**Old Bennington Village Plan Survey**

The Village of Old Bennington Planning Commission is seeking your input on priorities and objectives as it updates the Village Plan later this year. The Village Plan helps to create a series of long-rang planning objectives for development, land use, density, historical preservation, and quality of life.

Your thoughts and input are critical for helping determine priorities and shaping the future of Old Bennington. **Please note that this survey is anonymous** and no personal details need to be disclosed.

**General**

1. What do you like the most about Old Bennington? [select up to 2]
   * Community: my neighbors and friends, connecting with others who care about Old Bennington
   * Size and scale: small and close-knit, but close to downtown Bennington and larger amenities
   * Arts and culture: public events, museums, music, unique public spaces
   * Historical character: pride in Old Bennington’s history
   * Natural resources: proximity to trails, farm lands, local foods
   * Other:
2. What are three things that define the Village of Old Bennington for you?
3. If you live in Old Bennington, do you believe the benefits of living in Old Bennington have changed in the last four years? If “Yes”, please tell us briefly why. We want to understand your perspective, positive or negative:
4. What would you most like to see improved in Old Bennington? [select up to 3]
   * Housing options and affordability
   * Schools and the education system
   * Getting around without a car (walking, biking, rolling)
   * Parks and greenery
   * Diversity in the community
   * Responding to climate hazards
   * Maintenance and restoration of historical sites
   * Other:
5. Please tell us if you generally agree or disagree with the following statements.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | I don’t know |
| Monthly meetings at the Barn are well-advertised, accessible, and I feel encouraged to attend |  |  |  |  |
| My opinions matter to village officials |  |  |  |  |
| The Village does a good job of maintaining its streets, sidewalks, and parks |  |  |  |  |
| Bike lanes, paths, and sidewalks should be built throughout Old Bennington |  |  |  |  |
| Maintaining the historical and residential appearance of the Village is important to me |  |  |  |  |
| Alterations to existing buildings do not detract from the historic, residential appearance of the Village |  |  |  |  |
| The Planning Commission does a good job reviewing applications and deciding on building applications |  |  |  |  |
| There is a strong sense of community among neighbors of Old Bennington |  |  |  |  |
| I feel engaged with the village and its residents |  |  |  |  |
| Old Bennington should welcome and support new people |  |  |  |  |

1. What are your top concerns for Old Bennington in the next 5 years? [select up to 3]:
   * Property values
   * Land use issues
   * Village tax rates
   * Traffic volume on local streets
   * Speeding on local streets
   * Crime
   * Changes to historic buildings
   * Road maintenance costs
   * No major concerns
   * Other:
2. Please use this additional space to elaborate on any one or more of your biggest concerns noted above.
3. One hope I have for the future of Old Bennington is:

**Community**

1. Do you feel safe and well protected in Old Bennington? Elaborate.

**Size and Scale**

1. What commercial developments do you think would be suitable for the Village of Old Bennington?
2. How do you think the Village should guide future commercial development in Old Bennington? (location, type, size, etc.)
3. How do you feel about short-term rentals (less than 30 days, like AirBnB) in Old Bennington?
   * Strongly in favor
   * In favor with some restrictions
   * Strongly against
   * Do not feel strongly about short-term rentals
   * Other:
4. Please use this additional space to elaborate:

**Arts, Culture, and History**

1. There are four significant commercial buildings in Old Bennington. In the last year, have you visited?:
   * The Four Chimneys Inn
   * The Old First Church
   * Sonatina Piano
   * The Bennington Museum
2. As it relates to repairs or alterations to existing buildings in the Village, what do you think the Planning Commission could do to improve its effectiveness for the Village? Please elaborate.

**Environment**

1. How should Old Bennington best incorporate the use of solar panels in the community? Note: The Village cannot prohibit the installation of solar panels, but it can establish screening principles.
2. Is there any question or topic we should have asked about that did not appear in this survey? If so, what is it?

**Demographic Questions** *(all optional)*

1. What is your relationship to Old Bennington? (mark all that apply)
   * I live in Old Bennington
   * I work in Old Bennington
   * I go to school in Old Bennington
   * I own a business in Old Bennington
   * I often visit Old Bennington
   * Other:
2. If you live in Old Bennington, are you a year-round resident or a seasonal resident?

* A year-round resident
* A seasonal resident

1. Do you own property in Old Bennington? If yes, for how long? *If no, skip to Question 24.*
   * <0 years
   * 1-5 years
   * 5-10 years
   * 10-20 years
   * 20+ years
2. Why did you choose to buy your home in Old Bennington?
3. Have you made major improvements to your home and/or property since purchasing it? [select all that apply]
   * No major changes in the last 5 years
   * Yes, renovated kitchen
   * Yes, renovated bathroom(s)
   * Yes, renovated other areas of the house
   * Yes, installed heat pumps
   * Yes, improved window and other insulation
   * Yes, upgraded electrical infrastructure
   * Yes, installed solar energy elements
   * Yes, other:
4. Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the resale value of your house in Old Bennington?
   * Optimistic
   * Pessimistic
   * Not sure
   * Not worried about the resale value
   * Other:
5. What kind of housing do you live in?

* Single-family house
* Two-family housing (duplex)
* Condominium or townhouse
* Multi-family building (apartments)
* Mobile home
* I do not have permanent housing
* Other:

1. Did you spend some or all of your childhood in...? (mark all that apply)

* Old Bennington
* Town of Bennington
* Another town in Bennington County
* Another part of Vermont
* Rensselaer/Washington County, NY
* Berkshire County, MA
* Other:

1. How old are you?

* Under 18
* 18 – 29
* 30 – 44
* 45 – 59
* 60 – 74
* 75+

1. Do you have children at home under the age of 18 years old?

* Yes
* No

1. What is your race?

* White
* Black, African, or African American
* American Indian, Indigenous, or Native American
* Pacific Islander
* Asian or Asian American
* Two or more races
* Other

1. Are you Latinx or Hispanic?

* Yes
* No

1. What is your gender?

* Female
* Male
* Non-binary/non-conforming
* Other:

1. What is your household income?

* Less than $25,000
* $25,000 to $49,999
* $50,000 to $74,999
* $75,000 to $99,999
* $100,000 to $149,999
* $150,000 or more