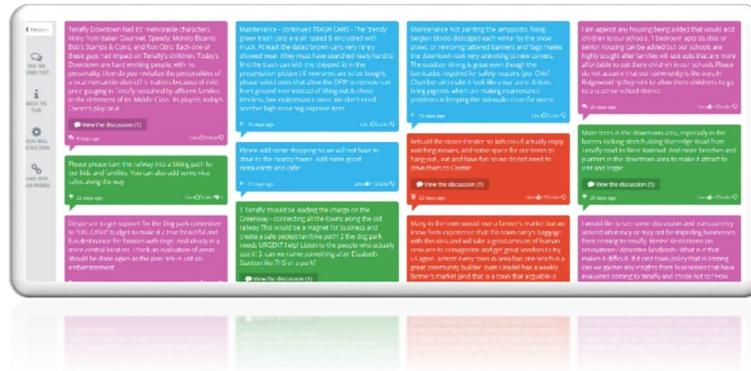


# Southampton Village Comprehensive Plan

## Public Survey and Ideas Wall Summary December, 2021



### Overview

The Village of Southampton is updating its Comprehensive Plan to address demographic and economic changes, new development trends, to control overdevelopment, and address the ongoing impacts of climate change. The current Southampton Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2000 and includes analyses of land use, demographics, transportation and traffic, commercial development, and community facilities. This Comprehensive Plan Update builds on the 2000 Plan and seeks to address issues including stagnation in the Village Center, the reuse of the Stony Brook Southampton Hospital site, residential “tear-downs” and development of large homes, lack of housing options and workforce housing, pedestrian infrastructure, and preservation of the natural environment.

As part of the public engagement effort, an online public survey was developed to gather input from the public regarding priorities for future improvement, and key issues users experience. The survey included an “Ideas Wall” visioning exercise, where participants were invited to post open-ended comments on key thematic areas such as: Parks and Open Space; Shopping and Restaurants; Traffic and Parking; Sidewalks and Streetscape; Arts, Culture and Events; and Other.

The online public survey was accessible from the project webpage for approximately 6 weeks (October 18 to December 1, 2021). A total of 259 responses were received. 212 surveys (82%) were from Village residents, which represents roughly 4% of the total number of residents in the Village<sup>1</sup>. This is considered to be an excellent response, in comparison to similar efforts in other communities. There were 104 open-ended comments on the Ideas Wall. The survey was publicized through e-blasts from the Village Mayor’s office, social media, flyers emailed to all residents, and the Village website. It was also highlighted during the first virtual public workshop on October 27, 2021. A second public workshop will be held in the spring (date TBD).

<sup>1</sup> The Southampton Village population in 2020 was 4,550 residents.

The Ideas Wall was open for the same timeframe as the public survey. 104 open ended comments were received. Although the online engagement page is now closed for comments, the Ideas Wall can still be viewed at <https://bfjplanning.mysocialpinpoint.com/southamptonplan#>.

## Public Survey Summary

### Q1: Do you live in Southampton Village?

82% of the total respondents, are Village residents, the remainder live in the Town.

### Q2: How long have you lived in Southampton Village?

Most respondents are long-time residents. 64% of respondents have lived in the Village for 20+ years. Three quarters have lived in the Village for over 10 years. Only 3% of respondents have lived in the village less than 2 years.

### Q3: Are you a seasonal resident or full-time?

70% of all respondents are full time residents. This percentage is similar to the population of respondents from the Village who identified as full-time residents (67%).

### Q4: Where do you work?

Approximately one quarter of participants work in the Village and 6% work in the Town. About a quarter of participants are not currently working or are retired.

### Q5: Do you spend more time in Southampton than you did pre-COVID?

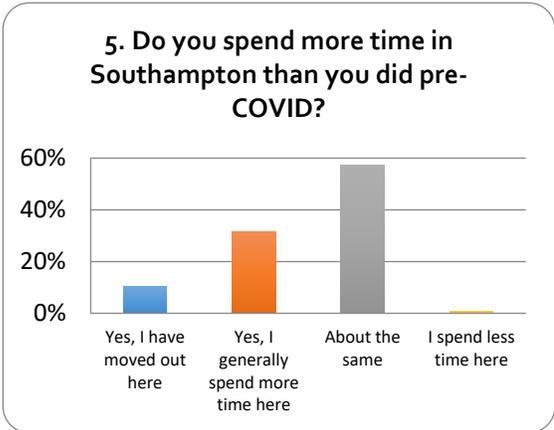
Just under half of participants indicated that they spend more time out here now. Over 10% of participants have moved out here and another third indicated that they generally spend more time in the Village.

### 3. Are you a seasonal resident or full-time?

I'm a full-time resident	70%
I live here in summers and on weekends	23%
I live here in summers	3%
I live here off-season only	0%

### 4. Where do you work?

I work in the Village of Southampton	25%
I work in the Town of Southampton	6%
I work elsewhere on the East End	3%
I work in NYC	10%
I work from home	19%
I work elsewhere	2%
Hybrid - work from home and office	9%
Not currently working/am retired	26%



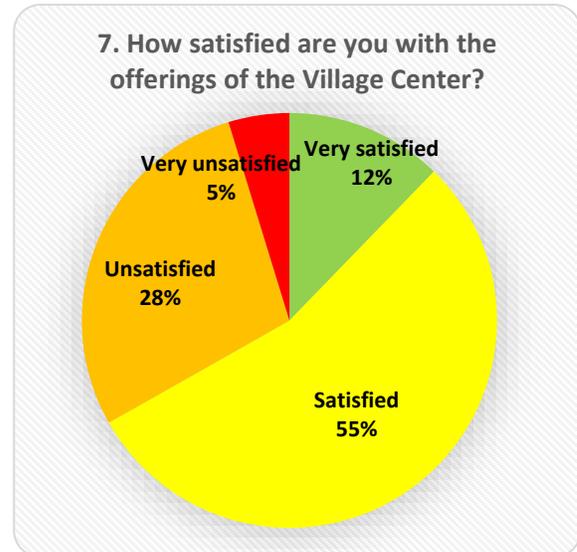
**Q6: About how often do you visit the Village Center?**

The survey shows that most respondents visit the Village Center often. About 40% visit once a day or more, and 43% visit several times a week. These percentages are similar to the surveys from Village residents alone.

6. About how often do you visit the Village Center?	
Once a day or more	40.5%
Several times a week	43.2%
Once a week	9.3%
A couple of times a month	3.5%
Rarely/I don't go there	3.5%

**Q7: How satisfied are you with the offerings of the Village Center?**

About two-thirds of respondents indicated they are satisfied with offerings in the Village Center. Only 12% of respondents reported that they are very satisfied. About a third are unsatisfied with Village Center offerings. These percentages are similar to the surveys from Village residents alone.



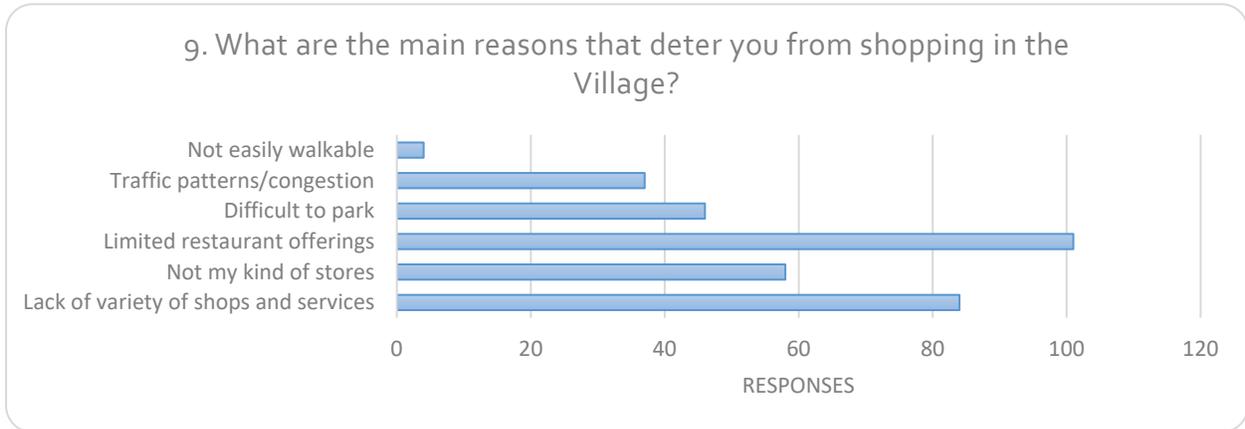
**Q8: Are there types of businesses that you'd like to have in the Village?**

Participants were asked to identify specific uses that they would like to see. There were 187 open-ended responses. Affordable retail and food options was listed as a priority for many. The need for more restaurants, bars, and entertainment was also frequently reported. There was a preference for small and locally owned businesses over national brands. A list of the most common responses is provided below:

- Affordable retail
- Services such as tailors, shoe repair, locksmiths
- More restaurants and bars
- Shoe stores
- Entertainment and things to do in the evening
- Better supermarket
- Affordable and casual restaurant options
- Men's clothing stores
- More fun things to do for children (i.e movies, candy shops, recreation)
- Shared work spaces
- Movie theater
- Healthy food places

**Q9: What are the main reasons that deter you from shopping in the Village?**

Participants were invited to pick two options for this question. The most frequently cited things that deter people from shopping include “limited restaurant offerings” (39%), “too expensive” (37%), and “lack of variety of shops and services” (32%).

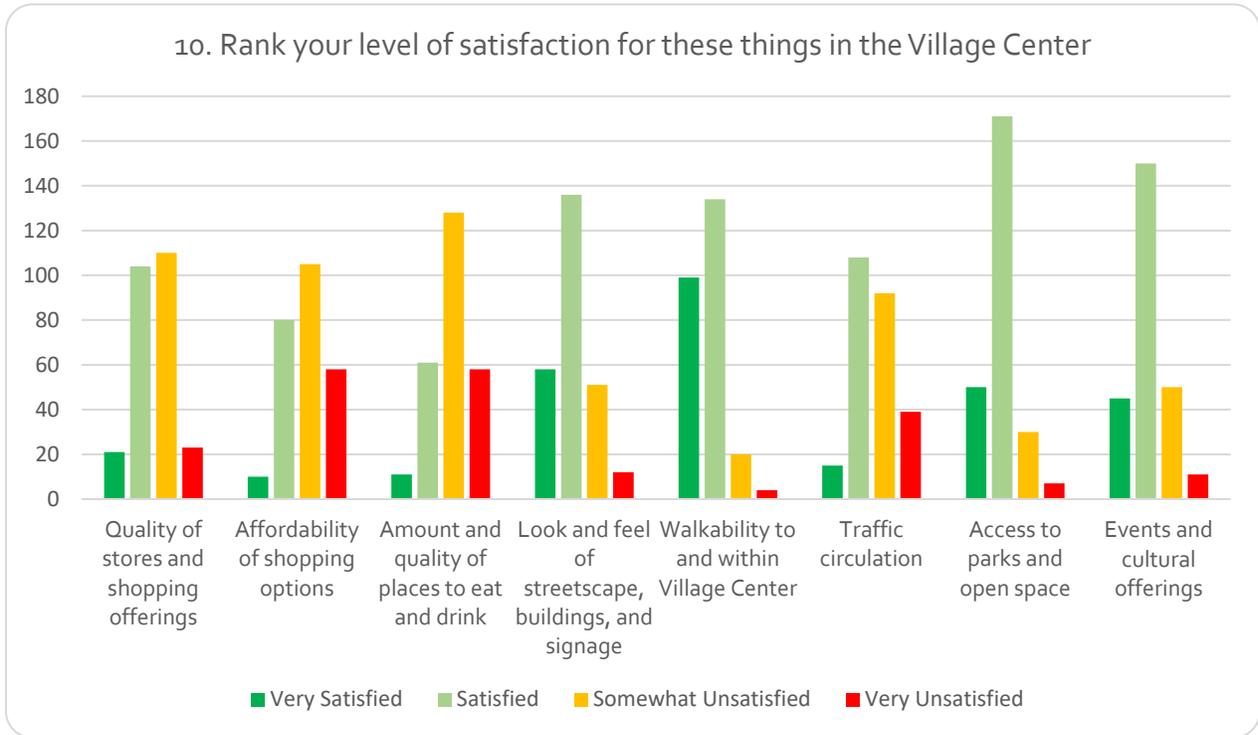


**Q10: Please rank your level of satisfaction for the following items in the Village Center.**

The graph below shows satisfaction levels for various items in the Village Center.

- Quality of stores and shopping offerings  
*Participants were split on this question. About half are generally satisfied and half are unsatisfied.*
- Affordability of shopping options  
*Majority of participants are unsatisfied. About 40% said they were unsatisfied, and 22% said they were very unsatisfied.*
- Amount and quality of places to eat and drink  
*Majority of participants are unsatisfied. About 49% said they were unsatisfied, and 22% said they were very unsatisfied.*
- Look and feel of streetscape, buildings, and signage  
*Majority of participants are satisfied. About 53% said they were satisfied, and 22% said they were very satisfied.*
- Walkability to and within Village Center  
*Over 90% of participants are satisfied. About 52% said they were satisfied, and 38% said they were very satisfied.*
- Traffic circulation  
*Participants were split on this question. Just under half were generally satisfied and just over half are unsatisfied. About 15% are very unsatisfied.*
- Access to parks and open space  
*Over 85% of participants are satisfied. About 66% said they were satisfied, and 19% said they were very satisfied.*

- Events and cultural offerings  
*Over 75% of participants are satisfied. About 58% said they were satisfied, and 17% said they were very satisfied.*



**Q11: How satisfied are you with traffic and directional signage around the Village?**

When asked about directional (wayfinding) signage, participants seemed to be generally satisfied. About 57% said they were satisfied and 10% said they were very satisfied. 34% were either unsatisfied or very unsatisfied. These percentages are comparable to those responses from Village residents alone.

**Q12: Does anyone in your family walk or bike? Select all that apply**

Biking is very popular in the Village. 63% of respondents said that someone in their family bikes to the beach, and 59% said that someone in their family bikes to the Village Center.

**Q13: How important is for you to improve safety for pedestrian and bikers?**

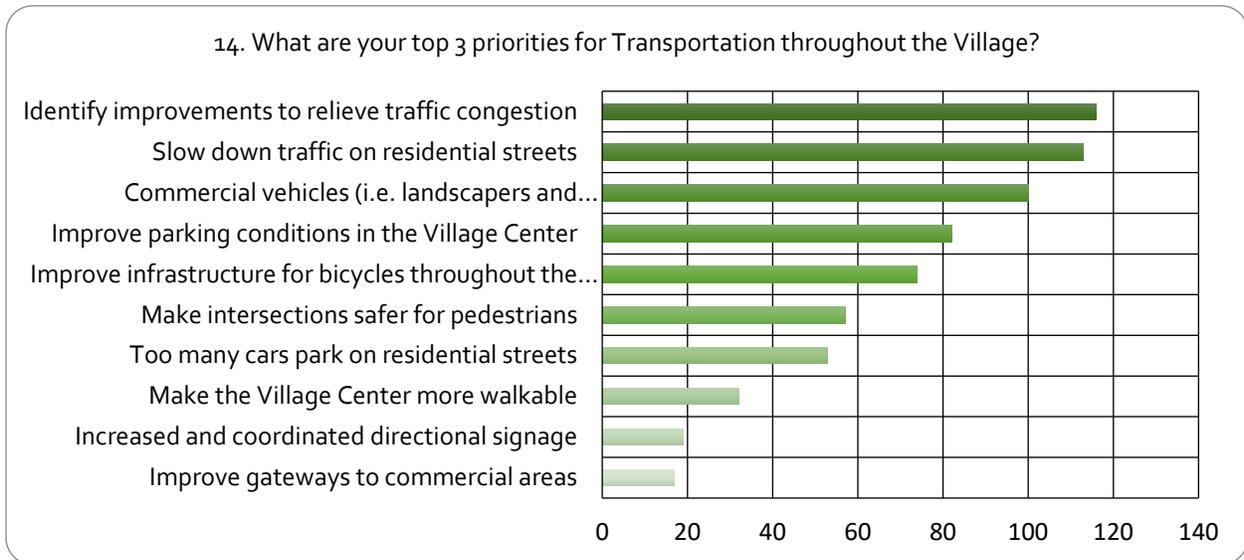
Improving safety for pedestrians is a high priority for many respondents. 42% listed this as very



important and 74% listed it as either important or very important. These percentages are comparable to those responses from Village residents alone.

**Q14: What are your top 3 priorities for transportation throughout the Village?**

When asked to identify their top priorities, the most popular responses were “Identify improvements to relieve traffic congestion” (46%), “Slow down traffic on residential streets (45%), Commercial vehicles parked on residential streets (40%), and improve parking in the Village Center (32%).



**Q15: Is there a particular place that feels unsafe to walk or bike? (Please list)**

**Q16: Is there a particular place that needs improvements for auto safety? (Please list)**

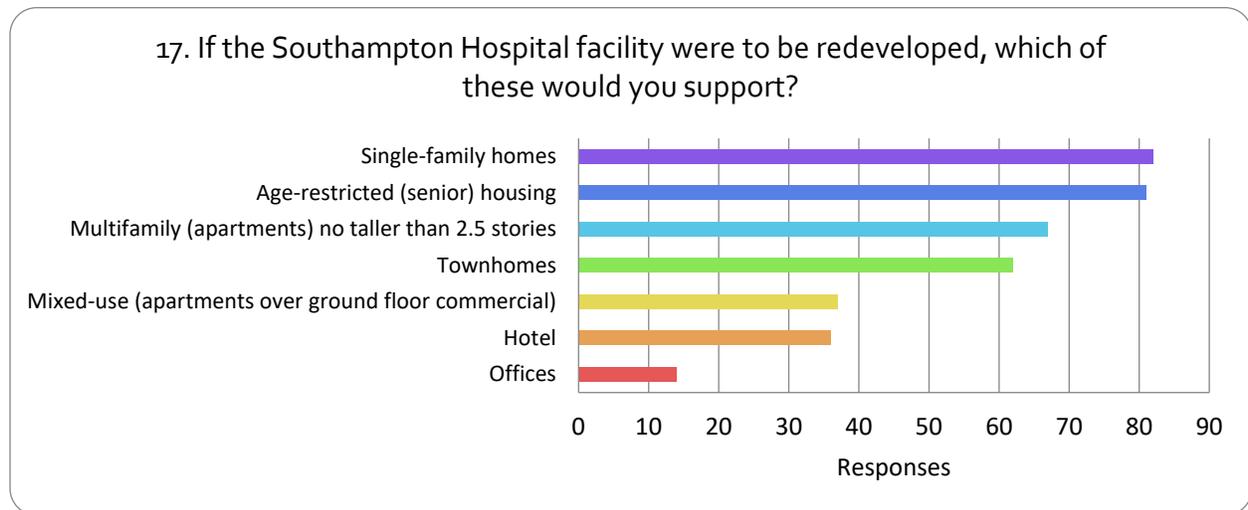
Participants were asked in these two questions to identify specific areas that need to be improved. There were 146 open-ended responses for the first question and 134 comments for the second. The most mentioned areas are listed below, grouped by topic:

- Sidewalks
  - Need for more sidewalks throughout the Village
  - Need sidewalks on Hill Street, West Prospect Street.
  - Some areas have uneven or broken sidewalks
  - Some areas near the dog park/police station don't have sidewalks.
  - Need better sidewalk around Library and Jagger Lane.
  - Need sidewalk on West Prospect Street.
  
- On-street parking in residential areas
  - Many respondents commented that parked landscaping vehicles present hazards for pedestrians and bicycles. This is an issue in many residential areas throughout Village
  - Cars always parked on Moses/Pelham making it a one lane road at busy pinch point especially at rush hour

- Bike lanes
  - Bike lanes are needed throughout the village, especially along longer roads to beaches. Biking feels unsafe without them because cars drive at high speeds.
  
- Village Center
  - The primary intersections as you enter the Village Center feel unsafe.
  - Crossing Main Street at corner of Jobs and Meeting House feels unsafe. Need pedestrian signal.
  - The main intersections on Main Street have walk signs that are not in sync with the stop lights.
  - Nugent Street/Windmill Lane feels unsafe for pedestrians.
  - Hampton Road. Traffic gets blocked up. Diagonal parking near Citarella causes unsafe conditions for pedestrians and bikes.
  - Meadow Lane feels unsafe during the peak summer months
  - No pedestrian signage for walking on Main Street and Job's Lane
  - Main/Nugent/Hampton Road intersection is always a mess because of the heavy turnover of parking
  
- Traffic calming and cut through traffic
  - People drive fast on long roads leading to beaches
  - S Main St, Gin Lane, First Neck - basically any street that is long and straight become a drag race.
  - West Prospect, Armande, Howell and Halsey are short cuts for drivers trying to avoid the Village
  - Stop signs at the intersection of Wall St, Oak St and Walnut St are often not respected.
  - David Whites Lane desperately needs speed bumps or stop signs (i.e. at Seven Ponds and Flying Point) to slow down traffic (this is in the Town of Southampton).
  - Many of the stop signs are hidden or faded and many cars go through them.
  - Speeding reported on Ox Pasture, Lee Avenue, Wyandanch, Hill Street, Herrick Road
  
- Other Roads
  - Crossing 27 and 39 feels unsafe for pedestrians
  - North Sea Road feels unsafe for pedestrians
  - North Main Street underneath the train tresses. Cars go through the stop sign
  - Very difficult to turn on to Meadow Lane from Coopers Neck without pulling into traffic.

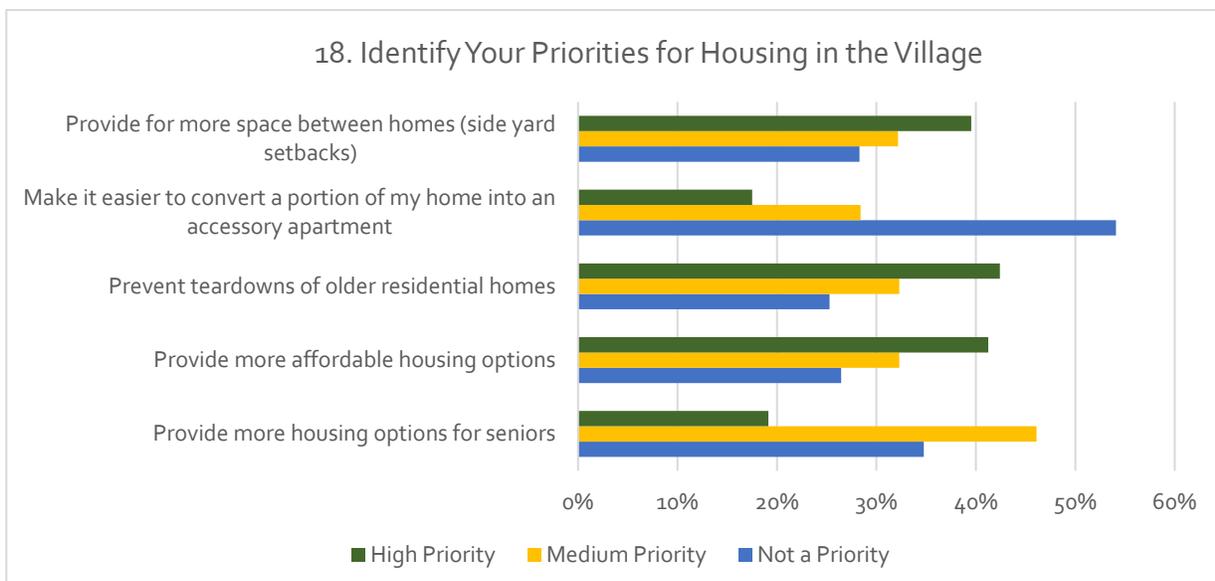
**Q17: The Southampton Hospital is planning to relocate its facility to Stony Brook Southampton University. If the current facility were to be redeveloped, which of these would you support?**

Participants were invited to pick as many options as they liked. Amongst the options given, single family homes and age restricted (senior housing) had the most support, followed by multifamily less than 2.5 stories and townhomes. There was little support for offices or hotel uses. These preferences were consistent with surveys from Village residents alone.



**Q18: Please identify your priorities for housing in the Village.**

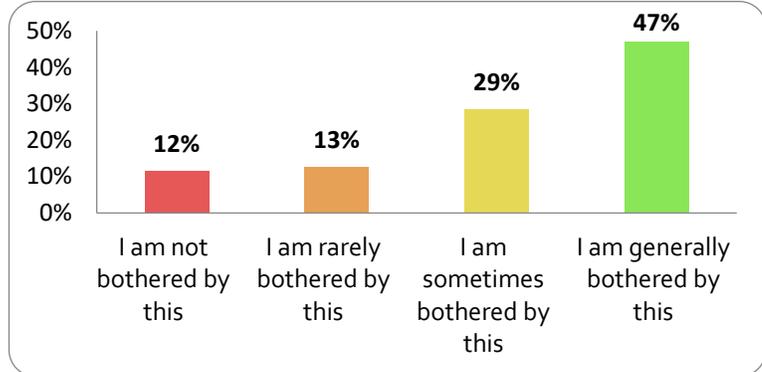
Participants were asked to identify the level of importance for five housing topics. Almost two thirds of respondents indicated that providing more space between homes was either a medium or high priority. Making it easier for conversion of accessory apartments did not seem to be a high priority for most residents. Conversely, when asked about affordable housing, this was seen as a high or medium priority for almost three quarters of respondents. It is possible that respondents did not see the link between accessory apartments and affordability, and this is a topic that should be explored further as the plan is developed.



Preventing teardowns of older residential homes also received support. 42% of respondents listed it as a high priority and 32% listed it as a medium priority. There was mixed support for housing options for seniors, almost half listed this as a medium priority and a third listed it as a low priority.

**Q19: Does the design and size of new homes in the Village bother you?**

This issue seems to be very important for many residents. Almost half (47%) stated that they are generally bothered and 29% said they are sometimes bothered by this.



**Q20: Are you in favor of an ordinance that regulates large tree removal?**

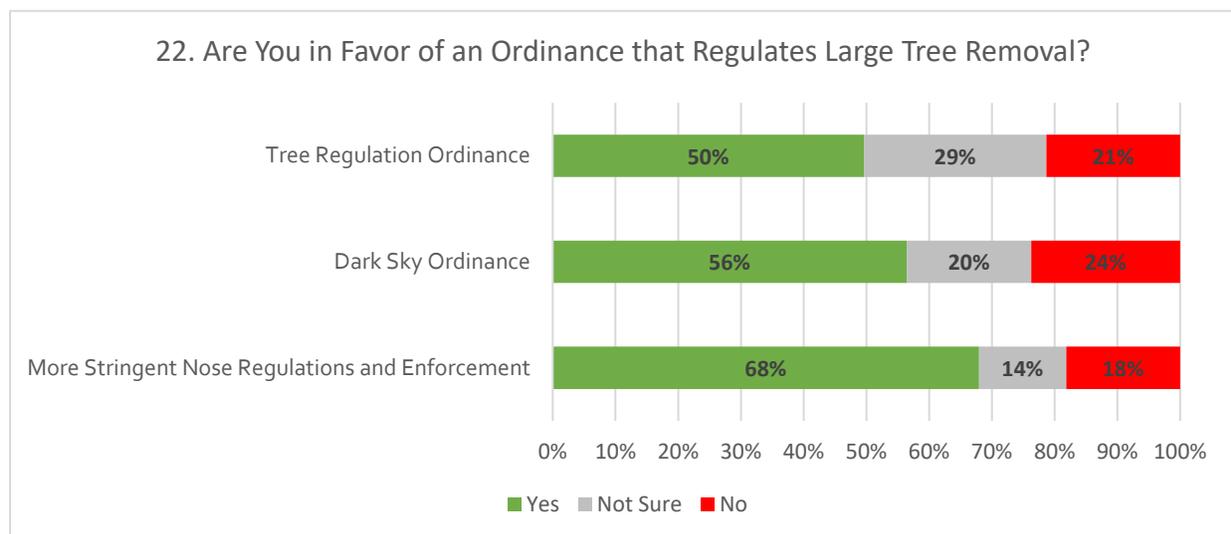
This issue seems to be very important for many residents. Half of respondents indicated that they are in favor of an ordinance. A slightly higher percentage (52%) of responses from Village residents were in favor of an ordinance.

**Q21: Are you in favor of more stringent dark sky regulations (light pollution) and more enforcement?**

This issue seems to be very important for many residents. 56% of respondents indicated that they are in favor of an ordinance. This percentage is consistent to surveys from Village residents only.

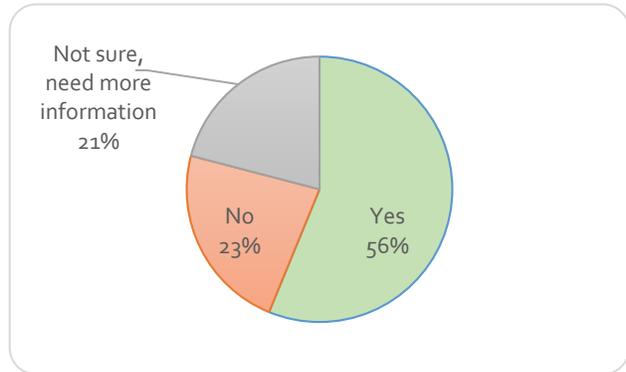
**Q22: Are you in favor of an ordinance that regulates noise pollution?**

This issue seems to be very important for many residents. 68% of respondents indicated that they are in favor of measures to reduce noise pollution with an ordinance. 72% of responses from Village residents are in support of this.



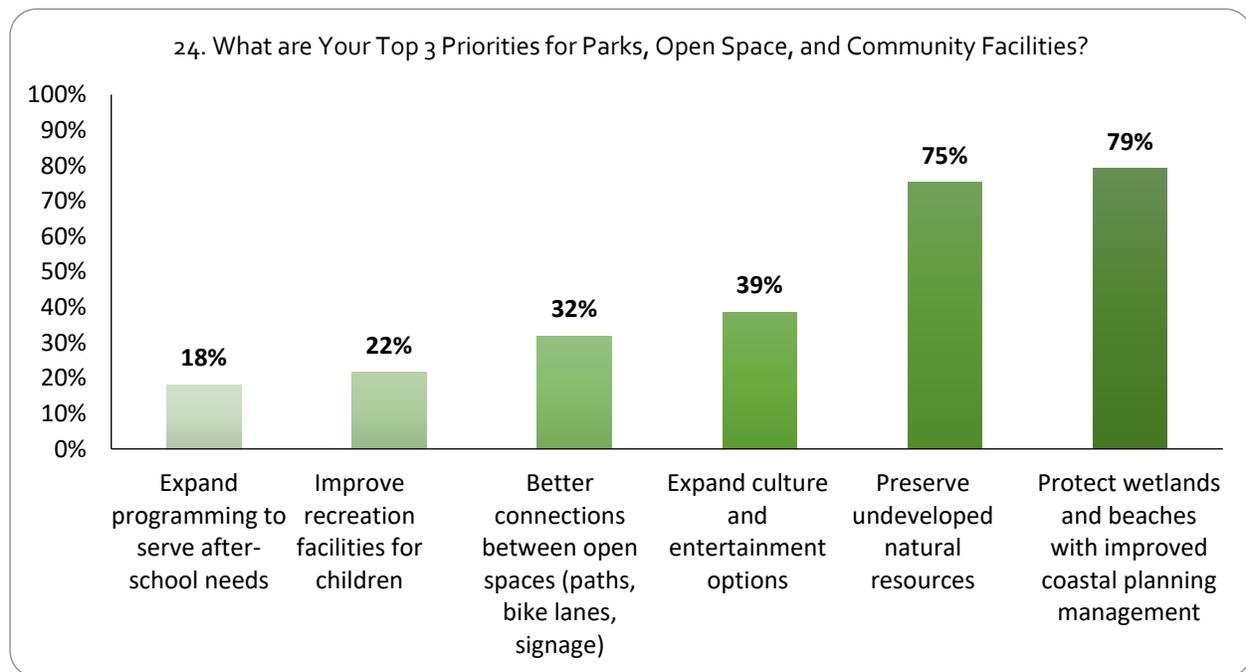
**Q23: Do you think the historic district boundary should be increased to preserve older homes?**

This issue seems to be very important for many residents. 56% of respondents indicated that they support this measure. 21% are unsure or need more information. These percentages are consistent with responses from Village residents alone.



**Q24: What are your top 3 priorities for parks, open space, and community facilities?**

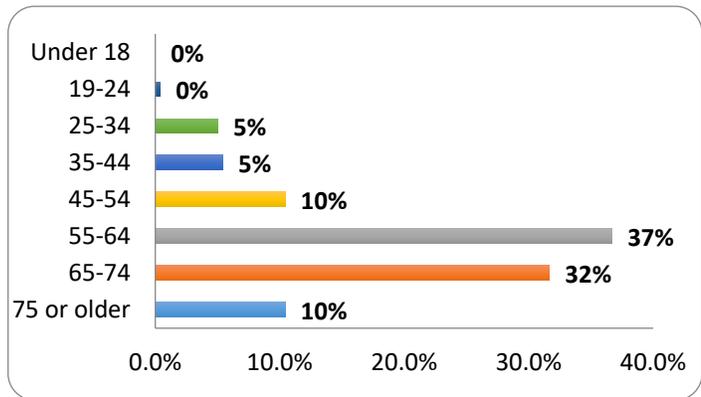
Participants were asked to pick their three top priorities from a list of 6. Environmental protection seems to be the highest priority, with the top two responses being protection of wetlands and beaches and preserving natural resources.



## Demographic Questions

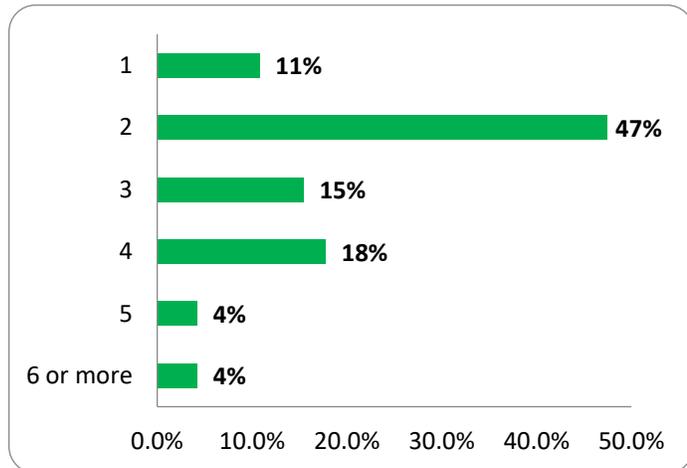
### Q25: Please tell us your age

The survey had a very high representation (79%) from people aged 55 and up. While the population of the Village tends to be older on average, generally speaking, the breakdown of responses is not consistent with demographics from the Village as a whole. It is important to take this into consideration when weighing results.



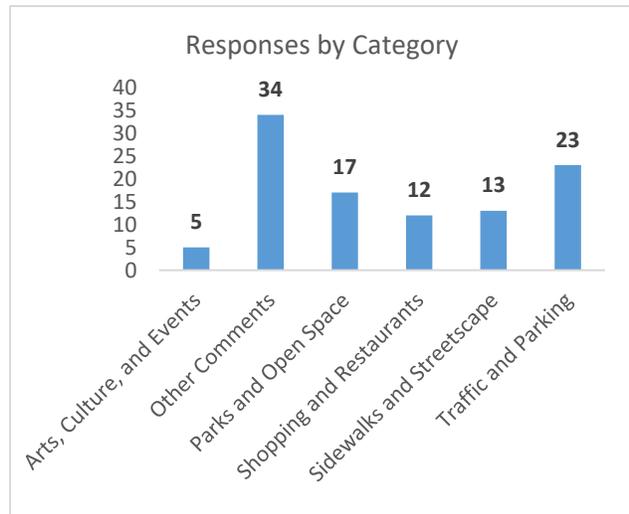
### Q26: How many persons live in your household?

Roughly 48% of respondents have 2 persons living in their household. Approximately 18% and 15% of participants have 4 and three people in their homes respectively.



## IDEAS WALL

This visioning exercise was meant to gather input on issues and opportunities for the Village. A total of 104 open-ended comments were received. Participants had the opportunity to up- or down-vote other ideas presented. Comments were grouped into the following areas: Sidewalks and Streetscape; Parks and Open Space; Arts, Culture, and Events; Shopping and Restaurants; Traffic and Parking; and Other Comments. The chart to the right shows the breakdown of comments by category.



### Sidewalks and Streetscape (13 comments)

The most popular idea is the need to improve the network of sidewalks and bike lanes in residential areas to encourage walking and biking to town. In the Village Center area, some commented that the pedestrian environment could be improved, both with improved pedestrian connections from parking areas as well as safer crossings at key intersections. A few people commented on the need to replace trees throughout the Village that are in distress.

*"It would be great to have bike lanes in the estate section so that walking, running and biking are safer."*

*"More well-designed pedestrian connections should be made between the main sidewalks in the Village and the parking lots behind the stores."*

*"Safe biking lanes and pathways are necessary for all residents. Use the Jackson Hole model."*

*"The Village has 15,000 trees and 1/3 need replacement."*

*"Pedestrian signal badly needed at Jobs and Main."*

## Parks and Open Space (19 comments)

Participants highlighted the desire to preserve natural areas and protect wildlife. Some comments cited the need to purchase natural areas using CPF funds and take other measures to support biodiversity (such as planting native and drought resistant species). Another idea which received a lot of up-votes was the need to bury utility lines. Two comments addressed the potential to improve access to Lake Agawam such as having an access point for kayaks and making areas around the east and west sides more of a public space. A few people commented on the need to replace trees lost with age or due to storms.

*"What about a walking boardwalk along village owned land on west sides of Lake Agawam?"*

*"Bury all electric wires."*

*"The preservation of wooded land and the protection of wildlife should be a consideration for the Village."*

*"Include more indigenous, and drought resistant plantings throughout our parks and open spaces."*

*"Would love to see public basketball courts, spaces for older kids!"*

*"Provide a place for residents to access Lake Agawam with kayaks similar to what the Village of Bellport provides for their residents."*

## Arts, Culture, and Events (5 comments)

A theme addressed in multiple comments was the need to have affordable retail options. Another idea was to create an "arts district," where a cultural center /community center could be built for promotion of arts and culture. Another respondent stated that the Village should better promote the long history of the Village, including the Shinnecock Tribe and its pre-European settlement.

*"It is so important to preserve and reuse the beautiful buildings we have in our town."*

*"Many people come to Southampton for the brand not realizing we are an ancient settlement with a deep heritage."*

*"Why can't we emulate Sag Harbor and have some retail shops with normally priced stuff?"*

## Shopping and Restaurants (12 comments)

One of the most popular topics was the need to improve the variety of restaurants and affordable food options. The comment that received the most up-votes stated that the Village should encourage more seating outdoors. Some commented on how they appreciate the small-town feel of the Village Center, which should be maintained. However, there were also a few comments that pointed to areas that could use some improvement such as the vacant and underutilized buildings along Nugent Street including the old post office.

*"Allowing restaurants to have more seating outdoors has been wonderful."*

*"Please don't re-design Main Street and Jobs lane into a plastic homogenized Disneyesque Main Street."*

*"How about replacing the old post office and two empty banks on Nugent Street with great looking apartments over commercial."*

*"Need to provide adults and teenagers alike more places to hangout."*

## Traffic and Parking (23 comments)

The most common ideas that were discussed included walkability, safety, and traffic calming on residential streets. The following, in particular, received the most "up votes":  
*Minimize the impact of landscape and contractor services and force them to park on private properties, improve enforcement of existing traffic laws, and reduce speeding and traffic on residential streets.*

*"The road signs actually say No Parking in our neighborhood, so why are contractors, landscapers, etc. allowed to park there?"*

*"Homeowners' driveways are often gated shut and empty with 5 or 6 service vehicles parked on street."*

*"Speeding cars and illegal u-turns all through village go unnoticed."*

*"Greater enforcement of speed restrictions would be appreciated. This could be a revenue generator for the Village."*

## Other Comments (33 comments)

Comments under this category covered some of the themes specified in the other topic areas, including quality of life issues. One such issue that was brought up in a number of comments was the need to limit gas powered leaf blowers, which generate a lot of noise. Another frequent comment was the need to address sewers and reduce stormwater runoff. Saving the movie theater was another topic of interest. Some commented that nightclubs are a nuisance, but others commented that these are important places that provide things to do for people in their 20's. Lastly, there were a few comments that increased maintenance was needed on Village Center streets, including overgrown weeds, overstuffed garbage bins, and litter.

*"The Sewer District should be the main priority right now in the Village."*

*"Improve 43 Hill Street to modernize the theater and small business work center."*

*"Everyday a different yard has a landscaper making so much noise!"*

*"I would like to see the theme of addressing climate change added to the plan."*

*"Generally the Village needs to address the flooding issue."*

*"More likely due to rising volume but a noticeable difference in the cleanliness of streets."*