



UNL Extension in Lancaster County

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Bennet – Community Visioning Process
12/15/05

Senior Citizens

Q.#1

What are the major problems and challenges in your community?

1. Sewer and water systems at capacity*****
2. Improve water quality*****
3. Zoning changes occur too easily
4. Homes built adjacent to lagoons are an issue
5. Communication between the residents of Bennet and the residents in the Planning Jurisdiction
6. Communication between the residents of Bennet with each other and the Village Board, Planning Commission, etc.
7. Too much population increase can cause a loss of the identity of Bennet, losing small town feeling
8. Adopt same building and zoning codes as the City of Lincoln
9. Small, lead pipes provide water in some areas, causing bad taste and low pressure
10. Too much development to the East, exceeded capacity of water and sewer systems
11. Increased crime, vandalism and theft
12. Street maintenance, curbing, ditches, snow removal
13. Sand in the water
14. Parking regulations are not enforced
15. Not adequate parking available in community
16. Town maintenance
17. Growing school system

Schools

1. Services for young children, need more recreational opportunities, swimming pool, need improved ballfield facilities, keep children involved in Bennet*****
2. Decent sidewalks, improved sidewalks, some areas don't even have sidewalks*****
3. Utilities need improved and expanded, quality and quantity (bad water)*****
4. Community enhancement, beautification
5. Parking needed
6. Monitors for crosswalks, push button crosswalk on Highway, community safety***
7. Lack of services (grocery store, etc)****

8. Lack of a good comprehensive plan
9. Huge bumps in streets from Highways to side streets need repaired
10. Snow removal
11. Mix older and younger members of community, get them involved together
12. Funding for financing of improvements to infrastructure**
13. Cell phone reception not good*****

Public Open Meeting

1. Lincoln is growing rapidly, how is this development going to impact Bennet? We need to be prepared for this
2. Preserving the natural resources of the area, river basin**
3. Develop Bennet in planned method, to have a community that the residents will like and be proud of, as well as having the needed services and maintaining the quality of life, enhancing the beauty of the area**
4. Preserve the uniqueness, the identity of Bennet throughout the growth.*****
5. Infrastructure concerns in Bennet, capacity and quality. Water is a scarce resource.**
6. Zoning changes need to be made, brought into alignment with current standards for urban zones, also regarding agricultural lands.
7. Business district development will be important.
8. Growing quickly can cause a financial burden for a small community due to infrastructure, service needs, etc
9. School system will face challenges due to growth and increased costs**
10. Cemetery board needs more land, growth is causing problems
11. Education of the public regarding how to cope with the growth and what the ramifications will be of the changes
12. Electrical system is expanding causing problems for property owners by changing the layout of the land
13. OPPD Powerline will run adjacent to Highway 2, the Comp Plan needs to consider this route when planning for future uses. Contact OPPD to find out the route of this line.

Bennet Builders/Sons of American Legions

1. Cost of water is high, Water quality is poor***
2. Sewer and water systems are at capacity
3. Cell phone service is terrible
4. Roads, accessibility, curb and gutter, needs improvement
5. Growth will affect the schools, will the schools be able to keep up, overcrowding, quality**
6. Growth can be a problem, don't want Bennet to change, keep its small town atmosphere***
7. Need a grocery store

Business Owners

1. Need more funding for infrastructure improvements

2. Need housing lots
3. Need more office and retail space, more commercial property, more diverse businesses, which will promote job growth, housing growth and population growth***
4. Senior housing
5. Short-term and long-term problems with water pressure, quality, quantity***
6. Sewer line can't handle expansion
7. Village needs to plan for multiple projects at a time, needs to have vision and plan ahead, need a coordinated growth plan, maybe a position to handle this growth(perhaps share this position with another small community), etc****
8. Village needs a more progressive attitude to find solutions to the problems
9. Need more recreational opportunities, swimming pool, tennis courts, etc.
10. Ineptness from an engineering and legal standpoint by Village
11. Lack of communication in Village, people do not know what is going on in the community, if Village does not take control, Lincoln will eventually do it for them
12. Without proper and adequate infrastructure, growth can't happen
13. People in control of the Village (local government) want zero growth, so they won't allow any improvements to happen to the community in terms of infrastructure, water contract with Rural runs out this month, it needs to be renegotiated, but the Village does not seem to care. Local government makes it difficult to accomplish anything
14. Many local business owners live outside the community and the Village does not care about their opinions or their concerns. The business owners feel powerless, Village does not address their concerns**

Santa Meeting

1. Make sure the area develops in a controlled manner*****
2. Street improvement***
3. Small convenience store in the community
4. Clean up properties, enforce ordinances and codes, junk cars**
5. Not enough large lots to develop three+ bedroom homes for growing families
6. Public involvement from the entire community, not just select groups, get new people involved, entire Bennet Community input, not just developers and small groups in power making decisions***
7. Sidewalk construction and improvements, inconsistent around town****
8. Water bills are high, will continue to increase with growth*
9. Poor water quality, needs to improve, continue to improve the system, water pressure is low, system is overused, can't keep up with growth*****
10. Community beautification, make this a great place to live
11. Subdivision regulations to be consistent with current town
12. Increased population and increased infrastructure will cause the overall costs of the Village to increase, making it difficult for current residents to live in the community
13. Inconsistent drainage around the community, need curb and gutter
14. Make sure that the subdivisions are built properly, codes need to be enforced by the Village, Developers don't care about Bennet, Village needs to be sure they follow codes, make developers responsible***
15. Off-street parking needs to be available to keep streets cleaned

16. Speed on highway 43
17. Crosswalk on highway 43, kids have to cross to get to school****
18. Volunteer fire department is not on call during business hours, can it handle the growth of the community**
19. Need a population cap for the community, this can help manage the growth
20. Keep small town environment
21. Crime rate will increase with growth
22. Building codes need to be enforced, setbacks need to be followed, Village hall gives inconsistent answers**
23. School system is currently great, but will be overburdened with growth if they do not plan ahead
24. Vision of business development of Bennet needs to be determined

Youth

1. Nothing that draws people here...except Mamasitas—that is what Bennet is known for.
2. Problem are the new people – the people in the new developments...only are a concerned with their area ===not about Bennet...they don't seem to care about the future.
3. It would be nice to be a little bigger – not much retail or businesses in town...eating places...only Mamasitas and café
4. I'd like it a little bigger...a swimming pool...just has Mamasitas and a bank...not enough facilities to hang out
5. Agree – not enough places...only Mamasitas and then the bar
6. I think Bennet is afraid of growth...afraid that it is growing to big...I think they can stop the growth...need new businesses and have the economy to grow. The roads have a major problem...need a new baseball complex. “They” just don't seem to care – let's get it so that the Lincoln kids have to come out here. Need to have space for businesses...not be afraid of growth.
7. Agree
8. Agree
9. gravel on the roads makes it hard to drive
10. maintenance is slow in town
11. nothing here to do
12. agree
13. sewer system is crap – no grinders
14. putting 4 houses on 80 acres instead of 40 houses on 80 acres. Wastes land
15. roads need paving
16. sewer lines need replacing
17. water pressure is bad and pipes need replacing and we shouldn't have to pay ourselves
18. nothing to do
19. nothing to do
20. need a new baseball field again
21. need to keep up with maintenance
22. nothing to do here
23. nothing to do here
24. roads are bumpy with washboard roughness. Very rough on bus in momings.
25. nothing to do,

26. no where to go
27. need better sidewalks as they are cracked
28. our water is really bad
29. on farm, for us to get rural water we have to run 2 miles. It is costly to do out in the country. Town should help.
30. water tastes bad
31. need a new park with recreational area, pool
32. need another café.
33. don't want the town to get much bigger
34. need a grocery store here
35. need more things
36. need something to get everyone involved in town
37. a community youth group instead of church. If you don't belong to church we really don't feel comfortable belonging.
38. need a gas station in Bennet. None close