

Cheshire Master Plan Survey Summary

Introduction

This report presents and analyzes the results of a survey available to residents of Cheshire regarding the master plan of the Town of Cheshire. This survey, hosted by SurveyMonkey, included various questions about the respondents' preferences and desires for the future of Cheshire. The survey was open from March 14, 2016 to April 8, 2016.

A total of 341 residents responded to the survey, at least in part; respondents were not required to answer every question, so any question could be skipped or left blank. Below are the results of this survey, including information on the amount of respondents that answered the survey, and the appropriate numbers and percentages of how those respondents answered each question. Any important or recognizable trends in each question were made note of below the charts.

The survey was promoted through a full-page flyer posted throughout the Town of Cheshire, the Fire Department sign on Route 8, a newsletter for the Council on Aging, and an oversized postcard that was sent to every postal address in town, and through a full page flyer that was mailed to all property owners who live out of town. The postcard was distributed using a service of the U.S. Postal Service called Every Door Direct Mail, which is a cost-effective mechanism to deliver a mailing to every postal customer on a given route. The postcards were brought to the Cheshire Post Office on Wednesday, March 16th, 2016 and were then distributed to the three carrier routes and all P.O. Box customers in Cheshire, totaling 1,561 addresses. The flyers for the 190 out-of-town property owners were mailed on the same day through the regular mail. In total, 1,751 mail pieces were sent, resulting in a 19.5% response rate.

The postcard and flyer succinctly explained the purpose of the survey and the target audience, and listed the four ways to access the survey: going to the town website and clicking the link to the survey; going directly to the web address for the survey; picking up a paper copy of the survey at one of several locations around town; or scanning the QR code on the postcard/flyer with a smartphone or tablet. Overall, 305 respondents used took the survey electronically, and 36 responses were received via paper copy and manually entered; it is unknown how many people used each of the three methods to access the electronic version of the survey.

Living in Cheshire

Q1. How would you rate the quality of life in Cheshire?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	23.03%	76
Good	57.58%	190
Average	16.97%	56
Poor	2.42%	8
Very Poor	0.0%	0
	<i>answered question</i>	330
	<i>skipped question</i>	11

A majority of participants rated the quality of life in Cheshire as *Good* (57.58%, 190 respondents) or *Excellent* (23.03%, 76).

Q2. What aspects of life in Cheshire do you like the most? (Check all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Small town atmosphere	74.03%	248
Natural and scenic beauty	72.84%	244
Rural setting	72.54%	243
Close to nature and wildlife	69.85%	234
Peace and quiet	68.66%	230
Low Crime Rate	68.06%	228
Safety	57.91%	194
Close to Ashuwillticook Rail Trail	56.42%	189
Privacy	50.15%	168
Affordable cost of living	45.37%	152
People and community	43.28%	145
Relatives and family live nearby	42.99%	144
Close to Cheshire Lake	37.91%	127
Close to Appalachian Trail	34.93%	117
My life history is here	32.24%	108
Proximity to work	31.04%	104
Sense of history	30.15%	101
Ability to participate in town government	23.88%	80
Weather and climate	23.28%	78
Affordable housing	22.09%	74
Church life	18.51%	62
Recreational facilities	11.94%	40
	<i>answered question</i>	335
	<i>skipped question</i>	6

This question allowed participants to select as many qualities listed that they most liked about Cheshire. The most common response was *Small town atmosphere* with 248 respondents or 74.03%. Many qualities associated to qualities of small towns, such as *Safety* and *Peace and quiet* were highly rated. In addition, those qualities related to nature were also highly liked (*Natural and scenic beauty*, *Rural setting*, *Close to nature and wildlife*).

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Small Town Atmosphere	19.79%	57
Natural Beauty	14.58%	42
People and Community	13.98%	40
Rural Community	10.76%	31
Peace and Quiet	7.99%	23
Safety	6.25%	18
Low Cost of Living	4.51%	13
Life History	4.51%	13
Low Taxes	4.17%	12

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Close to Family	3.47%	10
Close to Neighboring Cities	2.78%	8
Cheshire Lake	2.43%	7
Outdoor Recreation	2.78%	8
Rail Trail	2.43%	7
Convenience	1.74%	5
Other	1.74%	5
Privacy	1.39%	4
Government	1.04%	3
Authenticity	0.69%	2
Schools	0.69%	2
Sense of History	0.69%	2
Church	0.35%	1
Culture	0.35%	1
	<i>answered question</i>	288
	<i>skipped question</i>	53

This open-ended question asked respondents to select only one characteristic that they liked most about Cheshire. Analysis of the write-in responses revealed that *Small town atmosphere* once again was the most listed quality (19.79%, 57 respondents). *Natural beauty* was the second most listed (14.58%, 42 respondents), and *People and community* was third (13.98%, 40 respondents).

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
School Uncertainty	16.67%	45
Small Town Politics	13.70%	37
Little Commercial Development	9.63%	26
Town Government	7.04%	19
Transportation	6.30%	17
None/No Comment	5.56%	15
Nothing to Do	5.19%	14
Lack of Economic Development	4.81%	13
Appearance of Town	4.81%	13
Other	4.55%	12
Everybody Knows Everybody	4.07%	11
Small/Closed Mindedness	4.07%	11
Sewer	3.33%	9
Water Related	2.59%	7
Increasing Tax Rate	2.59%	7
Too Much Change	2.59%	7
Location	2.22%	6
Zoning Laws	2.22%	6
Housing Issues	1.48%	4
Town Hall Hours	1.11%	3
Winter	1.11%	3
Too Low of Taxes	0.74%	2

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?	
<i>answered question</i>	270
<i>skipped question</i>	71

This open-ended question asked respondents to select only one characteristic that they liked least about Cheshire. Analysis of the write-in responses revealed that *School Uncertainty*, a category including all responses that identified school quality and concerns over its administration, was the most common response as the least-liked aspect of life in Cheshire (16.67%, 45 respondents). Qualities related to small town life, such as *Small Town Politics* (13.70%, 37), *Everyone Knows Everyone* (4.07%, 11), and *Small/Closed Mindedness* (4.07%, 11) also earned a lot responses.

Q5. What would you like for the Town of Cheshire in the next 20 years? (List up to five)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Preserve the beauty of the town	67.17%	223
Encourage development of small local business	56.02%	186
Remain rural	54.82%	182
Low taxes	53.61%	178
Slow and controlled growth	39.16%	130
Strong sense of community	36.14%	120
Implement town sewer service	24.40%	81
Increased business development	20.48%	68
Encourage tourism	19.28%	64
More cultural activities	18.37%	61
Retirement community	16.57%	55
Expand town water service	14.46%	48
Other	14.16%	47
More jobs	12.65%	42
Discourage growth	8.43%	28
No change	6.93%	23
Don't know	1.20%	4
If you answered "Other" to the question above or have additional comments, please explain.		73
	<i>answered question</i>	332
	<i>skipped question</i>	9

This question allowed respondents to select up to 5 goals that they would like Cheshire to pursue in the next 20 years. Four responses earned a disproportionate number of responses: *Preserve the Beauty of the Town* (67.17%, 223 respondents), *Encourage Development of Small Local Business* (56.02%, 186 respondents), *Remain Rural* (54.82%, 182 respondents), and *Low Taxes* (53.61%, 178 respondents). Seventy-three additional comments were received – please see the appendix for a complete list.

Q6. Do you think you might move from Cheshire in the next 5 years?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No	69.44%	225
Unsure	18.83%	61
Yes	11.73%	38

Q6. Do you think you might move from Cheshire in the next 5 years?	
If you plan on moving from Cheshire in the next five years, what would be your reason for the move, and where are you likely to move to?	88
<i>answered question</i>	324
<i>skipped question</i>	17

Only 38 respondents (11.73%) stated that they might move from Cheshire in the next 5 years, while 69.44% or 225 respondents said no, and 18.83% or 61 respondents said unsure. In the comments section of this question, respondents were asked to cite a reason for their potential leaving. Nineteen respondents commented that issues relating to schools were their reason for considering leaving the town.

Services and Conditions

Q7. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following conditions or services.					
Answer Options	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor	No Opinion	Response Count
Fire Department services	188	98	4	13	303
Emergency Medical services	161	100	9	33	303
Police Department services	135	132	19	16	302
Recycling/waste disposal services	68	165	42	28	303
Drinking water quality	67	119	20	93	299
Cleanliness of the town	65	182	51	4	302
Library services	57	144	23	73	297
Appearance of the town	49	175	75	2	301
Public transportation specifically for the elderly or disabled	40	97	24	132	293
Recreational activities	40	139	70	49	298
Town website	39	159	55	44	297
Council on Aging services	37	114	10	138	299
School facilities	37	127	89	46	299
School programs	34	118	78	65	295
Programs for seniors	31	104	26	136	297
Town governance	31	159	65	42	297
Town government communication to the public	31	116	126	25	298
Building permitting & inspection	30	157	47	67	301
Water Department services	29	93	45	133	300
Board of Health services	25	129	36	109	299
Conservation Commission services	25	113	34	123	295
Public transportation	24	116	60	97	297
Recreational facilities	24	111	77	86	298
Town-wide activities	23	144	86	39	292
Condition of existing town buildings	21	182	84	13	300

Q7. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following conditions or services.					
Answer Options	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor	No Opinion	Response Count
Education offerings for all ages	19	100	95	81	295
Condition of sidewalks	19	174	51	57	301
Planning Board services	18	129	35	113	295
Cultural resources	18	95	89	87	289
Condition of town roads	18	148	126	6	298
Zoning enforcement	13	114	65	107	299
Other (Please specify)	8	5	15	38	66
If you answered "Other" to the question above or have additional comments, please explain					54
<i>answered question</i>					306
<i>skipped question</i>					35

Fire Department Services earned the most ratings of “Excellent” with 188 respondents or 62.05%. Town Government Communication to the Public (42.28%, 126 respondents) and Condition of Roads (42.28%, 126 respondents) received the most ratings of poor.

Q8. What conditions or services do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?					
Answer Options	Keep service or condition the same	Reduce service or condition	Expand or improve service or condition	Don't Know	Response Count
Condition of town roads	79	8	196	10	293
Town government communication to the public	99	3	159	31	292
School programs	65	14	158	54	291
Town-wide activities	89	5	153	41	288
School facilities	77	16	152	45	290
Education offerings for all ages	61	9	152	65	287
Recreational activities	85	6	148	46	285
Condition of existing town buildings	115	5	142	26	288
Appearance of the town	134	10	141	6	291
Recreational facilities	85	6	134	59	284
Cleanliness of the town	158	9	116	7	290
Town website	133	5	106	45	289
Condition of sidewalks	129	9	103	50	291
Cultural resources	95	6	102	81	284
Town governance	137	11	96	45	289
Recycling/waste disposal services	175	5	88	24	292
Drinking water quality	115	3	86	89	293

Q8. What conditions or services do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?					
Answer Options	Keep service or condition the same	Reduce service or condition	Expand or improve service or condition	Don't Know	Response Count
Water Department services	91	15	86	100	292
Zoning enforcement	97	10	83	101	291
Public transportation	118	4	81	82	285
Programs for seniors	97	4	80	106	287
Library services	151	4	77	61	293
Public transportation specifically for the elderly or disabled	106	2	73	109	290
Council on Aging services	102	3	72	114	291
Conservation Commission services	114	11	66	101	292
Building permitting & inspection	141	12	64	77	294
Planning Board services	116	7	60	106	289
Board of Health services	121	9	58	105	293
Police Department services	201	22	51	21	295
Emergency Medical services	211	4	46	32	293
Fire Department services	235	9	30	21	295
Other (Please specify)\	2	6	14	36	58
If you answered "Other" to the question above or have additional comments, please explain					32
<i>answered question</i>					301
<i>skipped question</i>					40

Almost all participants did not want to “Reduce Service or Condition,” with no service earning more than 10% of these responses. The service most participants wanted to expand or improve was *Condition of Town Roads* (66.89%, 196 respondents).

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?		
Categories of Written Answers	Response Percent	Response Count
N/A	10.34%	9
Reduce Government Waste	10.34%	9
Improve Schools	10.34%	9
Beautification	9.20%	8
Other	6.90%	6
Business Growth	5.75%	5
Road Improvements	5.75%	5
Water Services Improved	5.75%	5

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?

Categories of Written Answers	Response Percent	Response Count
Improve Environmental Conditions	4.60%	4
Activity Programming	3.45%	3
Clean Cheshire Lake	3.45%	3
Combine Adams & Cheshire Fire Depts.	3.45%	3
Expand Sewer Lines	3.45%	3
Housing Issues	3.45%	3
Refuse Pipeline	3.45%	3
More Access to Info	2.30%	2
Expand Town Hours	2.30%	2
Improve Voting System	2.30%	2
Recreation	2.30%	2
Trash Disposal	2.30%	2
<i>answered question</i>		87
<i>skipped question</i>		254

Only 87 participants answered this question, as it was intended to capture any other issues besides the typical ones listed in question 8. No categories earned more than 10 responses.

Q10. If you have any additional comments about services provided by the town, please explain below.

This question further inquired on any comments about the services of the town, and specific responses were not grouped in order to respect each very individualized comment. Comments from the 65 respondents to this question can be found in the appendix below.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Keep taxes and services the same	52.43%	151
Increase taxes to increase services	35.42%	102
Decrease taxes and reduce services	12.15%	35
Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?		124
<i>answered question</i>		288
<i>skipped question</i>		53

The majority of (52.43%, or 151) participants desired to keep taxes and services the same. In the comments section of this question, respondents were asked to identify which service should be either expanded or reduced, and 56 respondents reported that schools should be the main focus of expansion.

Q12. Should the town explore options to provide services more cost effectively?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - share services with other towns	52.38%	154
Yes - subcontract services	24.49%	72
Yes - other	9.86%	29

Q12. Should the town explore options to provide services more cost effectively?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No	8.16%	24
Unsure	27.55%	81
Please explain your response, for instance, which services should be subcontracted or shared or what other options should be pursued?		92
	<i>answered question</i>	294
	<i>skipped question</i>	47

A majority of participants favored the option to share services with other towns (52.38%, 154 respondents) in order to be more cost effective.

Q13. Which of the following information sources do you use when learning about town issues and events? (Pick your top 3 choices)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
The Berkshire Eagle	57.10%	173
Fire station sign	56.77%	172
iBerkshires	54.13%	164
Friends and neighbors	52.15%	158
Town website	25.74%	78
Facebook / social media	25.08%	76
The Berkshire Courier	19.14%	58
Postings around town	17.16%	52
Radio	11.88%	36
Gatherings at social organizations	9.24%	28
Local gathering place (for example a local diner)	7.59%	23
E-mail	4.29%	13
	<i>answered question</i>	303
	<i>skipped question</i>	38

There were four answer options that garnered a larger share of responses: *iBerkshires* (54.13%, 164 respondents), *The Berkshire Eagle* (57.10%, 173), *Fire Station Sign* (56.77%, 172), and *Friends and Neighbors* (52.15%, 158).

Q14. Do you feel you are adequately informed about town government affairs?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No	44.78%	133
Yes	33.67%	100
Unsure	22.2%	64
If you answered no to the above question, what more could be done to help you be more informed?		93
	<i>answered question</i>	297
	<i>skipped question</i>	44

Responses to this question were not overwhelmingly weighted to one side or the other, however slightly more people said that they do not feel they are adequately informed. Many people provided open-ended responses on what can be done about this, and those comments can be found in the appendix below.

Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Resources

Q15. How important is it to conserve the following types of open space or historic resources in Cheshire?				
Answer Options	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Unimportant	Response Count
Waterfront areas along rivers, ponds & Cheshire Lake	253	25	5	283
Farmlands	250	26	4	280
Wildlife Habitat	248	30	4	282
Open space for drinking water needs	237	34	8	279
Forest Parcels	236	37	8	281
Open space for recreational needs	229	44	6	279
Historic sites or buildings	219	49	15	283
Open Meadows	215	56	10	281
Ridgelines	210	61	8	279
Wetlands	210	52	20	282
Vernal pools	163	88	22	273
<i>answered question</i>				286
<i>skipped question</i>				55

All categories received around 70% to 90% of respondents identifying the space as important for conservation, except the category *Vernal Pools*.

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Farmlands	16.88%	27
Cheshire Lake	13.13%	21
Recreation Space	12.50%	20
Water Drinking Needs	11.88%	19
Forest Lands	6.88%	11
Watershed Health	6.88%	11
Wildlife Habitat	4.38%	7
Historic Sites	3.75%	6
N/A	3.75%	6
Town Beach	3.75%	6
None	3.13%	5
Ridgeline	2.50%	4
Waterfront Areas	2.50%	4
Other	2.50%	4
Preservation/Conservation	2.50%	4
Community Center	1.25%	2
Education	1.25%	2
No Wind Facilities	1.25%	2
Scenic Character	1.25%	2
Sewage	1.25%	2

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)	
<i>answered question</i>	160
<i>skipped question</i>	181

Respondents identified *Farmlands* (16.88%, 27 respondents) as the single greatest open space need. A variety of categories related to water were also highly ranked: *Cheshire Lake* (13.13%, 21), *Water Drinking Needs* (11.88%, 19), *Watershed Health* (6.88%, 11).

Q17. Do you or your family use the following recreational areas or facilities?					
Answer Options	Use regularly	Use infrequently	Never use	Don't know about it	Response Count
Ashuwillticook Rail Trail	189	86	8	1	284
Cheshire Lake	111	114	56	0	281
Private Land	107	45	90	30	272
Farnam's Causeway	106	116	52	10	284
Mount Greylock State Reservation	91	154	31	3	279
The Cobbles	74	134	51	19	278
Appalachian Trail	73	121	82	3	279
Cheshire School Playground	60	90	121	3	274
Cheshire Elementary School Grounds	58	99	116	2	275
Boat Launch	53	78	141	3	275
Stafford Hill Wildlife Management Area	43	87	113	34	277
Hoosac Valley Middle & High School Fields	35	98	137	7	277
Fishing piers	35	71	154	15	275
Senior / Community Center	23	118	120	16	277
Watershed / Old Reservoir Land	20	46	142	63	271
Chalet Wildlife Management Area	13	53	97	104	267
<i>answered question</i>					287
<i>skipped question</i>					54

The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail was the open space most used regularly by the participants (66.55%, 189 respondents).

Q18. What priority would you set for future recreational facilities? (Answer all items)				
Answer Options	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Response Count
Running / walking trails	183	66	27	276
Bicycle trails	164	76	37	277
Hiking	160	93	20	273
Playgrounds	139	86	44	269
Canoe / kayaking/ boat launch	137	98	40	275
Picnic areas	130	111	34	275

Q18. What priority would you set for future recreational facilities? (Answer all items)				
Answer Options	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Response Count
Playing fields	123	98	49	270
Fishing	118	99	52	269
Town beach	115	92	65	272
Indoor recreation / fitness activities	109	88	56	253
Swimming	106	92	78	276
Snowshoeing	101	110	62	273
Cross country skiing	93	112	70	275
Ice skating	82	116	78	276
Hunting areas	75	90	105	270
ATV / snowmobiling	73	88	107	268
Sledding	68	121	82	271
Tennis	39	87	143	269
Golfing	33	62	173	268
Skateboarding	23	86	160	269
<i>answered question</i>				282
<i>skipped question</i>				59

Trails were most often identified as the highest priority for the participants: *Running/Walking Trails* (66.30%, 183 respondents), *Bicycle Trails* (59.21%, 164), and *Hiking* (58.61%, 160).

Q19. How satisfied are you with existing recreation areas in Cheshire?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	48.04%	135
Satisfied	38.08%	107
Dissatisfied	13.88%	39
<i>answered question</i>		281
<i>skipped question</i>		60

Although many respondents (48.04%) did not have strong feelings regarding existing recreation areas in Cheshire, a considerable percentage (38.08%) are satisfied and relatively few are dissatisfied (13.88%).

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Town Beach	16.76%	29
Improve Lake	15.03%	26
Hiking/Walking Trails	10.98%	19
Indoor Facilities	10.98%	19
ATV Trails	6.94%	12
Swim Spaces	5.78%	10
Youth Center	5.20%	9
Biking Trails	4.05%	7
Family Activities	4.05%	7
Picnic Areas	4.05%	7
Maintenance	3.53%	6

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Open Space	3.53%	6
Other	3.53%	6
Unsure	2.89%	5
Improve Rail Trail	2.31%	4
Better Information	1.73%	3
None	1.73%	3
Sports Facilities	1.73%	3
Tennis Courts	1.73%	3
Boat Launch	1.16%	2
Dog Park	1.16%	2
Town Park	1.16%	2
	<i>answered question</i>	173
	<i>skipped question</i>	168

Respondents identified improvements to *Cheshire Lake* (15.03%, 26 respondents) and associated facilities, such as *Town Beach* (16.76%, 29), and *Swim Spaces* (5.78%, 10), as the recreation improvements most needed in Cheshire.

Economy

Q21. Which types of businesses or services do you currently use in Cheshire versus elsewhere in Berkshire County? What types of businesses or services would you like to see encouraged or discouraged in Cheshire? (Answer all items)				
Answer Options	Currently use Cheshire business	Business to encourage in Cheshire	Business to discourage from Cheshire	Response Count
Gas Station / Convenience store	204	43	49	274
Financial services – such as a bank	155	99	38	271
Automotive sales and service	146	66	52	253
Restaurant	143	170	2	275
Farming / agriculture / farms stands	136	177	5	272
Locally owned small businesses	112	206	3	273
Trade services – such as plumbers, electricians, etc.	90	181	17	266
Farmers market	69	209	6	270
Country Store	68	205	6	264
General services – such as landscapers, handymen	63	197	16	263
Construction (includes trucking and hauling)	52	73	126	247

Q21. Which types of businesses or services do you currently use in Cheshire versus elsewhere in Berkshire County? What types of businesses or services would you like to see encouraged or discouraged in Cheshire? (Answer all items)				
Answer Options	Currently use Cheshire business	Business to encourage in Cheshire	Business to discourage from Cheshire	Response Count
Eco-friendly services	44	188	27	247
Personal services – such as hairdresser, fitness trainer, healing services	36	213	27	264
Professional services – such as architects, engineers, accountants, attorneys	32	187	45	258
Grocery	31	135	92	254
Tourism and recreation related business	25	199	30	245
Inn / B&B (tourism lodging)	10	223	25	257
Regional / National chain stores	9	53	210	269
Commercial – such as Unistress	5	67	183	254
Light Industrial – such as a plastics injection molding plant	3	109	149	261
Other (please specify)	3	20	3	26
If you answered "Other" to the question above or have additional comments, please specify or explain.				26
				<i>answered question</i> 282
				<i>skipped question</i> 59

Gas Station/Convenience store (74.45%, 204 respondents) was identified as the current Cheshire business most used by the respondents. Respondents wanted to encourage businesses related to tourism and attracting visitors: *Inn/B&B* (86.77%, 223), *Country Store* (77.65%, 205), *Tourism and recreation related business* (81.22%, 199), and *Farmer’s Market* (77.41%, 209). A high proportion of respondents wanted to discourage *Regional/National chain stores* (78.07%, 210) and “Commercial businesses” (72.05%, 183).

Q22. Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about economic development in the town of Cheshire? (Select only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Development of new businesses and services is good for the local economy, we should encourage it.	49.46%	138
Cheshire should focus on retaining and supporting existing business, rather than encouraging more.	24.01%	67
Unsure about economic development in Cheshire.	9.32%	26

Q22. Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about economic development in the town of Cheshire? (Select only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
The town's economy is growing at a good rate, but we need to do a better job at managing its development.	8.60%	24
None of the above statements describe my opinion.	7.17%	20
There is too much economic development in Cheshire and we should discourage it.	1.43%	4
If you answered "none" to the question above or have additional comments, please explain.		33
	<i>answered question</i>	279
	<i>skipped question</i>	62

The most commonly chosen statement to describe the economic development of the town was *Development of new businesses and services is good for the local economy, we should encourage it* with 49.46% or 138 respondents.

Housing

Q23. How important is it for Cheshire to have the following types of housing options?				
Answer Options	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Unimportant	Response Count
More options for young families (starter homes)	183	60	26	269
Adaptive reuse or re-development of older / historic properties	175	70	24	269
More options for seniors /elderly (single story or assisted living)	165	74	32	271
More single-family homes	128	110	28	266
More high-end homes	65	99	104	268
More second homes	54	109	104	267
More apartments and rental units	53	85	131	269
More housing for low income families	51	70	148	269
More multi-unit/multi-family housing such as condominiums	34	74	161	269
Are there other housing options for Cheshire?				36
			<i>answered question</i>	280
			<i>skipped question</i>	61

More options for young families (68.03%, 183 respondents) and adaptive reuse (65.06%, 175) were rated as important housing options for Cheshire residents. Multi-unit housing (59.85%, 161) and housing for low-income families (55.02%, 148) were primarily rated as unimportant.

Land Use

Q24. Which of the following statements describes how you feel about housing development in Cheshire? (Select only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Development in the community is good for the economy, we should do everything we can to encourage it.	34.06%	94
This community is growing at an appropriate rate, we should keep it at the same rate it has been at.	31.88%	88
Unsure	20.29%	56
None of the above statements describe my opinion.	9.42%	26
There is too much development in the community, we should do everything we can to discourage more development.	4.35%	12
If you answered none to the question above or have additional comments, please explain.		28
	<i>answered question</i>	276
	<i>skipped question</i>	65

Most respondents were either satisfied with the current rate of growth and want to either maintain that rate (31.88%, 88 respondents) or to expand at a quicker rate (34.06%, 94).

Q25. Towns can take certain steps to manage or control development, such as through zoning, wetlands permitting, etc. Please rate the current level of control for the following uses or resources in Cheshire. (Answer all items)					
Answer Options	Too much control	Controls are at the right level	Too little control	Don't know / Need more information	Response Count
Residential Development	29	118	33	93	273
Environmental Resources	28	87	49	110	274
Commercial Development	23	85	61	107	274
If you have any additional comments or questions about land use or land use regulation, please include them below.					23
				<i>answered question</i>	275
				<i>skipped question</i>	66

The distribution of responses to each of the subsets in this question mostly align with each other. The majority of respondents stated that the controls are either at the right level or that they did not know and needed more information.

Transportation

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count

Wells Road	36.79%	78
Sandmill Road	20.28%	43
Depot Street	18.87%	40
Lanesborough Road	10.38%	22
Route 8	10.38%	22
West Mountain Road	10.38%	22
Route 116	9.43%	20
Other	7.55%	16
Stafford Hill Road	7.55%	16
Outlook Road	7.08%	15
Windsor Road	6.60%	14
Church Street	5.19%	11
All Roads	4.72%	10
Cheshire Hills Road	4.72%	10
Ingalls Road	4.72%	10
Main Street	4.25%	9
None/Unsure	4.25%	9
Richmond Hill Road	4.25%	9
Jenks Road	1.89%	4
Maple Drive	0.94%	2
Route 9	0.47%	1
<i>answered question</i>		212
<i>skipped question</i>		129

Wells Road (36.79%, 78 respondents), Sandmill Road (20.28%, 43), and Depot Street (18.87%, 40) were identified as the roads that are the most important for improvement.

Q27. What is the most important transportation issue for you or a suggestion you might have regarding transportation in Cheshire?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Public Transportation	28.80%	36
None	21.60%	27
Road Maintenance	21.60%	27
Better Bus Service	13.60%	17
Senior Transportation	9.60%	12
Speeding	7.20%	9
Other	6.40%	8
Traffic Issues	5.60%	7
Side Road Maintenance	2.40%	3
Unsure	2.40%	3
<i>answered question</i>		125
<i>skipped question</i>		216

Responses identified *Public Transportation* (28.80%, 36 respondents) as the most issue. A good portion of responses identified no issue as important using the category *None* (21.60%, 27), or cited general *Road Maintenance* (21.60%, 27).

Town Initiatives and Services

Q28. Please indicate your level of support for the following possible initiatives or service changes. (Answer all)					
Answer Options	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Never heard of it / Not enough info	Response Count
A Farmer's Market in town	215	45	6	4	270
Energy efficiency upgrades to existing town buildings	191	53	12	12	268
Rezone land to promote agriculture	165	65	15	17	262
Hold an annual town festival	165	82	8	12	267
Create a town beach on Cheshire Lake	149	79	32	10	270
Create a space for a community garden	140	94	25	8	267
Create a Youth Center with gym facilities	136	81	35	13	265
Establishment of a town center	135	72	30	28	265
Beautification of Church Street	134	90	31	12	267
Change zoning to allow for accessory apartments (mother-in-law apartment)	134	73	39	22	268
Expand town hall hours	125	107	29	8	269
Pursue development of an elderly housing project	118	87	45	20	270
Develop a new, energy efficient Town Hall / Police Station	111	81	53	24	269
Split off the Water Department from the town to a user-only controlled water district	100	54	43	73	270
Pursue underground wiring in the center of town to eliminate overhead wires	96	79	71	23	269
Create a new multipurpose town building including administrative offices and space for community activities	94	76	77	23	270
Create a town sewer system	92	64	82	31	269
Add a light industrial park somewhere in Cheshire	88	50	102	28	268
Expand the area served by public water	77	94	48	46	265
Re-zone land to promote commercial / business use	64	73	101	25	263

Q28. Please indicate your level of support for the following possible initiatives or service changes. (Answer all)					
Answer Options	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Never heard of it / Not enough info	Response Count
<i>answered question</i>					278
<i>skipped question</i>					63

More than 70% of respondents supported initiatives to establish a Farmer’s Market in town (215 respondents) and provide energy efficiency upgrades to existing town buildings (191 respondents). No initiative was opposed by more than 40% of respondents, with adding a light industrial park and re-zoning land to promote commercial use facing the most opposition, by around 38% of respondents (101-102 respondents).

Q29. Please indicate if you or agree or disagree with the following statement: The town should keep the current Cheshire Water Department structure.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No opinion	47.3%	122
Disagree	36.4%	94
Agree	16.3%	42
<i>answered question</i>		258
<i>skipped question</i>		74

Many respondents (36.4%, 94) disagreed that the current water department structure should be kept as is, however even more respondents (47.3%, 122) did not have an opinion on the matter.

Q30. What is your opinion about the future of education in Cheshire? (Check only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
The Adams Cheshire Regional School District should continue but with modifications to the existing agreement	27.14%	73
The Adams Cheshire Regional School District should continue to exist as it is	23.42%	63
Cheshire should pursue combining with another school district	20.45%	55
Cheshire should pursue other educational options	17.10%	46
Other	11.90%	32
If you answered "other" to the question above or have additional comments, please explain.		53
<i>answered question</i>		269
<i>skipped question</i>		72

Each option in this question received around 20-25% identification from respondents, with no clear favored strategy.

Demographics

Questions 31 through 40 are demographic in nature and describe the characteristics of the population that responded to the survey. These help to correctly understand and place the results in the survey in further formulation of the master plan. The results from this section reflect the

demographics of those who responded and are not necessarily representative of the town and general.

Q31. How many years have you been a resident of Cheshire?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0 - 5 years	8.12%	22
6 -10 years	8.86%	24
11 - 20 years	12.92%	35
20 - 30 years	19.19%	52
30 plus years	50.92%	138
<i>answered question</i>		271
<i>skipped question</i>		70

Q32. What is your age range?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
6 – 13 years old	0.0%	0
14 - 17 years old	0.37%	1
18 – 24 years old	1.11%	3
25 - 35 years old	11.85%	32
36 - 49 years old	18.52%	50
50 - 62 years old	33.33%	90
63 – 75 years old	27.78%	75
76 plus years old	7.04%	19
<i>answered question</i>		270
<i>skipped question</i>		71

Q33. Please indicate the number of people (including yourself) in your household in the following age brackets.							
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
0 to 5 years old	23	15	3	0	0	0	41
6 – 13 years old	25	10	2	1	1	0	39
14 - 17 years old	22	2	1	0	0	0	25
18 – 24 years old	31	8	1	0	0	0	40
25 - 35 years old	23	31	0	0	0	0	54
36 - 49 years old	37	31	0	0	0	0	68
50 - 62 years old	55	63	2	0	0	0	120
63 – 75 years old	37	52	0	0	0	0	89
76 plus years old	11	10	0	0	0	0	21
If more than 6 please specify age and number.					0		
<i>answered question</i>							273
<i>skipped question</i>							68

Q34. Please indicate the number of people (including yourself) in your household by gender.							
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
Female	170	61	22	1	0	0	254
Male	161	54	29	1	0	0	245

If more than 6 please specify gender and number	0
<i>answered question</i>	270
<i>skipped question</i>	71

Q35. Please indicate the number of people (including yourself) in your household by race or ethnicity.							
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
White	37	111	53	33	19	5	258
African American	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Asian	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hispanic	3	0	0	0	1	0	4
Multi-cultural	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
Other	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
If other, please specify and indicate number.							5
<i>answered question</i>							263
<i>skipped question</i>							78

Q36. Please indicate the number of people (including yourself) living in your household by employment status.							
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
Currently working as a full-time employee and working in Cheshire	35	1	0	0	0	0	36
Currently working as a full-time employee and working outside of Cheshire	88	72	7	4	0	0	171
Currently own a business in Cheshire with other employees	15	2	1	0	0	0	18
Self-employed as a sole proprietor working from home	19	1	0	0	0	0	20
Currently working part-time	28	2	1	0	0	0	31
Partially retired, but still working part-time	25	8	0	0	0	0	30
Fully retired	44	46	0	0	0	0	90
If other employment situation or if more than 6 please specify employment status and number							12
<i>answered question</i>							274
<i>skipped question</i>							67

Q37. If you are employed outside of Cheshire, how far do you commute to work one way?				
Answer Options	0-10	10-50	Greater than 50	Response Count
Number of miles	86	96	9	191
<i>answered question</i>				191
<i>skipped question</i>				150

Q38. Do you own your home or rent?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Own home	96.68%	262

Rent	3.32%	9
<i>answered question</i>		271
<i>skipped question</i>		70

Q39. What is your source of drinking water?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Private well	55.61%	152
Town water	43.49%	117
<i>answered question</i>		269
<i>skipped question</i>		72

Q40. If you have school age children, please indicate the number of children attending by type of school.							
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
Public school – non-school choice	23	13	6	1	0	0	43
Public school – school choice	9	2	1	0	0	0	12
Home school	2	3	0	0	0	0	5
Private school	5	0	2	0	0	0	7
Other	10	2	1	0	0	0	13
If other, please specify the school type and number.							19
<i>answered question</i>							72
<i>skipped question</i>							269

Index: Full List of Responses for Open Ended Questions, and Open Ended Comments of Multiple Choice Questions

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

Peace and quiet
its rural nature beautiful views, hiking opportunities, Cheshire lake Housac river, the jungle and all outdoors
Small town atmosphere
Clean air and water
My life history is here
Small town atmosphere
peace and quiet
Natural beauty
Quiet and friendly
relatives and family live nearby
Rural setting
Scenic beauty
Scenic beauty
Living on the lake and close to the AT.
Rural Setting
Small town and some neighbor still have that home town feeling.
Nature
It is ten times better than Adams
Close community.
Geography
My life history is here
The beautiful mountains!
small town
Location
Nature.
Proximity to amazing natural resources, i.e. the A.T., Greylock, Hoosac Lake, Hoosic River,etc.
Rural setting and nature.
Small
rural setting
To still be able to live in an area where people know one another, and where there is plenty of open land and small meandering roads and lots of wildlife.
Small town atmosphere
The beautiful Berkshires are in the top ten tourist destinations in the world. cheshire is at the epicenter of nature, with the Appalachian Trail and bordering the Mount Greylock Reservation
rural setting
Sense of community
history of my family
Close to nature
It is a rural setting with no fast food restaurants or entertainment
Rural setting
Central to all nearby facilities
Safety
Rural setting
Small town atmosphere

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

I love the rural atmosphere and yet proximity to shopping, cultural attractions, gyms, etc. within the boundaries of Berkshire Cnty.

Affordable, safe, and nature at its best

Small town atmosphere

Small town atmosphere

Low taxes

The people

I enjoy the small town feel and the sense of community.

Nature

Rural character

Safety

The people

The natural environment, lack of development.

friendly community

Life history

Family

Peace and Quiet

Away from city life.

It hasn't been commercialized and ruined by large companies and big box chains.

low tax rate

Quite

rural setting

Its beauty and out-of-the-wayness

Having good cycling and hiking trails right out our front door.

Small town atmosphere

Everybody knows everybody

My children were raised here and we have made it our Home

Low cost of living and relatively low intrusive regulation

Affordable cost of living.

Natural and scenic beauty

It is a safe, small town atmosphere.

Peace and quiet

Owning lake property

Small town atmosphere

Safety

Rural Setting

Small town

Community

Life history is here.

Scenery

It's far enough away from Pittsfield and North Adams and the problems that come with the larger towns and cities. Yet we can still access and enjoy the many things that also comes with larger towns and cites.

People and community

Small town

Idyllic New England small town setting

Small Town atmosphere

Comfortable and affordable living

close to Ashuwillticook Rail Trail

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

centrally located in western MA

Rural Setting

The small town atmosphere and the lake

The view from my property

Peaceful small town with little low income housing

small town living

natural and scenic beauty

Community

Sense of community

Affordable cost of living

Natural and scenic beauty

Small New England town that is unspoiled

By poor retail planning

Summer cultural offerings

Natural beauty: The lake, the cobbles, mountains, streams, etc.

Living close to family.

small town, rural life

Sense of history.

small town atmosphere

Always lived here.

lake activities

Cheshire lake

low taxes

Away from work

Low property taxes

peace and quiet

Low tax rate.

Low crime rate

Low crime rate

Nature

The mountains

Some very good people who do care about the town and the people

the people

Peace and quiet

family nearby

Safety

Sense of peaceful space.

Rail Trail

Small town community

Small town community

Low taxes

Small town atmosphere

Safety

The Rail trail with the lake

Close to nearby businesses but overall quiet place to live

Affordable cost-of-living

I love living in the country but close to everything I need

Peace and quiet

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

When we moved to cheshire it was a great little town, but now it is changing becoming a little town with people who want big city government .

Small community

I don't live there yet, but I am looking forward to it, especially all the hiking and biking.

community (including Cheshire Elementary)

small community

Tranquility

Close to the heart of the Berkshires, but in a private setting.

Natural and scenic beauty

Home

Small town atmosphere

Small town atmosphere

The Rail Trail

Small town, Natural Beauty

located between to cities

Scenic beauty

Farm land

A reasonable cost of living.

People and community.

Peaceful small town in the beautiful Berkshires

status quo

People and Community

Country living

It's a really nice small town with a small town feel and it's QUIET.

Authenticity

Authenticity

Low taxes

Peace and quiet

Natural and Scenic beauty

Small town community

Small town

Low taxes

My family's history dates back to the early 1900's - My roots were planted here long before I was old enough to know what that term meant. I hope that my children will continue this love of Cheshire.

Smallness

Need help?? Everyone is there!!

Reasonably central in the county but rural in character.

Safety

Close to work

Low crime rate

Being close to family in a peaceful atmosphere

Rural but close to shopping

Small, close community

Rural community

small government

Rural setting

Safety

IT'S BEEN 'HOME' FOR 50 YEARS

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

Right to farm

Privacy

Relatives and family live nearby.

Small town life, no crime to speak of. Caring tight knit community..

The support our community shows for one another. How it pulls together when it matters most.

Quiet small town

low tax rate

Safety

peace and quiet

The Small town atmosphere

Individual representation at town meetings.

peace and quiet

Cheshire Lake

Privacy

Neighbors look out for each other

Quiet

Living near Cheshire Lake

Natural beauty

Familiarity

Peaceful

Safety

people and community

The Community

Close to work

Living near Family

The people

Rural setting

Small town atmosphere while reasonably close to Pittsfield

Low taxes

Family is close by

Low crime

Rural beauty

Privacy

small town close to family

Low crime rate due to inconvenience of criminals moving here. NOT due to progressive, modern day policing by local PD.

Small, intimate community

Access to lake.

Natural open land and resources

rural setting close but to Pittsfield and North Adams for shopping, entertainment, health care

Small town atmosphere

The natural beauty

small town atmosphere

Small town America within a natural setting.

Small town community, lower tax rate

No crime yet

Schools-Church-nature wildlife!

Close to family

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

Like many residents, I work in Pittsfield. Coming home to Cheshire at the end of the day is such a relief. I can't really explain what the single greatest aspect is...more of a holistic well being feeling.

Rail Trail

Natural and scenic beauty

Its simplicity

The people

small town feel

Small town

Private, safe, and a fair tax rate- Hard working honest people build a great community.

The people

Safety - can walk streets and trails day and night

Sense of Community among our residents.

Cheshire is slightly removed from everything else, giving it a greater sense of nature as well as community.

Beauty of the area

rural setting

rail trail

I enjoy the lake and the rail trail that are in the center of town.

The small town, community oriented atmosphere in a beautiful (nature) setting.

Small town atmosphere

Small Town

I have lived my whole life here and enjoy the sense of community.

Small town like

My ability to enjoy the privacy of my property.

Peaceful community

the school for our children

The people of Cheshire are very friendly and approachable.

The country aspect.

Rural Setting

small quiet town

People and community

Rural Setting

Small town feel

It's a very laid back town

affordable cost of living

Affordable

Rural setting

Close to major shopping locations in Berkshire County

Class A gun permit

Affordable

Where I live

Small town, small fram life.

Close to nature & wildlife

Natural and scenic beauty

affordable living

Nature

low cost of living

The lake

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

good government

friendly townf

Enjoy the small town atmosphere.

Small Town Atmosphere.

Living on the lake

Small town atmosphere

Nature

small town living

There are plenty of outdoors activities to do in all seasons of the year.

It is still a small town that has a decent road system and access to larger cities and towns without the big costs of living int the city.

Nature and Wildlife

It hasn't really changed in 50 years.

Convenience of location to commercial amenities while still being able to have a home and lifestyle totally removed from those commercial items.

Cheshire is where I have called home for nearly my entire life.

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

Road maintenance

Condition of the east end of Wells Rd is appalling. Roads in general are not upgraded until nearly impossible

zoning

educational agreement with Adams

Bumpy streets with potholes

Quiet

Three person select board

60 to 5 or have term limits

working with some of the own boards especially planning board

proximity to work

uncertainty of school district

3 Man selectmen - need 5

term limits for selectmen

All the rules, regulations, laws, by-laws ordinances that are not enforced. Lease law, dog poop law, cleaning sidewalks of snow. Should have the town highway dept. to clean sidewalks of snow.

The disconnection between north and south Cheshire

some homes not kept up well. As you drive into town and main part of town

Some homes not well kept

Need for a septic holding tank on the lake. Very Expensive

Zoning that allows a Dollar Store and the ability of absentee owners to deforest and mutilate property (lower Windsor Road, for example)

the not enforcing of rules and people having to be told time and time again about certain situations that could have been avoided.

Losing a historic and architecturally beautiful building like the Cheshire Inn made me very sad.

Nothing - love it here

Mail is not delivered to my house

Stuck

current concerns about elementary school closing

The Selectmen, two of whom run this town like it was their private little kingdom!

Nothing negative!

no senior housing

Small town politics

Dirt bikes.

The way the town has been governed for the last 20 years.

Lack of EPO enforcement on state land.

Nothing

selectman have their own agenda and do not listen to the residents

It would be nice to have more of a community feeling about the town, places to gather.

Traffic

It is very hard to actually participate meaningfully in town government because, especially at the Selectman level, two people have held onto power for decades by having their voting blocks keep them in office. With only three on the Board, the third person is always outvoted because the first two never disagree with each other, not even one time, in the memory of long time Cheshire residents. If that were not bad enough, the two longest serving members have opposed expanding the Board to five, and seem to have no interest in sharing power and decision making.

relatives and family do not live nearby

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

Lack of businesses

Too much nepotism in Cheshire's Depts. and governing bodies and committees.

Too much nepotism in Cheshire's Depts. and governing bodies and committees

leadership to long in office

Too many family members and the family and friends running town

Certain townies reluctant to change

Living on Sand Mill Rd has become stressful and in order to go anywhere, one has to travel almost 7 miles round trip to get to Route 116 because the bridge is out. Hopefully it will be fixed soon!

Bridge is out on Sand Mill RD The town could care less

Water & sewer

Having to own a septic system

Gossip

No small store/ or coffee shop restaurant

Lack of gyms, theaters, and rapidly rising taxes

nothing to do, no restaurants

The tax rate

Some of the inevitable clashes in small town politics.

nosy neighbors

Lack of thriving town center, community events

Low grades given to the educational system and lack of shopping venues.

The school district

The sense of a conservative "in-group" in town government resisting progressive and creative thinking.

real estate taxes

Road conditions

Very little in return for taxes paid

Not much for kids to do.

I feel that there is always a threat of those who are willing to ruin Cheshire by allowing in chains and threats to our peaceful way of living.

lack of store for simple supplies

Roads

small town politics

The abandoned and run down houses, and how people continue to litter.

There is never anything to do!

Small town politics

Everybody knows everybody

Lack of diversity

Clicky people - same handful of people run everything

Sharing the school district with Adams who tends to make unilateral decisions

Town Government that has the same people in their positions for too long!

Taxes keep going up

Lack of small town businesses (such as mom and pop specialty shops).

Close to Cheshire Lake

Possibility of Cheshire School closing

Lack of activities for kids

Lack of a master plan

Small town

Possible school closing

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

As a new resident - feeling unwelcomed by people that have been here for years. We're a younger family looking to get involved in the community but it seems every time we try it doesn't work... almost clique like.

I can't think of any.

Some people don't appreciate what they have here in Cheshire

small town politics

Lack of regional jobs driving the youth and working class away putting ever increasing financial pressure on local residents who are increasingly becoming the retired majority

Town government does not invest in town

Lack of officials follow through on things such as concerns over building near someone else's property- and lack of support and assistance concerning land erosion due to waterway and drainage issues-

Appearance of the old house on route 8 that is falling apart.

Associated with Adams School District

n/a

the fact that I don't live there, only able to visit my property a few weeks each year

some of the small town politics-postings on votes not always apparent-keep having votes until something previously turned down, now voted in....

Archaic way of handling Town Government (inaccessibility, lack of progressiveness, lack of knowledge)

Nothing

Changes

Lack of openness by Town Government. Little trust that they are tell all and the truth

The town's appearance on route 8

Need to travel for stores, grocery shopping, etc.

Weak local economy

Town of Adams

Town government

I don't think the town is very caring to local business's and doesn't give said businesses any support.

Rt 8 traffic

Lack of respect for property by snow mobilers.

top secret town government

lack of apparent zoning

Good old Boy Syndrome

arrogant town government boards and taxes

The "good old boy" syndrome for school and town positions.

Town hall hours

Town hall hours

Lack of legal off road motorcycle trails

Small town politics, people who have their own agenda who have positions in town only to promote their own interests and who do not do what is best for the overall town.

the town is beginning to look run down

Downtown Cheshire needs a face lift. There are too many homes and buildings falling down.

It is not an appealing town to drive through.

Nothing

When we first decided to move to the area, the school system was well recommended. In the past 3 years it has diminished greatly. Unfortunately, my young children are in the schools and have seen this first hand.

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

Run down, beginning to look like the slums

Not enough jobs within town

Not many job opportunities within town

distance to Pittsfield

School system needs to be upgraded

Lack of social entertainment.

Isolated

Board of selectmen connection not understanding why they been elected.

limited access to internet, tv and cell phone service

The elementary school's economic (in)stability.

No good restaurants and now loss of Best Buy, Macy's

Taxes keep going up for no big reasons !

Town Government

I wish that there were a coffee shop and a couple businesses to walk to.

Fiscal policy (unwillingness to spend money on just about anything!) Taxes are too low to support the community as a whole.

Jobs

The lack of commitment to the public school district.

Some road work needed

Competition

Elementary Education is underperforming.

Regulations

school crisis

Old buildings and properties that are not maintained ruining the esthetic beauty of our town!!!

No jobs

The cost of the school system.

Nothing

Non-stop route 8 traffic servicing the North Adams / Adams / Pittsfield communities and only leaving us noise and pollution. In-town businesses who let their property become eye-sores, and lots of services for seniors but nothing for middle aged folks and a lowly level 3 school for the kids :-)

lack of retail options

Whitney's Farm Stand!

Fr. Guidi - the new administrator at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

Atv & snowmobile trails all closed

Outside influences and people that want to change things and take away from the small town feel. Also Andy the grumpy guy at the landfill.

Quality of education for children

Quality of education

Nothing

No affordable housing for senior citizens

The constant financial issues with schooling and the impact it is having on children

The budget cuts in the school district

Peace

Not enuff places to eat / things to do for kids(besides Cheshire school play ground & Whitney's PG)

Politics

School System and the Maintenance of our buildings - When we neglect our School Buildings and Continue to cut teachers, our Children suffer. I would rather pay a small amount of money

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

to keep services for our children and maintain our buildings every year. We end up doing this anyway but always as a last resort and what seems to be a cry for help. We all have to pay it forward!

Services

Gossip!!!

Downtown could use more quality small business.

No privacy

School system is failing.

Little employment opportunities

The lack of SMALL FAMILY OWNED businesses and the feel of a true small town

Good old boy politics (fire dept.)

Everyone knows everything

The deteriorating school district

I would like to see a vibrant town center with small business owned restaurants, coffee shop, sporting goods/camping supply etc.

Education -I wish cheshire elementary was more funded and higher rated.

Nothing

NO SEWER SERVICE

Schools have poor funding and low scores

poor roads, repairs needed

Everybody knows everybody else's business.

Love it here. Lived here my whole life. Never want to leave.

The "it's all in who you know" way in which things are run. Not enough fresh new blood and perspectives.

No town ambulance

trailer parks with corporate landlords

School system is going downhill

our residents not upkeeping property

Funding for school system.

Winter

Inferior school system

Hard water

Not having a board of five selectmen to make the process of matters in the town more fair.

Lack of support for schools.

Route 8 traffic

Local politicians

Lack of communication between town officials and residents.

The collective mindset of many people in the town that prohibits growth, change, expansion, and the ability to utilize the town's "selling features" in an effort to make the town a desirable place to live.

School financial trouble, constant threat of losing CES.

No sewer

I am concerned that the school building will no longer be used. It is unreasonable that so much money is spent on building new buildings for the area high schools. Collages such as Williams and others do not tear down buildings to build others. It makes no sense.

the people

Lack of community togetherness working towards improvement/ disjointed- same few people seem to dictate/ control everything in town ("political"), no downtown life, few jobs not appealing to younger population (see Williamstown, Lenox, Great Barrington),

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

Politics

Conflict of interest is happening to much. We are paying town workers to do work that should be going out to bid. These bids need to be sealed bids and opened up at public meetings.

Complicated water district structure

Cost of living. Increase in taxes, compactor fees for single seniors, water cost, and lack of affordable senior housing. Need sewage treatment

Cheshire's inability to progress as a town. It's not 1960 anymore.

Nervous about the elementary school closing

Lack of businesses, places to shop.

Too much openness to developments and commercial establishments.

rough roads

Lack of availability to some kind of market in town - groceries, over the counter drugs, greeting cards, etc. Reynolds is not able to meet this need.

Lacking a town center. A cafe or coffee shop where people could come together to share ideas would great. Also the idea of our elementary school closing is terrible.

being associated with Adams schools

Limited competitive utility services.....fiber optic, natural gas, solar discounts, sewer.....

Needing a septic system and most on wells for water.

water bills

Hours of the town hall.

The uncertainty with the elementary school and performance of the high school.

Not much offered socially & housing is one extreme of very low cost or very high cost. Very little for mid range houses for growing families.

The uncertainty with the school system. Our daughter will be starting kindergarten next school year and we are very concerned about the stability and performance of the school system.

Distance to airports

Small town politics

The lack of a sense of community, lack of opportunities to get together as a community.

Lack of businesses.

n/a

I can't think of anything !

Adams Cheshire School district is unable to manage funds. Keep berkshire housing authority out of the town!!!!!!!!!!!!!!Crime, domestic violence, disorderly conduct, ect will force us the town to have a full time police department. in turn tax increase.

Jan and Feb weather

Small-town politics, can't have a say, coach, lead without being lifelong resident

None of my friends live nearby

There are not many gathering places in Cheshire. I would love it if there were more businesses such as book stores and coffee shops that encouraged people to stay for a while.

Small mindedness

increasing tax rate

no jobs; wasteful spending

Lack of zoning laws.

Zoning should be more strict.

no enough to do for kids

Solitude... the history

The lack of activities for all age groups. The Cruz Night is a great event that gets alot of the towns folks together. Maybe it could be expanded or other venues added.

Hard to make a living

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

Lack of enforcement of zoning and land use laws.

Reluctant to change

The lack of dining options. There is a very limited selection of places to go.

Town Politics

school system seems to be going downhill fast

Not enough jobs/business in town.

School System

No town sewer where we live

Lack of water pressure

no retail close by

The homeowners that do not care for or take pride in their property.

Urban blight on rte 8

No natural gas service in my neighborhood (Hutchinson/Cheshire Hills).....also, the deplorable street condition in this neighborhood.

A.C.R.S.D.

no personal history

If the pipeline goes in...not happy

The maintainance of the town buildings has been neglected.

Difficulty in funding & general support for education.

The fact that 2 of the 3 selectmen have been parked in those seats for way too long and no longer have the ability to move the town forward. We have some serious issues on the horizon with the school district in dire need and they're worried about where they're going to sit if they go to a five member board. Perhaps they could move their big heads upstairs? How about moving over to the smaller building which sits empty 6 out of 7 days a week.

new residents that want change to everything and anything

Winter

people who are new to Cheshire always wanting change

Lack of shopping

Small minds.....

Small mindness.

Resistance to change

Speeders

Town government

close-minded attitudes

Seems to be some micromanaging from certain town entities. Also, the elderly population has a more fiscally conservative approach to running the town.

The school system. The regional school system has become increasingly costly with little or no improvement in the education provide to "our" (Cheshire's) children. It seems that Adams administrators are more and more demanding of the Cheshire population to support the system fiscally but are willing to deny the town the benefit of better a better education for our kids.

the "Good Ole Boy Network" that exists

Being tied to Adams in the school district

We salt, sand, and plow the roads to extreme excess. We should only salt Rte 8, and maybe Wells/Lanesboro Rds if it makes commuters feel more comfortable. It is a total waste of resources, money and time to salt every single road every time it snows. Besides, salted roads ruin our cars and just look ugly.

The hostility or division between the schools and some of the residents.

Q5. Comments Section: Comments about what respondents would like for the Town of Cheshire in the next 20 years?

Would like to see more public and private solar installations

Two outside tennis courts on school property

Having our own water district

South Cheshire more involved in the town

Promote the fact that the AT goes right through our town. Support hikers with appropriate small local businesses

Consider adding a sewer connector to the Adams sewer system for downtown and mobile home developments.

Establish a proactive culture in town government pursuing creative ways to generate income and reduce cost, i.e. aggressive research and application for grants, renewable energy (for example, solar panels on town shed), networking with other towns and accessing best practices, etc.

we have 2 liquor stores and only one restaurant seem out of proportion

There is a need for sewer service in the downtown area, but an opportunity was missed when the rail line was up for sale years ago. Having purchased that line would have made running a sewer connector to Adams easier, , and then building the Rail Trail that now exists.. While it is still possible to follow this route, it may be more costly but should be considered, especially if downtown residential properties are to be restored and if they are to remain viable places to live.

The most visionary act that the Town has done was to purchase the Cheshire Lakes. Town ownership of that lake system ensures recreational and cultural attractions will be part of Cheshire life perpetually. The opportunity to use watershed land for similar purposes should be explored.

The "other" big question for the town to consider in the next 20 years is the future of the School District. The ACRSD has become dysfunctional because Adams has nmore votes than cheshire, and Adams is a spending alcoholic. Adams is at or near its levy limit while cheshire ihas spent carefully and has a low tax rate. Adams Selectmen drive the Adams Board members to make decisions based on what brings more revenue into the District from Cheshire as much or more than what is good for the children of the district as a whole.

The ACRSD was a good idea back when the Towns had industry and money. It has degenerated into a dysfunctional marriage where the husband, the partner with the deciding votes, has become a spending alcoholic within its borders and is abusing the less powerful wife, Cheshire, and all of their children by starving the schools. While Cheshire has little appetite for higher taxes, it has been more amenable to additional schols pspending than drunken, hung-over Adams!

The push to close the Cheshire Elementary School is the most recent and most flagrant example le of this abuse. Cheshire needs to revise the District Charter to either give both Towns "home rule" final say on the existence of elementary schools in their Towns, or have the District cover only the Middle / High School, abolish the district altogether, or merge with another District.

Student enrollment projections for the County long term are downward. any temporary need for more capacity in the District needs to be examined carefully.

Strategically, Cheshire needs to keep the Elementary School which is perfectly situated in the epicenter of the Town. Even Savoy has an Elementary School. A Town of any size without an Elementary School is not a Town. there ceases to be a common focus for developing a sense of community without such a school. There is nothing that will bind children and their parents together with common activities and interests, be they educational, school related social, or sports without an Elementary School.

I did not check low taxes because I believe SOME MODERATE increase may be needed over time to care for better schools, deteriorating roads and infrastructure and possibly a sewer connector.

We also need to restore older, historic buildings rather than lose them. This requires creative and ongoing Securing of grant money for that purpose. There needs to be a rigorous effort to accomplish this through people who know what they are doing in this regard.

Q5. Comments Section: Comments about what respondents would like for the Town of Cheshire in the next 20 years?

Relax our frontage back to 150' and not 200'

Support, improve and modernize the school system.

Reinvigorate agricultural community

I would like to see more support for a more robust school system.

Cheshire is doing a terrible job with road maintenance, whether that means local responsibility or tie-in to state opportunities for resurfacing and improvement.

Upgrade water system with better pressure on Eastview Drive

should sell the land to the State to add to the Mt. Greylock Reservation.

Treat others as you would like to be treated - bring change into the town. Allow more voices to be heard.

I would like the to see the town marketed toward people who live near larger cities and work from home and are looking to move to more rural towns and continue to work from home.

Control development of wetlands along with sensitive areas

Downtown Cheshire is the main asset of the town for the towns people. Find a way to attract compatible (to the Rural atmosphere) businesses that makes downtown attractive to both residents and surrounding communities who might be attracted to spending time in Cheshire to enjoy a nice restaurant, visit a general store, or some other unique boutique-type store, or perhaps a bed and breakfast type place if there are other amenities for the patrons of a B&B to enjoy. No heavy industry or too much light manufacturing that dearest from a quality atmosphere, which seems to be getting lost in Cheshire.

Strengthen Cheshire Elementary

Taxes are increasing to fast.The school budgets have to stay within there means and stop the I wants in stead of the I need.

A Master plan will not determine the next 20 years

We need to develop a manufacturing site to not only provide jobs or are Children,but also take pressure off propret taxes. Especially for the Elderly

Get rid of the town police and combine services with town of Adams for fire and police. Make town employees pay for a portion of health insurance to cut costs. Improve roads. Lower taxes for business 's in hopes of seeing the town prosper.

increase quality of school. The communities with the best schools have the housing values

Clean up abandoned properties and junk

honest town government and control spending

Cheshire to become a thriving bedroom community.

I would like to see solar lights along the bike trail at least from Church St to the Farnams Rd.

By keeping taxes as controlled as possible it might encourage others to relocate here and do business here thus expanding the base.

Implement some laws that property owners need to abide by

by checking "implement town sewer service" I mean that basic infrastructure could be added when repairing/repaving roads because sooner or later the State will require Cheshire to provide sewer services and the piecemeal cost of doing it slowly in advance will be much less than waiting for a mandate. It should be a consideration, anyway.

better communication between town offices

MAKE MAIN STREET LOOK MORE APPEALING LIKE ADAMS PARK STREET TO ENCOURAGE SMALL BUSINESS AND LOCAL SHOPPING

We have a wonderful small town filled with friendly people and in a beautiful part of the country. Let's do everything possible to keep it that way and still grow by encouraging eco-friendly, nature friendly businesses to come here, and let other towns have the malls, factories, traffic, and pollution. Let's also

Q5. Comments Section: Comments about what respondents would like for the Town of Cheshire in the next 20 years?

encourage businesses and residents to make our town beautiful, and insure the taxes the town collects benefits ALL our citizens.

Atvs & snowmobiles I grew up here riding them. Cheshire was a main hub for this. All gone now.

Preserve farmland

Encourage young people to remain/move back

Improve quality of education

Improve the quality of education

Better financial management. Cheshire has a great sense of community and the community cares about our youth..but the yearly worries of layoffs and impacts in our schools is tiresome.

Maybe an annual fair or somthing like adams aggie fair but Cheshires version. Somethin more the cruz night thats all. / And not co op with adams for kids football , be nice to have our own teams

Strong school

Update Cheshire elementary school, fix the financial mess the school system is in.

A town beach is what i miss most about Cheshire

Do not want businesses like dollar general

Cheshire should have petitioned the state as the planned Ashuwillticook Trail was in planning to install a sewer main in the old rail bed utilizing the perfect grade to the Adams Sewage Treatment Plant.

Residents of Cheshire could have saved many thousands of dollars not having to upgrade to Title Five Septic upgrades over the years.

Invest in education

More emphasis on education more taxes going to school system

Make natural gas available to more areas

Good schools - surprised that isn't a listed option. Families that will keep the town alive and growing won't come if the schools continue to decline.

lights on the ashuwillticook trail

Stronger support for schools.

It would be nice for the town to have a picture of what it should and could look like in 20 years and then take the necessary steps, in a controlled and decisive manner, to move forward to achieve the atmosphere we are looking for. We should create a usable framework of policies and practices that encourages continuity of the aspects of town life which are currently enjoyed by many, while gradually eliminating the aspects which we do not like.

I'd like to see us plan to allocate funds for and create a public park-nature reserve of pretty good size, that is accessible to all, as the town grows in size. Also plan for some smaller public park and recreation areas in town as the town grows.

Appeal to more younger people to move here and settle.

No large business (No dollar General!)

develop our energy independence by harvesting our solar, hydro, and possibly wind resources

NO PIPELINE PLEASE!

Keep the main focus on our school system

We need to have senior housing ,people live in Cheshire most of there lives, Then when they can't take care of there homes they have to move out of the town they love because there is no senior housing .I want to always live here in Cheshire ,the little town I love .

I would like to see 12 south street leveled turned into a farmers market

Maintain and renovate historic buildings, but money must come from new business and definitely not more personal taxes. Add historical markers, plaques, and pictures of places once and still existing.

Create a historical tour in the form of a hiking trail throughout whole town limits (Stafford Hill, Wells rd, Nobody's road, etc.). Promote historic trail in form of geocaching like or internet/GPS tracking information. Add far more history to website. Create business district in area different than old town so

Q5. Comments Section: Comments about what respondents would like for the Town of Cheshire in the next 20 years?

history can be maintained but business tax revenue can increase. Build or create indoor and outdoor activities for kids, and not just little kids but also teens and pre-teens. The town must become a town perfect for raising families, where parents are encouraged to be more involved with kids and kids are more active in general (which CAN include electronics and arts and music and nature/farming). The town must not become a retirement community exclusively, but have ALL ages.

I'd love to see the causeway at Cheshire Lake cleaned up the rest of the way and a beach area created there. It would be a great place for families and tourists. A concession and non motorized boat rentals along with charging a couple dollars would pay for upkeep.

Spruce up the town by adding flowers on the bridge on South St..... flowers lining the street up to the 4 corners light. The town driving through is looking pretty bad. We need to make Cheshire look charming and old fashion again. Solar Lights on Church Street would be a total asset. Cheshire is the only community in Western Mass without Colonial Lighting. Solar Lamp Posts would really enhance the appearance of our charming town with HISTORY. Arrange to have flowers put around the Cheshire Cheese Press and make it a "Show Place" for tourist. Reynolds Store is an asset to the town.

Significant improvement in student success rates in all schools within the Adams-Cheshire School District.

Not to close the school

Repave streets in the Hutchinson/Cheshire Hills neighborhood

An open town for small local business and a community market.

Focus on improving the school system to attract younger families. Regarding business development, if I'm not mistaken, some of the members on your board chased out a business attempting to establish itself here in town.

Preserve the beauty of the town. Save/Restore the few older buildings in town. I am sick over the loss of The Cheshire Inn. It breaks my heart everytime I think of it. A part of History that was lost to us forever. I feel the strongest about this.

With the surrounding wildlife preserves and Mt. Greylock, maybe outdoor conservation and outreach should be developed. Cheshire is in the middle of a lot of great places to explore!

Some town officials are not doing their jobs. I speak directly of building and board of health issues. There are and have been too many derelict and dangerous buildings in town that blight the neighborhoods and no one seems to do anything about them.

Develop stronger youth programs to show the children what a great place this is to live. This can be athletic, outdoor activities, Fine Arts etc.

Q6. Comment section: If you plan on moving from Cheshire in the next five years, what would be your reason for the move, and where are you likely to move to?

School system - possible closing of Cheshire School

small town politics

Maybe northern VT

I have concerns about the financial viability of the town due to the lack of forward thinking. The total tax bill continues to rise while services are flat or declining. If our municipal management culture doesn't change people on fixed incomes will be at significant risk. I would move to a place with culture, natural beauty, and a more transparent and welcoming government.

Out of state to be closer to family

Downsize-retire

Health issues or deteriorating infrastructure might cause me to rethink the need to move in five or more years. Right now I have no such plans. Remaining family members of my generation are few and our children do not live nearby.

Town is governed by too many family and friends. Rules and regulations apply to some residents but not all. No consistency. Move to a warmer climate.

Town is governed by too many family and friends. Rules and regulations apply to some residents but not all. No consistency. Move to a warmer climate.

Because town is run by too many family and friends and they don't have the same rules as the rest of us do.

I think Cheshire is great the way it is now. I think when new people move into town, they want changes for example new buildings to replace Town Hall and Police Station. That to me means increase in taxes. We do not want that. Keep the town rural and support local farmers and small businesses

Age & weather being the factor. Warmer & more stable climate.

It all depends upon whether or not the Kinder Morgan pipeline is implemented. I do not want to live anywhere near it.

Move closer to the grand children in Virginia.

Our existing home is too small for our growing family. We wish to move to another part of Berkshire County with better school district ratings.

warmer climate

College.

Health/age

I'm getting older and the care of my property is becoming more difficult for me. I feel I'll need to move into a town where I have less to care for and where the roads to work, doctors, grocery stores etc. are better maintained and closer.

The lack of a bridge on my road for about a year now has greatly influenced my decision.

Taxes unnecessarily continuing to go up, Hancock

currently only a property owner from another state, hope to move their permanently one day

Reason - job instability in region, move to location with more job stability

Elder housing not available in Cheshire

The School system is out of control and cost. they need to consolidate

Services with North Adams and Lanesboro. also municipal services need to be shared with mother communities

There is nothing here. Few opportunities and no new growth. Taxes keep increasing without any benefits. The schools are being run improperly.

Might move to FL upon retirement for a lower state tax rate

Loss of property value due to declining area employment

Decrease in property value due to lack of community growth.

To an area with more job opportunities

Q6. Comment section: If you plan on moving from Cheshire in the next five years, what would be your reason for the move, and where are you likely to move to?

Would like something warmer and something with more of places for community gathering to get to know people.

Savoy

We need to downsize, house is simply too big requiring too much work. We are considering a number of options but would most likely move someplace that we do not have to drive everywhere, closer to medical facilities, entertainment, dining.

Career, more opportunities

My family and I are disappointed with the school and lack of funds to help educate the young residents. How else can you encourage young families to move to Cheshire if the local education is inadequate.

South County where people take pride in the appearance of their homes and property.

smaller home

We are unsure, but if the elementary school closes it will weigh heavily on our decision to leave Cheshire.

warmer climate

We live in New York City, but we hope to spend more and more time in Cheshire.

Likely closing of Cheshire Elementary. Town government only interested in keeping taxes as low as possible, usually costing everyone more in the long run. All sense of community will be lost if the school is closed.

Born and raised in Cheshire, owned my own home in Cheshire for 5 years, upon selling, have not found a new home to meet needs in Cheshire. Worried about the future of Cheshire Elementary as well.

Always planned on sending my children there, but now it seems questionable if it will remain open.

The elementary school needs improvement. The landscape is competitive and since school choice is not guaranteed, moving might be the only option.

Retirement

work and family reasons

Not enough land for sale

I may leave Cheshire if it continues to have an underperforming school, route 8 traffic continues to grow with Cheshire as the "pit stop," and we continue to lose our small town / home town quality. Other towns have much lower taxes but more community spirit and level 1 schools.

Privacy

South county where the kids can ride their motorcycles & snowmobiles

Some place quieter or warmer.

Senior housing in Pittsfield

Better schooling

Not sure

Go to warmer weather

better services

The school system has shown poor growth and I'm worried my pre K age son will not be given the education he needs

I would love to go somewhere with more of a community, and more things to do. Family nights, adult nights, just more activities!

Loss of rural, natural, open air space

Somewhere new, new places and new people. Boston.

Escape the cold winters, south to a small community like Cheshire

I love North Berkshire, Cheshire especially - but there are too few quality job opportunities for the middle class in the \$50-75,000 dollar range in the immediate area, with poor highway system for commuting. Unfortunately the quality of life will diminish over the near future for all, as the tourism industry only provides service jobs that pay poorly.

Q6. Comment section: If you plan on moving from Cheshire in the next five years, what would be your reason for the move, and where are you likely to move to?

School system -and Lanesboro because of their school system

North is all heroin, Pittsfield is all violence and people making bad decisions that would effect life in a negative way.

Who would want to leave

The school system. We will move to Williamstown or Lanesboro.

Lived here since July 2014 and love it!!

Warmer climate - no idea

Dollar General mentality of town to get tax dollars

More sustainable economy, more attractive community to raise children

Again, this town's inability to move forward and progress into the 21st century.

I like other countries more than america.

Always a possibility. Dependent upon control of crime and drugs in surrounding communities.

Deterioration of school system and lack of discussion re: district consolidation. Change is constant and adaptation is a must. There is too much "more of the same" from a political standpoint in the Berkshires and it's getting old

Be near grandkids.....

South County where they have good restaurants and home owners take care of their homes and privacy. So UNLIKE Cheshire.

tax increases or housing authority/section 8

Small town politics. Horrible school that is more concerned about rewarding family than kids. State politics that destroy the community and state but people continue to vote in and for the very same people. Town is very anti-business. Berkshires has so few restaurants and entertainment options. Businesses are closing everywhere. Population is decreasing. All taxes and regulations push businesses away. New people not treated the same as lifers. Town seems very run-down.

I often dream about picking up and moving out of the area, however, i love my house, i love Cheshire, and i love my job in the area, so i don't know if i really want to mess any of that up. I have lived in the Berkshires pretty much my entire life and in Cheshire for the last ten. There is so much more to the world than what i am getting living here, and part of me wants to experience that.

no jobs in area; low pay in area; lack of services/options

NY / eastern MA / NH / elsewhere

We would only move if the town continues to be shabby looking when driving through Rt 8 into town.

We want a town to new proud of..... well kept..... cared for with TLC

If more development came in.

1. If Cheshire elementary school actually closes it would be difficult to commute our kids to another school while living in town.

Downsizing

After retirement we are considering North Carolina area for shortened winter and a longer summer.

TAXES, a town without regional school.

Florida

Only part time. I plan on getting a second home for the winter.

School system

lack of services and activities for retirees, plus an large older house to maintain, but not sure if or where to move to.

High cost of education. It seems as if the town is ceding control to Adams administrators. Often times things are happening in the school system that Cheshire officials are not even aware of.

Would move from town if unable to find a suitable property in town.

Q7. Comment section: Additional comments related to satisfaction with conditions or services

Animal control

old school playground better for kids to play on

The full time police officer should be the chief. We don't need two police cruisers, let them use their own vehicle for extra duties. Why do we have so many in the police department and only three work and the others work when they feel like it Get people that want to work

Need sign to inform south Cheshire of Community activities

Anything to be done about old Cheshire Inn? Other old buildings?

Water is well.

Compared to other towns we have an excellent snow removal team. When you consider water contamination problems in nearby states it doesn't make sense to lose our secondary water source

It would be helpful to have trash cans around town, especially by the bus stop and along rest areas on the Ashwilticook trail.

Some of the buildings are in tough shape, and I think the town could be greatly benefited by having trash cans

placed near the bus stop and along the Ashwilticook trail, and possibly other sites.

I have no knowledge of all the "No Opinion" categories I checked. I am not familiar with them.

Town personnel do not return phone calls or emails with answers to inquiries.

I believe there should be laws and enforcement of the laws that there should be no roosters in residential areas due to the noise or also chickens should be contained in the homeowner's yard not in the neighbor's yards.

We are not always informed when there is some emergency in town.

Regarding the schools, there should be more emphasis put on the quality of education rather than sports and field trips.

Many homes and mobile homes have excess junk in their yards and next to their homes. When a person strives to have a nice yard but a neighbor seems to "collect" stuff in their yard, it's pretty annoying.

Delighted to have this survey opportunity. Thank you. Cheshire feels like there has been no "vision" for years. Hope this is a new path.

Could sweep up debris (nails, etc.) from time to time

Town St- Depot St-need repair. Could use the sidewalk on church St expanded. Why don't we advertise the doorway to the Appalachian Trail- It's on the hikers maps -they use our Post Office- But there are no signs showing townsfolk and visitors how to get there.

Add tennis courts

Lack tennis courts

Taxes going up to help fund Adams schools and their rising problems with section 8 housing students

Would like to see more small businesses such as restaurants, specialty shops (crafts or other things related to the cultural history of the area).

The Town need to have a new Library and Senior Center. These are needed to attract and hold residents . a larger percentage of our Residents are older,yet we spend little for programs or them as compared to the school cost.

The town might consider expanded facilities on the lake, public swimming area?

As education cost continue to increase there are less funds left to operate local government. All town services have been reduced to unacceptable levels. WE NEED TO FIX THIS PROBLEM. Cutting education is not the answer, nor is just raising taxes. We need committees, like you, that will address the real issues and stop the "shot gun" approach. No long lasting solution resulted from just throwing money at it.

Q7. Comment section: Additional comments related to satisfaction with conditions or services

Town government is full of people who want to control everything. Even when it is not the best for the town. Corrupt board members interesting in putting town money in their own pockets and protecting their friends interest.

Run down properties. Some roads and sidewalks in need of repair. Some properties need cleaning up. notification regarding treatment of drinking water. I was notified that the water was chemically treated for coliform TWO (2) MONTHS AFTER the treatment. the notification stated that women who were pregnant or nursing should not drink the water. How is this helpful 2 months later?

New To Cheshire so we are not able to answer all the questions.

We need a town ordinance for signs and rundown buildings. Our wealth is in the land and beauty of the town, therefore we need to invest in their maintenance and overall appearance. Also, a sidewalk that surrounds the lake would be a fantastic idea. Call it "The Lake Loop". Finally, we have to do better with the elementary school. Underperforming in this day and age can harm a child's future and ultimately the safety and security of the area.

roads and town equipment in rough shape

My "other" is that there is NO SAFE WAY for someone living on a road off route 8 north of Richardson St to get walk or bike to town. I like to jog around town in the summer and it always seems like running on route 8 between Briggs and Richardson is like taking my life in my hands, and yet all the little streets in town got new sidewalks? Either connect our side streets to the Rail Trail, or please at least give us a cheap "asphalt" paved sidewalk that adults and kids can use to safely get to town down route 8 from north of Richardson.

Privacy

Town should do followup visits when work is done in local in MHP's. Or better yet, tour parks once or twice a year to see conditions of parks and talk to tenants to see if there are any issues.

As I said in a before question - It is irresponsible for the town to allow our School Buildings to Fall into despair. Small problems become bigger problems overtime and then we scramble to repair them.

Town focuses on "center" of town and it's residents and ignores everyone else - yet many of the higher taxes are being paid by residents outside the center of town.

Approach To town needs to be enhanced. (ie) old country charm, old repair shop, old old Cheshire Inn.....Remove or replace them!!!

Financing to fire, emergency response and schools is way out of line with what Cheshire actually needs. A noticeable decrease in road maintenance

I feel the town does well with the small cash flow that exists, and I am happy to deal with infrastructure problems to keep taxes low. I do not want to see Cheshire follow the same path of Adams (ridiculously large municipal overhead).

The town transfer station needs better management and communication with the residents.

It is in my opinion that the attendant needs to be replaced.

Sandmill rd. Bridge project has not even started yet? Huge inconvenience

Roads need to be a priority for repair.

Would love to have an area to go swimming.

In order for the town to progress, it needs to take necessary steps to maintain and improve upon existing infrastructure. Investment in the town will pay dividends in the future. The slow and steady decline of town buildings and roads is obvious to all who travel through town, both the people who live here and those who do not. Maintenance and improvement to areas that are highly visible to the public is a selling feature and a way to market the town as a desirable place to be. Encouraging upkeep and improvement, both of public and private property, will help to strengthen our town.

I'd like to recommend that the Transfer Station-compactor employee be required to actively work full-time to keep the appearance of this area more attractive and orderly, to clean it up, and to help residents

Q7. Comment section: Additional comments related to satisfaction with conditions or services

more. Also the town needs to consider ways to increase the recycling of waste products, too much of which go into landfills. Also establish a swap station at this area where residents can offer used products for free to other residents who want them, to be discarded only if not claimed after four weeks- to be managed by the town's employee, who appears to do little much of the time. However this employee should also be given a more spacious shelter, since he spend much time there on the days he is employed.

We need to work on getting the bike path open to snowmobiles

Some roads and sidewalks in need of repair. I think we need to clean up some properties, it is a disgrace that so many homes have fallen into disrepair.

We love the library! A must have for our little town. Town wide activities are wonderful (x-mas tree lighting, Easter egg hunt), maybe there could be more...a town clean up day?, group activities on the rail trail?

For such a small town, rural community, we have limited control over speeds in the "downtown area" seemingly. There are a lot of walkers/bikers in the area of the downtown/school and many use the downtown roads as a part of a bypass between route 8 and 116. We've got to find a way to slow these drivers down before someone gets hurt.

We have a WELL how ever the water quality is excellent !!!

town needs a blite law junk car ! junk cars need to be tax .

It is sad that Cheshire school has fallen into total disrepair because officials do not understand the importance of maintenance. It's disturbing to know Hoosac won't be taken care of either. Our tax dollars should provide more for this.

We have well and septic, so I cannot comment on water/sewer.

We have sidewalks??? It takes MONTHS for road items to be repaired IF at all

We need more town involvement..... We have a great memorial with the Cheshire Cheese Press and nothing is ever done about making it a focal point. It looks totally uncared for. Make the causeway area more inviting for people to picnic near our lovely Cheshire Lake. Engage more activities for the younger people in Cheshire and getting them involved with senior citizens.

Some local eyesores that need to be addressed, particularly those on Rt8 that folks traveling through see and form an opinion of the town based on the condition of those properties.

Again, I feel like restoration to the town is needed. Not another dollar store

Have a subscriber link for town alerts and notices.

Q8. Comment section: Additional comments related to conditions or services that need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved

Removal from Adams- Cheshire Regional Entirely

Need to get a much better website. Pay for one. Need a grant writer and someone to look into getting money to tear down buildings that are eyesores. Need a five select board.

See previous page

Anything can be improved anywhere. I think the town keeps up well, considering budget restraints.

Utopia is a literary work. Be grateful. Think small.

Something should be done about/with the decaying building across from the fire station.

The town website is minimal, not informative, and should be seriously developed to make all departments more transparent and accessible. There should be articles about issues affecting residents, and identified goals of the town and its residents.

Fix some of the less travelled roads.

Are the Recreational facilities identified or posted?

Add tennis courts

promote more small businesses

We have no Elderly Housing

Reduce police services or maybe get a chief with a positive friendly small town attitude. If you see him or any other police officer they should smile and know the townspeople.

Enrollment in ACRSD has declined to a point where it no longer provides a full education at an affordable price. This is a regional trend and needs to be addressed. It is time for all of Berkshire County to look to creating a MEGA HIGH SCHOOL. The Berkshire Mall might be a location for a high school to cover all the towns from Pittsfield to the Vermont line. K-8 could be kept more local. Every community is struggling with this problem. Building new facilities and overriding prop 2 1/2 will not solve this problem.

term limits for all board members and the removal of insurance for everybody who serves on a board.

Homeowners should be held liable to maintain their homes and property in good quality for the appearance and well being

Same as above.

Please develop the lake area and invest in the schools. Also, we need to have that "Cheshire Liquor Center" improve its appearance, as well as the real estate along that road.

expand select board to 5 members for more diversity

As previously mentioned, we need a level 1 school, a safe way too get to town from north of Richardson (like a sidewalk or streets connected to the trail) as well as a Police station open more than 7pm on Tuesday night - many of us have to get up at 4am so 7pm is just too late to open.

Water Dept needs to work to reduce deposits that discolor fixture surfaces pink/yellow.

Have more town activities during summer months.

Fire and emergency services are seriously out of line with the size of the town

Cheshire needs to take advantage of all possible cash assistance from state and federal programs in order to at least maintain our current status.

TAKE DOWN THE OLD AGE HOME ACROSS FROM THE FIRE STATION

Would like to see a 5 person select board and we do not think we need full time police officers.

Town ambulance police department to listen to towns people concerns

The town drinking water quality has been consistently good but the communication of incidents where the quality of the water has been compromised or diminished to the water users has been lacking. If there are times when the water has to be treated, needs to be turned off, or in any case that has potential to cause concern to the residents, prompt and immediate notification should be made to the users. Receiving a letter in the mail regarding a treatment or incident, weeks after the occurrence, is not acceptable. Improper communication leads to a sense of distrust in the town government and degrades a sense of pride in the community.

Q8. Comment section: Additional comments related to conditions or services that need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved

Although the town actively participates in recycling programs through the compactor, increased recycling options and/or better communication about what can or cannot be recycled would be beneficial.

Having a sense of security within the town will help to make Cheshire a desirable place to live. Support of a fully staffed police department with a visible police presence and full day/year coverage will aid in discouraging crime growth in the community.

The lake needs to be capitalized upon....small inn, jazz club, kayak rentals, paddle boat rentals. Just blows my mind that no one has found a way to market available opportunities along lakeside. So many people coming through town, little capitalization seemingly. Adams is very similar in this regards. Random and reactionary growth.

a town beach at the lake would be nice !

Hoosac is a new beautiful school. It needs to offer better, more competitive programs to keep and attract students to it. The band and sports are a good start, but our children deserve more.

Andrew Kachel of the Redemption Center is a bully. He picks on the elderly so badly, that we take the trash of some of our elderly residents to the dump, on a regular basis. This is a disgrace to our community.

The main drag of Cheshire (Lanesboro Rd to Stoplight) gives the appearance of a very run down area. As residents we've gotten used to and don't notice this. But it's common I'll drive thru another town and think how dumpsy it looks, then sadly I realize it looks a lot like that section of Cheshire. We tore down one building, we need to tear down the old in, and improve that whole section of town. Aside from the bank and fire station the entire area looks pretty bad.

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?

Keep selectmen at 3 members

water service expanded to entire town

roads besides main roads- less potholes and more plowing/salt

I wish we had a local coffee shop and maybe bookstore

A word in praise of Cheshire's t5own Crew who do a great job in the worst weather.

Improve access to conservation land, via working with the State, to

Roads

Expand town water to more areas of town. Implement town waste water service. Perhaps tie in with Adams for treatment.

we waste money on a lawyer for something we have no control over but won't spend money on actual services required. town spending should be better looked at

Combine Adams and Cheshire Volunteer Fire Departments

Combine Adams and Cheshire Volunteer Fire Departments

school budget needs to be look at

Combine both Adams and Cheshire Fire departments in one company

Sewer system

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?

Business growth

We need to talk about environmental conditions - such as the use of pesticides on people's properties and how they affect everyone's children and pets. We need to talk about the condition of the lake and whether we should continue to allow motor boats on the lake. We need to discuss the weed situation in the lake and how to address it as it seems that the weeds persist no matter what we do.

Expand/improve agricultural character of the town - encourage new farmers, preserve farmland, help connect new farmers with land

Since the town does not provide trash removal, there should be assistance to residents at the town recycle site to unload items, and access should be safer - broken down steps to recycle container are dangerous.

We need to REFUSE and REJECT the pipeline. If we allow the pipeline I will consider moving out of state.

school building improvement

We need more outreach to our seniors, nearly 1/3 people in town are 60+ and there is nothing available to them. Also recreation for our youth - we have Nothing in town for them other than an occasional program.

Enforce the laws to the full degree in regards to Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act

How about a cheese festival? :-)

The highway department crew needs to be more productive. There appears to be a lot of waste when it comes to time management.

Services for the kids

No comment. Still new to town.

Water services improved

Add tennis courts

Keep section 8 housing out of town. Keep large commercial business such as dollar general out. Cheshire is a nice quaint little town. Business such as Dollar General is not the ideal image for Cheshire. Low income/ problems

n/a

Need alternatives for recycling/waste disposal for property owners that are not year round residents.

Expand Town Hall hours so people can get business accomplished

Town Government Needs to get away from the Good old boys and start looking at what is really needed to help the residents stay in our community ,like JOBS,but not low paying part time retail jobs that will have a very poor impact on attracting new people who want to move to that "small New England town"

Owners of homes on route 8 should be coerced to maintain their properties in a presentative way

If we (all of Berkshire County) can provide the best education system in the state and lower the cost the rest will take care of itself.

Improve the election process

Update our voting system.

Expand small business

N/A

Animal control service expanded/improved.....someone to be available morning to night to monitor complaints.

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?

Home owners should be held liable to maintain their homes and property in good qualify for the appearance and well being of the community.

All of them.

None

Enhancement to the AT trail specifically. Signs to better improve how to locate the trail in the "downtown" area. More beautification at public areas, like flowers, etc. BETTER FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOLS. POSSIBLE GRANTS FOR SCHOOL REPAIRS,ETC.

Clean Cheshire lake

reduce police dept., state police located within town, cost effective to reduce police

None

Programs for Children. No programs for children = no population growth. So then what? We can't all be 70 years old. We need to diversify the makeup of our community.

expand select board to 5 members

Improve the school system by efficient means stop throwing money at it.

Better School - the building, land, curriculum, and equipment is fine. What we need is a passionate staff that finds a way to get to level 1 through excellence in education, not spending money on new "things" that collect dust. Better community activities, communication, and events for everyone not just the retired. And lets make it possible and safe for all our town folk to walk or bike into town.

Cheshire school has things that really need to be adressed and fixed.

Town should be more involved with tenants of the local MHPs. We have no where to turn or any one to talk to when there are issues, especially when landlord sucks!!

Town maintenance more funds. Take the good ol boy fire and emergency funds and transfer to the maintenance dept.

I would like to see Cheshire leave the Adams-Cheshire School District, as the waste and poor education at HVHS, is disturbing.

Again road improvement and more summer mowing of grass in the more rural areas, can prove dangerous in some areas if grass is left to grow out of control

See write in above

old buildings need to be removed! others need to be maintained

senior housing expanded

Keeping the lake in good shape should be top priority. How about de-weeding the second basin too?

Remove hard water

Take town control of lake cove road.

Road repairs-expanded.

more equality in taxation and application of town rules

Board of Selectmen size needs to remain at 3. It's hard enough to get 3 qualified people to run for the position, never mind trying to get 5. At that point, people will run and be appointed that aren't qualified.

Looking into future, I believe we need to carefully plan for town preservation of ecology, farmland and open spaces. Reduce and limit commercial development and housing developments.

abandoned buildiings and junk cars

Better town hall hours.

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?

Greater access to fiber/high speed broadband.....access to green tech/utility programs and discounts.

Cheaper electric and no PIPELINE.....The Pipeline will destroy the rail trail, Route 8 and Whitney's Farm AND OFF COURSE THE WATER SUPPLY

the town churches keep the same

Activities for kids and teens and families, more recognition of history, better business environment

Expand DPW...road improvements

information posted in more places than just fire board!...

To make route 8 of our town center more attractive. Tourist will stop and spend money going from south county to north county if you give them a reason.

I believe the addition of a town sewer would be a great asset to the town. It would be worth an increase in taxes for it.

Expand sewer lines

Improved traffic law enforcement

expanded or improved: Natural gas availability

town government

I don't want the gas pipeline to go thru Cheshire

Focused application of a true budget, not the get by for now mentality. Proactive look at the town structures.

Town beach would be a nice addition.

Zoning enforcement

expand public access to Cheshire Lake and keep the areas cleaned up!

Water availability and resource protection.

Q10. If you have any additional comments about services provided by the town, please explain below.

Zoning 1. Not have zoning where 1 side is business and the opposite side is residential

When obtaining building permit should have some on hand

residential roads like ours are in terrible shape

Police Dept. needs looked into. Full time police chief not an officer. One police only. Enforce speed limit on town not Rt. 8 or Rt. 116. Enforce stop signs

Would like to see more roads resurfaced, example Depot St.

Additional praise for Fire, Police, EMTS, and our P. O. staff for good measure.

Need to spend more money in our schools. The children are our future. Let's keep CES open.

Communications from the Selectmen is not sufficient. No one knows except the selectmen, or more likely one of them, what are the outstanding challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed over the next year, until they are put on the Selectmens' weekly meeting agenda.

Improve animal control department services.

Q10. If you have any additional comments about services provided by the town, please explain below.

how is it that we were talked into a prop 2 1/2 and then 6mo later we are discussing closing the school due to the lack of students??, when was the last audit of the school budget?

Do not hire a full time Police Officer since the state police are located in Cheshire.

Do not hire a full time police officer since the State Police are located in Cheshire

do not need water superintendent, water commissioner should be a water user

do not need full time police officer

Don't need full time Police Officer in town. Already have State Police.

Buildings that are no longer functional and unsightly should be condemned and removed. The highway department should be taking initiative to resurface roadways.

Encouragement to small home based business, would be an asset. When the Assessors ask for a listing

of every pencil or screwdriver, this is not encouragement. Our town has much to offer.

I have spent a considerable amount of money to have safe well water. I usually have to conserve water to insure that I make it through the dry seasons with enough. I have three wells.

I live right off of route 8 there is no reason my street should not have public water and sewer.

road improvement

The transfer station attendant is a problem. The way he relates to people . . .has a way of "turning people off". He is not friendly or helpful and has a reputation for it.

I live up from a steep hill and years ago this road was always well maintained by sand and salt.

If I come home after 8 pm or so can't, make hill.

Repair infrastructure , roads , bridges etc .. Highway Dept needs to work 8 hours a day . No need to be going to Highway Dept for breaks . Do like all construction companies . Pack your break & lunch to save fuel , wear & tear on vehicles . Should not take three people to go get a ton of blacktop.

The highway employees need to stop driving around, 3 abreast in one vehicle, checking the roads. The employees should not benefit from tree clean up. It should be offered to the landowner first and then offered to the needy. STOP the home deliveries of the tree cleanup using town vehicles and gasoline.

our roads are in terrible condition need better maintenance -drainage

Town government communication improved

Future source of water is a top priority. Without water none of the other services matter.

Excellent police services and FD.

Add tennis courts at high school and elementary school

Not exactly sure on details, but I don't have town water or septic. All private, and Im assuming a portion of my taxes go to pay for those services, which doesn't seem fair.

Town elected officials and hired positions need to be more community friendly; many offices are routinely sarcastic, nasty and resistant to helping citizens.

It appears that our Part time Administrator is not doing his/her job. There Several piece of Propert in town that are not paying Taxes on as the ownership of the Property may be in dispute. How long is this to Ho on. Also many people feel that we re being lied to and strung long about the sale of the excess property that the State was prepared to buy.

Allow more waste to be recycled

Our (Berkshire County's) education system is out greatest expense form which we are getting our lowest return.

schools spend too much for the poor quality education our children are recieving

N/A

Q10. If you have any additional comments about services provided by the town, please explain below.

The town government should take more proactive steps in helping to clean up the town. Build a park(s), a recreation center, enforce better property appearance, encourage small businesses to come in.

Town safety police/fire always need constant updating as well as roads, water and sewer.

Im not quite satisfied with the cost of the town water. I think it is costing homeowners too much money.

Periodoc reviews of the town public works functions. I think they do a good job but i also believe they can be more efficient & better use of resources. Invite taxpayers to shadow certain service providers so they can better understand how their tax dollars work.

The highway department needs to be managed to be much more efficient and cost-effective

Need change to Board of Selectmen; Water Dept needs to become its own entity

The rubbish along the roads is getting out of hand as well as the speeding. We need to drop the speeding and start giving tickets. It is becoming a nuisance.

better communication within town offices

Great place to live with nice small town atmosphere.

I just want to say thanks for putting this survey together. I work long hours and can't attend town meetings so this was a very good way to express the many things that have been on my mind fr over a decade about our wonderful small town.

Maybe more town events , community programs

In order to attract new people and businesses to our community I firmly believe that we need our school district to be solid and the quality of the education system must be extremely high

The police dept. needs to scale back to a very small force - with mutual assistance and state police in town, there is no need for a large force.

I wish the library was open to the public more. I have a toddler and moved here last year for the small town feel. With rumors of the elementary school closing and lack of things to do when weather isn't good we have come up with a back up plan to move if the school closes.

There is a lot of elderly people in this town and more all the time. Along with children.

More services for both groups would be nice to see. Taking care of the future and the past to preserve the town.

Town departments to listen and get back to our concerns

Firmly believe much of our focus needs to be on the school issues. Families moving into the area will ultimately choose Lanesborough if seeking the smaller town feel because of the school system. We are fast losing lifelong Cheshire residents and many of their own children are leaving the area. Some of that is related to the lack of industry around us. So I feel we need to build up the schools to draw new families in as well as continuing the community activities and events that bond this community. Establish a youth center for our kids to add to the draw for families.

no need for salt on small flat streets

Fire and police department get gold stars!

I believe the Selectmen do a fine job.

Road infrastructure needs complete overhaul. Our town roads are horrible. Water department needs more transparency and more systems of checks and balances. They seem to be a rogue agency that no one can reel in.

The town department does a great job keeping Outlook Ave looking its best! Thanks!

Chapter 90 money alone is not enough to finance needed improvement to town roads.

Excellent Road maintenance..great job guys

We just moved here so far no big issues.

Q10. If you have any additional comments about services provided by the town, please explain below.

Water metering seemed like a scam. Water costs are MUCH too high compared to other towns. So they add meters and then they take enough data so that they can figure out just how much per gallon to charge to be slightly MORE than before meters. Also curious to see how much money a certain contractor has made off of the town.

Our Police Department and Volunteer Fire Department are to be commended. Dedicated People doing an exceptional job . We as a town are very fortunate . Tim and Tom are very capable dedicated individuals.

Our Waste Transfer Facility and System for Waste Removal and Recycling is excellent compared to other Town Systems ... Works well and is very cost effective. Please do not change anything !!! Our Highway department gets the job done ... we are fortunate to have Pete Recycling at transfer station should accept more things.

Everything that I have used has been great

Town does a terrific job of keeping roads clear of snow in the winter and street cleaning in the spring

Again, beautification of our town. Cheshire Inn could have been restored to our own "Red Lion Inn". Killing many birds with a single stone. Jobs, attraction, beautification, restaurant, history.....

The town should not remove the Kitchen Brook dam, but should retain the potential resource in the the event that contamination of the town wells should occur. It was my opinion when the water provided to system users was changed from the above ground storage to wells that the wells are too close to possible contamination sources. These include upstream contaminants from under ground fuel storage tanks to accidental fuel or chemical spills occurring on route 8. PFOA's are the talk of the news and it could happen here. Without a viable alternate water source the town could easily become the next Hoosick Falls.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

School buildings/Roads

Services could be expanded by applying for grants and exploring other sources of free money. Any increase in taxes should be off the table.

Review what money the town has and utilize more reasonably and realistically

Apply for State and federal grants, educational grants, along with agencies which have programs to help the elderly and children

Decrease taxes without reducing services

Keep taxes the same while reducing some services and expanding others

Schools

Loaded Question!

Eliminate or reduce waste increase efficiency better service no increase

elementary school issues need to be resolved- town children deserve a quality education w/o fear of constantly reducing or eliminating resources

road conditions could be better

Better schools, better roads and infrastructure, like bridge repairs

school facilities, town wide events

Explore ways to increase/improve services without increasing taxes

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

better roads and sidewalks

transportation for people without it, especially the elderly. Improvement of school and its programs. Improved rural roadside trash clean up. Increase in cultural activities and library funding. Encourage participation in town government, and conservation. Designated land preservation.

school facilities and programs, as well as educational offerings

Town employees should pay their share of health insurance premium like all employed individuals. Town should not be paying full insurance for all selectmen and employees

Town employees should pay their share of health insurance premium like all employed individuals. Town should not be paying full insurance for all selectmen and employees

reduce police department

Make everyone that has town insurance pay their share like everyone else.

Keep education a priority

School needs a huge upgrade

Educational services, elder services and fire services should be expanded.

Increase taxes to allow for a better school district

Better management of tax dollars will provide more and tax less. Also, area towns seem to be getting

more grant money. More applying for existing applicable grants & follow through would be meaningful.

Water, sewer, schools.

use chapter 90 funding exclusively for asphalt road and public works facility improvements
town maintenance budget

Invest in the beauty and integrity of the town. Deal with abandoned homes, buildings.

There should be more investment in the school programs and staff. Work towards making the schools a reputable and desirable place for parents to send their children.

I don't believe taxes need to be increased to expand services, funds just need to be reallocated.

Do not write a blank check for the school. If I max out my credit card there are repercussions.

Force efficiencies so there is not a never ending request for a bigger school budget.

The Adams Cheshire School District needs a complete audit along with salaries & benefits .

Completely out of control . Poor management @ best .

Expand the productivity of our highway department.

Improve town roads, communication to town residents and improve website.

There is no need to reduce services.

Decrease in property taxes

more money into actual road repair -resurfacing, less on equipment we do not need

Town highway improved

Dependable water supply and increased small businesses will drive revenues for other future services expansions. Also we need to take a hard look at the Adams-Cheshire growth projections now to anticipate the need for future classrooms in making our School decisions.

I do not think everyone should be having to pay an increase in taxes relating to schools when there is still such a problem with the schools budgets after an increase specifically for the schools and I resent having to paying such an increase when I can't even drive down my road for over a year.

If you're a part time employee of the town benefits should not be available. Also the school system budget is getting out of control, and teachers salaries.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

Difficult for me to answer since I am only using my property a few weeks each year and not able to take advantage of all services. Yet have to pay a full year rate for recycling/waste disposal services and taxes.

Extend Town Hall office hours, add more police patrols (eradicate drugs in town)

Water and sewer

No one wants to pay more taxes, but people are willing to pay for quality services and efficient programs. We are not getting that as of right now from our leaders. Take the Superintendent /cost problems in the Schools. Our leaders have done little to inform the Residents of what is really going on, but hide from them to let them know how their tax money is being wasted.

Get rid of Cheshire school if it will reduce taxes. Combine town services with Adams to reduce costs. We do not need a full time place officer with state trooper barracks in our town.

schools

Improve schools, health services and activities for seniors

condition of town roads, condition of town buildings, town government communication to the public ! town governance

Collect unpaid taxes

eliminate police dept, stop purchasing new fire vehicles, increase water service area and look into sewage service

reduce schools spending, stop over riding 2 1/2 overrides, true budgets that reflect all spending needed.

Difficult question since we do not know the real reason for some of the expenditures

A small tax hike, within reason, to expand public services and education would be alright. As long as the tax hike wouldn't be on par with Adams high tax rate.

Town water and sewer

Police fire and ems services, cheshire should have 24 hour local police coverage, with at least 3 full time officers

I don't think taxes need to be increased all that much. I think there are private citizens out there that would contribute money to helping Cheshire grow if they felt their money was used properly. Through fundraising and volunteering, a park could get built in the downtown area for all ages to use.

I answered the above knowing full well that the cost of providing the current town services will increase overtime.

Education and Elder services definitely need major improvement! The lack of area or community center in this town leaves the kids really with nothing to do often times. Elders deserve a place to recreate as well if they so choose. There is a senior center but not really up to par. They need a building that has activities planned weekly, such as "Sit and serve" for those that are on fixed incomes to be offered at least a breakfast and lunch if needed. What about a game night offered for those elders that can't really get out there travel or socialize because family isn't really close by. This provides them with at least the opportunity to have some social interaction with other community members and a better quality of life because they are able to be involved. There is so much that could be done if enough people would be willing to help out in seeing it transform and actually be done.

I think in order to keep the majority of your taxpayers happy you need to look at the services they are using and improve them. Just because I suggest one type of service doesn't mean it's the one to focus on. Some people will take the time to leave comments but that doesn't mean they are the best area to focus on. If you improve something without them asking but they can directly benefit from it then they will appreciate it.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

Adult Ed. and community exercise programs

The highway department needs to be reduced.

Funding for a healthy stable school budget.

police reduced, water dept. reduced,

all services expanded

Education.

If increased taxes help with the state of the school, go for it. Otherwise, keep taxes low and keep Cheshire as a rural town and a non destination for anyone new to move to or for young families to remain living in.

Education, the lake, and the appearance of our homes, offices, and businesses throughout the downtown area. Also, the tax increase does not have to be perpetual. Make it a 5 year plan. All we have is our real estate, natural beauty, and citizens going for us, so at the very least, lets not let that go to the wayside.

reduce compactor hours

Please lower taxes as I don't know where all the money is going. I do know other towns in the Northern Berkshires where taxes are lower have schools that are level 1, homes and businesses that look clean and touristy, and the people can safely bike and walk in from any part of the town. If we need more money to improve our town lets recruit eco-friendly, nature loving businesses to join us in our beautiful town, not dirty factories or businesses that are eye-sores.

School funding and services should be increased.

More things going on at Senior Center like day trips.

just voted to override the taxes yet we are in the same position as last year. taxes could go up some but most of the town struggles as it is. there should be harder looks

I think you can decrease taxes and increase services by spending money smarter.

We need to invest money in our Children and the Buildings they visit!!!

Schools.

Increase taxes to help pay for the school system

Anything that would benefit the town

Transfer 50% of fire, emergency and school funding to town maintenance

School district not necessarily Cheshire school

I would actually rather see a decrease in services rather than a slow but continual increase in taxes.

Through proper management, combining services and capturing every available state and federal grant, I believe the town will hold its own.

I'd pay more for expanded school services.

SEWER LINE.....SCHOOL REPAIRS

The only acceptable increase would be toward cheshire school district.

School programs and services can always stand improvement. Children our are future!

Town sewer

Police department to enforce traffic laws to generate revenue for the town. .

The school needs to remain independent and not merge with Adams. The population of Adams is significantly different from Cheshire. The small town feel of Cheshire school is why we moved here. The continued cutting of services is why we will leave. All schools have cut backs but these have been extreme in ACRSD as of late.

Again we are losing people faster than gaining them. The trend will only continue unless we can be a draw for young families. Bolster the schools and overall family focused offerings.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

Once they get a taste of close knit Cheshire community they will hooked and more likely to stay but we have to draw them here first.

Education and roadways.

Keep taxes the same and adjust budgets.

Work closely on school spending, administrator's salaries, detailed purchasing documentation.

We should increase the following: support to the schools, the police force, funding and benefits to the fire department and volunteers, recycling program, and recreational opportunities for all residents.

recycling could be improved. The flier that the board of health gives when we buy bags states, all items with a recycle symbol should be recycled. However the attendant at the compactor takes a different stance.

Those who recycle & compost do not get any incentive to do so. We have bags that we do not use as a result. However we have to purchase another set of bags every year just like those who do nothing but use blue bags. This is counter productive and does not encourage recycling.

I cannot afford a lot as I am on a fixed income, and more taxes will be difficult. BUT - you get what you pay for in life, and if we want to improve the town, even in modest ways, we must pay for what we do. So I would support a modest increase to match the cost of living or slightly more to help the town.

Water department should be watched and governed more closely by the town.

I would favor a debt exclusion to improve town roads.

The town provided services are sufficient. Growth of small, recreational based businesses...hotel and restaurant taxes.....a focus on encouraging such development via state incentives/programs and combined municipal resource/local initiatives and more regional-think/tourist-redirection....could help town coffers. We need that which will draw, appeal to and sustain future generations or the town will struggle in the coming years as regional jobs dwindle and white collar types follow the jobs. Case in point....what is happening now as a result of Sabic's move.....we can't be an island but we can be a diverse component of a larger regional enterprise.

we moved out from Pittsfield to Cheshire because of high tax increase and lack of services !! So if you increase our taxes the services better be upgraded !!!! We don't mind paying a little more in taxes as long as it goes towards the service !!!

Increase taxes to keep the elementary school - if that is what it takes. Increased taxes for the high school IF it is actually dollars needed to improve the performance of the school.

Education school improvement to the facility and faculty they need more money to do more See answers to question 8.

replace cheshire elementary with a private charter. There scores are way above the rest of the school district.

Road repair and school buildings upgraded

Decrease taxes AND allow businesses into the area so that more services can be offered. The question is flawed giving responders the thought that decreased taxes can only result in less services (and vice versa).

taxes have gone up every year i have been here for the last 10 years..not sure why that is.

Technology or vocational offerings at school. Expand recreation. Spruce up our old buildings and make route 8 more attractive. Take care of our seniors and give our kids something to do when they aren't in school, so they have real friends, not texting friends. FILL THE POT HOLES.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

police department to keep our town safe and free of crime! More programs for kids/teens to keep them involved

I agree with raising taxes only in the case of the school system benefiting, especially meaning keeping our elementary school open. What reason would young families have for moving to Cheshire if not for a great school for their children? It is in the best interest of our town to keep the school and increase the services of it. My family would not hesitate to move out of Cheshire without the elementary school.

I am NOT in favor of expanding the Select Board to 5 members . Additional cost to the Town with absolutely no benefit .

Would like to see an increase in certain services, like schooling, roads and water but also think we could reduce certain services like the police department because we have the state police department in town already and we are already paying for that in taxes at the state level.

Sewer and town water

I'll answer the question this way because of its wording. I have no problem with the taxes in the town. They are reasonable and I have expectation that they will rise yearly. What I have issue with is Cheshire being able to float the schools. The day is coming when the high school will have to be addressed. I am a proponent of a regional school district encompassing more than Cheshire and Adams. In order to remain viable it will have to cover a far greater area. The tax burden will be too great if not.

road repair; natural gas service

A.C.R.S.D. Insurance for very part time work !

A small increase to fix and maintain buildings, not to be wasted on cosmetic, true repairs.

No increase to school Personel with a student population that is falling, with a faster education drop.

The only reason I picked keep taxes and service the same .. my main income is social security and I am on a tight budget all ready...so do not want to see the taxes go up

Expand school services/activities/general funding.

Pride in our community

All.

Provide sewer system and beach on lake, improve road conditions, provide a local newspaper, expert on conservation commission, expand library hours, town clerk hours, COA hours, building inspector hours, improve town buildings

Expand beautification, the schools, help for local businesses, better community center with activities FOR ALL

I think we need to re-allocate some expenses. And if a small tax increase is still needed than we can consider that as a second option. For example, the highway department wastes far too much of winter road maintenance. Most northern climate towns(visit the hilltowns to our east, VT, etc) do not waste anywhere near as much salt and time as we do. On the opposite end of this, our school is a disgrace. If we worried about our school as much as we worry about salting our roads we'd be a lot better off.

Education facilities and programs

Q12. Comments Section: Which town services should be subcontracted or shared or what other options should be pursued?

Senior van rider between adams

Share services particularly where schools are concerned. Student populations are declining and school buildings and staffing are becoming more expensive

Grant position or someone currently on the town payroll to actively pursue \$\$\$ that are available

Like the regional School - they will end up costing more money

Any service that can help

I'd like to see more support for local small businesses opening

How do we know that this would be cheaper? Should be publicly aired.

Answers like this are ineffective.

First step identify waste then ways to reduce costs sharing ,subcontracting streamlining

Share street cleaning, already done to some extent. share equipment between Town Highway and Water Departments.

to see if health ins. for town employees could save money if we included other towns, supplies,

By networking with other towns on a regular basis, it would become clear which resources might be shared. The tendency to make decisions in a vacuum limits this ability. As mentioned, becoming proficient at securing grants could have a significant impact on town finances, service levels and opportunities for residents.

Explore more options from other towns providing services in a more effective fashion. i.e. grants

do not sell our water share services where there is an overlap of services and lack of people to staff

Sharing facilities with other towns would be a win-win. We have beautiful recreational areas for instance, and other towns may have some cultural programs to share.

Combine Fire Department

Don't need Police Department. We have State Police in town already. Let people on Cheshire water system pay for all its needs

I'm concerned about the water department and ethics. I think a lot of people have concerns about that.

In Education it would be good to share resources - teachers, computers, ideas, learning plans.

We are too small a town to work in isolation - any sharing of services with Adams or other would be to advantage.

Cost efficiency is always a value, there is no one answer to this area. It must be decided per case.

what ever services could be merged to save money

Just put more men on road crew.

Youth programs with Adams and Lanesboro - Senior activities and programs with Adams and Lanesboro. We are all small towns that could offer so much more if combined.

Whatever way is most cost effective.

Plowing in winter . In general the town would find bty subcontracting many projects would save money .

Find ways to move around funds to suit where the town wants to grow.

schooling, transportation, and other activities for children

Sharing costs with other towns can help reduce costs.

If we hired trucks to plow the roads and haul gravel or what ever the need, we could save on not so many trucks the town owns. We could hire college or high school students to mow grass and let our town employs work on the roads.

Would like to see town sewer. Would eliminate the need for Title 5.

Q12. Comments Section: Which town services should be subcontracted or shared or what other options should be pursued?

Shared education.

Shared waste disposal.

Town administration.

As I said above the school situation is our greatest current opportunity/threat if we donot get it right. Also some town functions such as legal and other administrative functions may be able to be shared. Without indepth knowledge of the functions I cannot comment further.

Would need to see a list of services that would be able to subcontract. If it saves the town money, without diminishing services, then it would be a wise choice.

As a part-time resident I can't weigh in on specifics but feel it is always prudent to consider more cost effective options.

Share possibly with Lanesboro. Elementary school would be a good start.

Regionalize Superintendent of Schools, regionalize any services that make reasonable sense to give the best services to citizens at the maximum available hours.

The S hook system should be consolidated

Not every town needs to have a\$125,000 super.business off and staff, just so the Jockscan have their Drur/Hoosa games. Grow up

Shared educational offerings for high school offerings

Fire, police, school programs, community health programs shared if would save money

share Police chief, maybe police officers, School superintendent, highway plowing

Education cost are out of hand. Enrollment has decreased to a point where our district can no longer provide the necessary course offerings at an affordable cost. In the short term explore leaving the school district and giving our children school choice. in the long term we need to unite behind our children and stop complaining about what school is getting which students what aid. Charter Schools, traditional public high schools, technical schools, home schools, and on-line schools need to come together and work together. It's FOR THE CHILDREN and for our future, not for preserving a broken bigoted system.

eliminate separate boards and their spending.

Educational services to improve the cognitive skills of our children.

Lanesboro and adams could take over Police coverage

I don't believe you should have Watermen doing all your services without bidding it out. Isn't that an conflict of interest??

I think it is always a good idea for any form of government to consider cost saving options which include sub-contractors for road work, maintenance and plowing. Also sharing services with other towns can be a cost saving measure. Most incomes are stagnant, but taxes and fees just keep rising.

I prefer to share services than sub it out. I see the quality of the plowing that happens in Pittsfield by the subcontractors and most of the time its sub par. They don't have to repair/replace curbing or anything that they may break, making them more careless.

We should use subcontractors to repair and patch our roads
subbing out keeps the decisions in the town

consider sewer tie with Adams if it is agreed that infrastructure will be added vs building our own waste water treatment facility. More money for fixing roads. Consider another school district that might actually allocate money for the Cheshire Elementary.

Merge the school system with Greylock and give that Charter School some land. Also, invite a University into the area.

share personal among water and highway and compactor

Not sure what can be shared at this time but I think it should be looked into for cost cutting and efficiency.

Q12. Comments Section: Which town services should be subcontracted or shared or what other options should be pursued?

Explore sharing/subcontracting of maintenance of roads and streams where it makes sense
combine schools with ADAMS

Share police & fire

Fixing roads, etc

Good ol boy network is diverting valuable money to fund their fire and emergency toys

Share town government, water service sewer system

Maintain a smaller highway crew using subcontractors to plow during heavy storms, pavement repair and road maintenance. Cemetery maintenance should be subbed out to local landscape contractors.

Water Dept. should be part of highway.

LARGE SCALE PURCHASES FOR SCHOOL & TOWN PUBLIC WORKS MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT. ALSO, PURSUE SHARING COSTS OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WITH SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.

I think more government grants should be looked into for education grants or road improvement grants if available.

Police department

The town budget appears to be bare bones. The only option to reduce costs is to share services. You already do that with the town manager. Not sure if there are really any additional opportunities.

should always explore options

Accounting systems.

Look into all options.

How can the water commissioner be awarded the contract for the water department work? I will be contacting the Massachusetts Ethics Department this week to find out as well.

Enough is enough.

I have a great reluctance to subcontract services. I think government should do the job of government. Privatization of government services is dangerous. But we can do the best we can to cooperate with other towns, and to get the best bid packages for services, not only in terms of money but also quality. The last water main project may have been the cheapest, but the quality was not the best. I prefer to pay for good quality than to cheap out and end up paying more in the long run.

Get Waterman out of town business.

Sub contracting depending on mentality and ecological sensitivity of the contractor hired in for service.

surrounding towns should work together !!

We already share the high school with Adams. Not sure what else could be shared.

Ask the sheriffs department to patrol cheshire, savoy, windsor. more cost effective instead of have three police departments in three towns. We need to regionalize our town with others. cape cod has three highschoools in a county wide 64 mile location. we have greylock, mccann, dury, hoosac,charter , now lanesboro. in 20 miles- its ridiculous. plus seven more in pittsfield dalton and lenox

Lobby state to reduce regulations that are killing small town budgets.

my answer is YES, but i don't have a reason for that. Anything more cost effective is a good thing

-sheriff department could distribute 911 calls to save in police budget

-complete grants to access federal funding for library services, school, recycling center or other larger sources of supported revenue

-maybe having some type of volunteer committees to improve specific areas of the town

Q12. Comments Section: Which town services should be subcontracted or shared or what other options should be pursued?

p.s. block party was a huge success

p.p.s. building local small business feels beneficial to the town

also, safety in the town and a peaceful rural environment are the most important things to me living in Cheshire, the small town feel is an added bonus

We should keep our jobs for our residents. You should take care of your own, but they need to put in the work for the pay.

You should certainly explore every option to be more cost effective. Whether it is subcontracting or shared services. Maybe these other options would alleviate the look of conflicts of interest that we sometimes see.

Depends on what services you are providing

Contact county agencies to determine which towns share what services. Investigate if the sharing is efficient and cost effective. Propose appropriate shared services and partners to selectmen.

I see no reason to outsource and take jobs from our town people when our tax rates have stayed low over the years.

Options such as subcontractors for roadwork, cleaning and water supply management could be pursued.

Schools and related education expense with Adams

need to be collaborative, losing too much population

Do not mix services with other towns. Looking to the school situation for what not to do.

Never ends well.

More community days and clean up.

Isn't sharing a service with the next town over going to be cheaper for each town? As long as it is not an inconvenience

That which study shows to be improved - more cost-effective, & productive & of better quality - when shared/sub-contracted. I

Inspectors... electrical, building, plumbing, fire.

Share Town Administrator and building inspector

Keeping the services local/as they are now, gives more control for how things are done. Once the control is shifted to subcontractors or split with other towns, the services provided can no longer be maintained at the current standards. The cost savings would be negligible in terms of potentially lost services, or incompetent/substandard ones.

Water department shared between towns

Electrical and plumbing and building inspections should be county shared.

We have very few fires (I can't remember the last house fire). Maybe we could share with Adams and Lanesboro.

Q14. Comments Section: What more could be done to help you be more informed [about town government affairs]?

Meetings of town should be televised like Williamstown and Adams do

A weekly or bi-weekly news letter giving details of all various Boards actions and discussions

More media coverage

more information in the Berkshire eagle

posted minutes of meetings

No more closed door meetings

decisions made before meetings

Better information and the right information put in local papers

Sign in south Cheshire. The people in South Cheshire don't always go north

How about what could you yourself do to be more informed? How about going to weekly select Board meetings, Town meetings, special Town Meetings? How about voting in all town elections? Most people are about as "informed" as they care enough to be.

Record and broadcast meetings

Selectmen do not share enough information, especially about what needs to be done over next year or two.

Make the town website legit. We seem to find money for things that certain select board members want to support, however we refuse to spend a few grand a year on a municipal website that's user friendly like the one many other towns employ. The other piece is empowering the citizens by making it easy to get things posted instead of filtering with bias.

Postings around town, public service radio spots on public radio.

Need more town news and postings in the Berkshire Eagle

Need more town news and postings in the Berkshire Eagle

More News Berkshire Eagle

More newspaper coverage

e-mails about town affairs, issues and how they are being addressed.

expand town website

Send an email.

iBerkshire does a great job of getting the word out - as does the Fire Department sign.

However, the town website falls short in that it fails to provide times, phone numbers and event locations.

As stated before, the website is so minimal that it is disfunctional. Cheshire needs to create a weekly if not daily presence with current events and issues, and designate a public interface so that people can share information and receive feedback.

The minutes to the Select Board mtgs. are generally vague and do not clearly represent what happened at the mtg., especially if it is a touchy subject. It also takes a while before they are posted on the website. They are usually a month behind. The website should be more pro-active and accurate.

Sometimes I feel 'things' are passed into law the way that a certain department head wants them regardless of how the general public feels.

Not sure

Update our town website with the goings on in town - budget numbers put out - census information, etc

Improve website.

Include details on website such as a calendar, and possibly coordinate postings on Facebook as well. Add an email list on website so residents can subscribe to notices.

Perhaps I need a computer

Q14. Comments Section: What more could be done to help you be more informed [about town government affairs]?

Secret meeting

Didn't know town had website. The postcard and this survey helped.

More information about special meetings etc. available on town website

Ex: Sandmill Rd bridge closed-had no idea, was concerned when trying to get home.

Concerned over culverts on adjacent roads as well

Town could have a Facebook page and update it regularly to keep citizens informed.

Is this a Joke

Email

Keep better minutes online for meetings. Post voting information online or at fire station. Send out emails. People were not informed about voting dates and when something doesn't pass a new vote should not be allowed.

Have the Selectboard follow the Open Meeting law, term limits on offices to limit dynasties
email and social media

very poor town board meeting notice posting and these should be on the web site on in front of the fire station.

A clearer and more accurate posting of community meetings.

The town meeting minutes are not regularly updated on the site. The website should also have a place where people can sign up to get emails about current events, town meeting minutes, special elections, etc.

Don't just rely on town meetings to inform the people of goings on in town. If need be, especially when implementing something new as in the new water meter/water bills, informed mailings to explain how things work would be a very good idea for the future.

Don't just rely on town meetings to get information to the people. Mailings concerning certain things should be sent out. Example the new water billing system, the information should have been mailed to households regarding how we are being billed per unit of water and the water bills need to be more informative as to what we are paying for.

Town newsletter could be sent out to the community with up coming meetings and discussions. Make decisions a little more public this way you have the opportunity to be aware and part of change.

It would be nice to be alerted either via an email or text when there are meetings or changes.

The fire department sign is nice but if I don't travel in that direction then I don't see the notice. I try to read the meeting minutes but sometimes I forget. If I knew something new was posted to the website, like the minutes or meetings then I would be more likely to participate. I realize most meetings have a regular schedule but its easy to forget. Navigating the town hall is not always easy either. It would be nice to have a larger meeting space

The website is pathetic and it's never kept up-to-date and there's not enough information about town services the different departments and contact information

send emails to residents

Communication in a more timely manner

film town meetings. Actual minutes of the meetings posted in a timely manner, instead of glossed-over summaries months later.

The more I think about it - no. Not at all. Also, lets get some technology to work for us. This survey is great, but we need more tech tied to daily business operations and information dissemination. - It will actually save us money and time.

televise town meetings

One way would be to keep the sign in front of the fire station on a particular subject a little longer. It moves so fast that none of the information is being seen.

Q14. Comments Section: What more could be done to help you be more informed [about town government affairs]?

I would suggest a regularly updated Facebook page, and free email newsletter for those interested. If you already have these then the word isn't getting out.

better communication with radio and print media.

Town Newsletter made accessible.

Missing the first override vote.. didnt hear about it until the day of and i work out of town

When there is a town vote , it would be nice if there were more town folks at the vote

Full public disclosure well in advance and in multiple locations.

Let people know where information can be found and how often.

Town newsletter

Town mailings are the best way

The town should follow all rules in regards to state law as far as town business is involved.

More Facebook posts even for local activities.

Televised meetings, more social media coverage

Town meeting minutes published in a timely manner, and televised live.

Water department need to inform the town when a problem happens not 3 days later.

Automated phone call reminders, put more on the fire dept. Sign, maybe a monthly e-mail letter to residents.

Emailing newsletter

send out emails.

more transparency, more citizen input

I am of the opinion that every town activity and meeting and the town warrants, etc. should all be posted on the town's website - extensively and in a timely fashion. The internet is the modern bulletin board for many people, including me. Minutes and summaries of all meetings should be posted there, and a town-wide calendar would be extremely helpful.

Better reporting by departments for police highway fire

Maybe a e-mailed newsletter.....that would be get info to everyone in the town that opted in(and not waste paper)

robocalls

Again just moved here so far no issues

The town and school websites need to be improved. The school websites are very out of date, and it is difficult to find current information. Very frustrating.

I think the town web site could be used for this better if it was updated more often

Website needs to be dramatically improved, and it would be so easy to do so. It actually seems like town admins do not want people to be informed.

it's my own fault. I dont' pay attention to issues going on in town, because in the grand scheme of everything, they're very small compared to what else is going on in the world.

mail a newsletter

I can't always read the sign at the firehouse when driving by. I do like the EDDM mailing you used to reach the towns people and I don't feel it is too costly to do for the larger issues.

I was not aware of the town website. Not sure if I missed it but that would be a good thing to add to the sign on Route 8 if it has not already been posted there.

Mailings

Mostly due to my lack of initiative to access information electronically.

Yes, because I make an effort and am involved

Less executive session, release in timely manner

One would have to have been seated at the selectboard meeting to have any idea what's going on. And even then, every week there's some top secret executive session taking place. Dec 8th meeting, "Met with Joe/Village Truck Sales. Transfer details will be worked out with Chief

Q14. Comments Section: What more could be done to help you be more informed [about town government affairs]?

Thomas Francesconi." What does that even mean? Does anyone ever understand what's written in those meeting minutes? I swear it's in code!

The fault lies with me on this. I don't read the paper and now that my child is grown, I am not involved in many events in town.

Can not ever read fire house sign

Have a town newspaper

I'm not sure, but advertising that Cheshire HAS a town web site would help. Who knew?

allow people to subscribe to alerts and notifications electronically. Operate a town e-mail list to let people know when something happens.

Less executive meetings, more information on selectmen votes

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)

Open space for drinking water

preservation, preservation, preservation

Community gardens

Farmlands

Trails on State Lands for 4-wheelers and snowmobiling

Preserve farmland and open meadows to protect views

it would be great to have a town center or park for gathering

farmlands

Drinking water needs

open space for drinking water needs

Farmlands

Open space for drinking water needs

Open Space for drinking water

Preserve Forest Parcels (and sell water Dept. parcel to state preservation)

farmlands

Forest parcels

The lake.

drinking water needs and backup drinking water supply

Town forest. Use watershed land.

Wildlife Habitant

Cheshire Lake

I feel very strongly that with most of the open space in the town already owned by the state, that we should explore creative ways to use that space to benefit the town and it's people (and visitors) in collaboration and partnership with the state. In addition, I strongly oppose even considering the sales of additional land to the state without a complete and thorough analysis of issues and options.

Cheshire has a wealth of wetlands and forests. I think preserving these spaces for the health of our town, the beauty and tourism potential is extremely important.

farmland perserved

conservation of watershed and surrounding land

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)

Light industry, commercial space
farmlands
Community Center for kids
Sell land to the state that Water Dept. has and use for open space so residents can use.
To sell land to state that water company has and use for open space for hunting, hiking and all
Mass residents
Open space for drinking water needs
Wet lands
Farm lands
Sewage treatment plant
Wildlife Habitat
Water supply/protection
Farm lands
Open space for drinking water needs
Open Space for drinking water needs
forest parcels
Farmland
Open space for drinking water needs.
To protect Cheshire Lake from any question of pipeline development.
Areas around Cheshire Lake
clean water
Water
not to become over protected to the point everything is just forest
farmlands
Maintain open lands through appropriate tax categories for young farm families to stay on the
land and add to local food economy
Public sewer
Historic sites!
Selective foresting to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Too many old trees do not allow new
growth and are also a hazard to hikers hunters power lines etc.
Wetlands
Recreational needs space
Farmland
Protecting water shed.
The lake
Watershed for drinking water
Preserve Farmland
Wildlife Habitat
Not developing open space
open space for recreational needs
Recreational area for year-round activities for families (park, or beach area, pavilion)
Open space for drinking water needs.
hiking trails and cross country ki trails,
I have no idea
Protection of farmland
Open space for recreational needs
Cheshire lake
How about a Town beach
ridgelines

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)

none

Wildlife habitats

farmland

Cheshire has the right mix currently. It would be nice to see more of the farmlands being utilized.

Waterfront areas.

Continued need to maintain school areas for recreational activities.

Land that effects the town's water supply

Farmlands

Rivers streams and lakes

Wildlife and habitat

open space for drinking water needs

drinking water needs

town beach

More working farms.

Farmlands

#7

A recreational park for all ages.

land that protects our water

Open space for recreational needs.

Not sure?

Preservation of its rural nature.

Cheshire needs to de-weed all three parts of Cheshire Lake or at least parts of them.

Preserving our active farms and finding young people to steward them as farms get ready to transition from the older generation of farmers.

DOG PARK

Ridgelines

Cheshire lake

Cheshire lake

A town beach

Protecting the water shed

Forests parcels

The lake needs to be cleared was the weeds. I can remember swimming in that lake and you could see the bottom clearly. Today I wouldn't swim nor would I let my grandchildren swim in that lake.

OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATIONAL NEEDS

Conservation

Cheshire lake

Historic sites or buildings.

Cheshire lake

Preserve scenic views and town character

no wind facilities

Land that is open to the whole community. Ability to have picnics, town gatherings, etc

Lake

Conservation and maintenance of Cheshire Lake

farmlands

Recreation

It needs to be left alone. There is so much to enjoy and explore and I think it is what makes our town great.

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)

Preserve ridgelines - do not destroy with windmills like they did to Florida Mtn.
Preservation of forest and farmland from any development.
town beach
productive farmland
Open space for recreational needs
none
Open space for recreational needs.
None at this time.
Weeds on Cheshire Lake
The lake
forest parcels
Wildlife
Not sure - ridgelines
From an environmental standpoint, it is extremely important to protect our wetlands and water areas. This will lead to healthy water systems and continued recreational use of these areas.
Farmlands
A beach and a park
open space for our drinking water needs
open space for recreational
Historic Sites and Buildings.....
Celebration during the summer months.
Maintain healthy open water and waterways.
farmland
Cheshire Lake
Drinking water
Areas around water
??
recreation
Lake
Forest parcels
No opinion
Keeping the pollution down and cleaning up the known pollution.
Cheshire lake...I don't swim there - decades ago when I first moved here...where I worked someone told me not to swim in the lake it was polluted and they use chemicals in the water to kill the algae in the water
Rejection of the Kinder-Morgan pipeline.
Education - teaching people that when it's gone, it's gone forever.
open meadows
Historic sites and buildings
land that preserves scenic views and town character
Historic sites and buildings.
More parks that are accessible to all
Maintaining the water quality of Cheshire Lake over time!
I don't know if certain areas are off limits of for public use.
Water
wildlife habitat
We need to be very cautious of letting and wind turbine or solar panel come into our town. These are typically installed by corporations from out of the area who funnel the energy and money away from out area while paying the local area a tiny amount in exchange to the land.

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)

To improve it's historic sites or buildings.

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)

Fitness center similar to a YMCA with exercise machines, yoga classes would enhance quality of life and the health of residents particularly in the winter months

Recreational needs for seniors

Indoor activities

Running/walking trails

ATV/Snowmobiling

Running, Walking and bike trails accessible

Walking Trails

Would be great to have a town beach. The boat launch does not qualify as a beach

Town Beach

better area of the notch road access to cobbles

Town beach

Town Beach

Beach access

Town Beach

Town beach.

Town beach.

some place for teens to congregate other than the playground for small children

To maintain hiking trails.

Things for kids/families to do (all ages)

Need ATV snowmobiling trails that also can be used for hiking etc.

ATV/snowmobiling trails that you can also hike on

A town beach would be wonderful

Picnic areas

Rail trail

Indoor recreational

Youth center

Indoor recreation/fitness activities

It would be nice to have a public beach/swimming area if possible.

It really would be nice to have a public beach in Cheshire.

Need to make Cheshire Lake useable for water sports

A town beach would be great.

forests to walk in

Indoor fitness activities.

To plow the railtrail in winter for walkers.

Town beach

Do something at Cheshire Lake. A BEACH would be WONDERFUL!!!

A safe place for teens and kids to recreate.

open rail trail in winter for snowmobiling to attract tourists willing to spend money

indoor recreation

I think it is important to harness Cheshire Lake and create a town beach. This one thing will also help build community and add more recreational activities, like swimming lessons for kids, etc.

Walking & biking trails

A nice beach like horns beach.

Family recreational programs & areas

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)

To reopen the rail trail to snowmobiles since this was the main connector trail and has caused the loss of a lot of tourism dollars. Think about how much snowmobiles cost only to be ridden for 2-3 months a year. These people have money to spend otherwise at restaurants and such.

Town beach.

More open space

A safe place where families can go to spend time together

Hiking Trails

General location for multiple activities (such as a rec center).

Keeping what we have in good useable condition.

Open Space

Maintaining the Rail trail and the School recreation areas.

Tennis courts

tennis courts

Family gathering areas - maintaining walking trails

Local fitness center

Maintaining existing recreational areas, Cheshire like, and natural sites.

Picnic areas adjacent to Cheshire Lake.

Town Beach

Use of the high school after school hours

Programs for Seniors. They are all not in Wheel chairs or in Nursing Homes

Maintenance of the lake

Tennis courts

Maintenance of Bike/Walking Trail

More ATV trails.

lake boating

Town swimming/picnic area

no safe place to swim

keep the existing lake, trails, and adjacent properties clean

hunting and fishing areas

none

Public beach

Lawful atv trail system

A clean Cheshire Lake

park/picnic areas

Water/canoe/kayaking/boat launch.

This town needs a community center. Where all are welcome, kids can play, families can be involved in "family night" with their families, elders can socialize and neighbors can interact with each other for the sake of knowing their community better! Kids can know they have a community that cares they are bored but have a place to go and things they can do and their parents would be okay knowing where their kids are and actually have a place that they enjoying going to rather than getting into trouble because of lack of.

Town beach

Boat launch

Cheshire Lake

Hiking trails

Swimming

Allowing snowmobiles on the rail trail

maintaining the Lake for all types of recreation in all seasons

town clean swimming area

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)

Walking trails

picnic areas, scenic views

Lake development and a municipal park.

golf coarse

We have a beautiful lake. I think that a development of this lake can draw tourism to the area and keep residents from going to other towns for recreation.

Running trails.

We have a beautiful town, but some of our roads are dangerous to just walk down :-)

In door facility

None!

Cheshire needs a place to legally ride atv's and utv's.

Dog park

None

Indoor recreation for youth during winter months

Stuff for the kids

Indoor recreation

Town park

More outdoor parks

Town beach, opening trails to atv and snowmobile

Maintain the lake as top priority, maintain and improve any and all hiking trails especially the Appalachian Trail - give the hikers a warm welcome, so as to have them come back at a later date to visit!

Preserving the rail trail, Appalachian trail and Cheshire lake

Playgrounds

A clean lake!!!!

TOWN BEACH

Many have snowmobiles so access to trails should be kept available

Indoor recreation/fitness actiities.

More access to fishing at the lake

A youth/family center for kids outside of the school for those long winters and over the summer vacation to keep them active and engaged in fun learning. A place where ages across the board unite in enriching activities.

Community center open to ALL ages, not just seniors. A place for exercise classes, yoga, other lessons.

Clean the second basin of the lake, put something great where the factory used to be.

Dog park

Indoor recreation facilities.

Indoor facility

Picnic area would be nice

A public beach on Cheshire Lake.

focus

Bike trail

Keep the Lake clean.

I'd like to create a park which combines many of the above.

Something for the kids to do

To allow areas for snowmobiling and atv use. We pay taxes and can't use the land for our pleasure.

Swimming

Need to play off the beautiful lake that is in our town

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)

after looking at this survey I would love a indoor fitness center/activity center. not a new building...but maybe there is already a place that this could go in? I think that would draw a lot of people , there are only a few exercise classes (that i know of) offered close by so I think something like that would be a hit for cheshire.

Playing fields

Continue to let nature take care of herself.

town beach!

expansion of the bike trail in both directions

Picnic and outdoor meeting areas(parks) either for 2-3 people or a small group with benches and tables in the downtown so you can walk to them

Hiking

Town beach with amenities....example....North Pond.....

anything to do with sports or wildlife

Recreation with bathrooms for disabled

Information to the public

community center for all ages

open spaces

Kids, teens, families

It would be great to have some sort of outdoor guide to Cheshire with trails and activities listed all in one place.

perhaps a more clearly marked trail guide allowing me to finally be able to find The Cobbles..I've tried to hike up there several times and always get lost in the woods so i end up turning around coming back down.

town beach

Swimming areas

Clean Cheshire Lake, beach, park

You have a beautiful lake that could possibly have activities for all ages there. Even if you could entice area rental businesses to offer informational activities at the lake. It could be good for the business and the community.

A place for the kids to go especially during the winter months to play basketball, soccer and sports in general. the gyms are used for all the team sports and there is no where to go for just fun and exercise

Town Park

Anything to improve access to Cheshire Lake

Would really like to see some lighting for the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail from Farnam's causeway down to the Cheshire harbor. Maybe some low maintenance solar lights like they have in downtown Adams.

Better lake conditions for swimming !!

??

indoor recreation center

Unsure

Beach

No opinion

Picking up the trash.

??? Happy with what we have now...would like to see the lake have clean water

Adequate play areas for kids.

Get the perverts off the ahuwillticook trail by increasing police presence thereby insuring the safety of all those who use it.

walking trails

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)

lake management

indoor fitness center

Not sure.

Town beach

Town beach.

Spreading the word about our recreational areas, for instance there are no signs to direct people to Cobbles access

TOWN BEACH

SNOWMOBILING ON THE RAIL TRAIL!!!

hiking

Public open space

Playing fields for locals. Recreational trails to bring in tourism, visitors, etc

Q21. Comments Section: Comments about types of businesses or services that should be encouraged or discouraged in Cheshire.

No stores like dollar general

No businesses like adult items or entertainments

No Bars

This should be an agricultural and residential town.

We made history with the Cheshire Cheese

it would be excellent to have a small coffee/breakfast spot in town

Youth Hostel for the AT Hikers

Rules and regulations should apply to all businesses. Not change for the type of business or who you are. Example frontage of property etc.

Relax restrictions and treat fairly all business. Above all, rules should apply equally to all

Specialty retail or bakery

Facilities to help our pets - vets, grooming, training, etc.

Could encourage more service types such as cleaning of homes & yards, artists, writers, a weekly newspaper, and doctors, etcetera

Any type of small, home-based businesses - childcare, consultants, etc.

Intellectual services such as Internet based services. Also any government office especially in research and statistical areas. Dependable high speed internet is a MUST for any business to locate in Cheshire.

Need a small Hardware Store and small Grocery Store.

Small coffee Shop,

Someone to help seniors with household repairs at a reasonable price.

the town should secure a grant to relocate Chic's Auto to a more suitable location, and buy the railroad station from him, and restore it to its original state and find an interested party to make an upscale tavern out of it.

Any one who can build with in the town guidelines

We should be open to all businesses that want a presence in Cheshire that will increase business. A positive for one business generally results in positive foot traffic for other

Q21. Comments Section: Comments about types of businesses or services that should be encouraged or discouraged in Cheshire.

businesses. This would be a boost to Cheshire tax income and help balance additional services with the overall tax rate.

There should definitely be a farmers market here in Cheshire....Doesn't have to be big, it would be nice to have a local one!

Recreational support services.

No Dollar General Chain

any local buisness - LOCAL

Artists, community woodworking and crafts shop, school or camp for troubled or disadvantaged kids

Cottage business - work from home, Internet services....

The use of old buildings should, if possible, be converted to professional and/or personal services.

This is a really long survey!

Plumber

Q22. Comments Section: Comments about economic development in the town of Cheshire.

As long as they are not given tax incentives to set up shop here, everyone pays their fair share.

Follow Williamstown Zoning goals, restrictions and regulations

Adult business types- Zoning needs to be addressed.

encourage small business which are not huge companies that ruin the landscape and the natural surroundings

Cheshire should encourage local and rural businesses, and use this resources to creatively support the economy through tourism.

Business zoning and residential zoning should not be on same street, same neighborhood

We should encourage and support local business and encourage growth for town also. Pursue new business to come to Cheshire.

We should support existing business and encourage growth

Did not move to Cheshire to shop at a dollar general. Takes away from the small town quaintness.

Whatever is encouraged in Cheshire should ideally contribute to the maintaining of its small town atmosphere which is a rare and desirable commodity.

We need to grow, but I would discourage dollar store type chains and businesses like them that tend to give a generic feel to towns and provide no real benefit. We need to develop Cheshire in a way that preserves the "feel" of the town.

We need to be really selective about the kinds of business we are trying to encourage. National chains and large companies have no place here, while locally owned businesses help give the town the autonomy and self-sufficient character that a small town needs to thrive.

Encouraging business should serve identified goals of intentional planning priorities.

We need to support the growth of small local businesses but keep out businesses that encourage the desruction of our land and small town atmosphere.

Q22. Comments Section: Comments about economic development in the town of Cheshire.

Local businesses are more preferred than regional / national chain stores.

The town should be trying to encourage non retail businesses to utilize the available commercial properties for sale across town.

Leave well enough alone . Concentrate on controlling development . Open space , wetlands , natural habitat , endangered species , waterways should be a top priority along with infrastructure ie roads & bridges .

Need more new more business and services but keep a balance to retain the "small town" charm.

We need to develop more industrial sites

Encouragement of growth in the economy should be properly managed in keeping with the nature of the town

Cheshire should stay away from chain stores and destructive industry and focus on locally-owned service providers and professional services

Do not want to see "dollar store" type of business. Keep small town atmosphere with select small town types of businesses

Let encourage eco-friendly, nature friendly companies to come here and let other towns have factories and malls.

People like the small town "Mayberry" feel of Cheshire. Cheshire does not need a Dollar General or any other big company moving in and changing the small town feel. If we wanted to live in a larger town we would move there. We like it here. The way it is.

Encouraging new business and supporting those that are already established is a wise choice.

I would like to keep the rural feel of the town but would love something to help support farmers and local business

I feel we should encourage small local businesses in Cheshire and discourage larger chain stores, Dollar store for an example, we are close enough to larger towns and do not need the added traffic problems this would bring.

While we should encourage new business we should not do it in a way that changes the nature of the town.

I think that the focus should be on small local business....no big box or chain stores please!

Cheshire economic development is non-existent in my opinion. It's reactionary and uncontrolled either through planning or regulation.

Remember we use WELLS as a drinking source so watch the development around here. You all have a great town don't wreck it.

I don't feel it a place for big box stores, but it's great for small business

Cheshire should focus on retaining and supporting local business AS WELL AS developing new businesses which will contribute to the local economy.

I am not active in local politics or follow so really can not answer...I do not want to see Cheshire grow too much more...

Q23. Comments Section: Are there other housing options than those listed in Question 23?

do not cater to low income families.

make it affordable / single story for aging

Make sure that any vacant house does not just stand there and fall apart...The old green building by the light(rte 8 heading to Adams on left side)...near the fire station .. I know it is too expensive for the town to do anything with it...just too bad there wasn't the money to fix it up and have it for the elderly or low income .. isn't there an investor that would want that? ... Maybe a branch of a college, trade school...no grocery store, bank or donut shop! The town could give it to one of these organizations

Camp site

Unless a land owner is willing to sell parts of land, there is really no place to build.

Keep low income housing out of Cheshire. It only attracts problems and trouble. And I for one do not want to pay the price (usually in increased crime and blight) of low income housing.

Q24. Comments Section: Comments about housing development in Cheshire?

In order to maintain the rural character of Cheshire which is its most valuable asset development needs to be very carefully allotted. Size of building lots should be increased to a minimum of 4 acres. Present farmland and open space should be placed in agricultural preservation to preserve wildlife habitat

Let Williamstown be your guide for the future of our town

Same rate or slower

I would like to see older historic homes preserved

Less of these pre-fab things

We need a place for our elderly citizens to live. Some people live in Cheshire all their lives, then at the end of their lives they need to leave to move into elderly housing.

upgrading and encouraging the use of existing traditional homes rather than building more

The town can't maintain the roads that are here example blacktopping etc. We do not need anymore roads. Use available land on roads that are already available

Let's move frontage back to 150 feet and give variances where acreage can be had. We don't need new roads to maintain. We can't fix the roads we have.

Some growth is good, but thoughtful choices that support the overall character of the town.

Development is good as long as it doesn't overtax our current resources.

Cheshire needs appropriate mixed development in its housing .

Appropriate development of small business that enhances local economy by keeping money in the community

No low income housing.

Don't see any

The community would do better to grow, but only if we draw in the people who want to help improve the look and feel of the community, not just a place to live that has cheap taxes.

Encourage economic development, but NO Low Income housing.

I don't believe we need major housing in Cheshire, to keep the small town feel all that is needed is more options for the elderly and more options for families who want to buy homes to stay in Cheshire.

Proper zoning and low taxes to encourage moderate building of single & multi-family homes

Family's are leaving the Berkshires because they can no longer afford to live here. Houses in Western Mass are being foreclosed upon because our residence lost their jobs and the ones they can find, don't pay enough to support their families. Unfortunately this is something that is a County issue and not a Neighborhood one. If Cheshire had more apartments, maybe family's would reside here rather than traveling much further north.

Lots of run down homes that are just left to rot

Need to grow the town and the economy

Keep dollar general out

Development is good ONLY if it's tasteful and not turned into slums

I strongly do not want assisted living and section 8 homes or large apartment complexes in cheshire

I would not like to see large business or chain stores in this town. Maybe locally owned and operated businesses would be a good addition to the tax base in town.

I feel the town needs to address the vacant houses in Cheshire....before more are built.

Growth is welcomed and needed, not at the mindset of just do it. Lower community housing just adds to the tax burden and helps no one.

We need to either rehabilitate aging housing stock in the village, or get rid of structures that are eyesores! Discourage development of rural land, especially farmland, for second homes.

Concentrate on fixing up the center of town- it looks bad.

Q25. Comments Section: Comments about land use or land use regulation in Cheshire.

Zoning in Cheshire is terrible- for example one side is zoned residential -opposite side is zoned business- that's horrible needs to be addressed

Why are there not more small local businesses opening? I'd like to see a lakeside dining facility.

Preserve scenic beautiful rural component of this town. Stop despoiling to line a few people's pockets.

frontage on property should be put back from 200' to 150'

Again 150 foot frontage give variances where acreage is involved. Let's use land we have on our roads

It would be great to see a statement about what is regulated and how and for what reasons.

Controls seem to be currently problematic. Some places build in wetlands and on rivers, while at the same time you need a permit to replace windows. All areas need updating.

Any development should follow the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the letter . period !

Bedard's has two cease and decess orders for filling in wet lands

Think zoning needs to change to discourage new large commercial businesses such as chain stores from establishing in Cheshire

No comment

the requirements for needing a special permit are too stringent. The reality is that there are many properties in town that would require a special permit to do anything to improve their home due to the size of the lots and the unrealistic limitations set on homeowners

Maybe we should explore more small or local business options

I wish there were more places to ride atvs

Despite feeling it is important to conserve the natural resources in the town, development of commercial and residential areas is essential in providing financial support needed to sustain

Q25. Comments Section: Comments about land use or land use regulation in Cheshire.

and grow the town. It currently appears there is control of development but the control seems to be inconsistent. In some cases the control feels too strict and in others it feels lacking. Overall, the policies for development should be clear and consistent with an overall goal in mind.

We need to protect ecology of cheshire and agricultural lands fro, commercial and housing developmentd, so as not to become like so many other places in the world, and loose the very thing of nature people have come here to live with. We need to keep commercial development, especially national corporate business out of town development plans.

All three should be at there highest level to protect the town!!

People in this town complain about higher taxes and failing schools but then block businesses.

I have no knowledge of the zoning or permitting rules.

I suspect that many alterations and additions have been made without proper permitting, inspection, or assessment.

I love this little quaint town...I know many would like to see Cheshire grow .. it does have potential...but then you lose the farmlands and open space that makes Cheshire so unique. We are part of the Berkshires...some of the towns have industrial parks that need businesses to fill them up and create jobs for all of North County...let the business go there, for the people who work in these businesses they can live in Cheshire.

We should focus on our local farms that sell substantially raised and grown vegetables. There are 2 wonderful farms that I know of in Cheshire that helps fed Berkshire County...Square Root Farm and ElMartin...both wonderful farms...it is so nice to be able to support these farms by buying fresh wonderful vegetables and meats from them.

Not sure if I don't know or if my brain is shutting down

Since the town water supply is an aquafier that is located under a residential area, shouldn't there be some sort of restrictions as to what is introduced into the topsoil before it is too late?

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Old Cheshire Rd/ Pitt Rd

wells Rd Sand Mill Rd Depot St

Wells Rd Windsor Rd

Cheshire Rd/Wells Rd

Railroad street by Chic's garage up to town hall

Sand Mill Road bridge West Mt. Rd

Briggs Drive Depot Street Stafford Hill

RT.116 Stewart White RD. Sand Mill RD.

Wells RD. Notch RD. Crest DR.

Depot St.

outlook Ave west Mtn. rd.

RT.8 Lanesboro RD.

Sand Mill Rd. bridge, Wells Rd, Falling into River- Rte. 116

Sections of Wells Road and from Jako's farm to RT.116 Rail road ST. Bridge on Sand Mill Road.

Ingalls RD., Devinsire, Wilshire

Depot St Wells St Daniels Ter.

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Depot Street

Upper West Mtn Road Depot Street.

east main on to Windsor rd on to the notch.

Sand Mill, West Mountain

I think they need to finish Depot St.

east main stormwater management depot st sand mill

Sandmill Hill Road bridge repair / replacement

Fales Rd, Wells Rd.

Depot St., Sandmill Rd Bridge, Lanesboro Rd.

Sandmill Road Route 116 Wells Road

Wells Road Sand Mill Road

the bridge at sandmill rd, savoy replaced their bridge in 3 days

unsure

route 8 and lanesborough road intersection

Wells Road and RT. 116 and Maple Drive

Route 116 Maple Drive Wells Road

main roads in center of town

Wells road near high school

Sand Mill Rd

Sand Mill Road and Bridge RT116 in Cheshire

Wells rd, Lanesboro Rd

Wells Park, Wells Road

Depot street, Sandmill Road

Wells Road

Ingalls Road

Wells Road, Sand Mill Road

All of Lanesboro Road, all of Shadowland Cove Road.

Lanesboro Rd, Route 8

Wells Rd, Sandmill Rd.

West Mountain Road

Route 116 as it passes through Cheshire. Wells Road. Stafford Hill Road and North Road.

The dirt portion of Stafford Hill Road. Stewart White Road The dirt portion of Windsor Road going toward Windsor.

Route 116

All roads need some attention, especially the shoulders & drainage. A road of current concern is Wells, nearer the High School end. It looks as if it will slide down the bank!

route 8

centrally located roads along route 8 corridor and in the village.

Richmond hill road, West road, sandmill Road

Wells rd (finish what has not been done) Notch rd East harbor rd

Sand Mill Road / Wells Rd.

Upper Stafford Hill Sandmill Road - bridge repairs

Jenks rd. road by the pit,

Church Street

Stafford hill road near Windsor road should be turn back to dirt. There is too much ground water and new pavement will suffer greatly from frost heaves. Dirt is easily graded regularly and much less costly than repaving often. Also the bridge on Sandmill Road needs to be fixed.

Windsor Rd. Stafford Hill West Mountain Rd

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Stafford Hill Road , Sandmill Road , Richmond Hill Road

Wells rd. Depot st.

Wells Rd, Route 116, and Sandmill Rd

Wells Rd, Outlook Ave

Savoy Road-- Wells Road--Sandmill Road bridge

Bridge on Sandmill Road

Lanesboro Rd Outlook Ave Wells Road

Most roads in Cheshire need attention.

Wells Rd. Rte 116

Depot St.

wells road main street church street

depot St. Wided the streets along the lake

No recommendations

Depot St. E. Main St.

ALL OF THEM!!!

Depot St.

Sandmill Road

Richmond hill, finish paving Stafford hill road, West Mountain road

church street, main street, wells road

Wells Road, Lanesboro Road, top section of Stafford Hill Road.

not sure, haven't traveled them all. But many culverts on many roads are in tough shape, and rotting through in places.

Depot Street, Wells Road, Church Street

Ingalls Rd.

Most are in very good shape. how ever a General Dollar store located across from a convince store is a terrible idea. the traffic cite line for traffic in both directions is terrible. There are mant other sites in town that would be better

I.e. The old resturant on route 8' I understand that they feel that they would traffic from Old Lanesboro raid,but this is not true as most of it is local residential traffic

Route 8

West mountain rd

Outlook Avenue, Sandmill Road,

Wells rd and 116

pave dirt roads

Depot Street, Sandmill Road bridge, West mountain Road

Most roads have been neglected and need repair

Rt 116, Church st, Outlook ave

No opinion

South church Wells north state (route 8)

Wells road

Wells Rd from Jenks to 116

Depot St./ Wells Rd.

West Mountain Rd Rt8/Church St/West Mt Rd intersection. A rotary would work well there.

Depot St

Depot Street / Sandhill Rd. / Outlook Ave.

Church street, outer Wells road, and Route 116.

Wells Rd., Windsor Rd, LanesBoro Rd.

Pit road Sandmill road

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Depot, Ingalls

Wells Rd.

West Mountain Road Outlook Wells Road

all major roads

Church Street, Rt 8

construction of bridge on sand mill road

North Street to the Windsor line (pave it already!)

Wells Road.

West Mountain Road

Richmond hill road

Well's Rd

Richmond Hill Road Stafford Hill Road

Farnums, Laneborough, Route 8

west mt road stewart white road depot street

Wells road, main street.

We need a safe way for people to walk and bike around town - including from points north up route 9 as mentioned earlier. Maybe Route 8 needs to be 35 mph for a longer stretch, but a sidewalk would definitely help. Let's stop being the rest of the Northern Berkshires "speed bump"

Outer West Mountain Rd!

Just general repair and pot-hole filling as determined by our road crews.

1. Repair the bridge on Sandmill Road. 2. Stewart White Road. 3. The water that drains off of my two neighbors yards/ driveway across the road from me and down my driveway and it goes across my lawn and towards my garage. Some goes in my garage when it rains hard. It also washes gravel from my neighbors driveway and it ends up on my paved driveway on Fales Road.

West Mountain Road

Wells Road Windsor Road

Stafford hill, 116/rt8

Willow Cove

All

Hutchinson area

Wells Road Sandmill Road Stafford Hill Road

Depot st Shadowland cove Greylock rd

Fix the bridge on sandmill that has been down forever

Sandmill

Make quarry rd year round

East side of Stafford Hill, Richmond Hill, and Jenks Road.

Wells road, lanes borough road & Fred mason road

Rt 8 where the bus accident happened.

Depot Street, Prospect Street and School Street

LEAVE IT TO THE ROAD BOSS

Sandmill rd bridge

Wells Rd, Depot St, and Windsor Rd need improvement

Roads in Cheshire are generally well maintained.

Wells Rd., Ingalls Rd., Windsor Rd.

Wells dublin main street

outlook avenue

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Rest of Wells rd, Depot st., Ingalls Rd.

Richmond hill Bridge that's been out for months no excuse!

Wells Road, Sand Mill Road, RT 8 near gas station

Key roads for us: Route 8, Nobody's Road, Cheshire-Lanesborough Road

Brough Road

wells rd. depot st.

Lakeshore Drive, Shadowland Cove, Willow Cove

Depot St

Rt. 116 Wells Rd. Lanesboro Rd.

Sawmill rd. Windsor rd

Wells road Lanesboro rd

wells road, lanesboro road

Cheshire Hills roads

I am concerned that "improvement" of roads leads to more traffic and higher speeds, which I don't want. East Main Street and sections of Wells Road need improvement the most, and Outlook Ave needs help a lot.

Wells, Depot, Pine Valley trailer court, sand ill road

Outlook Ave Lake roads Out skirts of town

Side roads

Main east main lanesborough

The drainage pipe under Richardson Street is falling apart and has not been cleaned out in over 50 years!

Wells Rd, Lanesboro Rd. and Downtown area

Depot Street Wells Road Lanesborough Road

Wells Rd, Windsor Rd, Rte 116.

Not worried a out road conditions.

Depot st

Sand Mill Road bridge

Rt.116 Wells Road Outlook Avenue

all fine

Railroad St....lots of bike trail related travel and parking.....needs a sidewalk or maintained walkway. Wells road and route 8A

Wells Road

Ingalls Road, Corner near bridge where bus hit house (Rt 8), Notch Rd.

all roads are fine

Wells Rd

Outlook ave

I am happy with the roads in Cheshire. I live on Lanesboro Road and there is really only one section that isn't so great.

Route 8, town center

I'd love to see the huge hole not just filled with gravel that erodes way, but black topped, on lower Devonshire Drive. You you fix it right the first time, it's cheaper!

Sandmill rd Windsor Rd Stafford hill

Sandmill Road, Ingalls Road and Gulf Road.

LESS "downtown" area, more outskirt streets/ roadslanesborough road (road & traffic light @ intersection) / towncrest village / eastview/ Fred mason / etc..

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Furnace Hill Road - Just redid and major water issues since it was done Wells Road
Improve the road (West Mountain Road) that provides short cut to Lanesboro - Can only use a few months out of the year

Stafford Hill Road, West Mountain Road, Inhales Road

Depot street

Depot Street, Ingalls Rd, Outlook ave

Wells Road / Church Street is the most Important road that the Town has responsibility for maintaining and is probably the most highly traveled road next to Rt 8 which is owned and maintained by the State.

Wells Rd could be better kept as this road is used regularly for school buses and school events.

Richmond Hill could be paved for an easier trip from the center of town to rt. 9.

Depot St could use some major work.

Wells Rd

RT 8, Windsor Rd

Ingalls Rd. West mountain

Church St. Route 8

Depot st. Wells Rd,

Sandmill Rd Bridge, Curran Rd, West Mountain Rd

Hutchinson\Cheshire Hills neighborhood

The roads I travel are fine...

Old Cheshire Rd. Stafford Hill Rd.

Outlook, Sandmill, Jenks

Wells Rd

I feel like Cheshire does a good job of maintaining the roads

Depot St

lanesboro rd wells rd

Depot Street

Depot Street

Depot Street Lanesboro Road Richardson Street due to BRTA traffic

Rte. 116, Richmond Hill Road

West mountain Rd Outlook Notch rd

Depot St. Wells Rd.

Windows Road, Wells Road, West Mountain Road

Bridges on route 8. Some of them are in rapidly declining condition. The loss of a through route from north to south on the East corridor would be devastating to the Berkshire economy and residents livelihood.

Wells Road, Rte.116

I think the condition of the roads is acceptable right now.

Wells Road, Railroad Street, Depot Street

Q27. What is the most important transportation issue for you or a suggestion you might have regarding transportation in Cheshire?

Extend Bus Rt.

Cheshire van more days

South street bridge could be a bottleneck if an accident happened there.

Two bridges side by side or a bridge at end of Dean St.

BRTA needs to be more frequent and extended hours for work schedules or workforce

Development, employment education, specific transportation service/ system.

Traffic light at Rte. 8 - Lanesboro Rd intersection

van being to ridged with schedule

None

More bus service, and expanded area

More BRTA bus location to board/unboard

Our roads are disrepair. We need to fund this infrastructure maintenance. Grants that support other needs can free up money for this.

Better roads.

better placement for the b bus pick up and drop off..

to avoid speeding and use of roads as cut through between towns, roads should be well maintained BUT NOT WIDENED

road maintenance

Few options for those without transportation

Everyone seems to have a car. No problems there.

Everyone has a car or someone to give them a ride. Don't worry about it.

elder van only available certain time of day

Night and weekend bus service

Fix the bridge on Sand Mill Rd!

Too much emphasis put into plowing salting & sanding.

Keep available transportation for elderly

Senior

Unsure

The pot holes are horrible. Even when they get tarred over the tar falls out of the original pot hole within weeks. Are there any other alternatives to filling in pot holes besides tarring them over? Also, when there is snow it is very hard to get up even small hills, especially if the plow truck hasn't come yet if one does not have a four wheel drive vehicle.

Maintaining smooth, safe roads.

A great small business for Cheshire might be a Taxi service. Many are not on a bus line. It must be affordable rates.

Public bus

keep centrally located roads and sidewalks in perfect condition. First thing everyone sees.

that the roads are kept in good shape

More eco-friendly public transportation for people of lower economic means

We need better access, more options for our seniors

Fixing the Sandmill road bridge.

Start fixing culverts & control ANY construction around them . Before long Cheshire will loose more roads due to culverts either being washed away or backed up by poor planning . No permits should be issued without extensive research by Conservation Commission . Without quality roads you have nothing .

There should be a ban on commercial vehicles thru traffic using secondary roads.

None

Q27. What is the most important transportation issue for you or a suggestion you might have regarding transportation in Cheshire?

Being a small rural town I don't see the need to allocate scarce resources to public transportation. However, if there is a bias toward senior living facilities, then this will greatly influence the direction of the town and limit its ability to improve the community to appeal to a broader and less public service demanding population other than the usual safety, rural atmosphere, and attractiveness of the town.

What transportation? We only have use of the BRTA once per hour...

Need weekend and evening transportation. Retail jobs are off hours and there is limited transportation to and from work.

Side roads are plowed too late...

Control speeders.

repair roads

Nothing

Keeping the B-Bus an option for cheshire residents.

Personally at the present time Sandmill Road is my concern-the road was repaved just a few years ago and when you rake the side of your lawn the road is literally peeling up in chunks and has since it was repaved -the drainage is poor and literally runs down my walk like a river eroding my land and have been unable to drive down it for about a year now causing a 10 minute detour and wear and tear on vehicle and extra gas usage.

No issues with a 4 wheel drive vehicle

Safety concerns near Cheshire Lake and Lanesboro Road area.

Unless you live in town, you better have your own car-no rural transportation

Need to have local access to ticket purchase, schedule

The senior bus should be advertised more...there are still eligible people in town who do not know it is available

Keep Quarry Rd open year round

Transportation 7 days a week and evenings. If one works in retail, one has to have a way to get to and from work on non-traditional hours - early, late and weekend. If one has a late appoint, 4 pm or later, getting home can be an issue.

Repair rds

unpaved roads

Have the Board of Selectman better manage the highway department so it is an efficient operation. For what we pay for, their attitude and work ethic is lacking. Manage and motivate them instead of just paying the workers and superintendent

traffic light at Lanesborough Road /route 8 intersection

Help elderly

none

Atv

The town does a decent job overall with the upkeep of roads and making public transportation waiting areas decent.

Snow removal of side roads during snowy times.

Public transportation doesn't run early enough, frequent enough or late enough in my opinion for those that depend on it. Public transportation also doesn't have enough remote pick up areas for those that may need it out past the center of town. Everyone can't live right down town that depend on it.

None I can think of.

None

taxi service

bus service should go to other areas

Q27. What is the most important transportation issue for you or a suggestion you might have regarding transportation in Cheshire?

continue to fix roads

Buses to North Adams and Pittsfield.

unsure

Cars need to slow down

take care of roads and drainage and time and money well be saved

Transportation for the elderly.

Please see my previous comments

1. People speeding up and down Fales road. It's worse now that the bridge is out on Sandmill Rd. Before that they would speed on Sandmill. The worst part is in the morning and afternoon before and after work times. From just before 7am till about 8:30am. Then again in the afternoon about 3pm till about 5pm or so. It's the same vehicles every day.

2. There needs to be a stop light added to the intersection of Rt 8 and the back road behind Cheshire lake.

Better local transportation

None

Use any and all state and federal monies to improve roads

County wide bypass so accessible to the town would improve

Keep the one stop light type of town idea

Speed control

NO OPINION

None

None

Road conditions are poor

Not sure

Bus be most frequently

Brough Road

Town acceptance and control of the cove roads.

Not only should the roadway surfaces be repaired, but safety should be a major factor in determining what other improvements can be made. Safety issues should address hazardous intersections without adequate road signals or signage, areas that need cross walks, providing proper parking areas in zones that typically have issues, and addressing other areas where frequent accidents or incidents occur.

More education about the appropriate speed in various areas of town

No issues, but I hope the police will remain vigilant to control speeders in our town's byways and especially near the crossing of Main Street/Church Street at the river, and East Main street, which are densely populated and yet attract speeders to blow through a double the posted limit.

N/a

Elderly van needed more days.

Need more public transportation options

Have None

More public transport for those without cars, and as back up options for reducing fossil fuel consumption.

Rte. 8 Kitchen Brook Bridge

Pulling on to the highway, Rt.8, from Lanesboro Road

Need better busing....tourist stops.

None at this time

none

buses, trolley/train, shuttles

Q27. What is the most important transportation issue for you or a suggestion you might have regarding transportation in Cheshire?

None

more service

RT 8 is maintained in the winter by the State ... Wells Road / Church Street are the Responsibility of the Town and need to be the first street to to be maintained in bad weather. People getting to work and people / students to the school.

No major issues

Just keep the bus stops

Have none

public transportation

None

NA

Enforce speed limits on Route 8

At the time I do not rely on any public transportation or transportation for the elderlyI can't respond

Speeding though town.

Have you ever counted how many signs there are on Church St from the light to East Main?

Try reading them all as your driving... safely.

none at this time

More availability of the elderly van

n/a

Provide adequate transportation to those who are unable to on their own.

Traffic congestion on Rte. 8 during rush hours.

The bridge north of Lanesborough Road. If damaged or closed due to an accident, there is no way around. Traffic on 8 south of the red light (church and west mountain) are pretty heavy during commute hours. Seems to get worse every year. State issue perhaps?

I like the way the highway department is being operated. The superintendent does a very good job with the resources at his disposal.

Senior van drivers should be told this is not a vehicle for your own personal use.

Stop salting the roads so much! Wait till it stops snowing, plow the snow, then salt Rte 8.

That's it!

Earmark money for specific road repairs

Q30. Comments Section: Comments about the future of education in Cheshire.

I don't know enough about this to have an opinion

Cheshire should keep its elementary school in Cheshire

For high School not be in a regional agreement

The Cheshire school should have grades 1 through 8

Take grammar school out of regional system

Keep Cheshire Elementary school open. Revamp Adams- Cheshire High School

Teachers and administration

No kid's

Need more information

Need more information

Cheshire seriously needs an override with their teachers. Some of the teaching strategies are not appropriate for someone who has an IEP. A second grade teacher and third grade teacher needs to be revamped. how can two schools be in the same district and be dramatically different in the teaching of children?

I feel we should do whatever is necessary to keep Cheshire Elementary. I am not in favor of CT Plunkett becoming the elementary school. They should close CT Plunkett and make it into apartments. This would raise money for the district and help our children.

Explore all possibilities to improve our system not enough bang for the buck.

Cheshire children deserve a properly maintained school that will provide a good education with reasonable class size. Closing the school should not be an option

Cheshire MUST at least restructure the ACRSD to give "home rule" decision making to Cheshire, at least on the matter of whether or not there will be an Elementary Scholl in Cheshire and what grades it will include. If not, then abolish the ACRSD. Adams' profligate spending has made the district dysfunctional, at best.

We should undertake an analysis of options including separating from the district and even looking into charter school options / affiliating with BART.

Not enough information about difficulties

The best answer to an educational question is what is best for our students. If answered honestly, it

would be very cost effective. We do not seem to have it now.

Don't know

Cheshire should explore the option of turning the elementary school into a charter school for K-5. Collaborate with Berkshire Arts & Technology Charter Public School in Adams. They offer grades 6-12. This would put Cheshire on the map and offer a better educational opportunity for our children.

So as not to become Adams property tax wise, Cheshire should consider handling its own elementary school separate from Adams or consider a joint venture with Lanesboro if cost effective for both towns (since Lanesboro elementary is accessible to Cheshire)

Without a complete audit of the district difficult to form any conclusion .

I believe our school buildings need to be maintained a lot better.

There isn't just one answer here. Closing Cheshire Elementary School is a poor choice for our children's future as well as financially for the town.

Re-evaluate current agreement and look at other options - combining with another school district, adding to the Adams-Cheshire School District, being our own district.

Need more info- but keep education programs to the highest degree and support the teachers.

Leave ACRSD and offer School Choice while exploring one or two county wide Campuses that off state of the are education at a reasonable cost.

We would require major modifications in order to improve the schools. A poor school system will never attract younger families and grow our community. A good education is one of the most important ways to build an economy and a good community.

My kids do not attend this districts schools due to lack of attentiveness to issues within the schools and oversight of important issues. I feel the schools would be better if SOME/NOT ALL TEACHERS where held accountable for their lack of teaching ability or desire to teach! You can "build and you can merge" but you can't "thrive and achieve" if all you are looking for at the end of your work is a "paycheck". You need the right teachers willing to make a difference and you'll develop students willing to learn. The outside can look good but inside needs to reflect the same beauty!

don't know enough to make an opinion

as it exists now would be fine if money was allocated to the Cheshire school. Maintaining staff and the school itself is very important. If this district feels differently, perhaps we should look elsewhere.

We need to have a level 1 elementary school. Our four kids went to Hoosac and have found memories, and the new school is really nice. So, I really see the problem as one with the Elementary school. Oh and the school district apparently can't mange money well - my kids received a good education without the spending and tax increases the district wants - ugh :(Don't have any children.

I found it Alarming to know that Adams has more Children in our schools but they pay less than us because Cheshire is found to be wealthier. I was also excited to know that our district took a chance with Lanesboro. I think we should continue to overhaul our educations system, invest in our buildings and teachers. I feel all options should be on the table and each should be explored! Leave no Rock unturned.. Our Children deserve our best!

Cheshire would benefit (students) from breaking with ACRSD

Not sure what the answer is but schools are an important decision when it comes to living in a community and you have a young family

I am strongly against closing cheshire elementary. I would love to see it be redone and serve the community the way it should. We need better education resources or we will have more school choice.

Keep the elementary school

Keep small school classes, have after school support for homework or tutoring for all kids parents pay and pick up. Have cheshire school sports to raise money.

I think combining elementary classes is more economical and would give our kids a good education. Having preschool through 3rd in Cheshire and 4th through 6th in Adams would be more efficient and have what the kids would benefit from. If there would be a way to put a new elementary school on or near the high school but separate from the high school that would be a good option also. Hopefully education grants will be available sometime to offset costs.

Need county wide school district.

Cheshire would be better served by combining with the Lanesboro/Williamstown district.

While more expensive, people would move here again for the schools. Adams is in a spiral and we need to leave the district.

We either need to split with Adams at the elementary level, each town support their own and combine at HVMHS OR look into combining with Lanesboro!!!!!!! And the sooner the better!!!!

Need to consider working with other communities to spread cost of overhead.

Having Hoosac Valley Middle & High School situated in town and having the taxpayers currently tied to the debt related to renovation costs of the building, it realistically does not appear to be an option to leave the district and pursue combining with another district. That

being said, modifying how the school district operates with a goal of improving to a standard that other districts have set, will help. ACRSD should be looking at what other school districts are doing right, what encourages students to leave our district and transfer to other schools, what is making BArT a desirable choice for students, and what makes McCann so successful. Instead of the ACRSD publicly criticizing the other options, they should be making steps to make our district mirror the good qualities of the others.

Some improvements for the ACRSD to consider should be: encouraging strategic staff hiring with a goal of improving the education of the students; fostering arts and technology growth within the academic programming to discourage student loss to other schools that far surpass educational offerings within ACRSD; publicly supporting educational programs within the district at the same or at a higher level to the public support the district gives its sports programs; encouraging and paying for staff to go above and beyond the typical school day hours in an effort to increase enrichment activities for students after school in areas such as robotics, computers, math, science, and history; and working to market the district utilizing successful marketing strategies to improve the public image of the district.

Our town officials should work with the ACRSD in an effort to oversee and ensure growth and improvement. Officials from both the town and the school district should be cognizant, at all times, about how they refer to both our district and other districts and schools, especially during meetings that are being recorded or reported on. Constantly talking negatively about other schools has damaged the ACRSD significantly over the past few years.

Key points for our district and town to consider should be:

- *Focus on, support, and encourage educational opportunities.

- *Publicize academic achievements of the students and staff of the schools.

- *Create an environment that allows academically focused students to thrive by giving them opportunities to showcase their education based achievements through science fairs, robotics competitions, art shows, quiz teams, etc.

- *Utilize the local colleges to bring academic programming to the ACRSD. Programs are often readily available and do not require significant cost on the part of the district. They will benefit our students significantly and fill in educational gaps the district currently cannot provide due to budget constraints.

- *Work hard to convince the families within our community that ACRSD is a strong educational choice for their children. Prove it to us through qualified staffing, publicity, comments made at school committee meetings, the actions of the staff, and through the media.

- *Be mindful that not all families are sports oriented. The ACRSD is very publicly known as a district that supports sports, but clearly that is not a tactic that works for everyone and the district should be making choices that regularly showcase support for other programming.

These steps will help the town make strides toward convincing the tax payers to support funding the district. A wonderful school district will make Cheshire a more viable candidate for business and residential growth.

Why should I subsidize town water when I have a well. Can I give the water department my bill for work on my well?

I love our little school and I want my children to grow up in our school.

Not informed enough to thoughtfully answer

Cheshire school should be stand alone from Cheshire

Cheshire should encourage the district to enter into discussions re: regional consolidation...establishment of smaller, additional "learning centers" with specific educational focus.

The schools do need some upgrades however just like other towns and city start getting those easy GRANTS to fix and upgrade our schools. Remember you loose your schools you loose the people. Don't be stupid!

Concerned about the performance of the school.

Pursue combining with other district AND consider changing Cheshire elementary to charter or private school

I have no opinion..I'm sure if i had a child that would be different.

I am not up to date on our school situation.

Need a committee to explore all future options for educating the predicted fewer number of children.