and ridgefield. Our teachers and staff need to be paid like our neighboring school districts so we can maintain great quality educators. The lack of salary is hindering our children to have great quality educators. They are leaving to go to higher paying school districts.
AMENITIES / ACTIVITIES (8)
264. Park and recreation- expansion of services for all residents
265. Create spaces that draw people in- more programs for young families; a splash park; community garden with eco programs; improve the town beach area
266. I would add activity options to the town rather than stores. Things that we don't really have around here that would attract people from nearby town and it would keep our kids busy and out of trouble. For example: kids science museum, rock wall climbing, indoor play area for kids, community pool, zip lining, dirt bike/quad trails/tracks, animal nature center.... This would bring more people to town, which would in turn keep business here rather than somewhere else. Charge taxes on all this business and NF would be banking!
267. More accessible community spaces, playgrounds, beach access, walking trails
268. More outdoor accessible things. Unlock the beach for access like other towns. Unlock MHHS playground to use area on the weekends. Maintain what we have example paint the gazebo repair the side of the library that faces the town hall. Ask volunteers to help. Maintain the weeds at Memorial Field that grow through the steps.
269. Provide more and better beach access for families.
270. Renovate our town park to provide year round access for community activities and recreation. Open a community center.
271. Bring back the Playhouse
GOVERNMENT (7)
272. Having local government be competent.
273. More reasonable/professional town boards (ie-zoning board of appeals) who don't make decisions based on their own feelings & opinions.
274. Getting more young families involved to invest in the town.

275. New selectmen
276. Fix things before they have to be replaced.
277. I feel like the school renos and the senior center were completed for low cost over quality. We threw away money on renovations that didn't last. The whole character of consolidated school was lost with its addition and then we scraped the whole building to add it to MHHS. Its so wasteful. Please focus on quality lasting improvements and improving public space.
278. improve communication regarding community events, there are so many things my family finds out about after the fact, through the grape vine and not official channels, or are during hours where we are working and cannot attend.
SUSTAINABILITY (5)
279. Become more environmentally conscious by planting natives, avoiding pesticide use, and implementing Green Infrastructure.
280. Create a robust climate plan and follow through on it. It would be unwise to invest in utility infrastructure that will lock us into high natural gas rates indefinitely. Incentivizing alternative modes of transportation clean energy will be crucial
281. Get serious about conservation and planning for climate change
282. I would sincerely encourage the town to invest in renewable energy sources like solar on town buildings and local businesses. Becoming a sustainable community will make New Fairfield a more desirable place to live if they address and adapt.
283. Position the town and property owners to reduce use of fossil fuels
COST OF LIVING / AFFORDABILITY (3)
284. Economically stable and affordable for folks to live here
285. A place where young people could afford to come back to.
286. Help senior find affordable help maintaining their properties
LAKES / PONDS (4)
287. Protection of water resources
288. Create regulations so that residents' lawn products along Candlewood don't contaminate the lake and cause blue green algae blooms.
289. Mak Squantz pond for Connecticut/ locals ONLY
290. Restrict the use of Candlewood Lake by requiring all boaters to have boating certificates, and charge them hefty rates for using the lake and parking. It is not fair that those of us who pay for the lake through taxes and the marina cannot use this resource without hearing obnoxious loud music both on the water and from our homes - even when we have a lake view but not on the lake. And figure out how to control Blueberry Island!
MULTIPLE THOUGHTS (30)
291. A more vibrant downtown. Sewers! More cultural activities including concerts/theatre etc.
292. Big community center and more downtown businesses , too many empty spaces
293. Bring in more business to increase tax revenue and improve schools and local amenities.
294. Don't over crowd our town with multi housing options, don't take students from other towns to clog our schools

295. Filling empty commercial spaces, no more building of commercial space, and creating safe walking/bike trail, community centers with activities for all ages!
296. Have more affordable/senior housing. Making the town more pedestrian-friendly.
297. senior housing and walkways with a definable town green
298. Sidewalks, teen center, new businesses - larger businesses
299. Stop the spending. Also, how come some people get away with crazy zoning exemptions and others are given a ridiculous (and expensive) list of things to do to in order to make minor property modifications,
300. Promote business growth. Improve the quality of education.
301. A town that is friendlier towards people interacting with each other and also has public infrastructure.
302. Build the Town Green, leave consolidated school for the community to use
303. Affordable housing with some improved public transport, sidewalks, and bike lanes.
304. Don't build new commercial buildings. We need to appropriately fill the ones we have. Preserve nature and natural resources wherever possible.
305. DO NOT add bike lanes or pedestrian walks. Discard state mandate school curriculum, get one that teaches solid skills, discard social indoctrination.
306. Enhance the town center. The library needs updating and new businesses might be lured to New Fairfield to add to its vibrancy.
307. Expand retail/recreational space and adding new businesses to retain local spending and boost tax revenue.
308. Expand tax base but keep the character of town the same
309. Improve quality of life without raising taxes
310. Improve the business in town Make it affordable to live here
311. Lower taxes...cater to your citizens needs and wants. do not ruin our town! no low income housing no drug rehabs we want low crime and law and order. family safe
312. Improve the library and make it the Hub and draw of the town. Please go visit ridgefield's library and see the programs they offer. The children's library alone is so inviting. And sidewalks and music to draw the town together. It will draw more to consider moving to new Fairfield more than other towns
313. It is imperative that we invest in a recreation center and create bike paths, while also ensuring that our schools are well-funded to provide our children with a quality education. Additionally, we need to ensure that there is adequate space for community events. Investing in a recreation center will provide a safe and designated space for both children and adults to engage in physical activities and after-school programs. Creating bike paths will promote a healthier lifestyle and provide a safe environment for children and adults to cycle. Ensuring our schools are well-funded is fundamental for providing quality education and resources for our children. Lastly, having more space for community events will encourage social interaction, foster a sense of community, and provide an opportunity for residents to come together.
314. Keep the Lake healthy. Better academics and test scores.
315. Keep the town the way it is and figure out how to not raise taxes every year.
316. Keeping the town rural but enhancing the center to be more like a smaller Ridgefield with restaurants & businesses.
317. Make NF a more desirable place for families and young people to thrive. Promote new businesses coming in, make it affordable for businesses to grow, and make our school system stronger (bring in good teachers and pay them their worth)
318. No more giant houses. Add condos and apartments. Add to tax base.

319. Provide affordable housing options to attract young families to increase enrollment in our schools. Remove commercial landlords who are preventing new businesses in our community.
320. maybe i'm spoiled because i grew up in a town with a clock tower and a main street but new fairfield is not cute. if i didn't live here i'd drive right through it and not even notice. walking around town to do things is pretty much impossible. the sidewalks are seriously lacking and make no sense as they abruptly start and stop randomly, the center of town is an empty doctors office and the businesses, as i mentioned earlier, aren't exactly fun. dry cleaners, hair and nail salons, liquor stores, realtors, banks, i know these are necessary services but it makes for an incredibly dull town, and we have at least 3 of each of these businesses. on the same topic, you can't walk from town to the schools. the school and playing fields area of town and the town center feel like different islands with no access between them. that stretch of road going up the hill to the playing fields is dangerous for pedestrians because there's no sidewalk. you'd think it would be advantageous to give foot traffic from the schools easy access to the businesses in town. i know you're only asking for one but also it would be nice if we could take squantz pond back. that situation is getting more depressing each year. last time i went there was so much trash left behind by mostly out of town/state visitors. someone had abandoned most of their belongings at a picnic table next to the ranger station, food, canopy, all their beach stuff. it had been ripped apart and was being eaten by vultures while people picnicked nearby. i was going to try to clean it up as it looked horrible and was probably awful for the birds. my first thought was, "oh no, the rangers must be busy elsewhere. they're going to have a huge mess to clean up when they get back," but once i got closer i saw there were 2 employees sitting in the ranger station playing on their phones and ignoring all the carnage outside. we left, reminded of why we don't spend much time there anymore. especially on hot days it's always over crowded and people treat it like a landfill, frequently leaving all their trash behind at the picnic table. it was near closing time last time i was there and we watched at least a dozen groups leave all their trash on the ground and picnic tables. no one cared to clean up and no one was telling them to either. and don't get me started on the fence. what an eyesore. we used to love going to the pond but not so much anymore
OTHER (41)
321. Anything
322. Better grocery store. Everyone hates stop and shop.
323. Create a more professional ZBA w better over site
324. Do' know
325. Ensure Khris Hall does not get elected
326. Noise ordinance
327. Quadruple price for nine residents at town center, you'd still make available to none residents, if they pay a premium (+\$100 per person) price that would all go to the town.
328. Same as above
329. Same as above
330. Same as above
331. See above
332. See above
333. See question 20,
334. State initiatives that don't fit town values
335. Stop the liberals from residing here
336. Take over private roads. Especially the ones that are failing because of an issue the town caused!!!!!!!
337. Zoning, codes to ensure new housing doesn't dominate the landscape.

338.be honest as to what is being asked as to what is being proposed don't give half truths when you're talking about "affordable housing" calling it "senior housing" be honest about mistakes that were made, and take some action to correct them and not to assume that everyone is well-off in this town, protect OUR public beach to NF residents only
339.Building Moratorium STOP Trying to make New Fairfield a 'City'. STOP Building Schools. Residents should Pay for UP TO TWO Children PER HOUSEHOLD. PARENTS should figure out How THEY will Pay For Maintenance & Education for More Than Two Children, PRIOR To Creating Additional Children. The Fiscal Responsibility for ALL, Additional Children should be Borne By the Individual Families, For Any Family above TWO Children Including for Education of those Additional Children
340.Cracking down on flight
341.Maintain the morality and character that has made New Fairfield a great place to live and raise a family. Resist getting caught up in the Govt crazy cycle that we need to update and change everything .. look at Calf, New York State and New Jersey .. their "progress" has lead to unaffordable property and income taxes , massive unmanageable state debt, out of control crime, lack of youngster wanting to join police, fire and military depts , and a huge morale decay .. please resist making the same mistakes and turning our town and state of CT into similar Hell Holes !
342.No renters / children to run for office
343.stop trying to get bigger or bring in high cost buyers, support those who are already local
344.Good question, anything that helps promote our town and investment in a positive direction
345.Having open mindedness for all, not monetary and money focused communities.
346.Leave NF as it is!!
347.maintaining status quo - no more retail
348.no more development
349.Reduce noise
350.It needs a Vision for the future and a Plan to accomplish it. This town is deteriorating. It needs to be fixed before it degrades to obselesence.
351.Keep New Fairfield growing in a controlled, well-planned manner.
352.To properly identify appropriate direction to sustain viable community.
353.Straighten roads
354.Maintain roads and walkways efficiently and safely.
355.Shorter surveys
356.Think of other residents which outweigh those with kids in school- way too many resources go to the school system
357.Speed bumps on route 37- I never would have chosen to purchase a home there if I had known it was a dangerous speedway with no police patrol
358.Disability services/transportation
359.Get rid of building regulations.
360.Push for zoning law changes so NF can become more commercialized. I would love to see a nice town park surrounded by businesses with apartments built on top. Zoning laws can be written to ensure the historic character of NF is preserved. I would also like to see the zoning board have authority over the kinds of businesses opened—we need variety, not redundancy.

361. Stop building/allowing generic buildings. Attract and support some artists and craftsmen. (These are the stores that attract customers who will use it as a destination.) STOP building parking lots right up to the streets. DONT ALLOW any new building to cut down all the trees.

Q26 – Are there any other thoughts you would like to share with us today?

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE CATEGORIES

1. Ambience / Character (18)
2. Planning / Implementation (10)
3. Government (8)
4. Facilities / Services (7)
5. Business / Economic Development (7)
6. Sidewalks / Pedestrians / Bicycles (6)
7. Town Center (4)
8. Diversity (4)
9. Housing / Affordable Housing (3)
10. Spending / Taxes (3)
11. Cost Of Living / Affordability (3)
12. Sewers / Utilities (2)

13. Multiple Thoughts (10)
14. Other (36)

15. Thanks (21)
16. No Additional Thoughts (7)
17. Survey (6)

AMBIENCE / CHARACTER (18)

1. Please control low numbers of short-term rentals/airbnbs. This will greatly change the intangible pride of community for NF residents. I see this slowly happening in my community.
2. Please keep our small town preserved with open space and single family homes
3. Please keep our town charming and quaint
4. Please protect this quaint town. We moved from an area that let huge developments and low income housing destroy the town and schools. We are worried this will eventually happen here.
5. Keep the small town feel. That’s why we moved from a city to a safe, family-friendly town. No need for city-like apartment development.
6. Many people are drawn to NF for its New England charm and beauty.
7. Please bring back the hometown feel of NF- love it here and there are such great things happening with schools and achievements- just need more to do as we all become or stay more active- dog or baby strollers with people, pickleball, music, beach for sunset with the family to listen to music- these are all achievable
8. The children love the town trick or treat, the scare crowd around town, and all those activities. Having a smoke shop walking distance from a school is a big issue for me. It also makes the town look trashy.
9. Keep New Fairfield quaint!
10. Don’t ruin our town 😞
11. Don't overdevelop the rural structure of the town
12. I love New Fairfield and always thought we’d be here for the long haul. We don’t want to be Ridgefield or Danbury. We want to be us.
13. Keep growth slow and that's what the lure is.
14. please do not wreck this town. leave it alone? everything the govt touches they ruin!
15. We need a blight law
16. Do NOT put the busses in Consolidated parcel of land!! Stop sending busses down Middleton Drive!!
17. Please do something to return the town to what it was
18. We love this community and have felt so welcomed since the moment we moved here. We want our children to feel proud of their town and their community; we want them to feel safe and be happy to stay here and engage in activities here. There is no need for us to go to neighboring towns to seek enrichment opportunities; we have incredible people and resources here to create events and opportunities for families to grow.


PLANNING / IMPLEMENTATION (10)

19. Require accountability for your action plans.
20. Ten Years is too long, things are not getting done!
21. Do better. Develop a long term strategy that could be followed by future BoS, BoF, BoE. Decisions seem to be haphazard
22. Focus on ALL of New Fairfield and moving us into the future.
23. Get it together and start pulling the community together again
24. Government is hard work. You need to always think ahead at least 25 years!
25. I am hopeful that this committee can make some change for this beautiful little New England town!

26. Hoping the POCD recommendations will be acted upon.
27. I am hopeful that the plan will adapt for a vibrant and growing NF
28. I feel a sense of futility because the most recent plan has been ignore
GOVERNMENT (8)
29. mediocre to poor job from our elected officials. Think of the human cost of your decisions.
30. Develop competency in identifying and securing more of the enormous amounts of state and federal funds available for community development. NF does a horrible job at this leaving other regional towns securing significant funds while NF is left behind due to lack of competent and aggressive leadership.
31. Get a new planning commission chair
32. Long term residents of this community have asked for help for years only to be ignored by the people elected as public SERVANTS.
33. Small town politics cost the town tax collections due to BOF ignoring what the people voted for twice. BOF needs to be replaced.
34. Too many layers of govt to get anything done, FirstLight, Wetlands, Town govt, so improvements do not get done, eventually will create a deterioration in properties.,
35. Support the FD from town hall, New Town engineer
36. Less devisiveness on the part of the administration. Needs much improvement with communicating with the public. Seems to be a disregard of the concerns of the public.
FACILITIES / SERVICES (7)
37. Improve Transfer station services to encourage safe proper disposal of household items/chemicals
38. A Rec center would be great. It would cost a ton of money which the people of this town don't seem to want to spend
39. Make consolidated town hall and make the old town hall into retail and small businesses. Where people can walk, shop and eat. Knock down the vacant properties or kick out the landlord (santamara) who won't lower his rents so we can get new businesses
40. Keep consolidated and make it a Rec center
41. Our senior center does not address the younger seniors of our community, many of whom are still working. Our library provides very little in the way of programming and should be open on Sundays.
42. Pay the people that work in the school system more money. Fast food workers make more than the people that help our children learn and that is very sad.
43. Please increase police patrols in our roads and streets. The noise level and wreckless driving is getting worse by the day yet I never see police on our roads/streets. We need more police.
BUSINESS / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (7)
44. Increasing tax base is important
45. Need more small businesses
46. Figure out how to rent out all the vacant store fronts in town.
47. I wish I didn't have to spend my money outside of town to enjoy shopping, or a dinner/night out.
48. no more vacant buildings please. cafes and stores!
49. Please do what you can to bring DiBella's Subs or Wegmans to New Fairfield. Stop & Shop sucks. Also, plant more pansies in town center in the Spring.

50. This town has so many opportunities for economic development, but it seems like some individuals who have served on boards for a LONG time are holding us back...it's time to move on.
SIDEWALKS / PEDESTRIANS / BICYCLES (6)
51. Please put in more crosswalks. It would also be so nice if we had sidewalks along rt 37 and rt 39 to the lake and pine hill
52. The reservoir walking path would be a great addition to the town. It's a very active community (runners, walkers, cyclists etc)
53. Would love the town to be more pedestrian/ stroller and bicycle friendly and more aesthetically pleasing such as a fountain and better landscaping
54. No way to make this area bike friendly. Too many hills and the new guard rails do not leave enough space for cars and bikes
55. Sidewalks and a recreational center such as in Ridgefield would be perfect.
56. sidewalks on Giolloti and a crosswalk for kids that want to walk to school!!
TOWN CENTER (4)
57. Absentee business landlords are not good for the center of town businesses. Commerical businesses have sat vacant too long because they are overpriced and the landlord doesn't care.
58. Please walk through Ridgefield town center! It is such a draw. Would love to see our tiny town center become more of a draw
59. This town needs to enhance its downtown are with parking and pedestrian freindly shopping, and make it a destination. The major first step in this effort is to bring in sewer and water serces. This will also help solve for environmental and storm water mgmt concerns.
60. Sidewalks to nowhere, storage facility in a prominently seen location, mediocre restaurants, no central parking, no CVS type store, no retail that anyone actually wants to look around in, no overall pulled-together look of the town center, inviting us to stop, walk, talk, thrive. When I want to enjoy my Friday evening, for example, I head straight to another town (Ridgefield is a good example), and spend my money there. I can park centrally, walk and see other people walking and enjoying, sitting outside at restaurants, going into shops, etc. Then I get a table at a great place that has some healthy options and a nice ambiance, and I enjoy my time. I love my house, but I wish I could pick it up and move it somewhere else, to be honest.
DIVERSITY (4)
61. born and raised in NF. Sadly, it may become unaffordable as a retiree. The town needs the whole spectrum of residents to remain a vibrant community.
62. This town is not appealing to young people and the lack of diversity does not foster a sense of belonging or inclusivity
63. Please make New Fairfield more welcoming for people of diverse backgrounds and have a zero tolerance for discrimination
64. Show how fast we are in the survey I almost quit filling it out. You also didn't ask the m about the welcoming and supportive environment for BIPOC or lack thereof also you didn't ask about how welcoming it was for queer people
HOUSING / AFFORDABLE HOUSING (3)
65. I object to the state of CT telling us what type of housing we should build.
66. Push back on state gvt edicts on housing, work with other communities and sue if needed

67. NO LOW INCOME HOUSING!!!!
SPENDING / TAXES (3)
68. Stop wasting taxpayer money on projects that would be unneeded if you didn't artificially create housing
69. Be Careful of loosing longtime residents being forced out because of high taxes !
70. Please use restraint on tax increases - idealistic spending and budgeting has to be reigned in
COST OF LIVING / AFFORDABILITY (3)
71. I love my town and hope to afford to stay! 😊
72. I love this town don't let it become an expensive NY county
73. Keep NEW FAIRFIELD AFFORDABLE
SEWERS / UTILITIES (2)
74. I have been waiting on any updates about the town septic system, and if we were going to join the Danbury sewage system (my apologies if I am getting this incorrect). I remember that the town selectwoman had written about it in the paper maybe 6-8 months ago, but haven't seen any updates. I think this updating would be huge for the town to improve local commerce and support current businesses. I am also not on social media, and I do look for these types of updates in the paper instead. Thanks for doing this survey!
75. Stop the sewer project .
MULTIPLE THOUGHTS (10)
76. don't think anything i haven't already mentioned: pedestrian accessibility in town, filthy parks and failing schools
77. No sewers. Focus on getting our schools to be top rated
78. Our family moved to NF about 2 years ago and have enjoyed our experience so far. The town is quiet, safe, and friendly. Please prioritize investing in education and making the town as beautiful and scenic as possible. Those two things will increase pride in the town and willingness to continue to spend and invest in it from residents. We are happy to pay more in taxes for a town with a great education system and beautiful atmosphere
79. Preserve funding for education, appoint competent government officials, expand local business and development, introduce town funded trash collection services.
80. This is a wonderful town with some wonderful people, we have owned two homes over the past 19 years and have raised our children here. Hopefully we can continue to keep our small town feel while adding some more shops and things for our residents to enjoy would be wonderful. The proposed Margerie trail would be a wonderful addition to our community as well as better downtown access and more walkable downtown and access to the shops for the younger kids. Sidewalks from the school to our downtown would be amazing!!
81. Please, do NOT over-develop our town. Maintain our small rural town character. We don't want a 15-minute city. We don't need any "sustainability" nonsense. Keep private wells & septic, build some bike trails, improve the center of town. Do not put a bus a parking lot on Consolidated. Be more conservative with building projects - do not build unless absolutely necessary. Try to renovate instead. Lower taxes - that will encourage more local small businesses in the center of town. We need to get back to having our own unique community. We need more small local farms. Our town can become truly sustainable again if we have dairy farmers, grain farmers, vegetable farms, etc. Allow people to keep backyard chickens, goats, etc. Our land can provide for all our needs - if we allow it to. Banning the use of pesticides will help keep all town lakes & ponds clean. Encourage organic farming. New Fairfield residents are good-hearted people and will do everything in their power to preserve the natural beauty of our town.

82. Concentrate in activities for young families in town, and preserve and proper use of the local nature. And please, no more Italian restaurants!
83. Lead town to low tax , continent spending, school excellence though challenging curriculum. NOT Buildings.
84. Town lacks services and high taxes.
85. We are not going to be Ridgefield. There are nowhere near the commuters as those that take 7 and 35 through Ridgefield to get to lower Fairfield County. Accept New Fairfield for the small town that it is and just try to fill our storefronts. Separately, I believe we are going to run into space issues with the new schools with the influx of young families that were never part of the pre-Covid projections. Frankly our new High School auditorium may be technically sufficient in its systems but it looks like a joke capacity wise for more than just a singular high school grade at once. We also need better cooperation, transparency, and the willingness to compromise between our major boards to avoid timely delays such as this years budget.
OTHER (36)
86. All of the factors in questions 13 & 14 are important, it was somewhat artificial trying to rank them
87. Beckett Flores should not be eligible to run for office in NF
88. good luck
89. good luck and thank you
90. Good luck!
91. Great town wonderful school
92. Have a resource list for assistance for older homeowners. Energetic youth for yard help, someone to change light bulbs! Boy Scouts? Just a list where one can get help for simple jobs!
93. How about some solar powered street lights on main roads
94. I am new to the town and look forward to developing more opinions and thoughts on what would be beneficial to the town
95. I want to be clear that where I have answered no opinion, my stance is negative in reaction to the idea as it is either unnecessary, taking away from other areas of need/want and/or subtracting from small town feel.
96. I'm likely leaving NF and CT at retirement. Too costly. And cold.
97. Love New Fairfield
98. Love this town!
99. New Fairfield ia a great town to live in -- let's keep it that way and not chase out people who have made this town what it is for years.
100. Please think carefully before beginning new schemes and projects. It is important to gather a consensus and listen to all sides of an issue.
101. See you at the polls this November.
102. Sometimes having less is more
103. STOP THE TREE HUGING
104. We are not Ridgefield.
105. What is the goal here?
106. Yes .. govt officially need to have the courage to add I very important word to their vocabulary .. which is NO! Stop  caving into to these crazies that wreck beautiful old CT towns with their NYS foolishness !

107. Could the police be a little friendlier? It doesn't have to be Mayberry but it isn't NYC after all. It is ok to smile. I have lived here for 50 years and raised 5 children. I love this town so much and want it to be the best town ever!
108. Deal with public infrastructure and make the town friendlier towards socializing and interacting with people.
109. The ideas of many here in town are becoming very liberal, what is happening to our small quiet little town. Of late, all that many members of the community are looking for is spend, spend spend. It's time in these difficult times to try and put a cap on things before you run a lot of dedicated loving New Fairfielders out of this town.
110. The town has been heading in the wrong direction for many years. Constant tax increases, shifty first selectwoman who has the town crew stage Consolidated School to appear in worse shape than it really is, wastes taxpayers money by having the town hire two lawyers to sue itself. Outsiders moving into NF because of the way it is and then wanting to change it. Look at Sherman where their taxes keep dropping. Sherman has done an excellent job in maintaining their small town feel. It's a shame NF thinks it has to keep up with the "times" instead of maintaining its small town atmosphere which keeps people here and happy. I have lived in NF for my entire life (60+ years) and am ashamed of how it has changed and what it has become.
111. We are a pass by town. Nobody is coming into New Fairfield unless they have to or there is a draw such as the old playhouse. I want the storefronts to be filled but I am not going to go broke by shopping local either. It's a tough spot. Also, we are a lake community. Why is there nothing available at night when you get off the boat and want to grab a cup of coffee, sit down and listen to music etc.
112. To bring more growth to the town we need to invest in it not ignore it and try to save. Better decisions need to be made the first time not 2-3 votes later.
113. It would be nice to have some more cooperation with the state in regards to Squantz Pond State Park, and be able to have a system to welcome visitors without turning them away on busy weekends.
114. Note surrounding towns north of us protect open space and by doing so, keep taxes down.
115. Civic responsibility needs to be encouraged for the greater good.
116. Anyone complaining about "woke" is a bigot and should not be in local government
117. Don't be taken by current politics
118. Let's put Constitutional back in the Constitution state. Stop interfering in the people's lives. Teach the Constitution in our schools
119. Green initiatives & diversity needed.
120. It used to feel safer. See cars with one headlight, hear about car thefts... hope this stuff gets conquered.
121. Lake communities have unique challenges in New Fairfield due to zoning laws that came into effect decades after development. These communities provide the town with a significant tax base. Yet, their needs in terms of zoning are onerous. There should be consideration provided for the unique challenges of these property owners.
THANKS (21)
122. Being part of town government or volunteering on boards can not be easy. Thank you for your hard work. Good luck!
123. So grateful to those who are volunteering to put together this plan!
124. Thank you for asking us !
125. Thank you for conducting this survey
126. Thank you for creating and conducting this survey. It is sorely needed with all the new growth in town in the last 3 decades.

127.Thank you for providing survey
128.Thank you for providing this survey. Can you please provide publicity on the library and town website and in the Town Tribune to become involved in this committee?
129.Thank you for putting this out there We need more center based places
130.Thank you for sending out the survey.
131.Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback
132.Thank you for the survey
133.Thank you for your caring about our town!
134.Thank you for your efforts.
135.Thank you.
136.Thanking for giving me a chance to make my opinion.
137.Thanks for asking for input
138.Thanks for asking for input!
139.Thanks for asking the community for their input.
140.Thanks for asking, this is really good work. Maybe I can get involved with your effort.
141.Thanks for doing this
142.Thanks for giving us an opportunity to share our thoughts!
NO ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS (7)
143.N/A
144.n/a
145.No
146.No
147.No, not at this time.
148.nope
149.Nope
SURVEY (6)
150.Can't go back, so I can't give the Q#, but some of these groupings are so broad that a positive rating would open the door to all kinds of unintended choices.
151.last part of survey is poorly written
152.Please don't take the results from these surveys and stuff them in a file cabinet, never to be addressed again.
153.Publish these results
154.This Survey is Very Poor & Deceptively Constructed. It FORCES Participants to Choose Much of What they Actually DON'T WANT, b/ c Important things are 'Grouped' w Unwanted things. ONE Example would be: Water Quality, is Grouped w Installation Of Town/ Community Water & Sewers. Clean Water & Sewage Management are NOT Necessarily Incumbent upon Installation of a Town / Community Water & Sewage System! CLEARLY Town Management wants to turn New Fairfield into a CITY. Enact a Building Moratorium, to Ensure that the Town will Remain a TOWN. Clean Water & Managed Sewage will Automatically ensue.
155.This is stupid

