Senior Citizens

Q. #2

What are the major strengths and assets of Bennet?

1. People, great neighbors, friendly********
2. Closeness of community
3. Good businesses
4. Business growth
5. A lot of young families***
6. Small community feel, small town atmosphere*****
7. Proximity to Lincoln and its services (shopping, medical)***
8. Great school system, space available for growth****
9. Well educated, middle-aged population
10. Great fire department**
11. Senior citizen program
12. Highway 2, easy access, great transportation system
13. The sun follows you to and from work
14. Community support
15. Great place to raise children
16. Quiet community**
17. Currently upgrading electrical system, great service, great rates**
18. Enjoy mother nature, (wild life, weather, etc)

Schools

1. The people in and around a small community work together to solve a problem, great community togetherness, community support, welcoming************
2. The school system, small school has many benefits, great school facilities and great working environment********
3. Caring, loving and concerned people
4. Peaceful, open spaces, sunrises and sunsets, able to see the stars***
5. Enjoy the drive out to Bennet from Lincoln**
6. Healthy living
7. Recycling center
8. Rural atmosphere, mix of farm families and town residents***
9. Volunteer programs at school and in community
10. School system works together with Palmyra
11. Families know each other, trust each other, watch out for each others’ families
12. Community cleanup day, cleanliness of community**
13. Generations that have been here for a long time, history in community, sense of family****
14. Church groups help the community, come together to help community

Public Open Meeting

1. Rural community feeling, small town atmosphere****
2. Keep lots at 10 acres outside the corporate limits***
3. Active residents, public participation, community spirit & pride***
5. School System
6. Generations that have been here, family history
7. Keep community assets intact
8. Interaction between community and nature
9. The transportation system can be an asset when used properly
10. Safe environment

Bennet Builders/Sons of American Legions

1. Quiet and peaceful
2. Friendly, neighborly, helpful
3. Able to walk places in the community
4. Like the shops in Bennet (Mamasitas, massage place, etc)
5. Short commute to work in Lincoln
6. Close proximity to Lincoln and its services
7. Rural surroundings, nature

Business Owners

1. Friendly community, small enough you know your neighbors*****
2. Cheap rent for commercial space
3. Proximity to Lincoln******
4. Potential for growth****
5. People of the community, including the residents and rural homes around the community, very supportive of each other****
6. Services available in the community are attractive to residents who do not wish to reside in Lincoln
7. Great transportation system***
8. A large variety of businesses and services; bank, post office, etc, which support the community***
9. Bennet will retain small town atmosphere even if it does continue to grow
10. Great school system, far better than many of the other schools in the area**
11. Bennet has a great advantage over the other small communities due to the transportation system, proximity to Lincoln, services offered
12. Bennet can take advantage of picking up any businesses or services that Lincoln does not want
13. Low crime rate**
14. A lot of history in the community, keep in touch with these roots as the community continues to grow
15. No stop lights in town
16. Business owners can do business with individuals and treat them as individuals, get to know the people they serve and serve them well

Santa Meeting

1. The people of Bennet, neighbors are great, sense of community, small close knit community, identity of Bennet (including inside and outside the community)********
2. School system is great******
3. Quality of life***
4. Community organizations (girl scouts, Bennet Builders, etc)***
5. Church groups***
6. Local newspaper
7. Stable quality businesses in the community**
8. Great transportation system
9. Park and future parks, greenspace, ball field**

Youth

1. Small town atmosphere….neighbors love to help you when you need help…you have your privacy…and aren’t too close.
2. I just like it here….I’d rather live here than in Lincoln….I can’t describe it….just like it.
3. I like Bennet – I just wish it was a tad bit bigger and that wish people would care.
4. Small – everyone knows everybody…good feeling
5. You can do a lot of things that you can’t do in Lincoln….play football in the backyard, can walk around without cars and people everywhere….small is better
6. Parents don’t have to worry about people picking you up when you are walking around.
7. Small in general – everybody likes it
8. I plan to stay here after I graduate.
9. I will stay.
10. I will move for a couple of years….and then will move back because I like it here.
11. I will move to a few places because I like change
12. I wouldn’t want to leave…because when I would be gone…things will be changed and I wouldn’t have helped making decisions for the changes…I want to be a developer…I want to be able to come back and help people plan for the future – I know how people envision Bennet…and want to help it grow that way.
13. I want Bennet to look like Syracuse… I like Syracuse… a little bigger with more things available… but not too big.
14. I think there is a lot to be done… but no one will step up to do them.
15. I want to see a nice – inviting town – paved streets with storm gutters on the side, Houses that look nice – garbage pick up. I see an industrial part of town… a down town… a new park for families… but families don’t go there. The park is NOT well taken care of. They need to update it … like the sand volley ball pit need to be updated. A “Leave It To Beaver” town… a nice small town.
16. I agree

Yelena – then explained the difference between the Comprehensive Plan and the Visioning process. You must have Comprehensive plan to guide the future… last one done was in the 1970’s. Visioning — look at strengths, challenges…. we will share what the people think… and the Vision will be shared with consultants and public. We will develop a vision statement – and the people will either approve or disapprove of the Vision Statement. Yelena thanked youth for coming… especially during holiday break. It shows that you have come as good citizens to give us your ideas.

Youth
1. it’s small town atmosphere
2. small town you can get around faster with no crowded places
3. you don’t have to have your parents worry about you
4. like small town atmosphere. Everyone socializes afterwards
5. you can get away with stuff here
6. not much crime
7. small town atmosphere. Everyone knows everybody, can always get a helping hand
8. parents don’t need to worry about you as much
9. everybody gets along for the most part
10. on farm and come to town it is friendly. Has what is necessary.
11. feel more safe here because everyone knows everybody
12. no pressure to do everything.
13. have a restaurant that brings lots of people here
14. small, everyone gets together, family
15. don’t have to worry about as many things as Lincoln
16. elementary school is pretty good
17. everybody is caring
18. neighbors are here for you
19. they are now showing they care about us and are involving us in their future
20. we like that we as youth are involved in this process
21. just a different feeling in being in a small town than being in a large town or city