

SHERBORN RESIDENT SURVEY 2014



Sherborn Resident Survey 2014

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Background

The 2014 survey: the first step in preparation of Sherborn's Updated General Plan

The 2001 planning process serves as a model:

Phase 1: 1998 Residents Survey designed, conducted and analyzed.

Questions on quality of life issues, alternative policy options, etc.

(The 2014 Survey is intentionally similar to the 1998 Residents' survey)

Phase 2: 3 sub-committees formed to address key areas

Land Use - Open Space and Recreation, Natural and Cultural Resources

Built Environment – Town Center, Housing, Traffic Circulation

Fiscal and Economic – Economic Development, Public Facilities & Services

Subcommittee reports (completed in 6 months)

Identified major issues & further research needs, made recommendations

Phase 3: Planning Board process for completion of 2001 General Plan

Reviewed subcommittee documents, conducted additional research, held public forum

Wrote Goals and Policies Statement for comment (approved at 2001 Town Meeting)

Wrote Implementation Plan, completed in summer 2001

Planning Board voted to approve the General Plan on October 3 2001

Background

Survey methods: 1998 vs. 2014

1998: 600 forms mailed to random households, 234 responded

2014: 1500 forms mailed to households with the town census. The survey was also available on line. 658 responded. There was no significant difference between paper and on-line survey responses

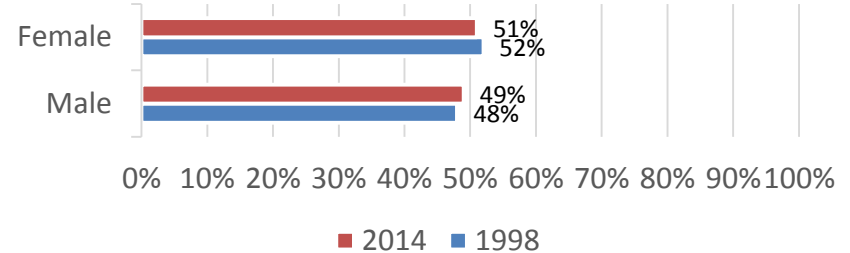
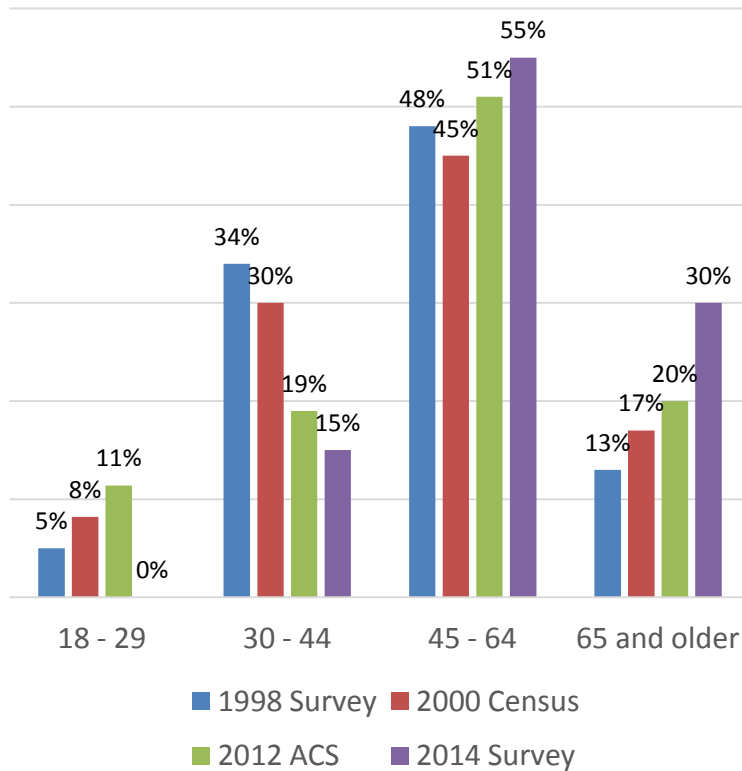
The 2014 survey replicated most of the 1998 survey, modified some questions and added some new questions.

This survey is intended to be used to reveal patterns and direction in public opinion and not as a referendum on a particular issue.

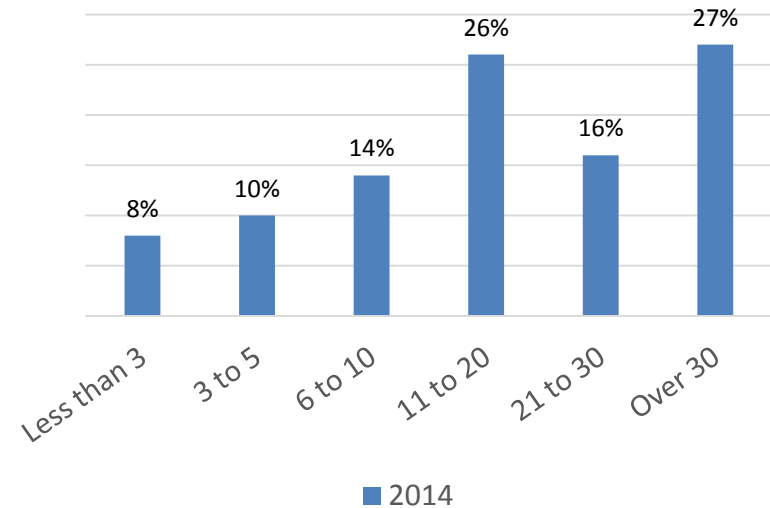
Respondent Demographics

- The percentage of those aged 65+ participating in the survey is 30%: significantly higher than in 1998.*

Age



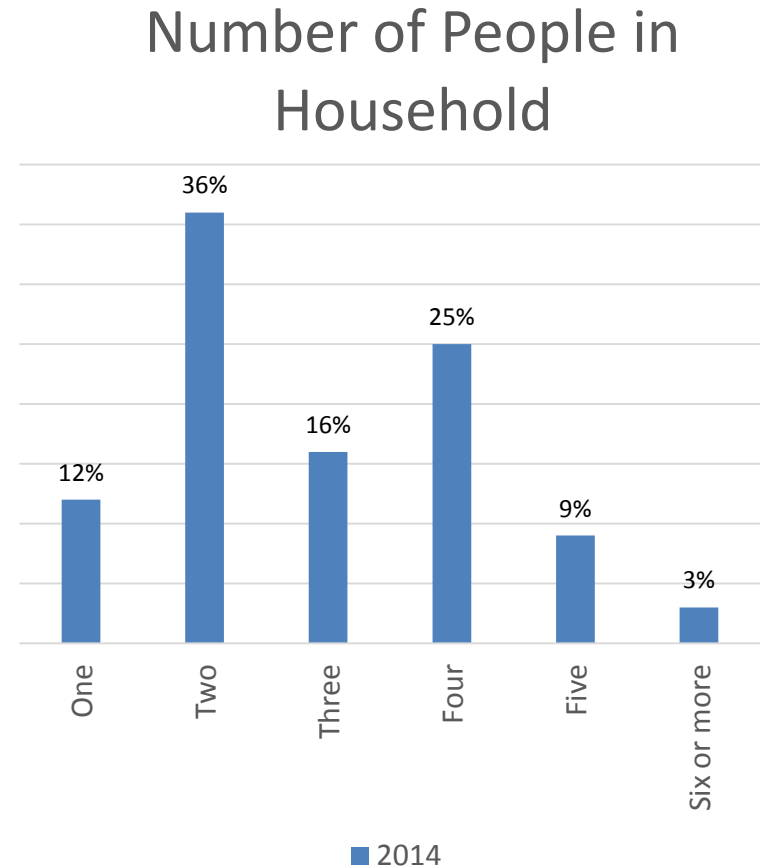
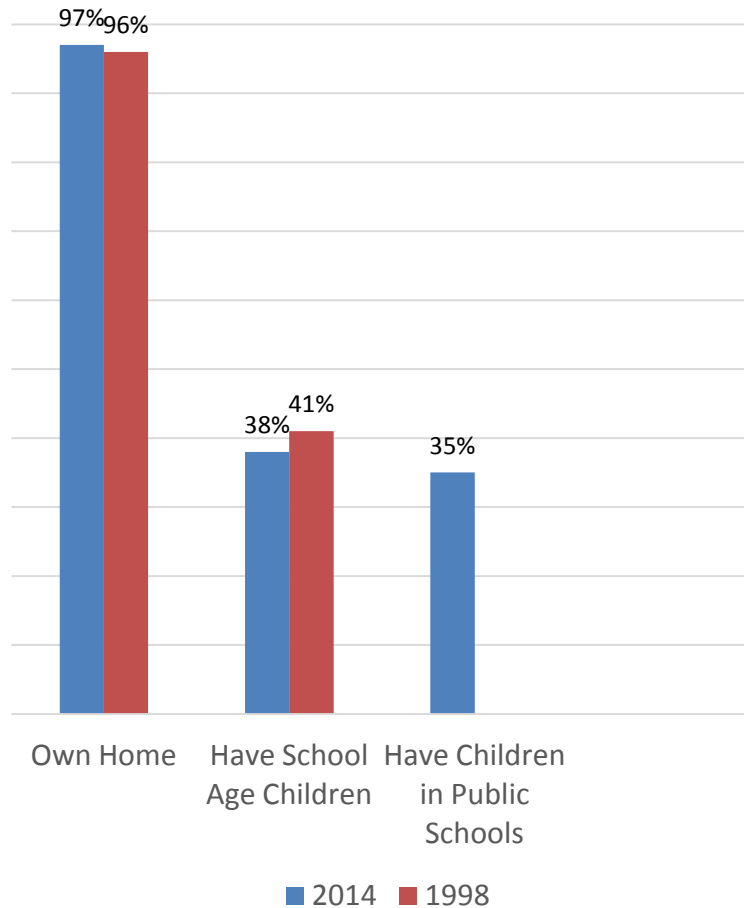
Years Lived in Sherborn



Median years: 15 in 1998, 17 in 2014

Respondent Demographics

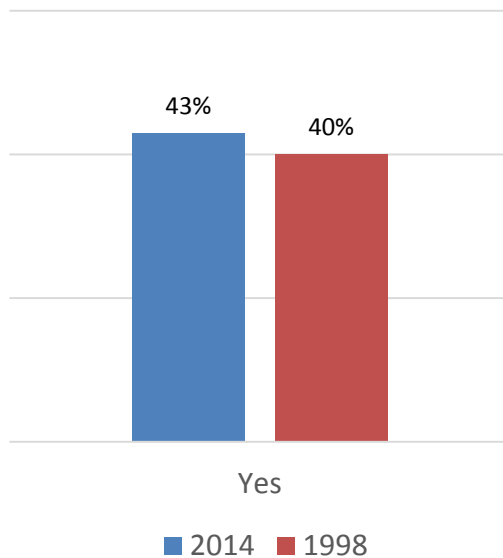
- The percentage of households with school age children has decreased slightly since 1998.*



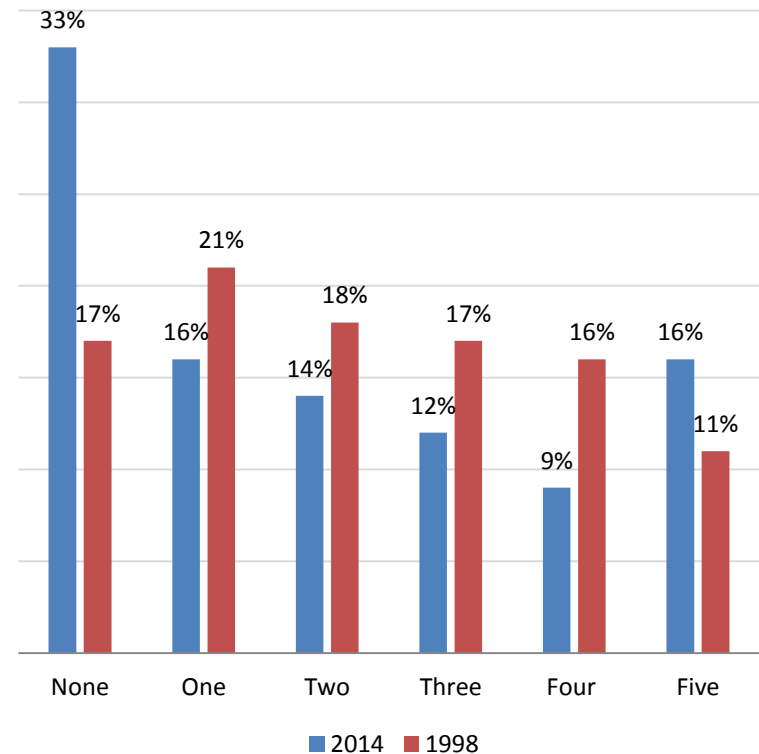
Respondent Demographics

- Participation in Town Meeting has declined since 1998.*

Participated in Town Gov't



Number of Town Meetings Attended in Past Five Years

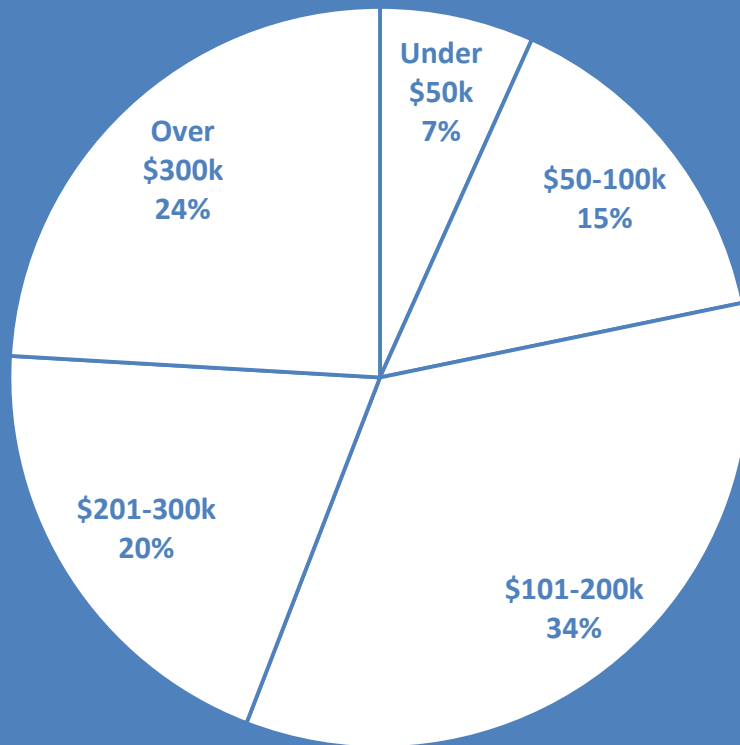


Average: 2.27 in 1998, 1.95 in 2014

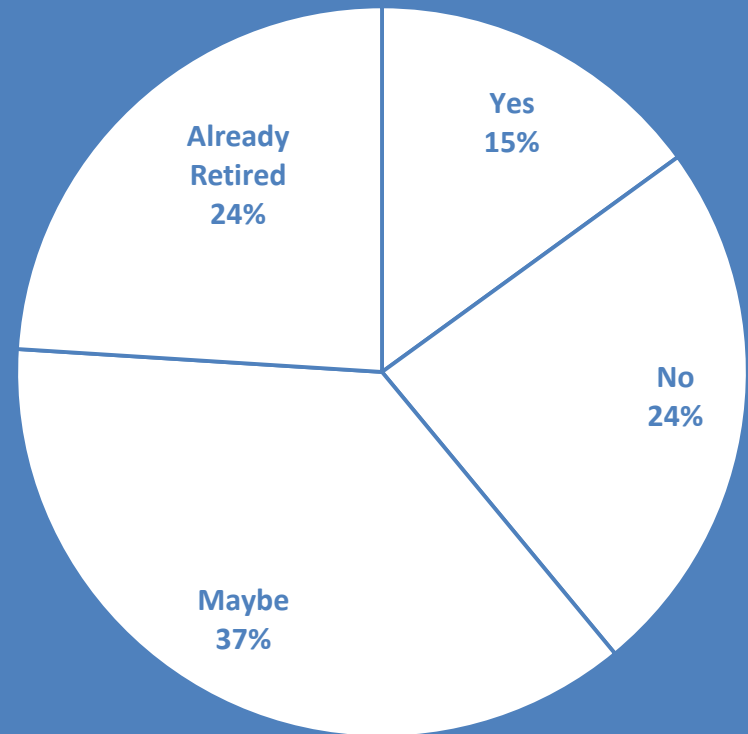
Respondent Demographics

- *Only 7% of the respondents report household income below \$50,000 a year.*
- *One-fourth of those responding say they will not stay in Sherborn after retirement.*

INCOME



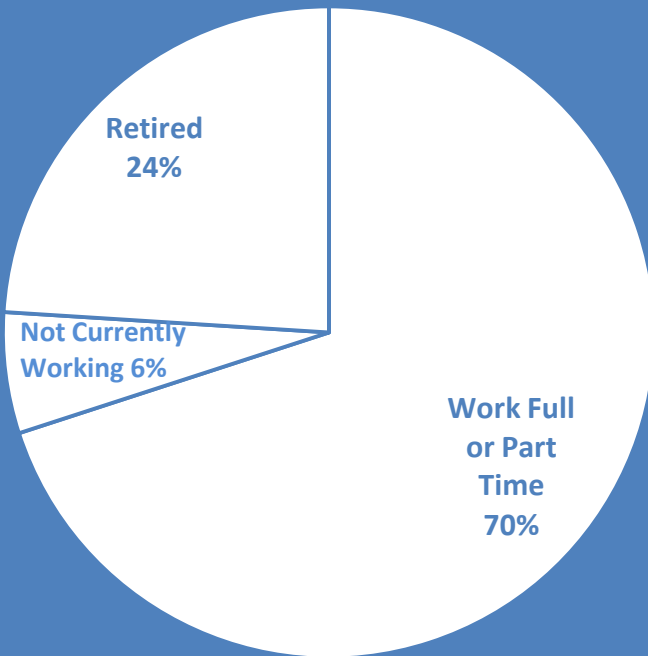
STAY IN SHERBORN AFTER RETIREMENT



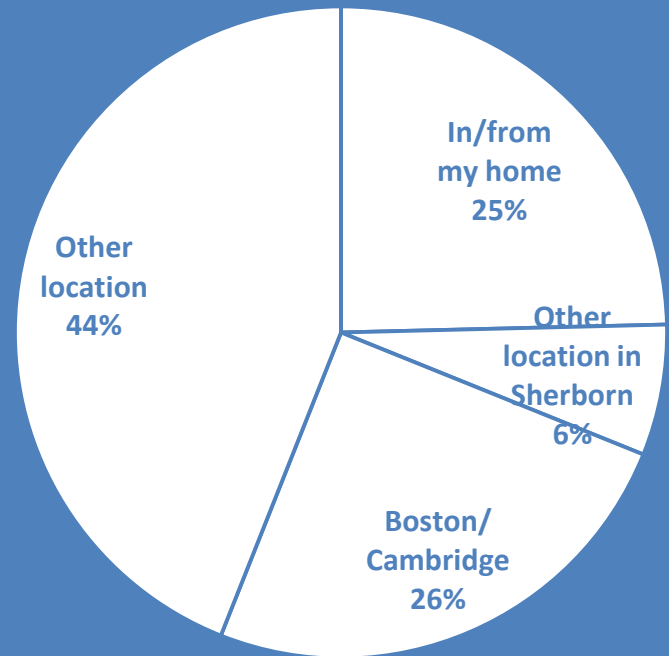
Respondent Demographics

- 70% of respondents work and 31% of those who do work in Sherborn (at home or otherwise).

WORK STATUS



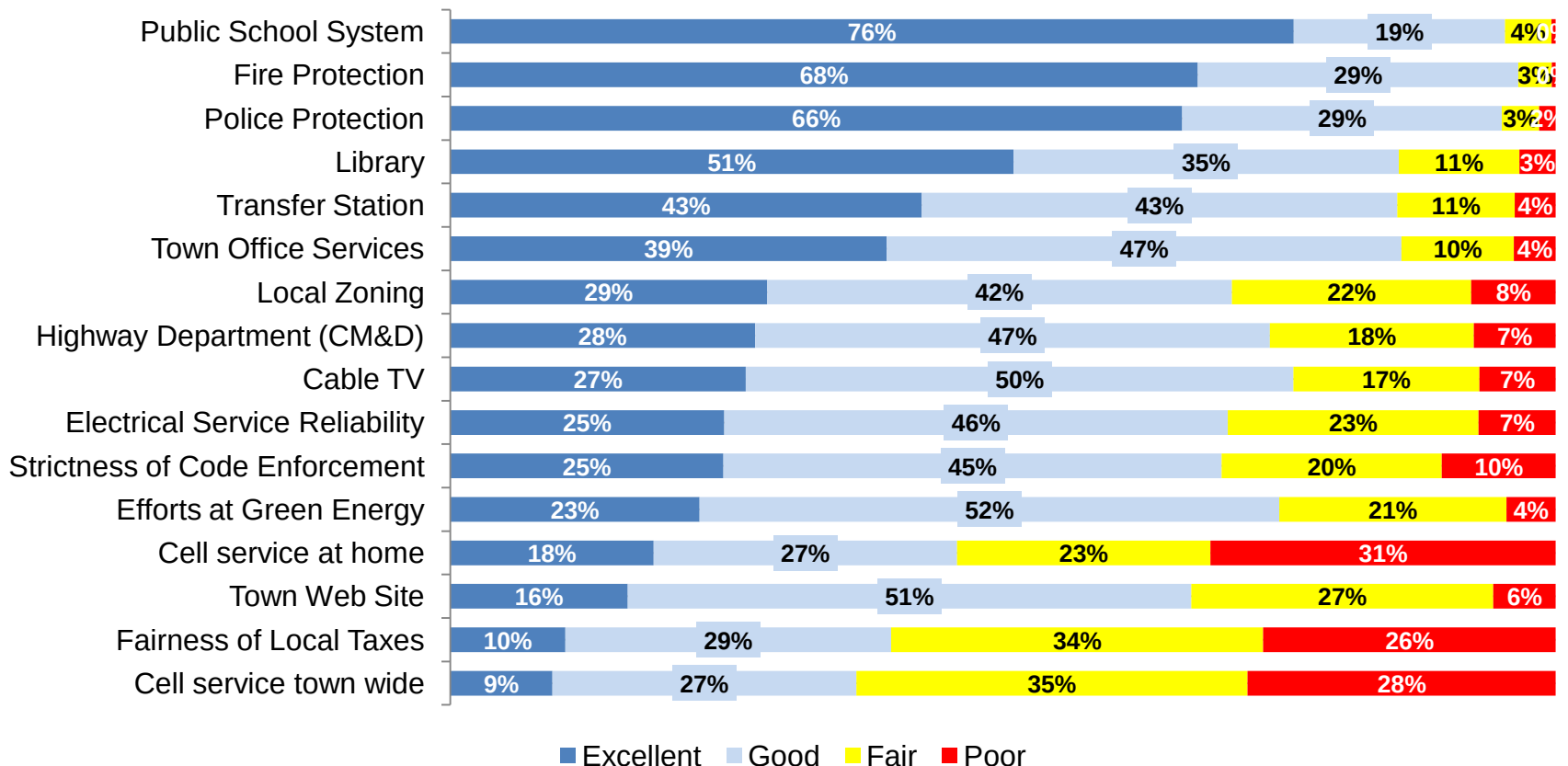
WHERE WORK



Satisfaction with Town Characteristics

Satisfaction with Services and Facilities 2014

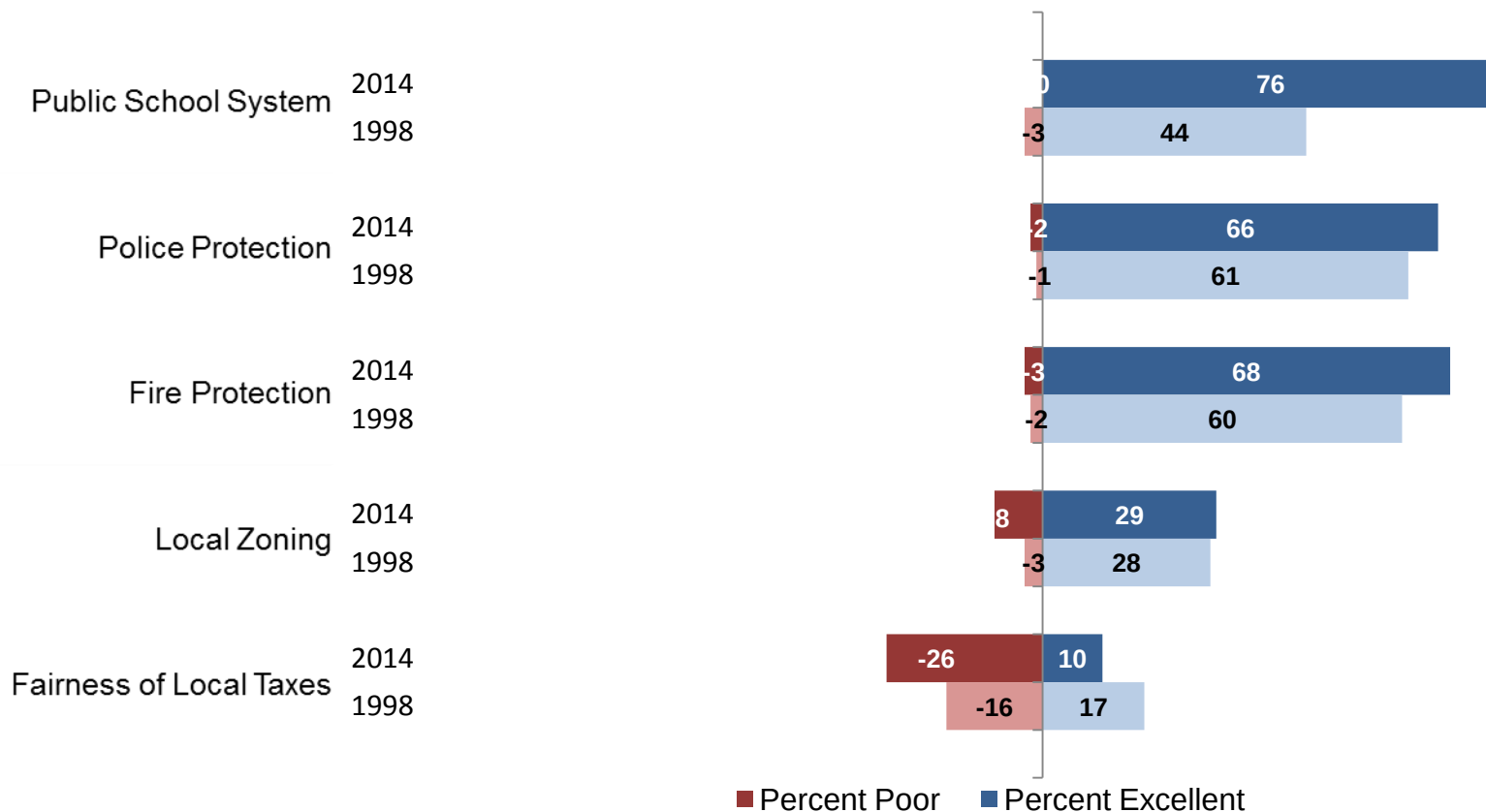
- *Satisfaction with the public schools is the highest among town services.*
- *60% of residents are not satisfied with the fairness of local taxes.*



Satisfaction Trend

- Residents are generally more satisfied with Town Services now than in 1998, particularly with the Public School System. The one exception is lower satisfaction now with “Fairness of Local Taxes.”*

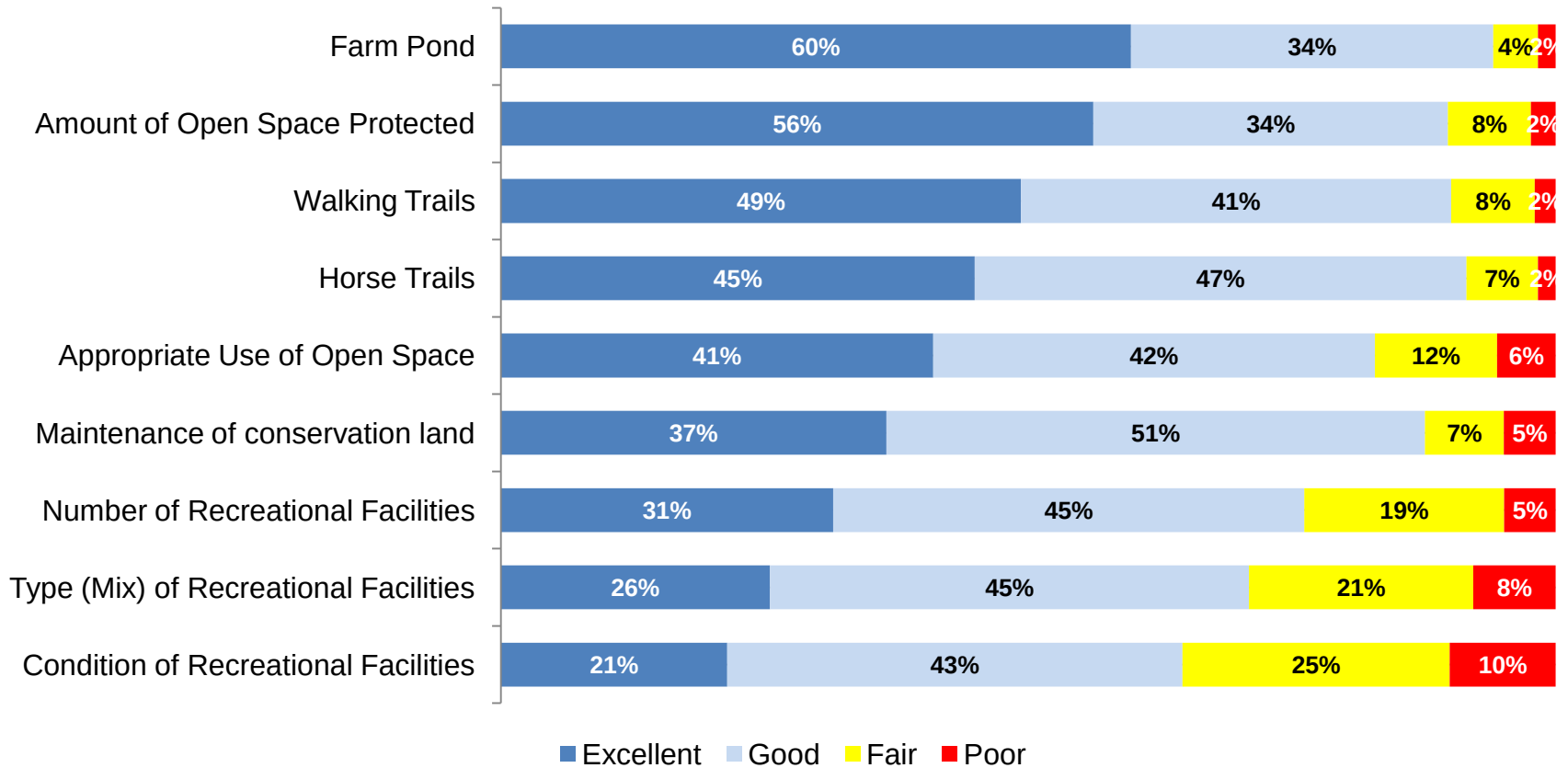
Services and Facilities



Satisfaction 2014

- Satisfaction with Open Space and Recreation is generally high, most so for Farm Pond.*

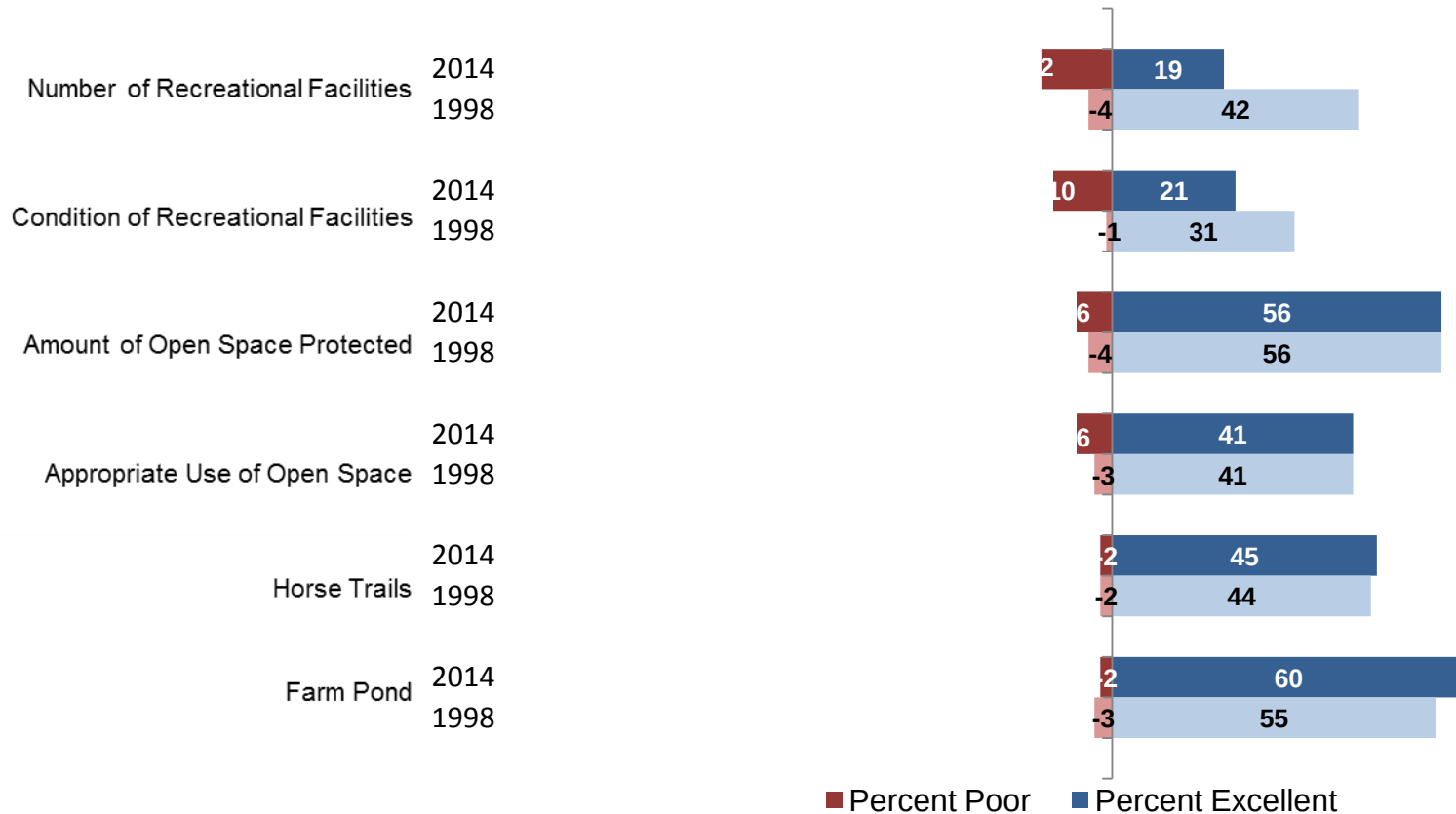
Open Space and Recreation



Satisfaction Trend

- Satisfaction with the number and condition of recreational facilities has fallen since 1998.*

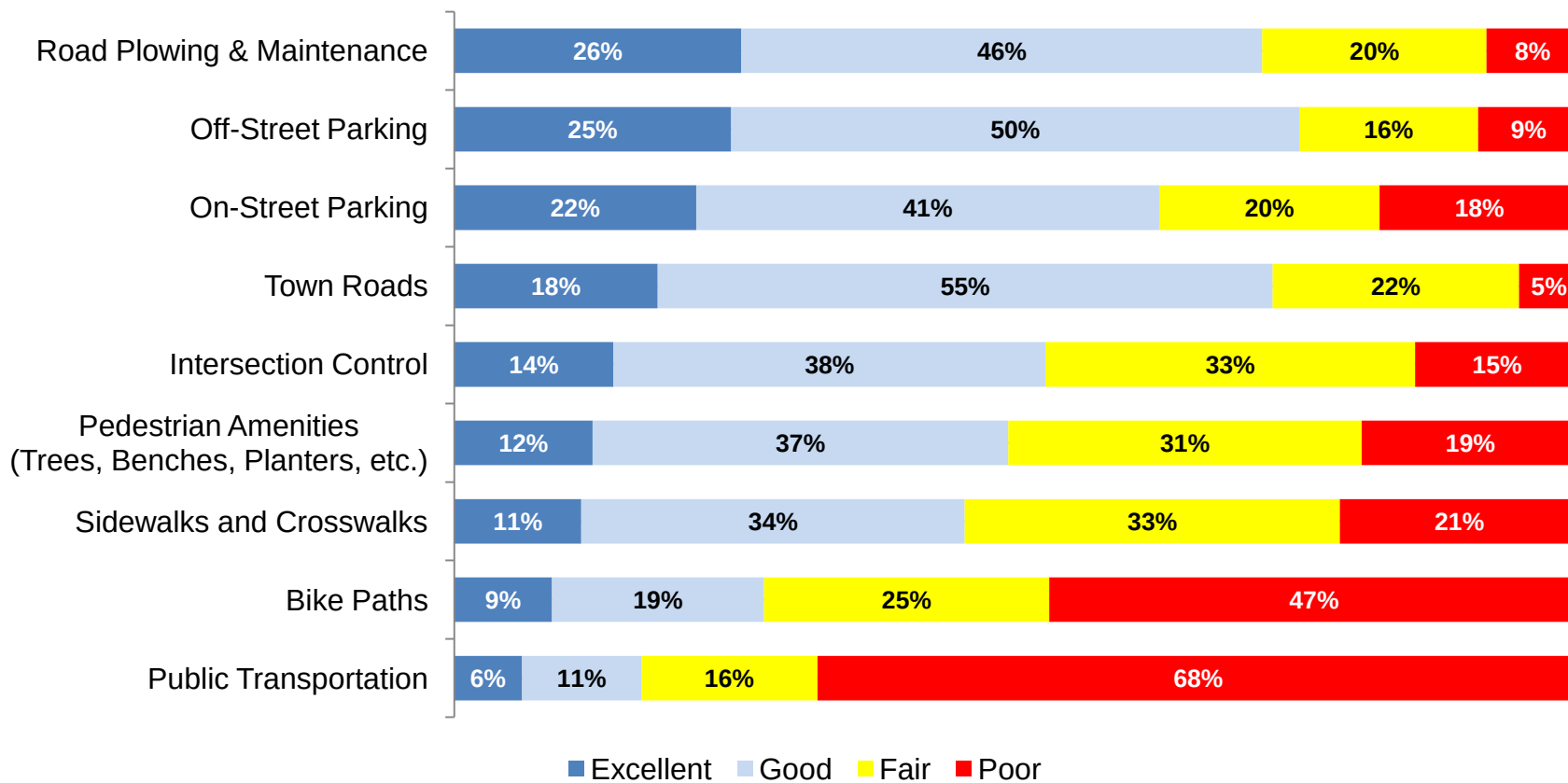
Open Space and Recreation



Satisfaction 2014

- *Satisfaction with Parking and Transportation is only moderate.*
- *Residents are least satisfied with Bike Path and, not unexpectedly, Public Transport.*

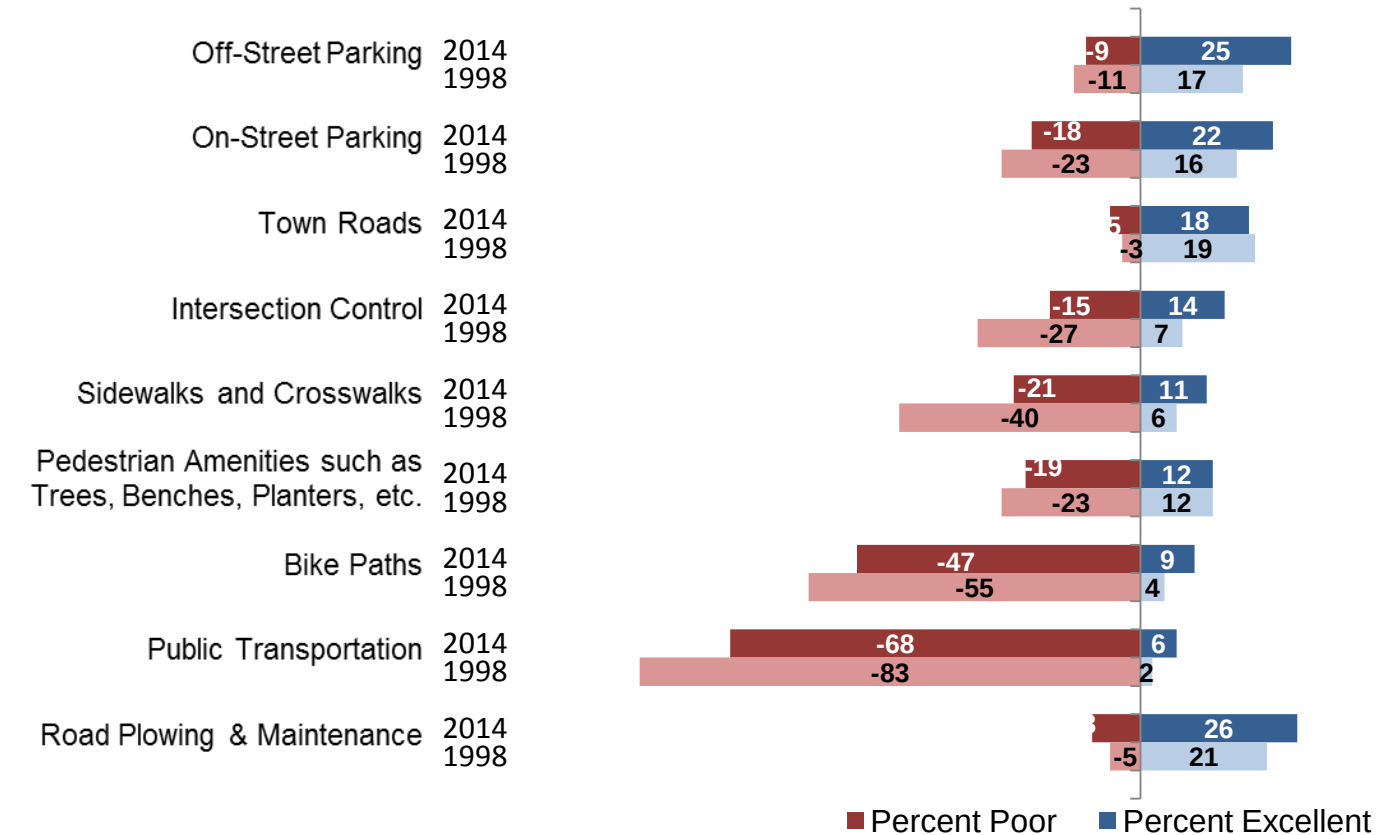
Parking and Transportation



Satisfaction Trend

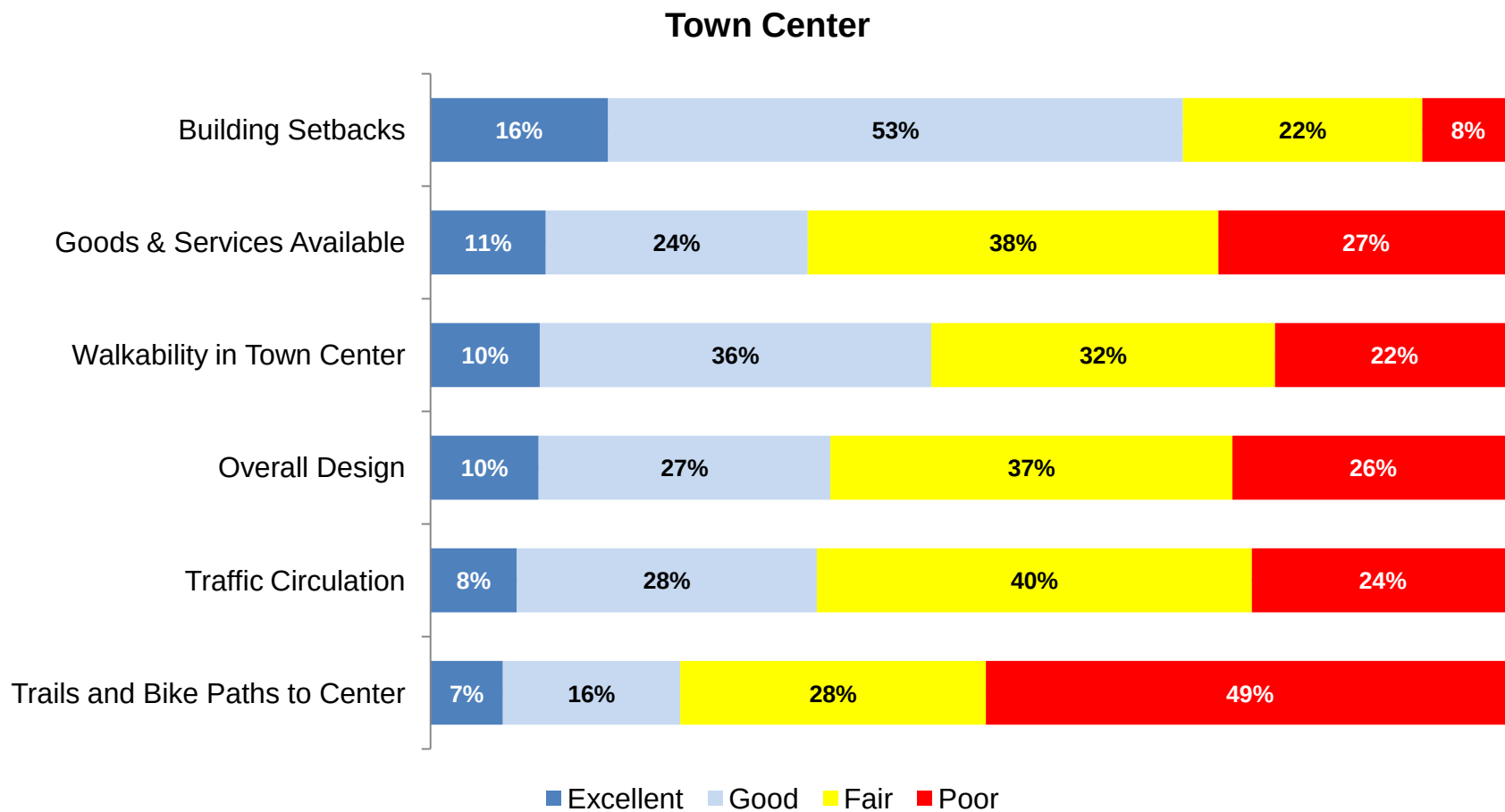
- Although residents are not well satisfied with Parking and Transportation, their dissatisfaction is less than it was in 1998.

Parking and Transportation



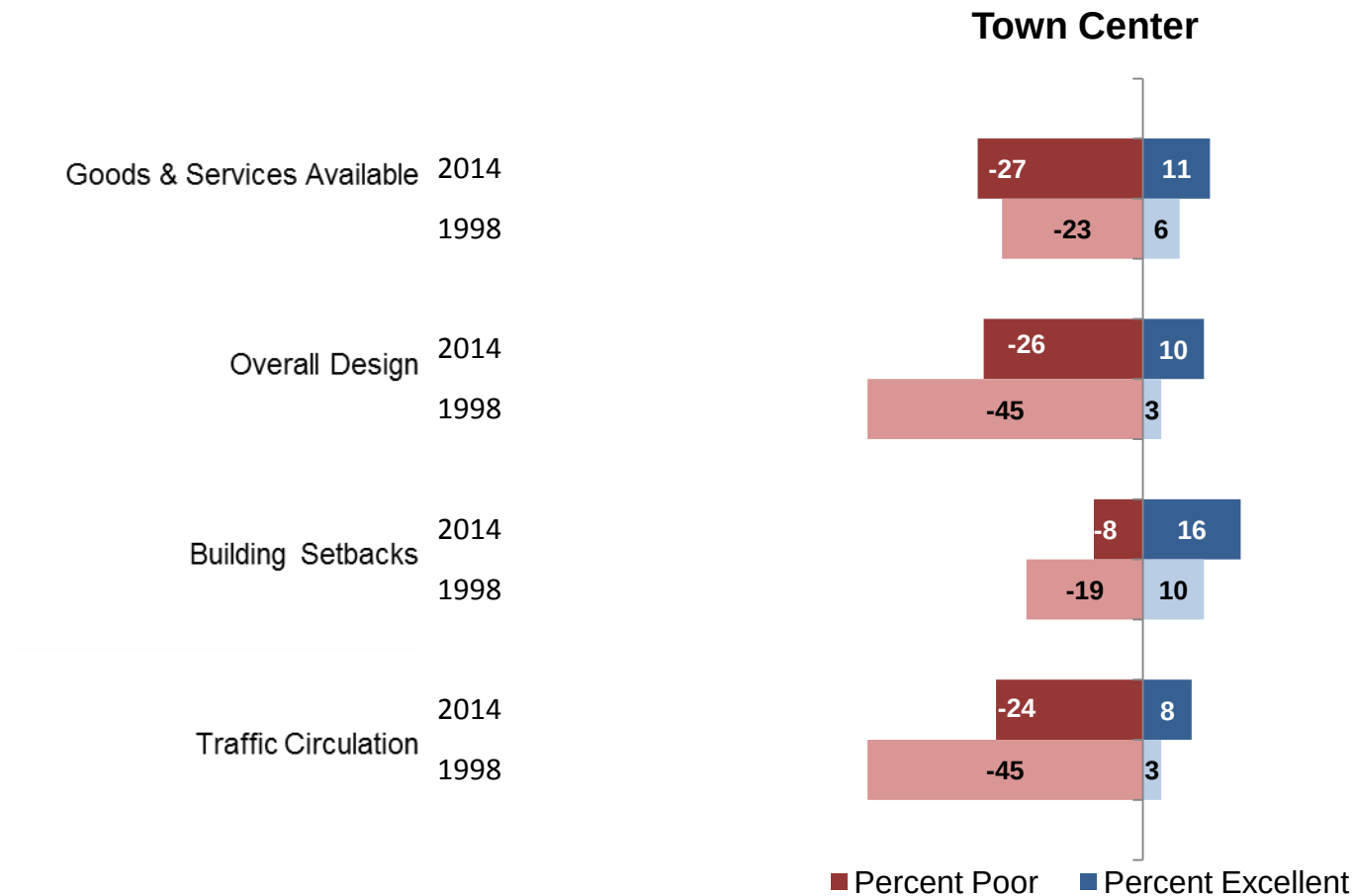
Satisfaction 2014

- *There is significant amount of fair and poor rating of the Town Center characteristics.*
- *There is particular dissatisfaction with non-driving access to the Town Center.*



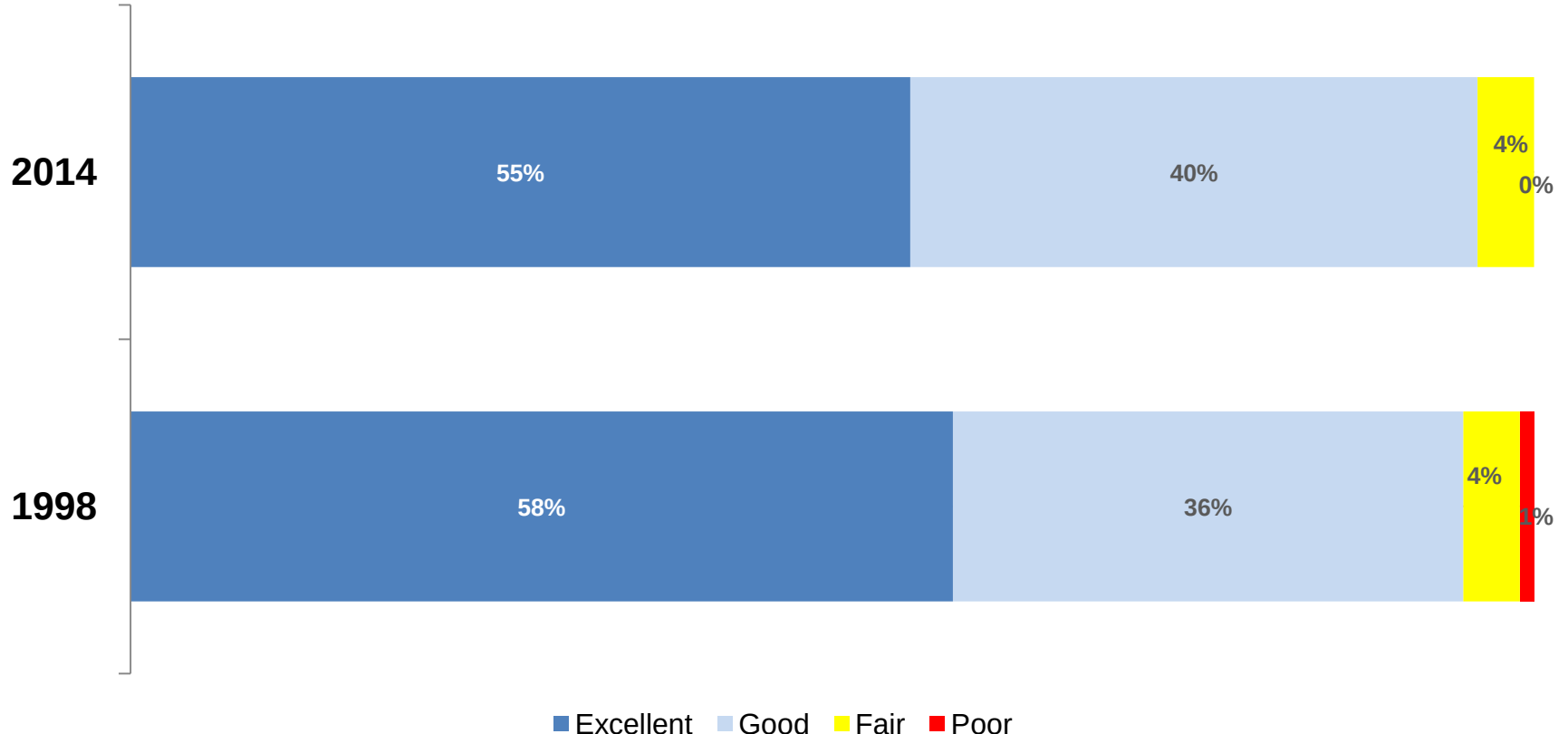
Satisfaction Trend

- Dissatisfaction with Town Center characteristics has generally decreased since 1998.*



Rating of Sherborn as a Place to Live

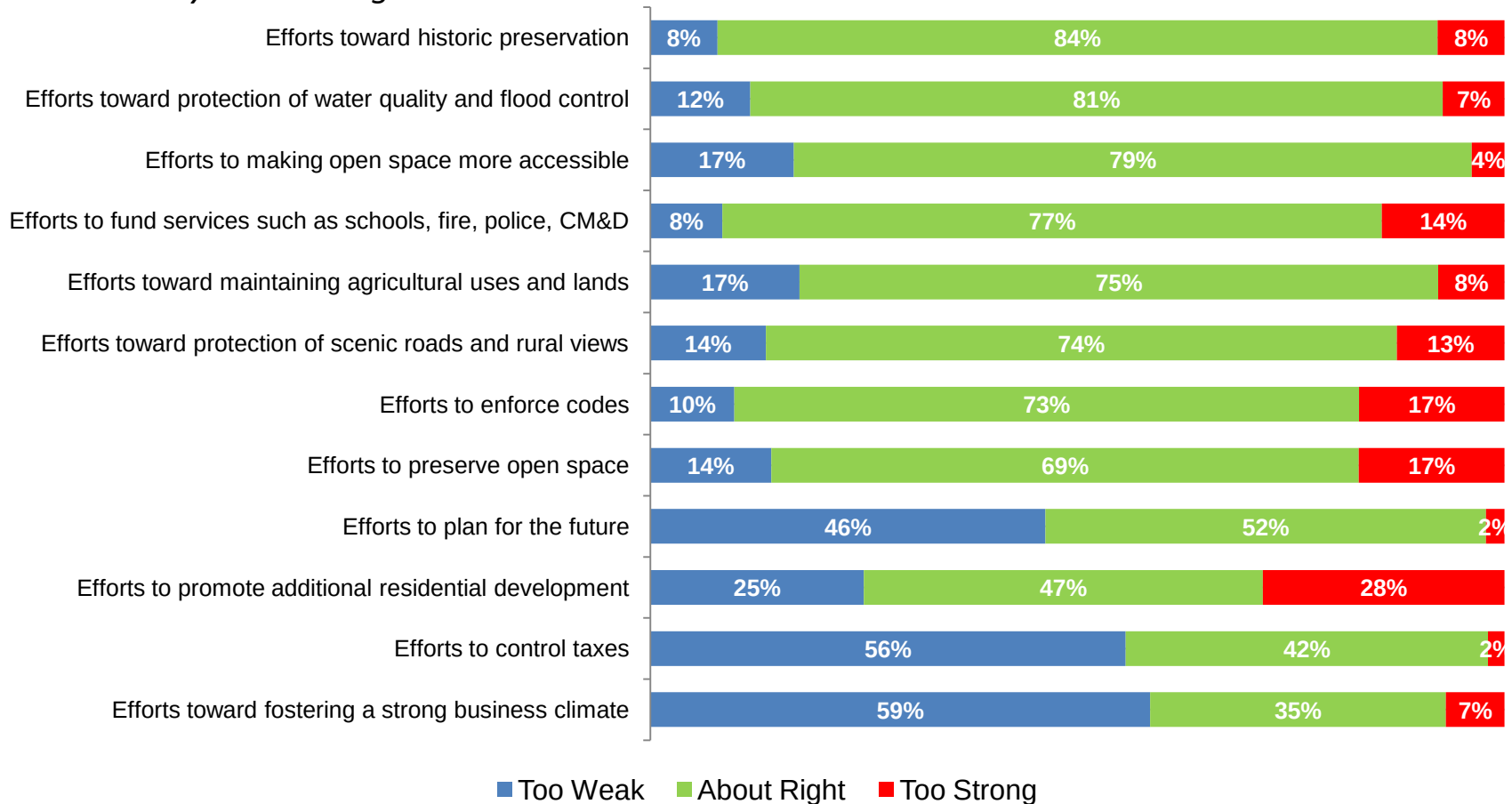
- *55% of residents rate Sherborn “Excellent” as a place to live and only 5% rate it “Fair” or “Poor.” This sentiment is largely unchanged from 1998.*



Ratings of Town Initiatives

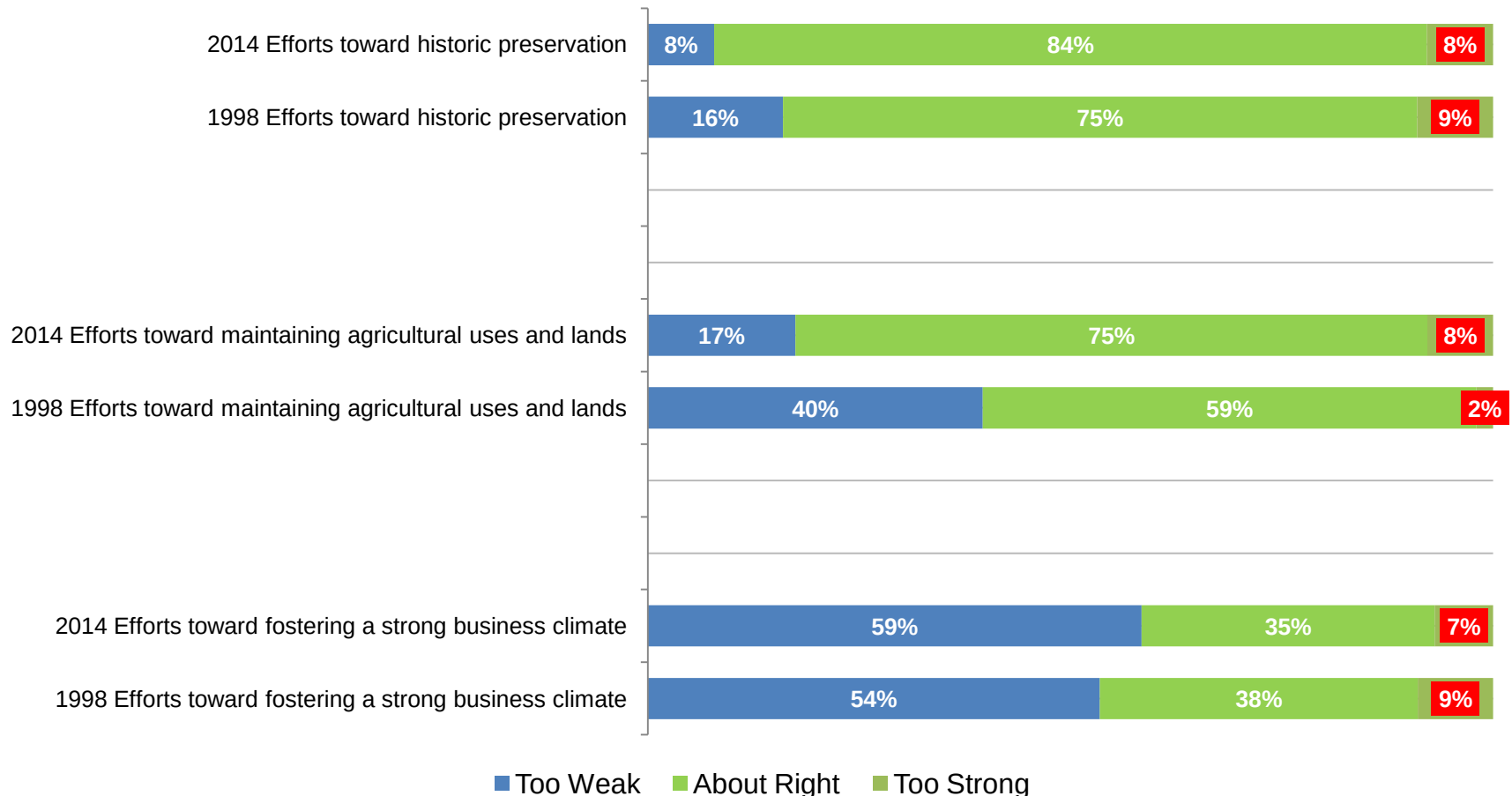
Strength of Efforts 2014

- *Efforts to control taxes, foster a strong business climate and plan for the future are viewed as too weak.*
- *Efforts to promote residential development are most polarizing: some say “too weak” and others say “too strong.”*



Strength of Efforts Trend

- More Sherborn residents feel the town's efforts towards maintaining agriculture are appropriate now than in 1998.*



Preference for Future Policies

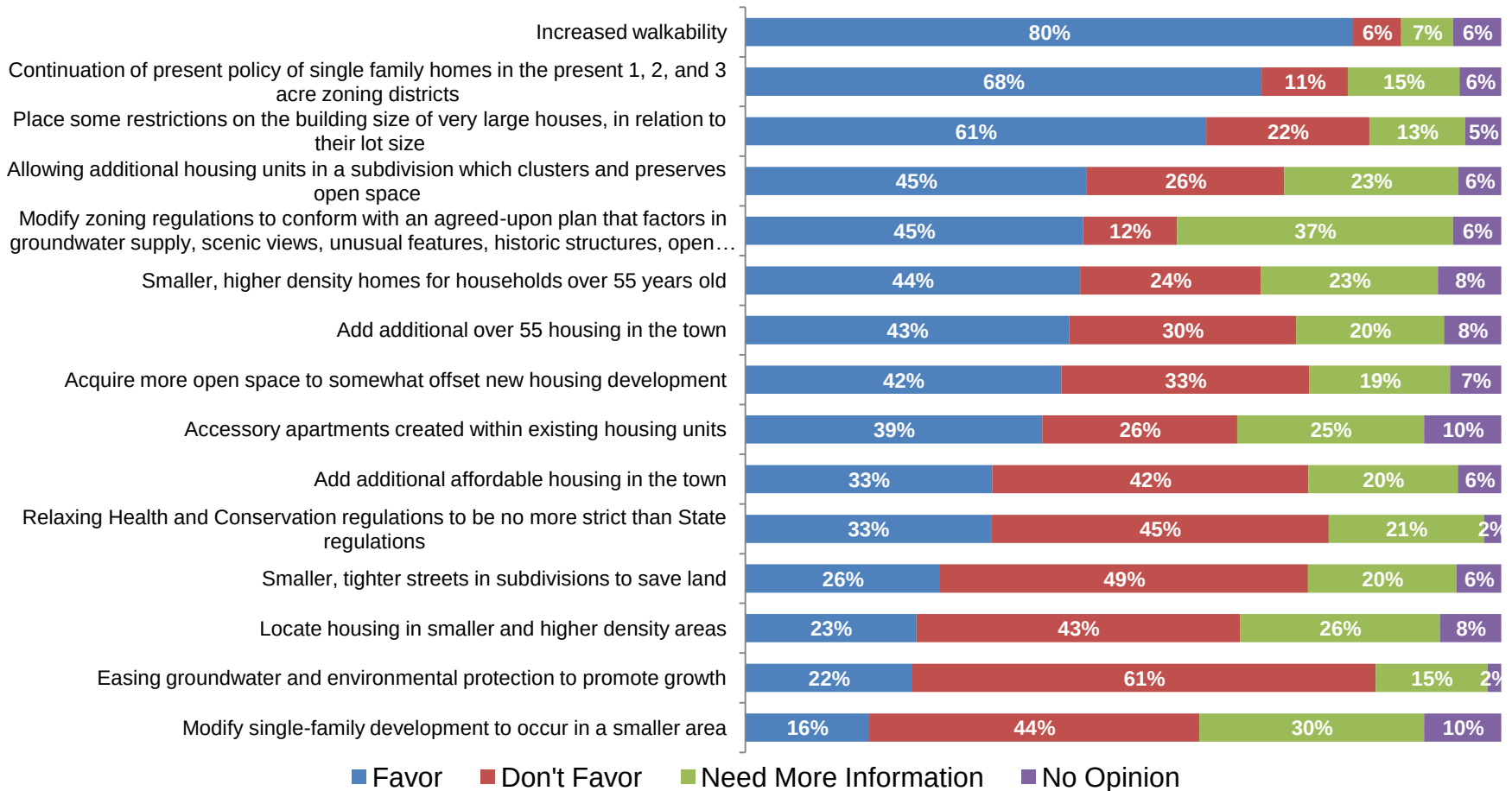
Note: In this section the 2014 Survey added “need more information” and “no opinion” response options to not force a “favor” or “don’t favor” response. We leave the 1998 in but it may not be as accurate reflection of public opinion. 2014 results shown in comparison with 1998 results are shown as % of the “favor” and “don’t favor” responses.

It is worthwhile to note “need more information” responses are opportunities for more research and communication.

Future Policies 2014

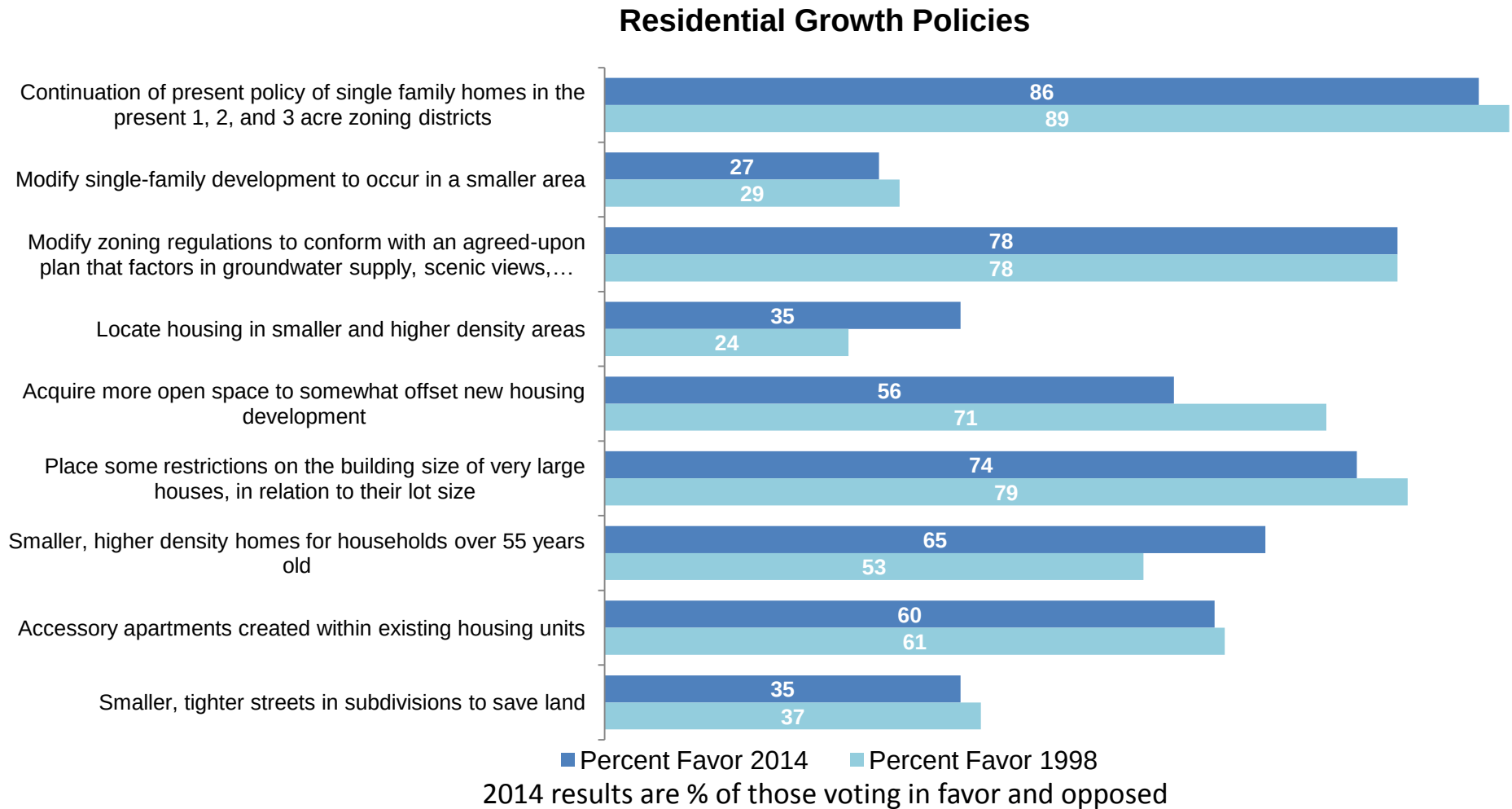
- *There is strong support to continue the present policy of single family home zoning but to place restrictions on house size relative to the lot*
- *Sherborn wants to protect groundwater and the environment. Water is State and Federally controlled and can not be eased by Sherborn. There is some interest in looking at Health and Conservation regulations*
- *Residents are of mixed mind in terms of clustered housing strategies.*

Residential Growth



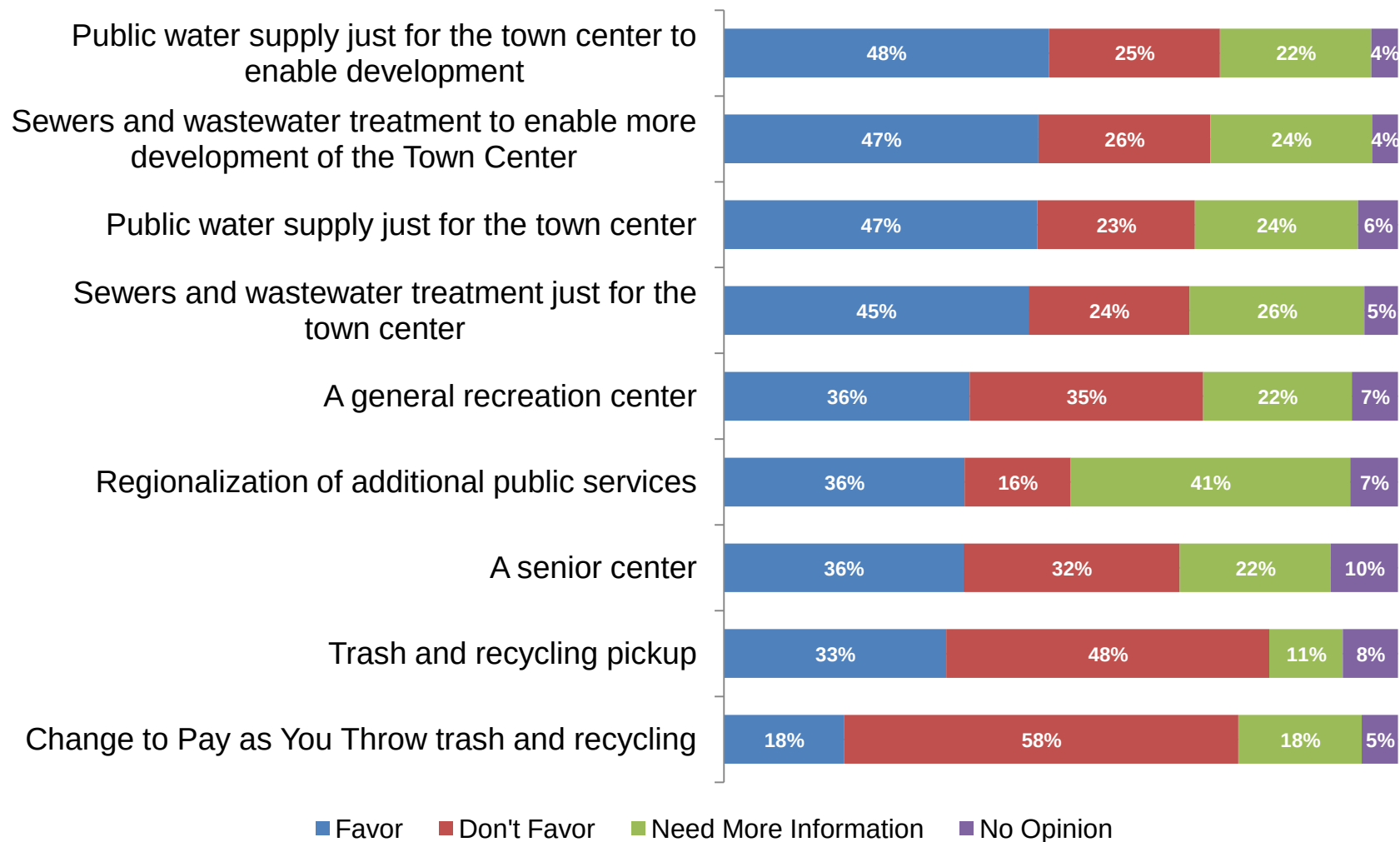
Future Policies Trend

- *Relative to 1998, residents are now more in favor of “locate housing in smaller and higher density areas”*



Future Policies 2014

Town Services and Facilities

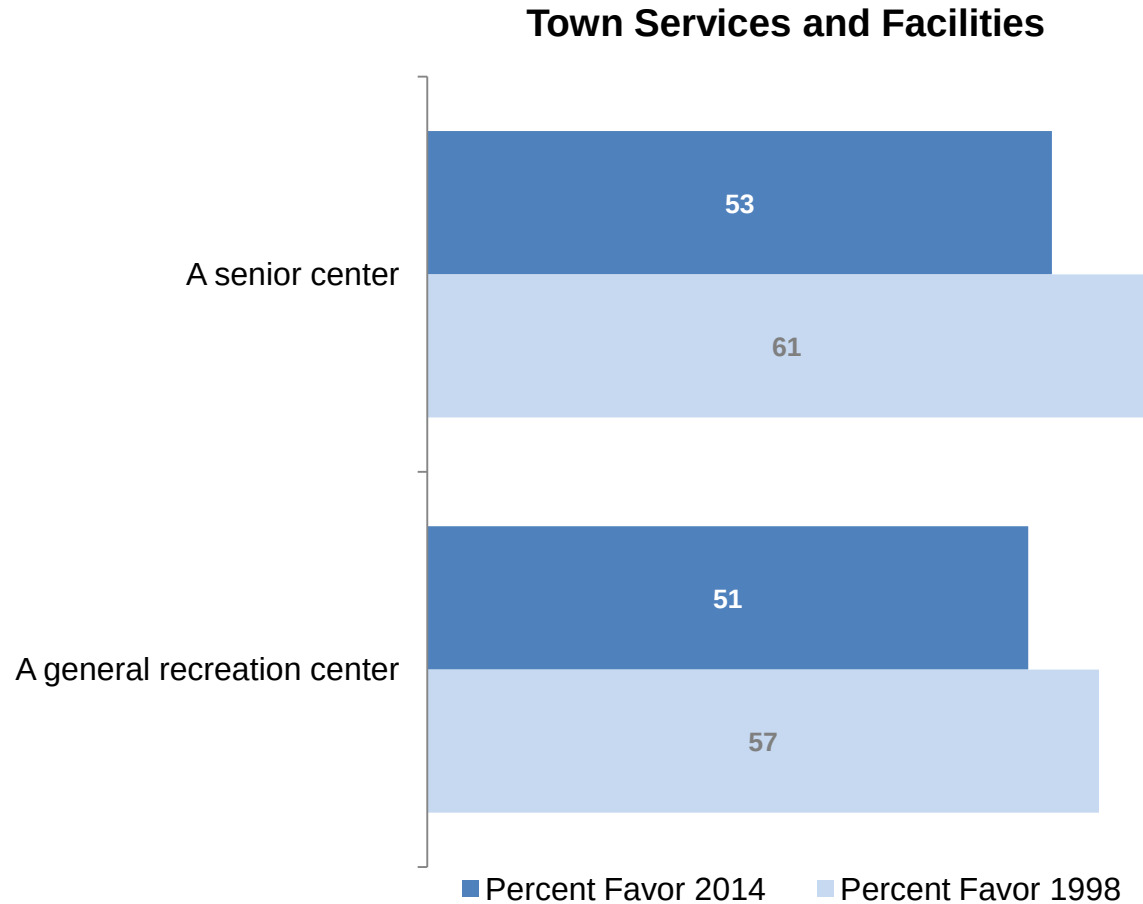


Question 17: What future town services and facilities do you favor?

- There is two-to-one support for public water supply, sewers and wastewater treatment to enable development of the town center.*
- There is strong opposition to both trash/recycling pickup and to “pay as you throw” based on the questions as written.*
- Support for a senior center and a general recreation center, although still positive, is less now than in 1998.*

Future Policies Trend

- *Support for a senior center and a general recreation center, although still positive, is less now than in 1998.*

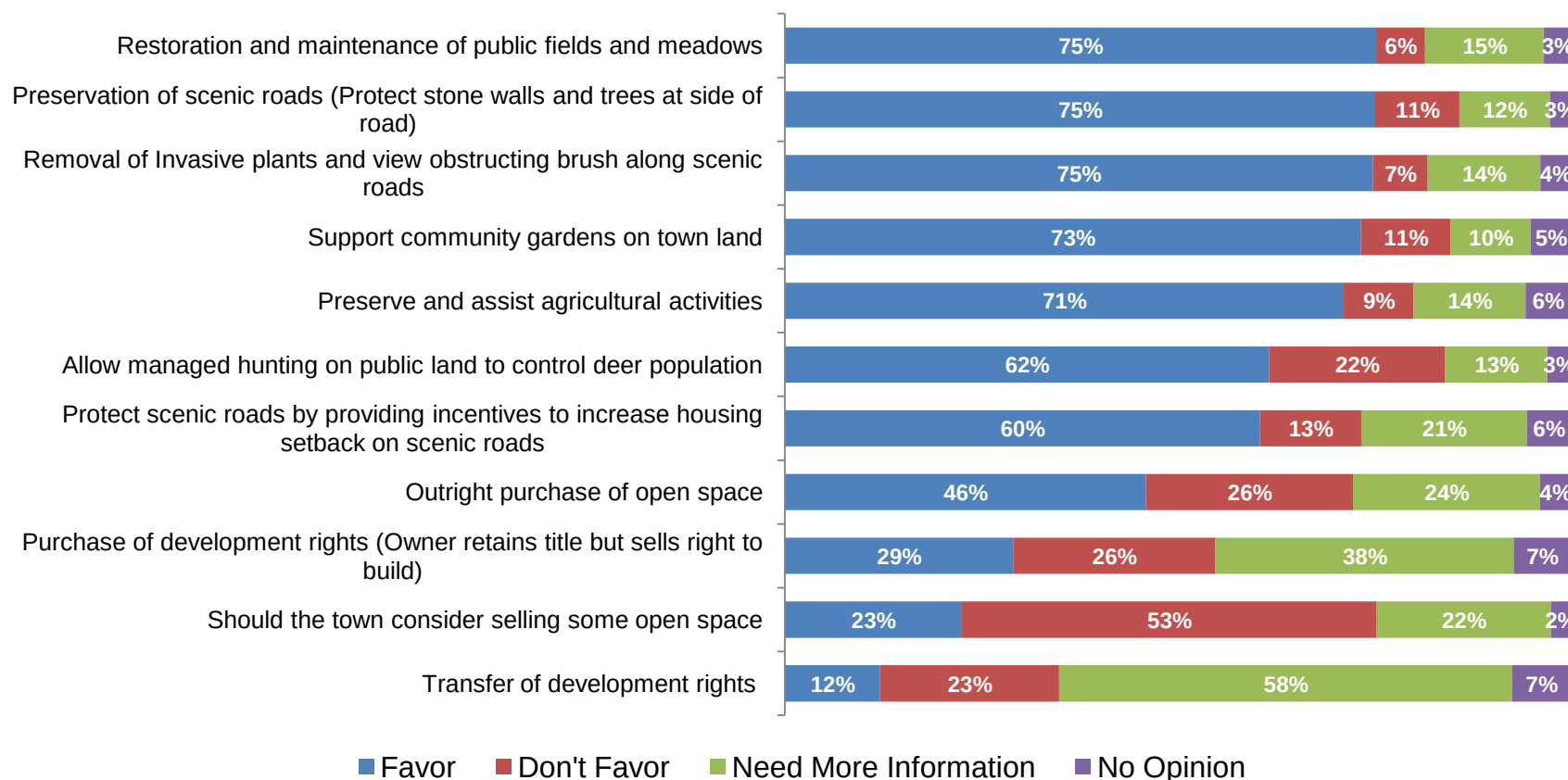


2014 results are % of those voting in favor and opposed

Future Policies 2014

- *There is strong support for almost all initiatives that support Sherborn's rural character.*
- *There is also strong support for managed hunting of deer.*
- *There is opposition to the town selling open space.*
- *Some rural character initiatives require greater explanation.*

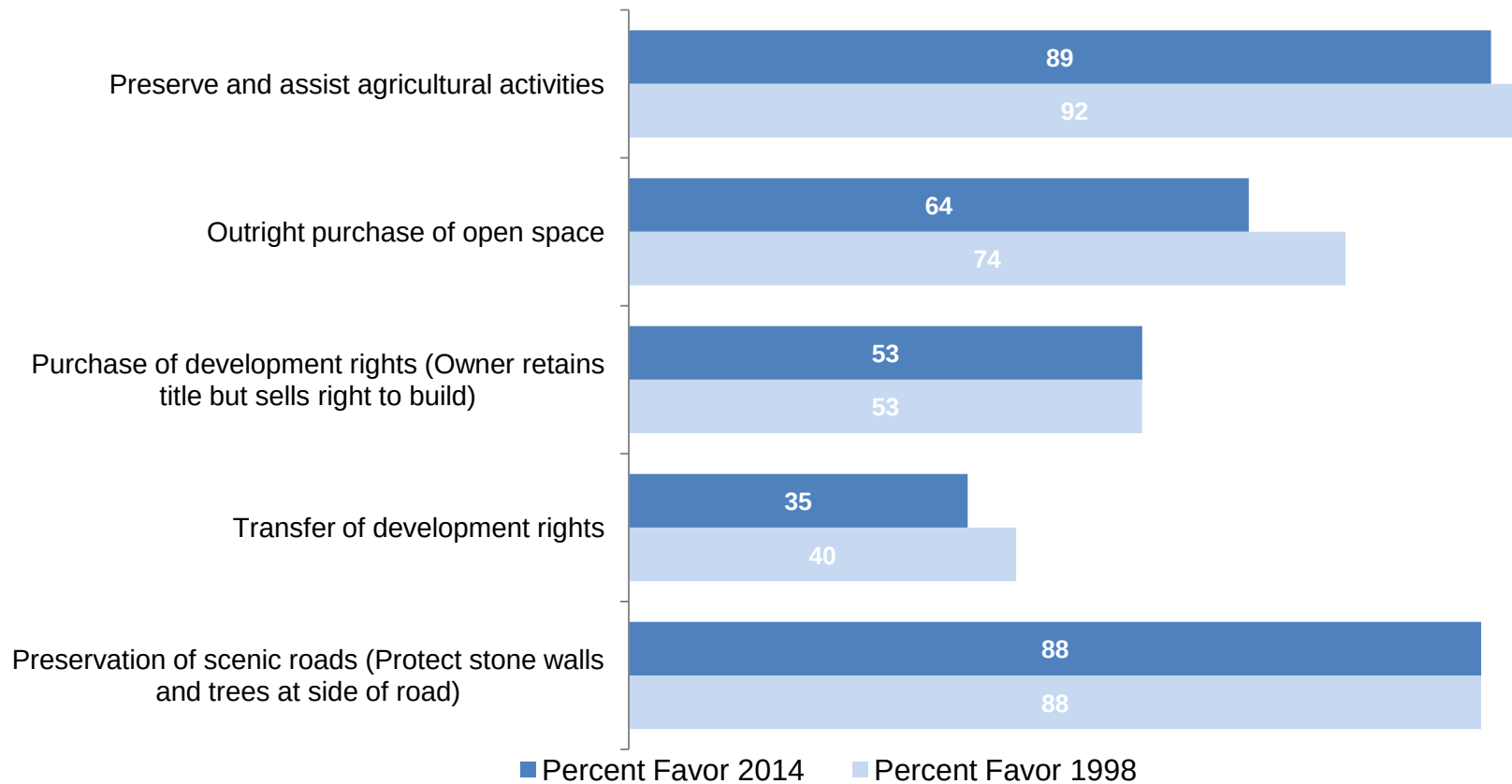
Rural Character Initiatives



Future Policies Trend

- *Support for outright purchase of open space, although still strong, is less now than in 1998.*

Rural Character Initiatives

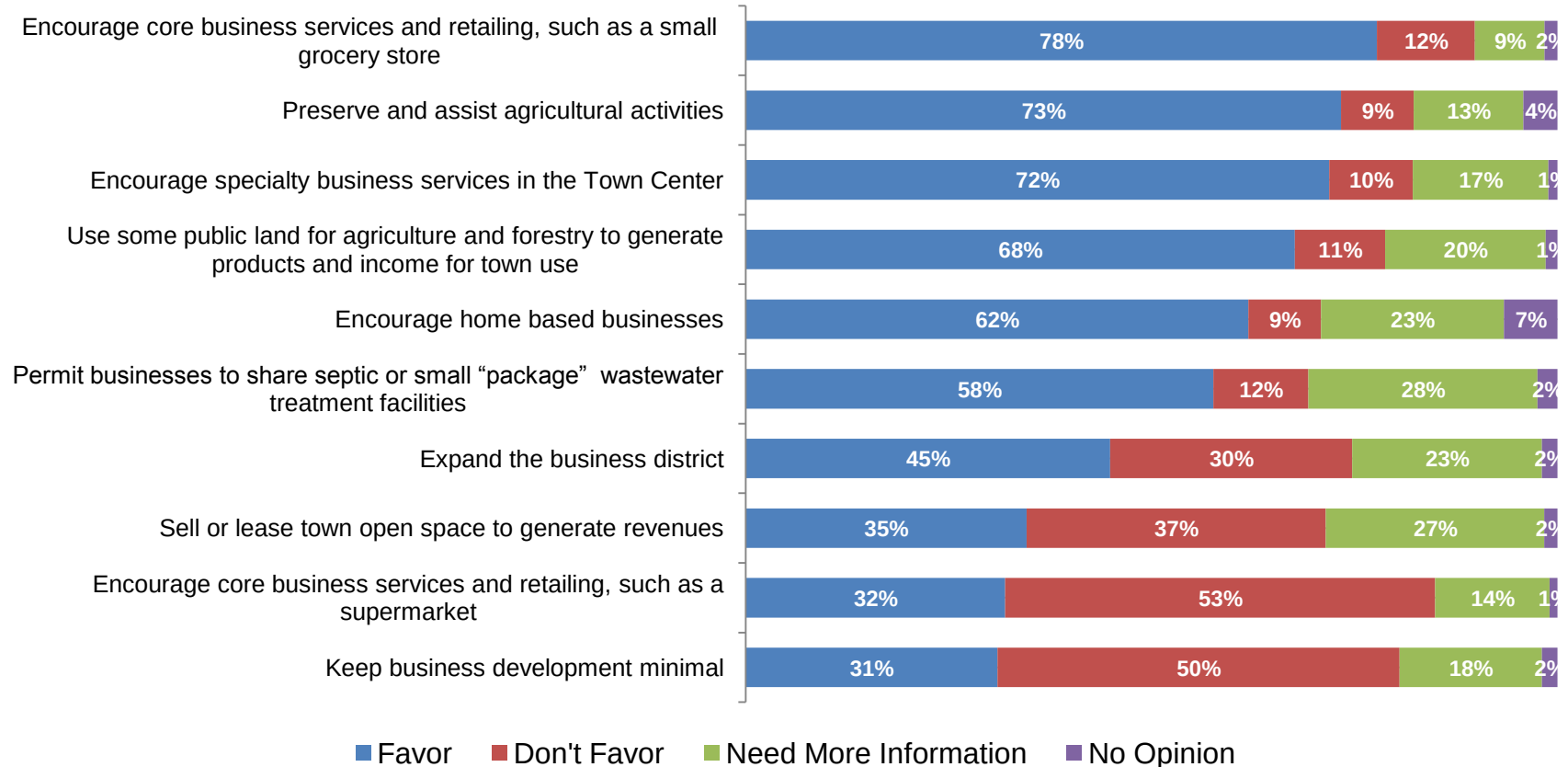


For Comparison to 1998, 2014 results are % of those voting in favor and opposed and not based on total responses

Future Policies 2014

- *There is strong support for a small grocery store but not for a supermarket.*
- *Expanding the business district and selling/leasing town open space have both proponents and opponents.*
- *For many of the Economic Development proposals, residents ask for more information.*

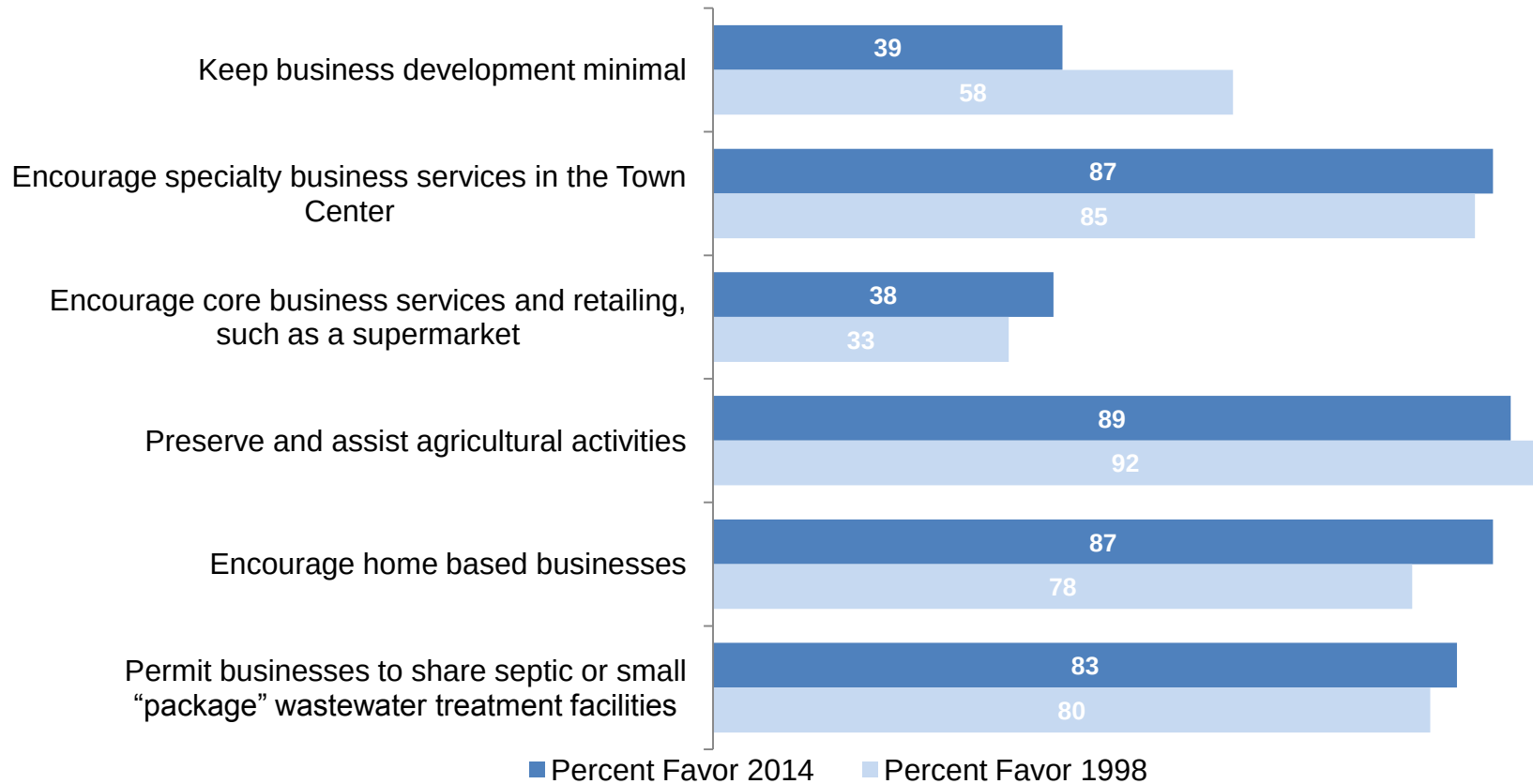
Economic Development Policies



Future Policies Trend

- There is a sharp turnaround in town sentiment with respect to “Keep business development minimal” which was favored in 1998 but now is opposed.*

Economic Development Policies

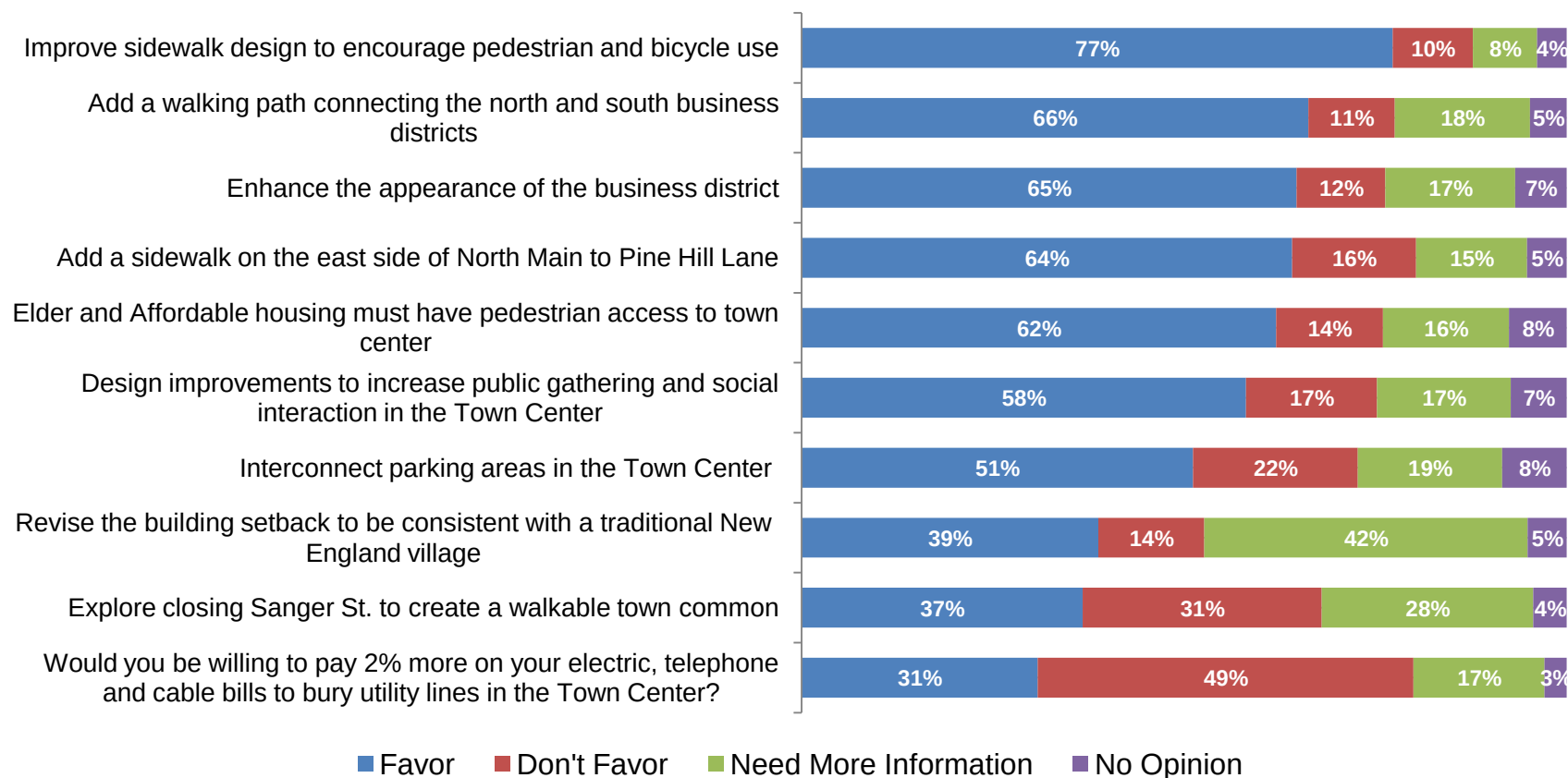


For Comparison to 1998, 2014 results are % of those voting in favor and opposed and not based on total responses

Future Policies 2014

- *There is generally strong support for Town Center Development initiatives except for closing Sanger St. to create a walkable town common which is controversial.*
- *There is more opposition than support to burying town center utility lines at a cost of 2% more on utility bills.*

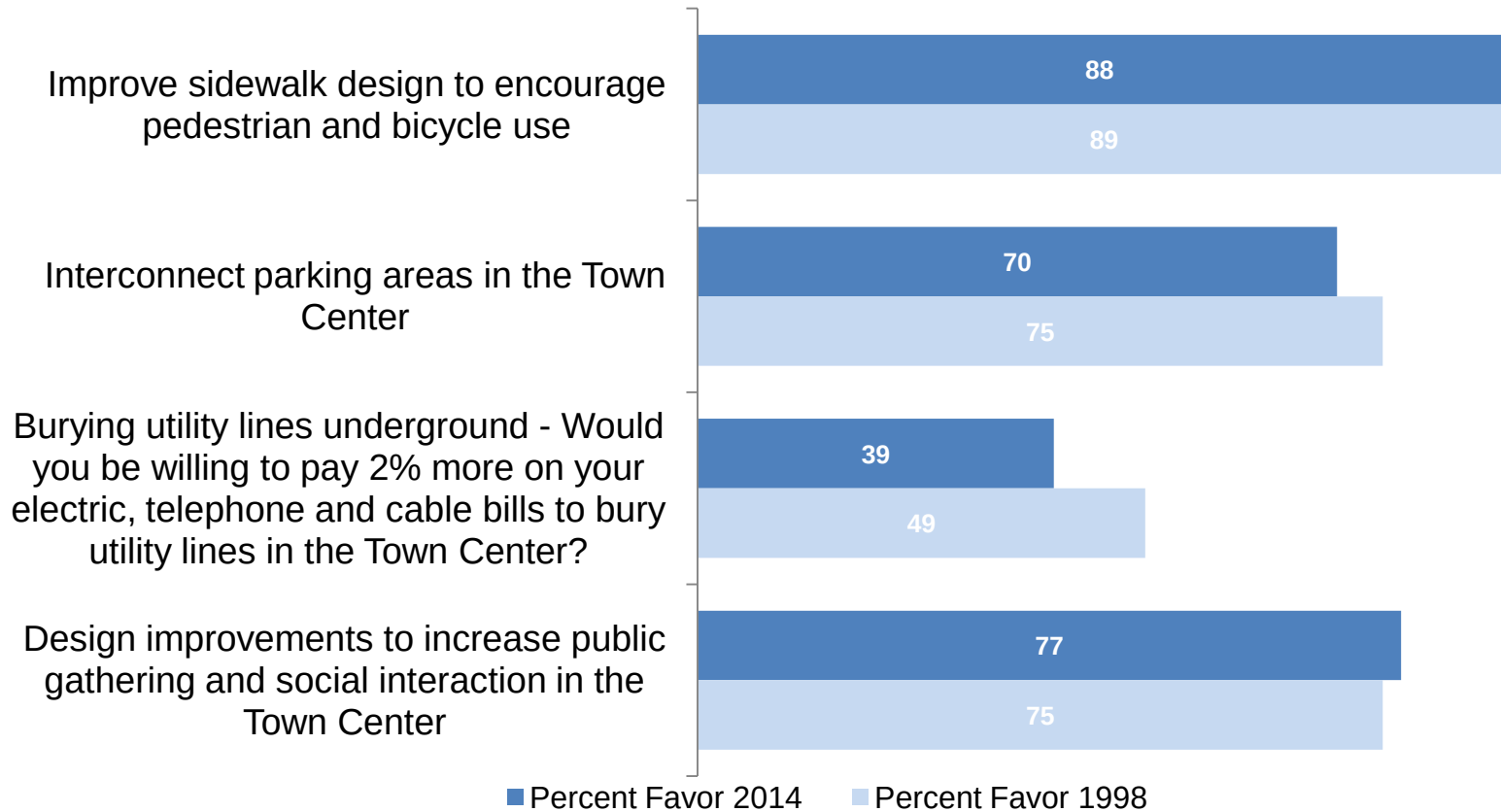
Town Center Development Policies



Future Policies Trend

- *People are in favor of enhancing the Town Center*
- *Support for burying Town Center utility bills and paying for this with a 2% utility bill increase has declined since 1998.*

Town Center Development Policies

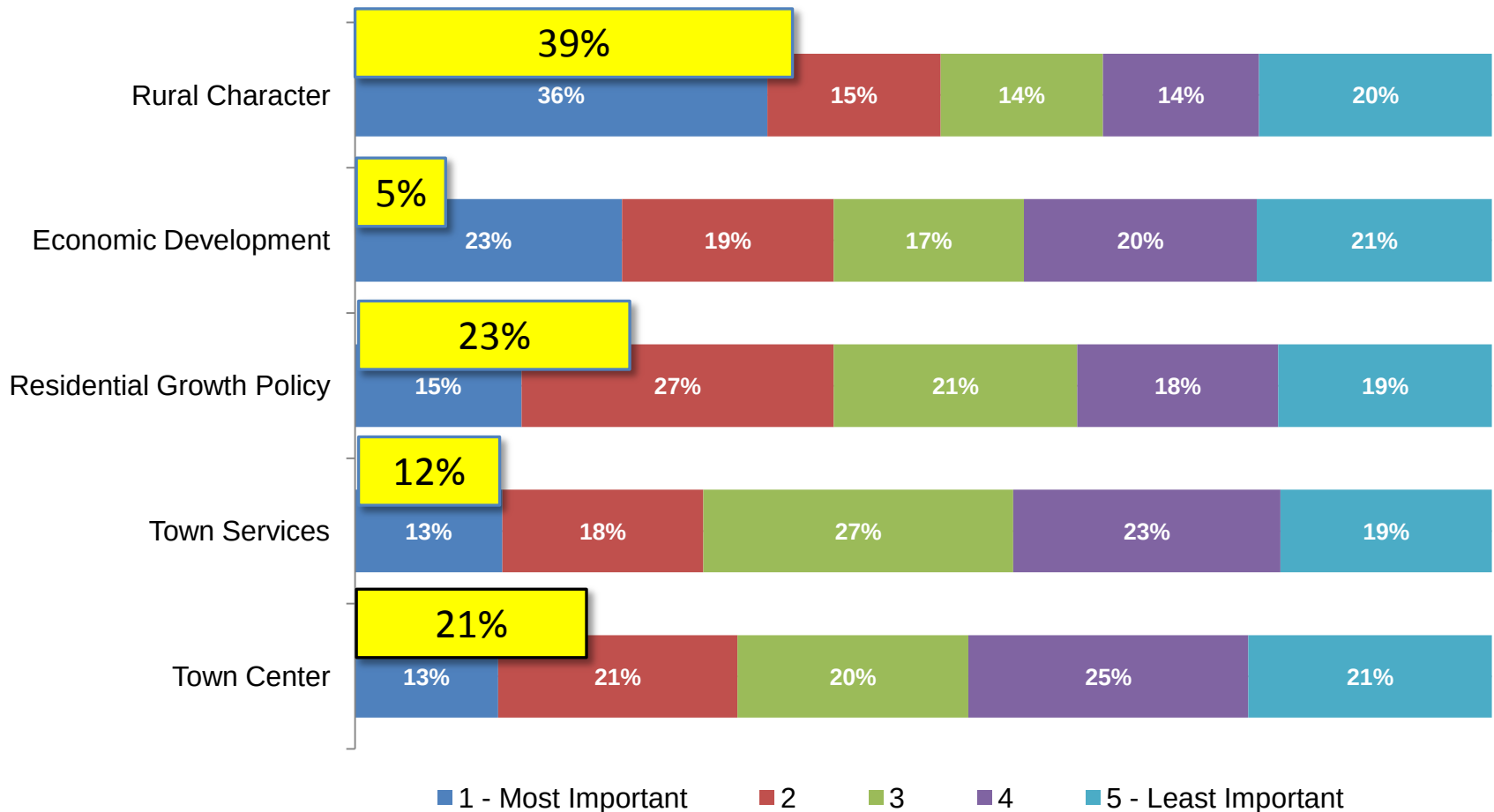


For Comparison to 1998, 2014 results are % of those voting in favor and opposed and not based on total responses

What is Most Important?

Importance of 5 Main Town Goals 2014

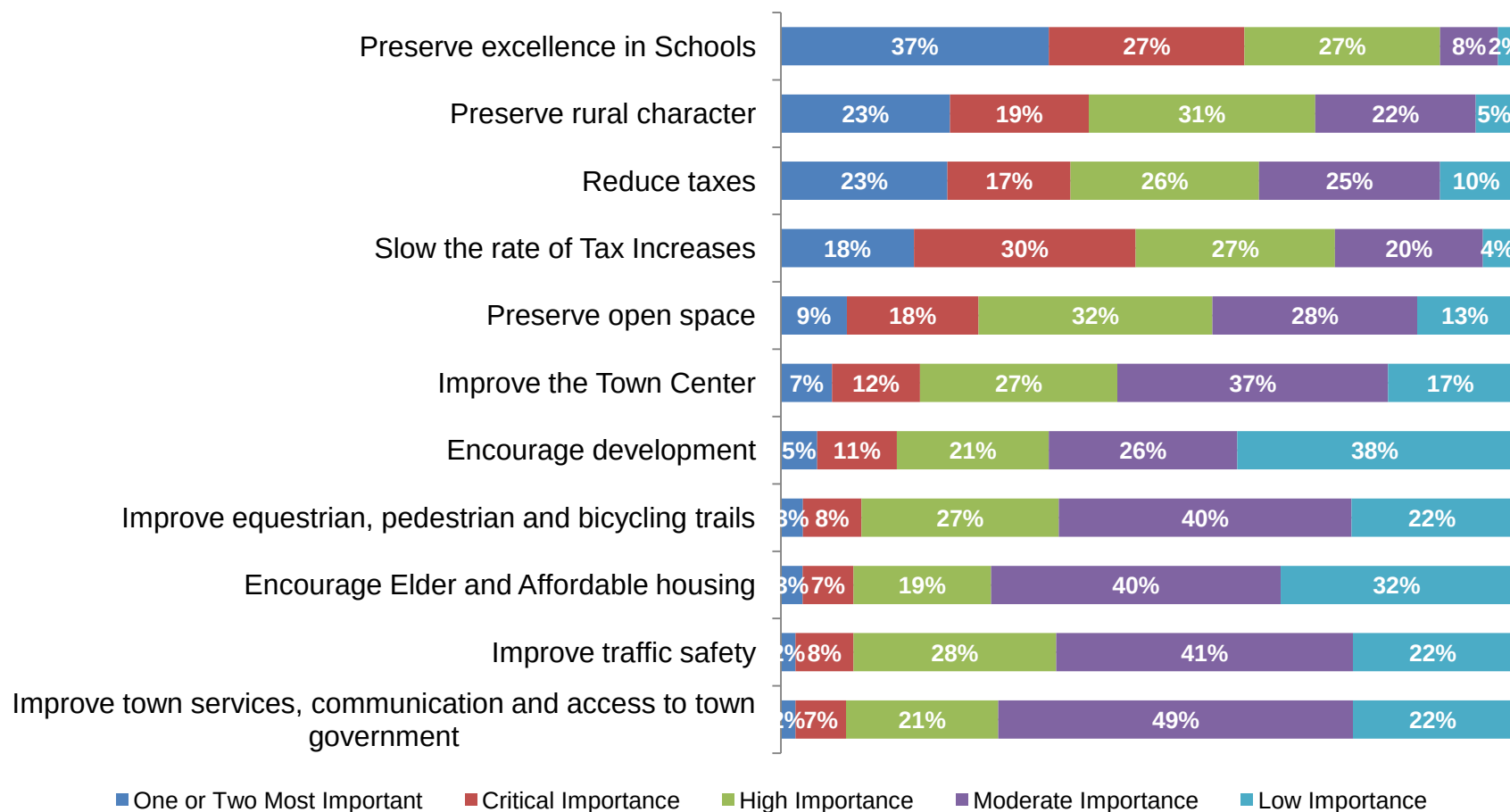
- *Rural Character continues to be the most important town goal.*
- *The importance of Economic Development has grown since 1998, at the expense of Residential Growth and Town Center.*



Most Important in 1998

Suggestions for Future Planning 2014

- *In terms of specific future planning policies, “Preserving excellence in Schools” is rated as most important ahead of second place “Preserve rural character.”*
- *Reducing taxes, or slowing the increase in taxes, is the other leading future planning goal.*



Appendix

Methodology

- A survey was done in 1998 by mailing a four page questionnaire to a random sample of about 600 households (about half of the town population), asking that it be completed and mailed back or dropped off at Town Hall. Returns were received from 234 individuals (39% response).
- For 2014 the goal was to trend some of the questions from 1998 while adding some new questions. The format was preserved to the extent possible. This survey was mailed to all 1,500 Sherborn households.
- As in 1998, individuals could mail back the four page booklet questionnaire with their Census form. Residents were also given the option of completing the survey online (using Surveymonkey.com). There were 74 online responses and 584 paper responses totaling 658 (44% response rate).
- Note that response rates may be slightly overstated since multiple members of a household were allowed to respond. However, these are very acceptable response rates and reflect excellent civic involvement.

Methodology

Changes from 1998 to 2014

- Throughout the survey some individual items were dropped and others added.
- Section headings were added.
- These demographic questions were added: where children go to school, income and “do you plan to stay in Sherborn during retirement?” Specific occupation was dropped.
- For Future Policies, the answer choices of “Need More Information” and “No Opinion” were added. (For trending, these responses were removed from 2014 results.)
- Suggestions for Future Planning (Section 4) was added and the overall land use density question was dropped.
- The three write-in questions from 1998 were reduced to one in 2014.

Methodology

Online versus Paper

- A comparison of the online and paper responses was done. Those responding online were younger, higher income, more often had children and were more often male – this is consistent with general survey experience for these two methodologies.
- Attitudes (satisfaction, importance, preference for policies) among the online respondents also differed from those who responded on paper. However, these attitudes were consistent with the demographic differences (i.e. response patterns of the online respondents matched response patterns of paper respondents who had a similar demographic profile).
- As a result of the above, online responses have been combined with paper responses and analysis has been done using all responses combined.

Methodology

Response Bias

- Although overall response rates are satisfactorily high, there is potential for response bias (those who respond are not demographically identical to the total population of Sherborn). While one might argue that the opinions of those who do not choose to participate in the survey can be reasonably ignored – analogous to someone choosing not to vote in an election – we analyzed the results for potential bias.
- In fact, and of no surprise given general survey experience, older residents are over-represented in the survey: 30% of respondents are 65 or older when the 2012 American Community Survey estimates that 20% of Sherborn residents are in that age group. And while we should have 11% of respondents aged 18 – 29, we have under 1%.
- Other potential areas of response bias either were unable to be measured (no benchmark data), were highly correlated with age (income for example) or showed no significant bias (gender).

Methodology

Response Bias, continued

- To examine the potential consequences of this age based response bias we weighted 5 key answers in “Suggestions for Future Planning” to correctly mirror the distribution of residents aged 30+ (we could not include residents aged 18-29 since there were only 2 actual responses).

Measure	Unweighted Percent “Top Two Box”	Weighted Percent “Top Two Box”
Preserve rural character	42%	43%
Preserve excellence in schools	64%	66%
Slow the rate of tax increases	48%	47%
Encourage development	16%	16%
Encourage Elder and Affordable housing	10%	8%

- Based on the similarity of weighted and unweighted responses it was decided to present unweighted results.

SHERBORN RESIDENTS SURVEY

This survey by the Sherborn Planning Board is to gauge residents' opinions about various issues relating to the Town and its future. Please take 15 minutes to complete and return this form or take this survey on line at the web site shown below. Your response will be of great assistance in ongoing effort to develop a general plan for the Town and to guide future Town policies and proposals. All results are confidential and anonymous. Individuals are never identified.

We encourage every adult resident to complete the survey. If you would like an extra paper copy please contact the Town Planner. Please return your completed survey in the census envelope, mail it to the address at the end of the survey or take the survey on-line by January 31, 2014 at www.sherbornsurvey.org.

Thank you for your cooperation.

SECTION 1. *Perceptions and Opinions about Sherborn, its Government, Facilities, and Services*

(For all questions, a blank response indicates you have insufficient information or no opinion.)

1. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the items listed below.

Please use the following rating codes. 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor.

Services and Facilities

- A _____ Town Office Services
- B _____ Public School System
- C _____ Library
- D _____ Police Protection
- E _____ Fire Protection
- F _____ Local Zoning
- G _____ Strictness of Code Enforcement
- H _____ Fairness of Local Taxes
- I _____ Town Web Site
- J _____ Highway Department (CM&D)
- K _____ Transfer Station
- L _____ Cable TV
- M _____ Cell service at home
- N _____ Cell service town wide
- O _____ Electrical Service Reliability
- P _____ Efforts at Green Energy

Open Space and Recreation

- Q _____ Number of Recreational Facilities
- R _____ Type (Mix) of Recreational Facilities
- S _____ Condition of Recreational Facilities
- T _____ Amount of Open Space Protected
- U _____ Appropriate Use of Open Space
- V _____ Horse Trails

- W _____ Walking Trails
- X _____ Farm Pond
- Y _____ Maintenance of conservation land

Parking and Transportation

- Z _____ Off-Street Parking
- AA _____ On-Street Parking
- BB _____ Town Roads
- CC _____ Intersection Control
- DD _____ Sidewalks and Crosswalks
- EE _____ Pedestrian Amenities such as
Trees, Benches, Planters,
etc..
- FF _____ Bike Paths
- GG _____ Public Transportation
- HH _____ Road Plowing & Maintenance

Town Center

- II _____ Goods & Services Available
- JJ _____ Overall Design
- KK _____ Building Setbacks
- LL _____ Traffic Circulation
- MM _____ Walkability in town center
- NN _____ Trails and bike paths to center

2. Do you feel overall efforts in the following are?	Too Weak	About Right	Too Strong
Efforts to preserve open space	☐	☐	☐
Efforts to making open space more accessible	☐	☐	☐
Efforts toward historic preservation	☐	☐	☐
Efforts toward protection of water quality and flood control	☐	☐	☐
Efforts toward protection of scenic roads and rural views	☐	☐	☐
Efforts toward maintaining agricultural uses and lands	☐	☐	☐
Efforts toward fostering a strong business climate	☐	☐	☐
Efforts to promote additional residential development	☐	☐	☐
Efforts to enforce codes	☐	☐	☐
Efforts to control taxes	☐	☐	☐
Efforts to fund services such as schools, fire, police, CM&D	☐	☐	☐
Efforts to plan for the future	☐	☐	☐

Please See Other Side

3. Please rate Sherborn as a place to live. (Please circle one)

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

SECTION 2. Socio-Economic Information

4. How many years have you lived in Sherborn? _____

5. Do you own or rent your residence?

☐ Own ☐ Rent

6. How many people live in your home? _____

7. Do you have school age children (K-12)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Your school age children go to ☐ Public school ☐ Private school ☐ Home school

9. Have you participated in Sherborn Town Government? (For example on committees or as a volunteer)

☐ Yes ☐ No

10. How many Sherborn Annual Town Meetings have you attended in the last 5 years? _____

11. What is your annual household income?

☐ Under \$50,000 ☐ \$50,000 to \$100,000 ☐ \$101,000 to \$200,000 ☐ \$201,000 to \$300,000 ☐ over \$300,000

12. Please mark your age category.

☐ 18-29 ☐ 30-44 ☐ 45-64 ☐ 65 and older

13. Your gender is?

☐ Male ☐ Female

14. Where do you work? ☐ In/from my home

☐ Boston/Cambridge ☐ Sherborn ☐ Other

☐ do not currently work ☐ Retired

Do you use public transportation to get to work?

☐ Yes ☐ No

15. Do you plan to stay in Sherborn during retirement? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

SECTION 3. Future Policies

16. What residential growth policies do you favor for the town?	Favor	Don't Favor	Need More Information	No Opinion
Continuation of present policy of single family homes in the present 1, 2, and 3 acre zoning districts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Modify single-family development to occur in a smaller area	☐	☐	☐	☐
Modify zoning regulations to conform with an agreed-upon plan that factors in groundwater supply, scenic views, unusual features, historic structures, open space and recreation	☐	☐	☐	☐
Locate housing in smaller and higher density areas	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add additional affordable housing in the town	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add additional over 55 housing in the town	☐	☐	☐	☐
Acquire more open space to somewhat offset new housing development	☐	☐	☐	☐
Place some restrictions on the building size of very large houses, in relation to their lot size	☐	☐	☐	☐
Smaller, higher density homes for households over 55 years old	☐	☐	☐	☐
Accessory apartments created within existing housing units	☐	☐	☐	☐
Smaller, tighter streets in subdivisions to save land	☐	☐	☐	☐
Increased walkability	☐	☐	☐	☐
Allowing additional housing units in a subdivision which clusters and preserves open space	☐	☐	☐	☐
Easing groundwater and environmental protection to promote growth	☐	☐	☐	☐
Relaxing Health and Conservation regulations to be no more strict than State regulations	☐	☐	☐	☐

17. What future town services and facilities do you favor?	Favor	Don't Favor	Need More Information	No Opinion
Public water supply just for the town center	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public water supply just for the town center to enable development	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sewers and wastewater treatment just for the town center	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sewers and wastewater treatment to enable more development of the Town Center	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trash and recycling pickup	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change to Pay as You Throw trash and recycling	☐	☐	☐	☐
A senior center	☐	☐	☐	☐
A general recreation center	☐	☐	☐	☐
Regionalization of additional public services	☐	☐	☐	☐

18. What rural character initiatives do you favor?	Favor	Don't Favor	Need More Information	No Opinion
Preserve and assist agricultural activities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outright purchase of open space	☐	☐	☐	☐
Purchase of development rights (Owner retains title but sells right to build)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Should the town consider selling some open space	☐	☐	☐	☐
Transfer of development rights	☐	☐	☐	☐
Preservation of scenic roads (Protect stone walls and trees at side of road)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Protect scenic roads by providing incentives to increase housing setback on scenic roads	☐	☐	☐	☐
Removal of Invasive plants and view obstructing brush along scenic roads	☐	☐	☐	☐
Restoration and maintenance of public fields and meadows	☐	☐	☐	☐
Support community gardens on town land	☐	☐	☐	☐
Allow managed hunting on public land to control deer population	☐	☐	☐	☐

19. What economic development policies do you favor for the town?	Favor	Don't Favor	Need More Information	No Opinion
Keep business development minimal	☐	☐	☐	☐
Encourage specialty business services in the Town Center	☐	☐	☐	☐
Encourage core business services and retailing, such as a small grocery store	☐	☐	☐	☐
Encourage core business services and retailing, such as a supermarket	☐	☐	☐	☐
Preserve and assist agricultural activities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Use some public land for agriculture and forestry to generate products and income for town use	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sell or lease town open space to generate revenues	☐	☐	☐	☐
Encourage home based businesses	☐	☐	☐	☐
Permit businesses to share septic or small "package" wastewater treatment facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Expand the business district	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please See Other Side

20. What Town Center development policies do you favor?	Favor	Don't Favor	Need More Information	No Opinion
Improve sidewalk design to encourage pedestrian and bicycle use	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interconnect parking areas in the Town Center	☐	☐	☐	☐
Enhance the appearance of the business district	☐	☐	☐	☐
Burying utility lines underground - Would you be willing to pay 2% more on your electric, telephone and cable bills to bury utility lines in the Town Center?	☐	☐	☐	☐
Design improvements to increase public gathering and social interaction in the Town Center	☐	☐	☐	☐
Explore closing Sanger St. to create a walkable town common	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add a walking path connecting the north and south business districts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add a sidewalk on the east side of North Main to Pine Hill Lane	☐	☐	☐	☐
Elder and Affordable housing must have pedestrian access to town center	☐	☐	☐	☐
Revise the building setback to be consistent with a traditional New England village	☐	☐	☐	☐

21. You have just addressed the following five topics.

Rank in importance where 1 is most important and 5 is least important

Residential Growth Policy _____ Economic Development _____
 Rural Character _____ Town Center _____
 Town Services _____

SECTION 4. Suggestions for Future Planning

22. Thinking ahead over the next 15 years, please rate the importance to Sherborn	Low Importance	Moderate Importance	High Importance	Critical Importance	One or Two Most Important
Preserve rural character	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Preserve excellence in Schools	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reduce taxes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improve the Town Center	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Slow the rate of Tax Increases	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improve traffic safety	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improve equestrian, pedestrian and bicycling trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Preserve open space	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Encourage development	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Encourage Elder and Affordable housing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improve town services, communication and access to town government	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

23. Are there any issues or concerns you may have regarding Sherborn this survey has not covered, or you would like to share with us? (Use additional space if necessary)

Your help and cooperation in providing needed information for this effort is greatly appreciated. Please complete the survey on line or return your completed survey with your census in the enclosed envelope to:

Town of Sherborn
 19 Washington Street
 Sherborn, MA 01770

SHERBORN RESIDENTS SURVEY

You have been randomly selected to receive this survey, which was designed by a consultant and the Sherborn Planning Board to gauge residents' opinions about various issues relating to the Town and its future. Please take 15 minutes to complete and return this form. Your response will be of great assistance in ongoing effort to develop a general plan for the Town and to guide future Town policies and proposals. All results are confidential and anonymous. Individuals are never identified. Please return the survey in the enclosed envelope.
Thank you for your cooperation.

Perceptions and Opinions about Sherborn, its Government, Facilities, and Services

(For all questions, a blank response indicates you have insufficient information or no opinion.)

1. Please rate the following factors and conditions listed below.

Please use the following rating codes: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor.

Government Services and Facilities

- A. Town Office Staff
- B. Public School System
- C. Police Protection
- D. Fire Protection
- E. Local Zoning
- F. Strictness of Code Enforcement
- G. Fairness of Local Taxes

Open Space and Recreation

- Q. Number of Recreational Facilities
- R. Amount of Open Space Protected
- S. Appropriate Use of Open Space
- T. Type (Mix) of Recreational Facilities
- U. Condition of Recreational Facilities
- V. Horse Trails
- W. Farm Pond

Parking and Transportation

- H. Off-Street Parking
- I. On-Street Parking
- J. Town Roads
- K. Intersection Control
- L. Sidewalks
- M. Pedestrian Amenities such as Trees, Benches, Planters, etc.
- N. Bike Paths
- O. Public Transportation
- P. Road Plowing & Maintenance

Town Center

- X. Goods & Services Available
- Y. Overall Design
- Z. Building Setbacks
- AA. Traffic Circulation

BB. Other: Please Specify _____

2. Do you feel overall efforts in the following are?

- | | Too weak | About right | Too strong |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Efforts toward historic preservation | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Efforts toward protection of wetlands | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Efforts toward protection of flood plains | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Efforts toward protection of scenic roads | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Efforts toward protection of rural scenic views | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Efforts toward maintaining agricultural uses and lands | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Efforts toward fostering a strong business climate | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

3. Please rate Sherborn as a place to live. (Please circle one)

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

Socio-Economic Information

4. How many years have you lived in Sherborn? _____

5. Do you own or rent your residence?

☐ Own ☐ Rent

6. How many people live in your home? _____

7. Do you have school age children?

☐ Own ☐ Rent

8. Have you participated in Town Government? (For example on committees or as a volunteer)

☐ Yes ☐ No

9. How many Annual Town Meetings have you attended in the last 5 years? (Please circle one)

1 2 3 4 5

Please See Other Side

1998 Survey

10. Please mark your age category. ☐ 18-30 ☐ 31-45 ☐ 46-65 ☐ 66 and older

11. Your gender is? ☐ Male ☐ Female

12. Do you work in: ☐ Boston/Cambridge ☐ Sherborn ☐ Other
Do you use public transportation to get to work? ☐ Yes ☐ No

13. Please list your occupation _____

Future Policies

14. What residential growth policies do you favor for the town? Favor Don't Favor

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Continuation of present policy of single family homes in the present 1, 2, and 3 acre zoning districts | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Modify single-family development to encourage more variety | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Modify single-family development to occur in a smaller area | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Modify zoning regulations to conform with an agreed-upon plan that factors in groundwater supply, scenic views, unusual features, historic structures, open space and recreation | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Locate housing in smaller and higher density areas | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Add additional affordable housing and elderly housing in the town | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Acquire more open space to somewhat offset new housing development | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Place some restrictions on the building size of very large houses, in relation to their lot size | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Smaller, higher density homes for households over 55 years old | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Accessory apartments created within existing housing units | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Variable height limits that require lower heights close to lot lines | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Smaller tighter streets in subdivisions to save land | ☐ | ☐ |

15. What future town services and facilities do you favor? Favor Don't Favor

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Public water supply for a portion of the town where water quality is unacceptable and reliance on private wells for the remainder of the town | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Public water supply for all homes, even if this results in pressures for higher densities than current zoning | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Sewers and wastewater treatment | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Trash pickup | ☐ | ☐ |
| • A senior center | ☐ | ☐ |
| • A teen center | ☐ | ☐ |
| • A general recreation center | ☐ | ☐ |
| • A second elementary school | ☐ | ☐ |

16. What rural character initiatives do you favor? Favor Don't Favor

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Preserve and assist agricultural activities | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Outright purchase of open space | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Purchase of development rights (Owner retains title but sells right to build.) | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Transfer of development rights | ☐ | ☐ |
| • Preservation of scenic roads (Protect stone walls and trees at side of road.) | ☐ | ☐ |

17. What economic development policies do you favor for the town?

	Favor	Don't Favor
• Keep business development minimal	☐	☐
• Encourage establishment of specialty business services in the Town Center	☐	☐
• Encourage establishment of core business services and retailing, such as a supermarket	☐	☐
• Preserve and assist agricultural activities	☐	☐
• Encourage home based businesses	☐	☐
• Create more business centers	☐	☐
• Permit businesses to share septic or small "package" wastewater treatment facilities	☐	☐
• Other		
Please specify _____		

18. What Town Center development policies do you favor?

	Favor	Don't Favor
• Improve sidewalk design to encourage pedestrian and bicycle use	☐	☐
• Interconnect parking areas in the Town Center	☐	☐
• Burying utility lines underground		
Would you be willing to pay 2% more on your electric, telephone and cable Bills to bury utility lines in the Town Center?	☐	☐
• Design improvements to increase public gathering and social interaction in the Town Center	☐	☐
• Other		
Please specify _____		

19. You have just addressed the following five topics.

Realizing they are all important, please rank them in order of importance from 1 to 5, Choosing only one number for each topic

	most important			least important	
	1	2	3	4	5
Residential Growth Policy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Town Services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rural Character	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Economic Development	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Town Center	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

20. Do you feel overall land use densities in town are:

☐ About right
 ☐ Too dense
 ☐ Not dense enough

1998 Survey

Suggestions for Future Planning

21. What are your preferences for future acquisition of open space in town?

22. What is the one main issue facing the Town of Sherborn right now?

23. Are there any issue or concerns you may have regarding Sherborn this survey has not covered, or you would like to share with us? (Use additional space if necessary)

Your help and cooperation in providing needed information
For this effort is greatly appreciated.
Please return your completed survey, in the enclosed envelop, to:

Sherborn Planning Board
P.O. Box 186
Sherborn, MA 01770

Q28 Are there any issues or concerns you may have regarding Sherborn that this survey has not covered, or you would like to share with us?

Answered: 211 Skipped: 447

#	Responses	Date
1	Slow increase in taxes-Town is scaring away young families (even w/ the good schools). Older people are moving out as soon as children are out of High School. We are in this category!	3/27/2014 11:15 AM
2	The town's image would be greatly enhanced by getting rid of derelict and abandoned properties	3/27/2014 11:09 AM
3	Find volunteers to contribute local news articles to post on the town web site. Newspapers have collapsed over the last 20 years	3/27/2014 11:04 AM
4	It's too late to rectify most of these issues. Sherborn is too deep. Sorry to see it sink.	3/27/2014 10:25 AM
5	Common rt 16+27 stretch make 3 lane, w center lane a turn lane, NE flow 0700-0900, SW flow 1500-1800	3/27/2014 9:51 AM
6	We are opposed to why and how the gravel roadway behind Pine Hill school was built and we do not want it to be developed into a road for the Pine Hill traffic flow.	3/27/2014 9:19 AM
7	Tennis courts are in awful condition. Embarrassing and not how we want Sherborn represented. Town center visual appearance can be easily improved: lose the new awful banners that look like they belong in Sherwood Plaza Strip Mall and develop better, more quaint signage regulations. Who approved the sniff dog in rear sign-that is embarrassing.	3/27/2014 9:07 AM
8	Lessen the control of the Conservation Committee	3/27/2014 8:39 AM
9	would very much like to (retire in Sherborn)	3/27/2014 8:32 AM
10	I'm really bothered by section 1's lack of NA option. If you don't have experience in the areas questioned you should not be forced into a rating and it doesn't say "leave blank". If you don't have kids in the schools how can you possibly rate your level of satisfaction, for example? I would question drawing any conclusions from this section.	3/27/2014 8:14 AM
11	more public transportation	3/27/2014 7:41 AM
12	Concern: Demolishing existing historical house without a clear plan or use intended	3/25/2014 5:29 PM
13	The property taxes are extremely prohibitive. I would like to (retire in Sherborn) but can not see myself being able to afford the taxes	3/25/2014 5:24 PM
14	Need to improve town center, need more restaurant. Need coffee shop like Starbucks.	3/25/2014 5:16 PM
15	I wish Sherborn could enforce standards for removing, upgrading decrepit housing such as the "Blue tarp" house near Dowse's that became an eyesore to all	3/25/2014 5:04 PM
16	High taxes such a small town, small population large taxes where does this money fly too.	3/25/2014 4:57 PM

Sherborn Planning Survey

17	Please do not have any more development of places like rising tide. The town doesn't seem to have control over it and it's design. Who will live here. This will affect the infrastructure (roads, more schools, sewage treatment) bottom line: it's ugly and detracts from the towns rural character. So much lovely land is built on and the barn was torn down. Couldn't the town have purchased this 2.8 acre piece of land.	3/25/2014 4:44 PM
18	Snow removal is sub par. Needs to be more plowing and sanding.	3/25/2014 4:34 PM
19	I would stay in sherborn if I could afford the taxes	3/25/2014 4:28 PM
20	Lovely town, good schools, need larger tax base to offset expenses and resulting high taxes. Encourage commercial development and some higher density housing. We have plenty of protected land. We can maintain rural character and encourage some development.	3/25/2014 4:20 PM
21	No	3/25/2014 4:13 PM
22	taxes too high, will move out once kids are out of school	3/24/2014 3:40 PM
23	address unfunded liabilities	3/24/2014 3:21 PM
24	the town needs a plan to stop big developers to build 40B projects on their terms	3/24/2014 11:37 AM
25	It would be a great addition to the town to have an inviting downtown area with gathering places, small grocery & cafe, coffee shop, small real restaurants	3/21/2014 8:35 PM
26	Explore moderate growth & development as a way to increase revenue. Everyone must sacrifice some of what they hold dear for the greater good.	3/21/2014 8:26 PM
27	The police are too hard on Sherborn youth-handing out tickets like water. The police need to work with our youth, not against them, give people a break once in a while. Farm Pond has too many rules and not access enough	3/21/2014 8:13 PM
28	Sherborn should have a fenced dog park even though many people have fenced yards	3/21/2014 8:03 PM
29	road conditions	3/21/2014 2:33 PM
30	conflict of interest and cronyism with cell tower deal in town forest	3/21/2014 1:24 PM
31	code enforcement too strict. more natural gas. favor decreasing setbacks.	3/21/2014 12:55 PM
32	how about focusing on modestly priced/sized housing. no McMansions - green design/build. price at \$500k	3/21/2014 12:49 PM
33	No hunting. no pulte development for house cluster on maple st.	3/21/2014 12:43 PM
34	Why is Library not mentioned-we need to upgrade the bldg to meet ADA + bldg codes	3/20/2014 5:05 PM
35	Who is going to pay if we the citizens don't? We accept our responsibility to pay for what we want.	3/20/2014 5:05 PM
36	We would all like to preserve rural character but I'm concerned that we will tax ourselves out of affordability. Some compromise for business development & commercial taxes is necessary. Also, I would like town records to be accessible to all depts. e.g. If I pay my auto tax I should not need to submit vehicle registrations for Farm Pond stickers.	3/20/2014 4:57 PM
37	If the plan for the Peace Abbey happens - we do not need Maple St./Pulte proposal at all. Whitney and Peace Abbey are plenty.	3/20/2014 4:27 PM
38	Better control of large out of town bike clubs using public roads and disobeying traffic laws.	3/20/2014 4:21 PM
39	I am most interested in the development of higher density lower cost housing so that i could afford to retire in Sherborn.	3/20/2014 4:19 PM
40	Better cell service is a safety concern.	3/20/2014 4:16 PM

Sherborn Planning Survey

41	No cell tower at town beach	3/20/2014 4:11 PM
42	Why allowing the knock down of a house? where is preservation?	3/20/2014 4:05 PM
43	Tax help for the elderly (over 65) on a fixed income (not counting on private donations). Put up cell towers (It is now a public safety concern)	3/20/2014 4:02 PM
44	The email for the Forest & Trail Assoc. doesn't work.	3/20/2014 3:56 PM
45	Traffic lights at the intersection of Maple Street and Washington Street.	3/20/2014 3:51 PM
46	Add an additional pre-school class & provide better information for lottery, etc.	3/20/2014 3:48 PM
47	Last winter the town snow blower dug up a section of my driveway and should be raised.	3/20/2014 3:46 PM
48	Highway department needs a lot of help, perhaps total reorganization. No leadership.	3/20/2014 3:44 PM
49	Deer are way too ascendant and damaging open space, private landscaping + endangering safety.	3/20/2014 3:44 PM
50	Since 2006, my tax bill went from \$8,800 to over \$13,000/year. This is horrible and forcing us to consider relocation!	3/20/2014 3:41 PM
51	Maintain water quality and character of Farm Pond.	3/20/2014 3:39 PM
52	Improve cell phone service, have verizon and ATT build a tower -- generate revenue too!	3/20/2014 3:36 PM
53	Preserve rural character and large lot size by keeping septic and zoning regs. as they are. Preserve, recycle, save!	3/20/2014 3:34 PM
54	Preservation + appreciation of historic houses + structures in town.	3/20/2014 3:34 PM
55	Would love to see bike/walking trails in town.	3/20/2014 3:30 PM
56	Alternative energy use in town buildings.	3/20/2014 3:19 PM
57	We should vote for the Community Preservation Act - we have foregone so much money because of our stubbornness.	3/20/2014 3:14 PM
58	I wish town roads had white lines painted on the sides. They can be difficult to navigate at night. This would help a lot.	3/20/2014 3:13 PM
59	Street lighting-more needed in neighborhoods.	3/18/2014 10:10 PM
60	re rate Sherborn, "I would have excellent until recently we have so many new developments and loss of open space. very upsetting. re schools and open space, precisely why we are in Sherborn+fam pond	3/18/2014 7:48 PM
61	Find way to moderate residential taxes	3/18/2014 7:24 PM
62	Yes, expand the business district	3/18/2014 7:12 PM
63	STOP THE CELL TOWER	3/18/2014 5:00 PM
64	STOP THE MT MISERY CELL TOWER!!!	3/18/2014 4:57 PM
65	Sidewalks on all main roads - essential to community development. Add sidewalks to link neighborhoods!	3/18/2014 4:42 PM
66	make sure that efforts by CM&D to continue litter clean-up on a regular basis is supported and maintained	3/18/2014 4:40 PM
67	Pave unpaved roads.	3/18/2014 4:39 PM
68	Please allow deer hunting to control deer population, which is decimating everything.	3/18/2014 4:35 PM
69	the tax rate for "agriculture" needs to be scrutinized	3/18/2014 4:27 PM

Sherborn Planning Survey

70	We need to bring the MBTA Ride service to Sherborn.	3/18/2014 4:25 PM
71	Use open space to encourage low impact Business Development to help taxes	3/18/2014 4:24 PM
72	Regarding Farm Pond: More handicapped spaces near end of boat ramp. Better control of people at end of ramp - towels down, sitting, eating lunch, etc.	3/18/2014 4:00 PM
73	Keep rural attractiveness of Sherborn. Thanks for your questions. Nice job.	3/18/2014 3:36 PM
74	1) EA zoning at 90 Maple st. not to be encouraged by town officials. 2) police ticket speeders 3) conservation commission enforce law.	3/18/2014 3:30 PM
75	The taxes will drive us out of town if they do not decrease.	3/18/2014 3:30 PM
76	I would love to retire in this town but the taxes will make it impossible at the rate they are going. This is sad because it would be the main reason to move. Taxes too high! Tripled in 18 years!	3/13/2014 5:10 PM
77	Improvement to town center is imperative as well as Laurel Farm Fields. Need new business development to alleviate tax burden.	3/13/2014 5:01 PM
78	My mailbox gets ripped off every snowstorm. This is unacceptable.	3/13/2014 4:50 PM
79	The width and visibility of signage of our roads is very poor.	3/13/2014 4:48 PM
80	Smaller sq ft to houses - 950 - 1250 in cluster communities.	3/13/2014 4:42 PM
81	Eliminating or reducing tax benefit for agriculture land, that exemption is probably being abused + should be audited. The transfer station is a disgrace. It could be improved without large expenditure. The contract to run it should be re-bid. Visit the Dover, Medfield and Wellesley transfer stations. The Town's rural character has been preserved at the expense of financial stability and viability.	3/13/2014 4:38 PM
82	Affordable housing laws exist - we need to work proactively to find ways of compliance without sacrificing the reason we moved here (schools, peace)	3/13/2014 4:30 PM
83	The town needs more affordable housing for young people. The town needs to grow and change, not fence out the world.	3/13/2014 4:20 PM
84	need wireless phone service	3/13/2014 4:14 PM
85	We are opposed to any initiatives that would raise taxes.	3/13/2014 3:59 PM
86	Any future growth or development of Sherborn is handcuffed by our septic + water regulation. We need to move to Title 5, similar to what Dover did 3-5 years ago.	3/13/2014 3:50 PM
87	excellent survey! Need more info on many issues	3/13/2014 3:48 PM
88	We are not pleased with the rapid development and potential for more housing on Whitney Road and Maple Ave. Keep Sherborn rural and uphold great schools. Thanks!	3/13/2014 3:41 PM
89	Consider adequacy of parking in all development	3/13/2014 3:35 PM
90	Find a way to develop center (e.g., something like Dover Market); a good restaurant would be nice; hold to line on taxes; retain focus on schools.	3/11/2014 8:46 PM
91	There is too much open endedness in many of these items because of the lack of impact information relating to implementation or non-implementation to make this survey meaningful	3/11/2014 8:29 PM

Sherborn Planning Survey

92	We needed to replace a deck and were changing the footprint by roughly one foot by one foot. We had a survey that said it was not near any wetlands and it still took months of bureaucratic nonsense to get approval-- we had to put off the project by a year. It seems like the minions in charge were actively trying to make the process expensive and difficult for an utterly trivial projects.	3/11/2014 8:29 PM
93	IN this survey, the meaning of "development" is often unclear. The town should act to prevent outside developers (thinkPulte) from taking control of the development process and making huge profits at the expense of Sherborn's irreplaceable semi rural land. The town should lead the way toward any development and plan it in partnership with landowners	3/11/2014 8:18 PM
94	These are poor questions. I'd questions whether you should heavily rely on any answers. If i give a "4" for road plowing is it because you are not plowing enough or because you are spending too much money plowing too often?	3/11/2014 8:18 PM
95	I appreciate the PB's effort to shape development, if it comes, in a way that we would want. Drinking water integrity is vital to town's viability. If development in pursuit of lowering taxes is not undertaken with care, I can envision circumstances whereby it could decrease value of my home in excess of any tax savings realized	3/11/2014 7:43 PM
96	I support town center but I am not willing to contribute to very much to the costs of doing so; I could see using any increased taxes generated for covering such costs. I am concerned that some means of increasing tax revenues will in turn hurt property values by detracting from some of the relatively unique aspects of Sherborn.	3/11/2014 7:26 PM
97	concerns that some residents see Sherborn as an "investment" more than as a community	3/11/2014 4:47 PM
98	1) people move here because of its rural character. stop trying to change that. 2) some people don't buy here because of high taxes - that makes it hard to sell. work to keep down expenses and reduce taxes. paying for town long-term benefits is no good. we don't need additional personnel. the population has actually decreased since 1976. budget control, not expansion	3/11/2014 4:46 PM
99	no cluster housing with impact on traffic and schools, sidewalks on maple st., elsewhere get bus route to stop in sherborn enroute to boston	3/11/2014 4:36 PM
100	public water supply just for town center to enable development and sewers and wastewater treatment to enable more development of the Town Center questions insists bias	3/11/2014 4:30 PM
101	it is hard to hear that sherborn is unreasonable when it comes to getting septic approval and dealing with conservation issues	3/11/2014 4:29 PM
102	do we really need so many full time policeman	3/11/2014 4:16 PM
103	taxes too high	3/11/2014 4:12 PM
104	provide for all of the unfunded liabilities	3/11/2014 4:08 PM
105	manage cost. particularly post retirement cost	3/11/2014 4:05 PM
106	i think the conservation commission, health inspector are sometimes way too picky and do not use common sense. for instance in our neighborhood a new owner was cutting underbrush to allow trees room. cc made him undo all his work because it was near a brook. the brush was new growth in past 10 years. silly	3/11/2014 3:55 PM
107	House on corner of Western Avenue and Rt16 (left side going towards Holliston) is abandoned, an eyesore and needs to be addressed.	3/11/2014 3:39 PM
108	Concerned about cost of housing in retirement	3/11/2014 3:27 PM
109	Public Transportation	3/6/2014 7:13 PM
110	"Intersection of Maple + Washington is substandard" quote from head of Planning Board at COA meeting in late January. This is unacceptable! A substandard intersection in a town as wealthy+classy as Sherborn is a failure! We look badly.	3/6/2014 6:55 PM
111	With second highest taxes in the State we should be able to afford sidewalks. When the first child is hit by a car it will be too late.	3/6/2014 4:57 PM

Sherborn Planning Survey

112	Placement of high density housing should be near town center and not in large wooden tracts	3/6/2014 4:54 PM
113	Encourage economic development of town center	3/6/2014 4:45 PM
114	add a drive up mailbox in post office back parking lot	3/6/2014 4:44 PM
115	Thank you for doing this survey. More open dialog.	3/6/2014 4:42 PM
116	Sidewalks along rt 16 toward Holliston	3/6/2014 4:39 PM
117	Move shops/restaurants in town center	3/6/2014 4:37 PM
118	Seniors are unable to keep up with tax increases.	3/6/2014 4:36 PM
119	lack of areas for dogs to walk. killing poison ivy along roads and on conservation lines	3/6/2014 4:30 PM
120	It is painful to me to see our senior residents having to leave town because of high taxes	3/6/2014 4:24 PM
121	Distinguish between "elder" and "affordable" housing. I'm not interested in subsidizing elder housing. (I'm 62!) But we should be a more diverse community.	3/6/2014 4:20 PM
122	We need sidewalk on Rt 16 from Old Orchard to Town Center so we can walk to town.	3/6/2014 4:19 PM
123	Some of the language in this survey is not clear - the word "development" needs an adjective each time it is used - building construction - adding more or strengthening existing ones. Otherwise, this is a good survey! Thanks for all your hard work!	3/6/2014 4:14 PM
124	protect gray property on maple/bear hill. we'll leave town if developed	3/6/2014 4:13 PM
125	For the taxes we pay there is pitiful return. Not in favor of additional service that further increase taxes	3/6/2014 4:10 PM
126	intersection of rt.16 and maple needs a traffic light.	3/6/2014 4:09 PM
127	Very concerned about town thinking re: proposed Pulte development on the attractive residential Maple Street and the taking of so called conservation land to accomplish it. It is very insensitive to the neighborhood and abutters. Also the sacredness and conservation in Sherborn. Is it willing to be traded?	3/6/2014 4:08 PM
128	Don't change a thing.	3/6/2014 4:02 PM
129	Bury all electric/phone lines, not just town center. need some development to accomplish tax reduction and character goals. a development who wishes we kept manufacturing space now.	3/6/2014 3:55 PM
130	School is key.	3/6/2014 3:54 PM
131	Taxes are ridiculous	3/6/2014 3:51 PM
132	I know I am dreaming but... I have a grand idea of a sidewalk on Maple Street, Woodland Street, Farm Road, Western Ave.	3/6/2014 3:47 PM
133	Kudos on the quality of this survey!	3/6/2014 3:45 PM
134	top schools are critically important to differentiating sherborn from the many other rural alternatives in MA. Restrictions on people improving their properties are too stringent which causes people to leave and reduces potential revenues for town.	3/6/2014 3:43 PM
135	Bottom line → compromise! Focus on the common good!	3/6/2014 3:42 PM
136	Increase communication between boards. Reduce taxes - think of ways to increase tax base without burdening schools.	3/6/2014 3:40 PM
137	this is a great town with one exception: tax rate too high. If you are going to have a study committee on this issue I would serve: Mark Sennot	3/6/2014 3:39 PM

Sherborn Planning Survey

138	Questions on new development really hinge on who does the developing and how much control can have in it - it seems let tot whichever developer arrives. Why can we not commit to a housing production plan and have control of our own vision? Sherborn is rural + historic and needs to maintain that image even with more housing. Why no attached housing to concentrate the land use? Get the most units, the least land, close to town center. A win-win. MUST develop a New England town village concept, i.e. Concord Center, Woodstock, VT, etc. Historic charm is key.	3/6/2014 3:35 PM
139	There are 27 homes currently sale and yet the town govt thinks i's ok to allow 2 developments perhaps 3 to be built perhaps tripling the # of houses on the market? Home prices will plummet. How is this considered good for the town's residents? For the town's natural resource?	3/6/2014 3:35 PM
140	The police chief should enforce state laws governing traffic noise, particularly motorcycles, as strictly as possible.	3/6/2014 3:27 PM
141	yes, i have lived on Harrington ridge for 46 years. you have completely changed the character of that road. increased speed on road to 55 mph, no longer a country road. its become harrington ridge boulevard	3/6/2014 3:25 PM
142	Pine Hill emergency access road should be in full time use for safety and to counter the poor design of Pine Hill Rd intersection w RT 16/27	3/6/2014 3:21 PM
143	Traffic in the morning, rush hours: Intersection between 16 and 27 need police maybe only 2 hours a day.	3/6/2014 3:21 PM
144	We have many dogs in this town. It would be great to have a dog park. Bathroom facilities in Town Center.	3/6/2014 11:03 AM
145	Tax rates are excessive for the quality of services. Permitting processes are ridiculously bureaucratic and inefficient. Town's conservation bent is excessive.	3/6/2014 10:54 AM
146	Revised zoning on Maple St.	3/6/2014 10:48 AM
147	Ideas to improve Sherborn are good but my main concern is that the taxes are too high and I can't afford any more increases.	3/6/2014 10:03 AM
148	We need to stay vigilant with regard to protecting water quality especially as we experience increased development pressure.	3/6/2014 9:55 AM
149	reduce tax rate	3/6/2014 9:06 AM
150	would like to use public transportation but it is nonexistent. Favor library funding and strongly favor community gardens	3/6/2014 8:59 AM
151	just off the eastbound lane of MassPike heading to Boston there is a cell tower adomed with synthetic branches to resemble a tall pine tree. Why can't we do the same in the town forest thus providing hi quality communications for town police etc and a large group of residents on the south side of town? Why should a small vocal group dominate the best interests of the town and large group of residents?	3/5/2014 12:53 PM
152	We older people get to leave Sherborn because taxes are too high, there are limited services and businesses and the affordable housing is only affordable to the rich.	3/5/2014 12:44 PM
153	concerns over plans to build cell tower in a scenic district which break don't respect town laws	3/5/2014 12:36 PM
154	It might be nice to have sewer run at least on main sts+roads-better to pay monthly charge than many thousands of\$ upfront-or be able to tie into neighboring towns	3/5/2014 12:28 PM
155	road maintenance, unnecessary stop at Woodland&Mill, 2-3 acre zoning is great	3/5/2014 11:47 AM
156	code enforcement is too strict, not much enforcement at transfer station	3/5/2014 11:31 AM
157	Flashing lights at crosswalks esp from Village Way across Rt27 and on Rt 16 across by CLFrosty. This would enable seniors + children to cross streets safely+improve town accessibility	3/5/2014 11:04 AM

Sherborn Planning Survey

158	if you looked at the paper: at this rate more and more people will leave sherborn. less people to pay high taxes. it won't matter the changes you want to make because people will leave due to high costs of town. we are competing with other towns and share costs or have a town with no people because costs and services, quality of life are more reasonable and balanced elsewhere.	3/4/2014 8:43 PM
159	emphasis on traffic speed control enforcement which would also be revenue to town. Rural road speed is out of control	3/4/2014 8:01 PM
160	at least once a month i hear a sherborn resident say they will likely move once their children have graduated from high school because of tax escalation. this will ruin the fabric of the town. feel free to call me to discuss: stephen martiros 66 maple st 617.970.7740	3/4/2014 8:00 PM
161	combine Sherborn and Dover school districts to the regional level	3/4/2014 7:49 PM
162	Sherborn is poorly run. Assessments too low, tax rate too high, destroys real estate market. Lower rate and raise assessments to encourage RE market. Too much emphasis on conservation and being green, it destroys economic development.	3/4/2014 5:05 PM
163	I would stay and live in Sherborn if I could afford to	3/4/2014 4:55 PM
164	Environment/Ecology education, equal opportunity are tops. Please don't turn Sherborn into a "gated community" for the richest people. We're already well on our way there.	3/4/2014 4:49 PM
165	PLEASE EXPAND CELL SERVICE. MAJOR ISSUE WITH ELECTRICAL OUTAGES.	3/4/2014 4:48 PM
166	Stop Shining lights onto neighboring property. Do not put bark mulch on living trees	3/4/2014 4:44 PM
167	The property taxes are so high that many people will have to move - resale is tough as taxes are out of sight!	3/4/2014 4:42 PM
168	Join neighboring towns in a controlled deer hunt on public and some private lands	3/4/2014 4:35 PM
169	We would like to see less emphasis on development of land... We moved here because of the open space + hiking, don't want to lose that.	3/4/2014 4:34 PM
170	Dover-like market, connect TC parking	3/4/2014 4:31 PM
171	I want Sherborn to be a "real" town, not a fake New England Village. I think we need more businesses in the town center that addresses daily use - hardware store, groceries, bakery, etc. more parking too. Slow the housing development or stop it. I would regret that the town spends more effort on cutting the trees over power lines and cutting back bush at all intersections so drivers can see traffics coming without driving into the intersection. I appreciate the Council on Aging!!	3/4/2014 4:28 PM
172	I don't know the price but the transfer station (it really is a dump!) is in a pathetic state right now. Would pay-throw help to finance a rebuild of the entire crumbles?	3/4/2014 4:27 PM
173	Increase zoning to 5 acres only to seriously limit growth	3/4/2014 4:26 PM
174	We already have 2 55+ elder houses with vacancies. Why do we need more? The current library is a mess and under utilized - why expand?	3/4/2014 4:17 PM
175	Lack of support by townspeople in Government & Community Center. Lack of support by town government for town volunteers & volunteers in town but not in town government.	3/4/2014 4:17 PM
176	28 years ago, Sherborn houses were worth 20% more than Wellesley houses. Now, Wellesley houses are worth 20% more than Sherborn houses. What must we do to return Sherborn value equal or above Wellesley value?	3/4/2014 4:10 PM
177	town meeting are held at inconvenient times for young families with children	3/4/2014 4:05 PM
178	Our Board of Health is terrible compared to most towns.	3/4/2014 4:04 PM

Sherborn Planning Survey

179	Please do not send this in the future with an envelope that reads "Failure to respond to this mailing shall result in removal from the active voting list". Should have been clearer that response to this survey is voluntary, not mandatory. Leaves a bad taste...	3/4/2014 4:01 PM
180	I think the playground is an important space that the town needs to address. I know there is a committee of parent volunteers tackling this project but the town should take over and be responsible for this space right. now the structure is dangerous, their is garbage everywhere and its ridiculous that the town does not support a family gathering space. The town seems to take little interest in the needs of young families	3/4/2014 3:58 PM
181	Great to have new Superintendant and DSHS principal - we need new ideas and new attitudes.	3/4/2014 3:53 PM
182	Study the form of town government for redundancies, keep strong teachers and infrastructure. Quit cutting admin. costs/ personnel, we have 3 1/2 schools	3/4/2014 3:49 PM
183	I support creating opportunities for senior citizens to stay in sherborn with accessory apts or developments within walking distance to the town center. I think an existing sidewalk would be important. While I support affordable housing I don't believe the formula that the state uses is realistic for sherborn. most importantly I think sherborn needs a town wide housing plan.	2/27/2014 12:27 PM
184	The survey failed to address the fundamental problem and issue of egressing the town center business district on to Route 27/16	2/27/2014 12:25 PM
185	If the town is going to change policies it should be a matter of open debate and subject to town election. Recent efforts to raise tax revenues by increased development totally out of character of the town should not be left up to a committee that apparently does not follow the open meeting laws or even the selectmen or the planning board but rather should be the result of full debate and a town election requiring a super majority to pass. This is too important to be left up to a small group of people with a clear bias in favor of changing the nature of the town.	2/20/2014 10:32 AM
186	Town Center has no plan, we should be a unique town where people will visit as a destination because of our rural character. Not star looking like Natick. A few more services good design for downtown and nice paths	2/17/2014 8:35 AM
187	Pave Green Ln as its poorly maintained and dangerous. Consider paving with speed bumps to deter speeding.	2/16/2014 9:27 AM
188	Great survey & thank you for your efforts! Let's hope the vast majority of citizens voice their opinion and action is taken.	2/11/2014 6:03 PM
189	Sherborn is a rare gem. Its rural character while being within commutable distance to Boston is truly one in a million. Towns with denser zoning, better services and lower taxes exist five miles from here in every direction. We need to preserve the unique rural character of Sherborn and embrace private fundraising efforts to help offset the tax burden and avoid issues with the prop 2.5 ceiling. Think library and Hodson-Walker model. Let's leverage the town's human capital and resident income as opposed to its natural resources to carry us into the future.	2/11/2014 4:47 PM
190	1. Absolutely need to control deer population. Hunting, with appropriate regard to safety, should be encouraged. 2. Need to create a mix of housing development that will enable existing residents "to age in place" and attract empty nesters in adjacent communities to move to Sherborn. There is an immediate opportunity to capture the growing share of affluent baby boomers who are entering this life stage. 3. This will enable a more balanced demand on services, helping to preserve the quality of our schools, while reducing their impact on a growing tax base. A small reclassification of our open space and smarter design to town center would be a better trade-off than higher taxes and a lower level of services. 4. Consciously design a retail cluster that will encourage people of all ages to gather socially in town. The inn is great, but is not appropriate for all situations and ages. Sherborn Sandwich shop is not very attractive place to hang out. Food is decent but coffee is not. 5. Don't underestimate the impact of these "hang out" spaces for encouraging community building. Observe how people interact at Peets in Wellesley or cafes in other towns like Newton & Lexington. (Extremely high patronage by road cyclists from mid-spring to late-fall on weekends.) 6. Perhaps something like this could be a part of the Library expansion - this could become an "anchor" for socializing. 7. Dowse's is a helpful seasonal outlet for fruits & vegetables, but providing additional access to groceries would be useful and cut down on trips in & out of town for many neighborhoods clustered around Maple St., Washington St. & South/North Main. 8. Perhaps a coordinate policy with the Ag committee could generate more retail opportunities for locally produced food when available, and "imported" food when its out of season.	2/11/2014 11:23 AM

Sherborn Planning Survey

191	With regard to expanding the business district, my opinion for best location in town for that to happen is out near Adesa/Framingham Line	2/11/2014 10:27 AM
192	Sherborn needs to become a more inclusive town allowing access to its minority population	2/8/2014 12:05 PM
193	It would have been helpful if by affordable housing you meant 40 b or lower priced standard housing. The cost of land is critical. Maybe we should consider selling some Town land at a discount to a developer in return for lower priced housing. We need to think outside the box.	2/7/2014 5:05 PM
194	All of these are great ideas to consider such as improving the town center but more important is getting sherborn to live within its budget and keep taxes from skyrocketing. Already the taxes are preventing young families from moving into town. They can have access to the good school but pay less taxes in Dover.	2/6/2014 2:38 PM
195	I object to building a cell tower near Farm Pond	2/6/2014 9:14 AM
196	The proposed cell tower near Farm Pond violates scenic resources and will forever scar the town and ruin its reputation as a rural community with a pristine pond.	2/5/2014 2:33 PM
197	I do not believe enough has been done to even make people aware this survey exists. Im happy to have found it on-line by complete accident. A link to this survey should be right on the town home page.	2/4/2014 9:27 PM
198	I think the proposed development by the Pulte Company is going to create far more issues than the town realizes. This development is absolutely going to change the nature of our town, trail systems, adverse traffic conditions, and quite honestly has not been well thought out. The town will never be the same after this. Why did we go out and pursue this? Our town will forever be impacted and it is opening Pandora's box. Many that live in Sherborn today will not in the future as the tax rate will not be supported with such developments and degradation of the town we know and love.	2/4/2014 1:38 PM
199	elementary vs. regional schools I would give very different marks.	2/2/2014 5:40 PM
200	Our town center is great but would be fantastic to improve design, pedestrian accessibility and encourage some more small business (small grocery store, coffee shop, restaurant)	2/2/2014 2:30 PM
201	We like it the town basically the way it is, that's why we just moved here. Doubtless there's room for improvement, but we'd need to weigh carefully the details of any substantive change. As a bottom line, we strongly oppose changing anything that would reduce either the quality of the schools or town's natural beauty and open space.	2/2/2014 12:04 PM
202	Maple street side walk ! Or dirt path.	2/1/2014 6:41 PM
203	Huge tax breaks for "farmers" who sell \$500 worth of firewood is placing too high a tax burden on the rest of us. I have no problem with a subsidy for people who actually are farmers and primarily make their living that way, but I resent subsidizing the lifestyles of those who make lots of money doing other things but are still able to claim that exemption. I realize it is a state law but it has an extremely negative financial impact on our town and we should push for more restrictions - for example income caps, and a cap on the percentage of the tax base that gets the exemption.	2/1/2014 2:55 PM
204	more surveys of specific issues with detailed discussion with pro and con views	2/1/2014 10:20 AM
205	If economic development / planning, please consider evolving a hub & spoke plan with the town center as the hub & home to all business and the spokes having as much pedestrian access as possible. This is a wonderful town - we will be more involved as our new baby grows - thank you!	1/31/2014 5:23 PM
206	It is very simple: We and many others live in Sherborn and are willing to pay the high taxes because the schools, including Pine Hill, are excellent. If that changes -- in an effort to reduce taxes, expand housing, or make way for increased spending in other areas -- we will move.	1/31/2014 12:01 PM
207	good survey	1/31/2014 6:05 AM

Sherborn Planning Survey

208	I am extremely concerned about the intersection at the end of Maple St., at Rt 16. I have only lived here for 5 years, but have seen with my own eyes 4 bad accidents there. I have to commute that intersection everyday and am very concerned for when my children have to drive it to see friends. I hope it doesn't take someone dying there for the town to realize how dangerous it is. Wouldn't a 4 way stop sign be enough to slow or prevent major damage to person or property?? Thanks for listening.	1/30/2014 6:45 PM
209	The proposed Pulte development on Maple street seems like a very bad idea. It is in direct conflict with the EA zoning rules, as it's too far from main and 27, on a scenic road, not walkable to the town center, and clashes with the rural character of the area. I'm surprised and disappointed that the town is entertaining the proposal.	1/30/2014 5:48 PM
210	Why is Green Lane not paved, it is a disgraceful mess 3/4ths of the year?	1/30/2014 3:45 PM
211	The streamlining of town government that was recommended by outside consultants some time ago doesn't seem to be happening at a fast enough pace.	1/30/2014 3:00 PM

1998 Residents' Survey Results

THIRD TABULATION OF SHERBORN RESIDENTS SURVEY

234 Responses = 39% Return

Perceptions and Opinions about Sherborn, its Government, Facilities, and Services

1. Please rate the following factors and conditions listed below.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	# of Responses
<i>Government Services and Facilities</i>					
A. Town Office Staff	40	49	10	1	213
B. Public School System	44	45	8	3	196
C. Police Protection	61	35	3	1	220
D. Fire Protection	60	34	5	2	206
E. Local Zoning	28	52	17	3	189
F. Code Enforcement	24	47	20	9	177
G. Fairness of Local Taxes	17	40	28	16	206
<i>Parking and Transportation</i>					
H. Off-Street Parking	17	42	31	11	188
I. On-Street Parking	16	36	22	23	160
J. Town Roads	19	56	22	3	218
K. Intersection Control	7	34	32	27	215
L. Sidewalks	6	23	31	40	215
M. Pedestrian Amenities such as Trees, Benches, Planters, etc.	12	30	35	23	208
N. Bike Paths	4	17	23	55	187
O. Public Transportation	2	5	9	83	175
P. Road Plowing & Maintenance	21	58	16	5	208
<i>Open Space and Recreation</i>					
Q. Number of Recreational Facilities	42	44	11	4	200
R. Amount of Open Space Protected	56	33	7	4	202
S. Appropriate Use of Open Space	41	45	11	3	196
T. Type (Mix) of Recreational Facilities	30	50	13	7	192
U. Condition of Recreational Facilities	31	55	13	1	189
V. Horse Trails	44	46	8	2	132
W. Farm Pond	55	40	2	3	206
<i>Town Center</i>					
X. Goods & Services Available	6	29	42	23	208
Y. Overall Design	3	21	30	45	207
Z. Building Setbacks	10	48	23	19	181
AA. Traffic Circulation	3	21	34	43	206
BB. Other	<u>Text Answers</u>				

2. Do you feel overall efforts in the following are?

	Too weak	About right	Too strong	# of Responses
		% Responding		
• Efforts toward historic preservation	16	75	9	224
• Efforts toward protection of wetlands	15	66	18	223
• Efforts toward protection of flood plains	10	81	9	197
• Efforts toward protection of scenic roads	18	67	15	220
• Efforts toward protection of rural scenic views	24	67	9	212
• Efforts toward maintaining agricultural uses and lands	40	59	2	207
• Efforts toward fostering a strong business climate	54	38	9	208

3. Please rate Sherborn as a place to live.

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	# of Responses
58%	36%	4%	1%	226

Socio-Economic Information

4. How many years have you lived in Sherborn?	15 = Median: Range = 1 to 58 Years	230
5. Do you own or rent your residence?	96% Own 4% Rent	228
6. How many people live in your home?	4 = Median: Range = 1 to 7 People	225
7. Do you have school age children?	41% Yes 59% No	231
8. Have you participated in Town Government?	40% Yes 60% No	225
9. How many Annual Town Meetings have you attended in the last five years?	0 1 2 3 4 5 17% 21% 18% 17% 16% 11%	210
10. Please mark your age category.	18-30 31-45 46-65 66 and older 5% 34% 48% 13%	231
11. Your gender is?	48% Male 51% Female	225
12. Do you work in?	23% Boston/Cambridge 26% Sherborn 50% Other	197
Do you use public transportation to get to work?	13% Yes 87% No	195

13. Please list your occupation

Text Answers

Future Policies

14. What residential growth policies do you favor for the town?	Favor	Don't Favor	
• Continuation of present policy of single-family homes in the present 1, 2, and 3 acre zoning districts.	89%	11%	212
• Modify single-family development to encourage more variety.	35%	65%	185
• Modify single-family development to occur in a smaller area.	30%	71%	176
• Modify zoning regulations to conform with an agreed-upon plan that factors in groundwater supply, scenic views, unusual features, historic structures, open space and recreation.	77%	22%	193
• Locate housing in smaller and higher density areas.	24%	76%	195
• Add affordable housing and elderly housing in the town.	66%	37%	211
• Acquire more open space to somewhat offset new housing development	71%	29%	204
• Place some restrictions on the building size of very large houses, in relation to their lot size.	79%	21%	216
• Smaller, higher density homes for households over 55 years old.	53%	47%	195
• Accessory apartments created within existing housing units.	61%	39%	200
• Variable height limits that require lower heights close to lot lines.	64%	36%	196
• Smaller tighter streets in subdivisions to save land.	37%	63%	204

1998 Residents' Survey Results

15. What future town services and facilities do you favor?	Favor	Don't Favor	# of Responses
• Public water supply for a portion of the town where water quality is unacceptable, and reliance on private wells for the remainder of the town.	60%	40%	209
• Public water supply for all homes, even if this results in pressures for higher densities than current zoning is intended to create.	14%	86%	209
• Sewers and wastewater treatment.	39%	61%	210
• Trash pickup.	40%	60%	218
• A senior center.	61%	39%	202
• A teen center.	63%	37%	204
• A general recreation center.	55%	42%	205
• A second elementary school.	14%	85%	190
16. What rural character initiatives do you favor?	Favor	Don't Favor	
• Preserve and assist agricultural activities	92%	8%	220
• Outright purchase of open space	74%	26%	210
• Purchase of development rights	53%	47%	188
• Transfer of development rights	40%	60%	153
• Preservation of scenic roads	89%	12%	218
17. What economic development policies do you favor for the town?	Favor	Don't Favor	
• Keep business development minimal	58%	42%	204
• Add additional specialty business services in the Town Center	85%	15%	208
• Add core business services and retailing, such as a supermarket	33%	67%	211
• Preserve and assist agricultural activities	94%	6%	212
• Encourage home based businesses	78%	22%	202
• Create more business centers	22%	76%	205
• Permit businesses to share septic or small "package" wastewater treatment facilities	80%	20%	198
18. What Town Center development policies do you favor?	Favor	Don't Favor	
• Improve sidewalk design to encourage pedestrian and bicycle use.	89%	11%	218
• Interconnect parking areas in the Town Center.	75%	25%	210
• Burying utility lines underground.	55%	46%	143
• Would you be willing to pay 2% more on your electric bill to bury utility lines in the Town Center	49%	52%	194
• Design improvements to increase public gathering and social interaction in the Town Center.	75%	25%	177
• Other Please specify	Text Answers		

19. We have asked you to address the following five topics. Please rank them in order of importance from 1 to 5 (1 = most important, 5 = least important)						# of Responses
	1	2	3	4	5	
Residential Growth Policy	26%	27%	16%	17%	15%	212
Town Services and Facilities	14%	23%	29%	21%	13%	212
Rural Character	44%	18%	19%	10%	10%	214
Economic Development	5%	17%	20%	20%	38%	212
Town Center	24%	16%	26%	17%	16%	214
20. Do you feel overall land use densities in town are:						
	85% About right	7% Too dense	7% Not dense enough	220		
Suggestions for Future Planning						
21. What are your preferences for future acquisition of open space in town?						Text Answers
22. What is the main issue facing the Town of Sherborn right now?						Text Answers
23. Are there any issues or concerns you may have regarding Sherborn this survey has not covered, or you would like to share with us?						Text Answers