

Public Input

The Village of Port Dickinson utilized various techniques to build public engagement throughout the comprehensive planning process. Public participation strengthens and ensures the comprehensive plan reflects the needs and interests of the community. This process brings together citizens and government officials to have conversations and express their point of view. An integrated public engagement approach was used to involve the community during the comprehensive plan process. The Village’s website and Broome County’s social media page was used to inform the public about the plan and opportunities for input. A public survey was used to gauge the opinions of residents on a broad range of topics. Public meetings/workshops allowed participants to express their thoughts and ideas directly to the comprehensive plan committee.

Public Survey

Public engagement for the Village of Port Dickinson Comprehensive Plan was initiated in the spring of 2019 with a public survey. Over 500 paper surveys were mailed to residential property owners in the village, and additional copies were available at the Village Hall. The Village encouraged participation by providing a link to the online survey on their webpage. There were 124 survey responses, representing a 23% response rate.

The 18-question survey focused on a series of topics including: public services and operations, flooding, budget priorities, safety, future development, quality of life, respondent demographics, and additional comments and suggestions. The results of the survey are reflected throughout the plan and used to develop recommendations. The following section provides a summary of the results, the Appendix includes detailed data tables and open-ended responses.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES



Newsletter Notices



Social Media Posts



Public Survey



Public Workshop

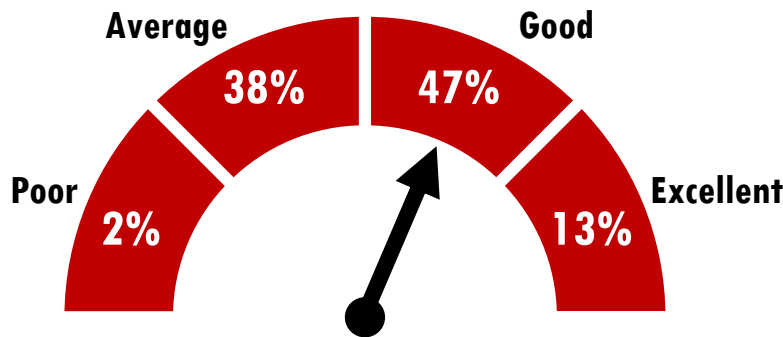


Public Meetings

Community Appeal

There were varying perceptions of neighborhood appearance in the village. More than half of the survey respondents gave positive ratings to the overall image of the village, indicating the appearance of the homes and buildings are either “very good” (13%) or “good” (47%). The remaining respondents feel the village’s appearance is “average” (38%), and very few feel it is “poor” (2%). Responses did not vary substantially by respondents’ neighborhood.

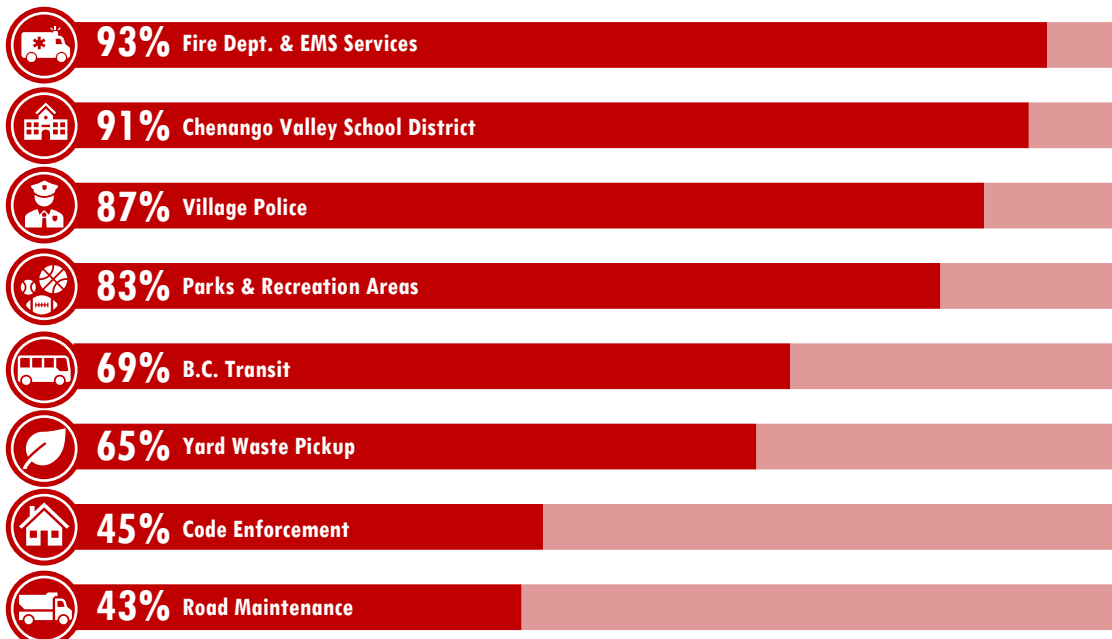
How would you rate the overall appearance of Port Dickinson's buildings and homes?



Public Services

Overall, there are high levels of satisfaction with the services across all departments. Public safety, schools, and recreation received the highest ratings, with more than 80% satisfaction among respondents. One of every two respondents feel Code Enforcement and Road Maintenance “need some improvements” or were “not satisfied” with these services.

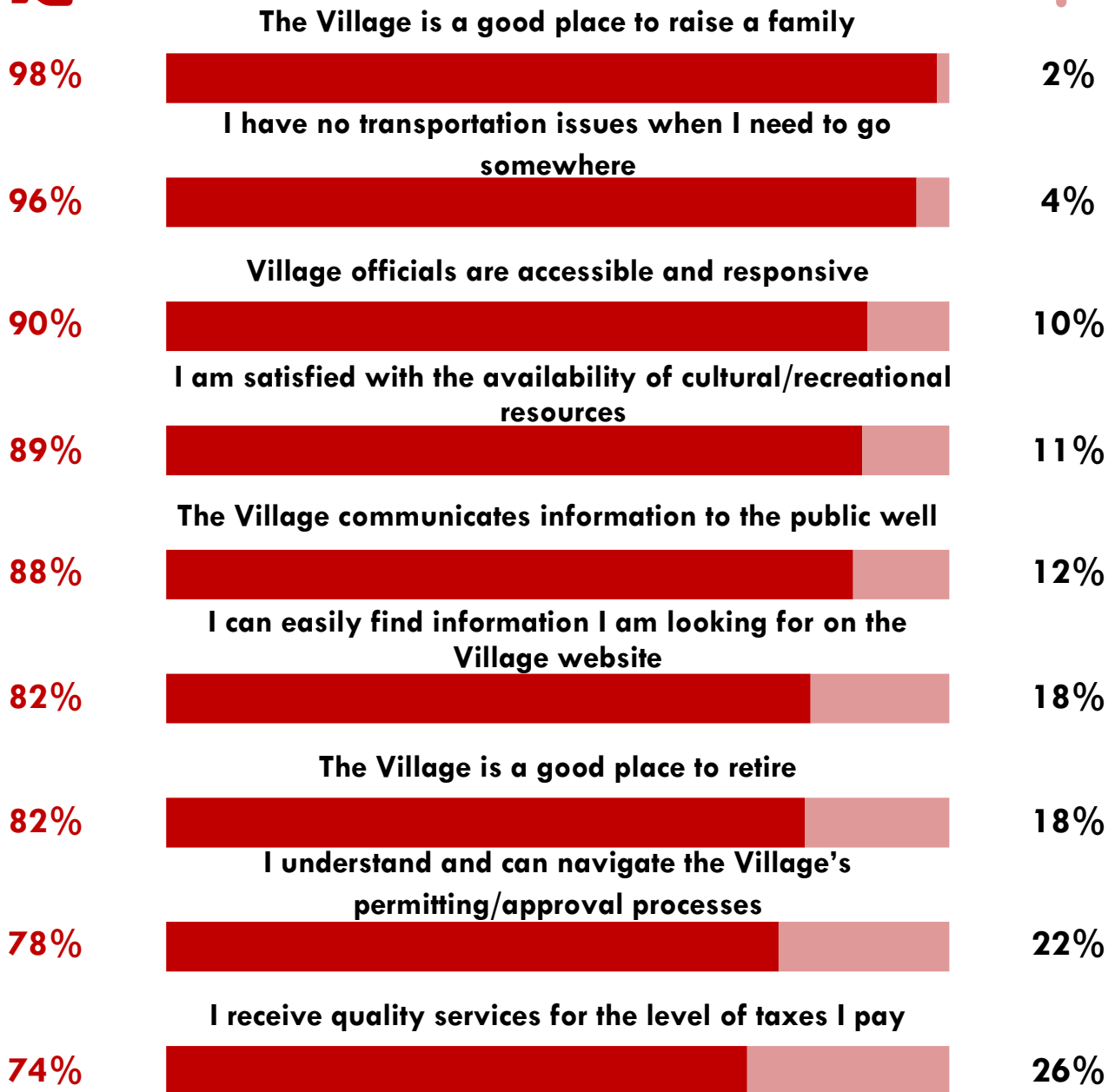
Are you satisfied with the following public services?



Village Performance

Overall, survey respondents agree the Village’s operations meet their needs. Regarding quality of life, nearly all survey respondents agree the village is a good place to raise a family (98%), but fewer people feel it is a good place to retire (82%). Nine out of ten people said the government officials are responsive to public opinions/concerns. While the majority agrees, about one-in-four respondents does not agree the Village communicates information to the public well (22%) or receives quality services for the level of taxes they pay (26%).

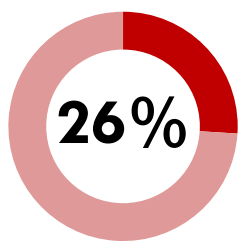
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



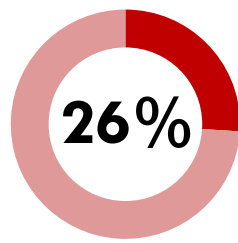
Flooding

Broome County has an extensive history of flooding, so it is important to understand flood risk in our communities. About one-in-three respondents have experienced some type of flooding in the past ten years, and the majority of those respondents (63%) live south of James Avenue. The most common types of flooding reported were street and yard flooding. Two respondents reported flooding in the first level of their home at least once in the past ten years.

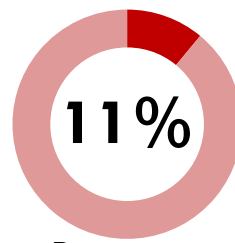
36% of respondents experienced flooding in the past ten years 



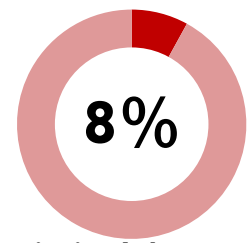
Yard Flooding



Street Flooding



Basement Flooding



Limited Access to Home

TYPES OF FLOODING EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

Budget Priorities

All communities have a limited number of resources, so respondents were asked to allocate \$100 across various categories to reflect what they feel the Village’s priorities should be. Infrastructure improvements rose to the top of the list. On average, respondents allocated the most money to road projects (\$25) and water/sewer system (\$19) improvements. Police/fire service (\$18), improvements to blighted buildings (\$15), and stormwater management/flood mitigation response (\$14) were the other top budget priority categories.

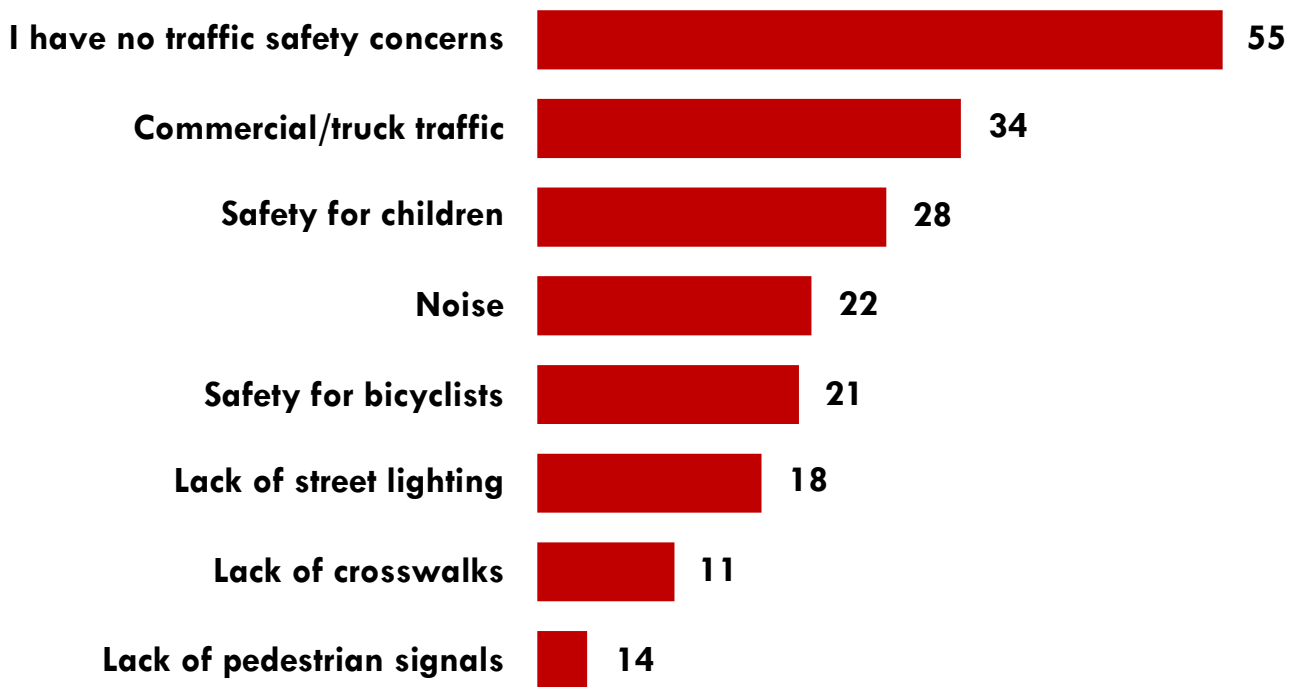
How would you allocate 100 points among the following choices?

 \$25	 \$19	 \$18	 \$15	 \$14
Road Projects	Water & Sewer	Police & Fire	Improve Blight	Stormwater
 \$8	 \$7	 \$5	 \$4	 \$3
Parks	Sustainability	Economic Dev.	Events	Public Spaces

Traffic Safety

Residents value the village’s walkability, so it is important to maintain a safe transportation network. Respondents were asked to select any traffic safety concerns they have in the village. Of those who had traffic concerns, most pertained to commercial/truck traffic (34 respondents) and safety for children coming/going to school (28 respondents). The neighborhoods south of James Ave and north of Phelps Street were most concerned about commercial/truck traffic, compared to the central neighborhood between James Ave and Phelps Street. Less than half of all survey respondents (55 respondents) have no traffic concerns. Overall pedestrian infrastructure remained low on the list of traffic safety concerns. However, when broken down by neighborhoods, lack of street lighting was one of the top concerns for residents living north of Phelps Street.

What are your biggest traffic safety concerns?



Future Development

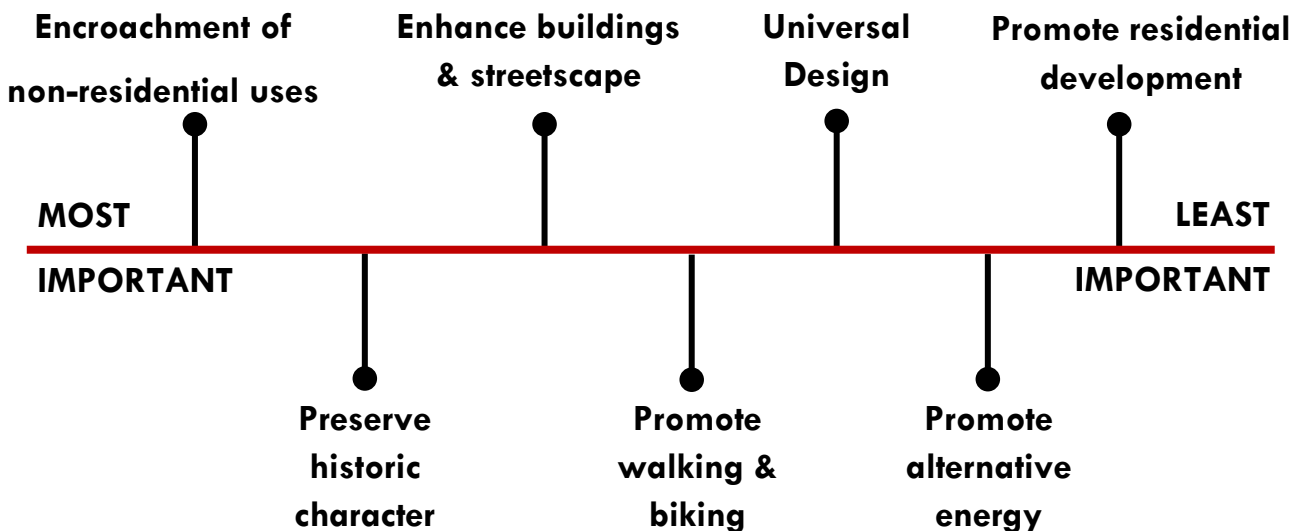
Most of the land within the village is developed, however, there are undeveloped sites. The respondents’ future development priorities for vacant sites include community gardens (18%), single-family residential (18%), and senior housing (17%), and recreation and youth sports facilities (14%). About 10% of responses indicated people would like these lots to remain undeveloped. Business and retail developments were less-preferred among respondents. Other write-in ideas for vacant sites include: a dog park, solar panels, and off-street parking.

What uses do you think are most appropriate for undeveloped sites in the village?



It is the Village’s responsibility to oversee mannerly growth and development, fostering a strong sense of community. Respondents indicated protecting neighborhoods from encroachment of non-residential uses (96%), enhancing the visual appeal of the village’s streetscape and buildings (89%), and protecting the village’s distinct historic character (88%) as the most important factors to consider when reviewing development proposals. The development priorities that had the highest “not important” rankings were encouraging new residential development (35%) and promoting alternative energy and green infrastructure (29%).

How important are the following objectives regarding future development in the village?



Assets & Shortcomings

In this survey, respondents evaluated internal influences on quality of life in the village of Port Dickinson. When asked to identify three major assets, safety, quality of schools, and walkability were highly ranked among respondents. In contrast to the village’s assets, respondents were also asked to select three of the village’s greatest shortcomings or challenges. Participants identified the condition of roads and sidewalks, blighted/neglected properties, and absentee landlords as the top issues that need improvement. Traffic safety, crime were not issues of major concern for residents.

The Village of Port Dickinson’s three major assets and shortcomings are:

ASSETS



Safe Community



Quality Schools



Walkable Community

SHORTCOMINGS



Condition of Roads & Sidewalks



Blighted/Neglected Properties



Absentee Landlords

Village Communications

Most survey respondents prefer online communication to receive news about the Village. The Village Newsletter (71%) was the most preferred method of communication, followed by email (14%), and the Village website (12%). Respondents over the age of 50 were more likely to prefer communication via the Village newsletter compared to their younger counterparts. Only a few respondents prefer to receive news through local news outlets, and no one said Facebook was the best way to reach them.

What is the best way for the Village to communicate information to you?



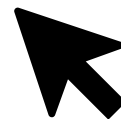
Village Newsletter

71%



Email

14%



Village Website

12%

Respondents

Village residents were asked to complete one survey per household, a total of 124 surveys were completed which represents approximately 16% of total households in the village (739 total households – 2010 Census). All of the respondents own their home, indicating the renter population (39% of households – 2010 Census) is not represented in the results. Most of the respondents are long-time residents of the village, with 83% living here for more than ten years. More than half of the respondents (63%) stated they plan to stay in the village in the next five years, while less than 10% plan on moving somewhere else. About one-in-three respondents are not sure if they want to stay or move away. Survey responses largely represented the village’s senior population, with 55% of respondents aged 65 years or older. The most well-represented neighborhood was Pickle Hill (46%), followed by south of James Ave (35%), and the area between James Ave and Phelps Street (19%). Preferences of staying in the village or moving away were not strongly influenced by respondents’ location or length of residency.



124
Completed Surveys

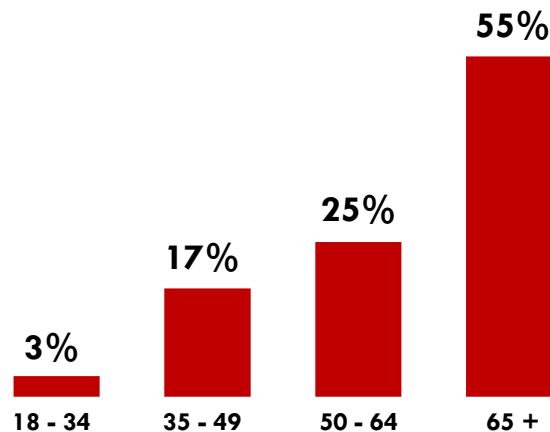
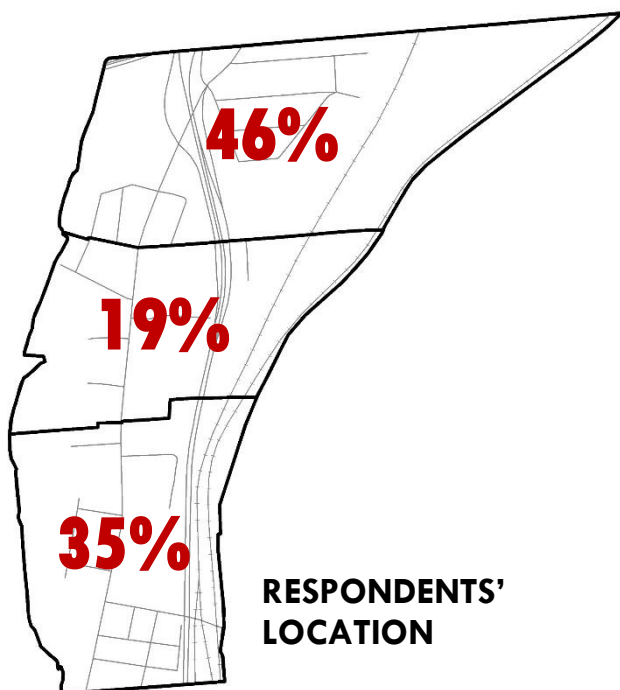


100%
Owner-Occupied Households

FOUR OUT OF FIVE RESPONDENTS



have lived in the village over 10 years



Appendix: Public Input Results

1. How would you rate the overall appearance of Port Dickinson's buildings and homes? Please select one.

Response	Number	Percent
Very Good	16	13%
Good	59	47%
Average	47	38%
Poor	3	2%
Very Poor	0	0%

2. Are you satisfied with the following public services? Please fill one bubble per row.

Public Services	Satisfied		Needs Improvement		Not Satisfied		Total	No Opinion
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Number
Village Police Department	108	87%	6	5%	10	8%	124	1
Village Fire Department & EMS Services	109	93%	6	5%	2	2%	117	9
Code Enforcement	53	45%	42	36%	23	19%	118	8
Road maintenance including plowing and repairs	54	43%	51	40%	21	17%	126	0
Yard Waste Pickup	81	65%	31	25%	12	10%	124	1
Schools (Chenango Valley School District)	106	91%	6	5%	4	3%	116	10
Quality of parks and recreation areas	102	83%	16	13%	5	4%	123	3
BC Transit (not provided by the Village)	24	69%	7	20%	4	11%	35	83

**Percentages are representative of those who had an opinion*

3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please fill one bubble per row.

Village Operations	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	No Opinion
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	Number
I can easily find information I am looking for on the Village website	11	14%	54	68%	11	14%	3	4%	79	43
The Village communicates information to the public well	21	17%	86	70%	11	9%	4	3%	122	3
The Village offices and officials are accessible and responsive	28	24%	75	65%	10	9%	2	2%	115	7
I understand and can navigate the Village's permitting/approval processes	6	11%	37	67%	8	15%	4	7%	55	70
I am satisfied with the availability of recreational and cultural resources in the Village	23	23%	65	66%	9	9%	2	2%	99	25
I have no transportation issues when I need to go somewhere	45	47%	46	48%	2	2%	2	2%	95	29
The Village is a good place to retire	36	30%	61	51%	19	16%	3	3%	119	7
The Village is a good place to raise a family	61	48%	63	50%	2	2%	0	0%	126	0
I receive quality services for the level of taxes I pay	22	18%	67	56%	22	18%	9	8%	120	4

**Percentages are representative of those who had an opinion*

4. Have you experienced flooding in the past ten years?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	45	36%
No	81	64%

5. How often do you typically experience the following types of flooding? Please fill one bubble per row.

Types of Flooding	Once within the past ten years		Once every year		More than once every year		Never	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yard flooding	16	37%	5	12%	6	14%	16	37%
Street flooding	9	21%	4	9%	7	16%	23	53%
Limited access to your home during flooding	7	18%	2	5%	1	3%	30	75%
Basement flooding	31	70%	4	9%	1	2%	8	18%
Flooding in the first level of home	2	5%	0	0%	0	0%	39	95%

6. All communities have a limited number of resources. If you had a total of 100 points to distribute between the following choices, how would you like to see the Village of Port Dickinson's resources allocated? Totals must add up to 100

Priorities	Score	Percent
Road projects that improve the condition such as, paving	25	20%
Improve water and sewer systems	19	15%
Police and fire service	18	15%
Improvements to blighted housing/buildings	15	12%
Stormwater management/flood mitigation and response	14	12%
Parks and open space including greenway trails	8	7%
Environmental sustainability	7	6%
Economic development	5	4%
Non-Responsive	5	4%
Community events and programming	4	3%
Public space improvements such as, signage, benches, bus shelters, etc.	3	2%

7. What are your biggest traffic safety concerns? Select all that apply.

Traffic Safety Concerns	Number	Percent
Lack of crosswalks	11	6%
Safety for bicyclists	21	11%
Lack of pedestrian signals	4	2%
Safety for children coming and going to school	28	15%
Lack of street lighting	18	9%
Noise	22	11%
Commercial/truck traffic	34	18%
None of the above, I have no traffic safety concerns	55	28%

There are undeveloped sites throughout the village of Port Dickinson. If any of these vacant sites were to be developed, which uses do you think would be most appropriate? Select all that apply

Undeveloped Site Ideas	Number	Percent
Community gardens	54	18%
Single-family residential	54	18%
Senior housing	49	17%
Recreation and youth sports facilities	41	14%
I would like the sites to remain as vacant open space	31	11%
Mixed residential and commercial uses	20	7%
Retail	13	4%
Professional office space	12	4%
Multi-family residential	11	4%
Other (please specify)	7	2%

Emphasis on property paying taxes i.e. no more not-for-profit and not taxable property including government.

As the fact dog walking isn't allowed in park - a dog park would be an asset

Solar panel farms to supply energy to Villages offices.

Off-street parking

Not sure

swimming pool outdoor/indoor, public fishing pond, lighted basketball courts, lacrosse walls, ice skating, local bakery, small local grocery store, senior house complex, more walking/jogging paths

Dog park

9. In your opinion, how important are the following objectives regarding future development in the village? Please select one bubble per row.

Development Principles	Very Important		Important		Not Important	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Protecting neighborhoods from encroachment of non-residential uses	78	64%	38	31%	5	4%
Encouraging new residential development	20	17%	57	48%	42	35%
Enhancing the visual appeal of the village's buildings and streetscape	41	34%	66	55%	13	11%
Encouraging design for all individuals regardless of age or ability	30	26%	58	50%	29	25%
Promoting alternative energy and green infrastructure	29	24%	58	48%	35	29%
Promoting walking and biking	39	33%	63	53%	17	14%
Preserving the village's distinct historic character	51	42%	56	46%	14	12%

10. The Village of Port Dickinson's three major assets are (select up to 3):

Assets	Number	Percent
Safe community	104	29%
Quality schools	70	19%
It is a walkable community	55	15%
Residential character	47	13%
Conveniently located to workplace and shopping	28	8%
Clean water and air quality	15	4%
Tight-knit community	14	4%
Low cost of living	11	3%
Natural landscape	6	2%
Historic buildings	5	1%
Access to the riverfront	4	1%
Recreational and cultural resources	4	1%

11. The Village of Port Dickinson's three major shortcomings are (select up to 3):

Shortcomings	Number	Percent
Condition of the roads and sidewalks	75	26%
Blighted/neglected properties	72	25%
Absentee Landlords	50	18%
Quality of drinking water	35	12%
Flooding	33	12%
My home is not protected from incompatible uses	7	2%
Crime	7	2%
Traffic safety	5	2%

12. What is the best way for the Village to communicate information to you? Please select one.

Forms of Communication	Number	Percent
Village newsletter	82	71%
Email	16	14%
Village website	14	12%
Press & Sun Bulletin	2	2%
Local news channels	1	1%
Facebook	0	0%

13. Do you rent or own your property? Please select one.

Response	Number	Percent
Rent	0	0%
Own	122	100%

14. How long have you lived in the Village of Port Dickinson?

Length of Time in Village	Number	Percent
Less than one (1) year	1	1%
Between 1 and 4 years	6	5%
Between 5 and 10 years	14	11%
More than 10 years	101	83%

15. In the next 5 years, do you plan to stay in the village or do you plan to move somewhere else?

Response	Number	Percent
Stay in the Village of Port Dickinson	76	63%
Move somewhere else within New York State	6	5%
Move out of state	3	2%
I am not sure	36	30%

16. What is your age?

Age Groups	Number	Percent
18-34 years	4	3%
35-49 years	21	17%
50-64 years	30	25%
65 years or older	66	55%

17. On the following map, indicate the area which you live. Select from the drop-down list below:

Neighborhood	Number	Percent
Area 1 (north of Phelps and Grant St - Pickle Hill)	55	46%
Area 2 (between James Ave and Phelps St)	23	19%
Area 3 (south of James Ave)	42	35%