

Borough of Ebensburg

Citizen Survey Results

August 2006

Ebensburg Borough

Citizen Survey Overview

Ebensburg Borough conducted a survey of its citizens in June 2006. A total of 1,300 surveys were mailed. 354 responses were received, or a 27% response rate.

Quality of Life

90% of residents rated the quality of life in Ebensburg as “good” or “excellent”. 85% rate the quality of life in their particular neighborhood as “good” or “excellent”. 90% also feel that Ebensburg is a “good” or “excellent” place to raise children.

61% of the residents found Ebensburg to be a “good” or excellent” place to retire. Only 7% find it to be a “poor” retirement home.

Borough Services

Residents gave good marks to services provided by the Borough. Over 80% give a “good” or “excellent” rating to water quality, garbage collection and recycling. Over 70% approve of the leaf collection, street maintenance, snow removal, traffic enforcement and other services provided by the public works department.

Only three Borough services received approval ratings of less than 70%:

- 1) Animal control received “good” or “excellent” ratings from 66% of residents. Comments written on the surveys indicated a general dissatisfaction with persons walking dogs and failing to clean up after them, a high number of barking dogs, and displeasure at the number of horses leaving manure in the streets.
- 2) Property maintenance received “good” or “excellent” ratings from 64% of the residents. There was a significant amount of concern expressed about the appearance of properties along East High Street and West High Street outside of the downtown area, about grass not being cut, and the overall condition of rental properties.
- 3) Building code enforcement received “good” or “excellent” ratings from 67% of residents. Comments received did not reflect that low rating, and this service was likely confused with property maintenance.

Only 8% or fewer of residents gave ANY of the Borough services a “poor” rating. There are a few interesting points to make. Recycling in Ebensburg is voluntary, but the program received very high ratings. Street maintenance could be expected to receive a lower rating, but in fact 0% rated the service as “poor”. While our water quality shared the highest rating with 84%, one would have expected that to be even higher.

Overall, 79% of residents rated Borough services as “excellent” or “good”.

Public Safety

The degree to which Ebensburg residents feel safe is phenomenally high. 93% report feeling at least “somewhat safe” from violent crime. 88% feel safe from property crimes. 97% feel safe from fire.

Perhaps the best indication of how safe a community is the willingness or ability of its residents to walk alone at night. In Ebensburg, 92% report feeling at least “somewhat safe” walking alone at night in their neighborhood. Nearly the same percentage feel safe walking alone in the downtown.

It is worth noting that the survey was mailed two weeks after the highly publicized Malloy murder.

Perceived Problems

We provided residents with a list of problems frequently encountered in other towns and cities, and asked them to indicate the extent to which those problems exist in Ebensburg.

Clearly, drugs are a major concern of residents, with 47% finding them to be a “major” or “extreme” problem.

37% of residents describe traffic related issues as a “major” or “extreme” problem. In fact, only 18% would say that there is not a traffic problem. And the comments received make it very clear that residents would like to see two specific problems addressed. First, they want to see fewer trucks. Second, they want to see speeding curtailed.

Loitering, crime in general, graffiti, rundown housing, and animal waste are not considered to be serious problems in Ebensburg.

Activities

The survey included a list of 15 activities, and asked residents how frequently they did any of them. Borough Council will be glad to hear that the least favorite thing on the list for residents is attending a Borough Council meeting (only 24% have chosen to do so).

Six of the activities evaluated involved recreation-related programs. 64% of residents do not utilize the YPCC. Only 9% used the facility more than once per month. 55% do not participate in any outdoor recreation programs. 69% do not utilize the swimming pool, and in fact only 10% used the pool more than a dozen times. 48% do not utilize the playgrounds. These statistics are probably not as much an indictment of the Borough’s recreation facilities as they are an indication of the age of the Borough’s population.

On the other hand, 72% of residents have visited Lake Rowena in the past year, and 61% have already used the Ghost Town Trail.

67% of Borough residents have used the library in the past year. 76% are using our voluntary recycling program. 53% have had reason to call upon area emergency services.

Concerning technology, 50% of residents regularly utilize the Internet. 29% do not utilize the Internet at all. 30% have visited the Borough’s Website more than once or twice in the past year, and 50% are not utilizing the Website.

It is difficult to fully appreciate local progress if one does not visit other areas to see what is happening elsewhere. 43% of Ebensburg residents traveled outside of Pennsylvania fewer than three times last year.

Borough Projects

The survey attempted to evaluate the residents’ level of satisfaction with recent Borough projects. On each project a significant number of residents offered no opinion, depending on that resident’s familiarity with the particular project. For example, 58% did not offer an opinion on the Borough’s Website, presumably because they are not familiar with it. But only 7% declined comment on the streetscape project or the Christmas decorations, because everyone is familiar with those projects.

With only one exception, residents with an opinion indicate a very high level of satisfaction with all projects recently undertaken. Of those with an opinion, 99% are “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with Memorial Field, the Ghost Town Trail and playground improvements. Over 90% are satisfied with the YPCC, Prave Street construction, swimming pool improvements, Lake Rowena improvements, Julian Street sidewalks, the streetscape amenities,

refurbishing of Gazebo Park, the downtown Christmas decorations, the Borough's Website, renovations to the municipal building, and the Borough newsletter. Nearly 90% are satisfied with the Lloyd Street sidewalk project and the overall streetscape project.

The only project with a lower approval rating is the Saltlick water project. Only 67% of those expressing any opinion are "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied".

Future Direction

87% of residents expressing an opinion agree that Ebensburg is headed in the right direction on the road to improvement.

88% of residents expressing an opinion want to see the replacement of sidewalks continue. Nearly the same percentage approves of the new street trees planted.

84% of residents expressing an opinion agree that Ebensburg provides excellent recreational opportunities for our youth.

13% of residents had no opinion on whether local municipalities should be working together on projects. 94% of those expressing an opinion agree that members of the Central Cambria Coalition should continue their efforts.

Downtown Businesses

The Ebensburg Area Business Commission included questions in the survey relative to downtown businesses. Those answers will be evaluated separately by the Commission.

Media

The Tribune-Democrat is the most read newspaper in Ebensburg, followed by the Mountaineer Herald.

The survey also evaluated the residents' taste in radio stations. The three most popular stations in Ebensburg are Froggy 95, 96 Key, and Cool 101.7.

The most popular television station in Ebensburg is WJAC-TV Channel 6.

Computer Access

77% of residents own a computer, and 80% have access to the Internet. 28% with an opinion expressed a preference to conduct Borough business on-line (utility bill payment, permits, applications).

General Comments

Included with the survey results is a tally of comments received in response to various questions. The comments are self-explanatory and speak for themselves, but a few points are especially noteworthy.

Traffic

The most frequent complaint expressed throughout the surveys was truck traffic in the Borough. 44% thought the situation was bad enough to comment on it.

The perceived need for stricter speed enforcement was also highlighted in the survey.

Animals

Residents were outspoken about dog laws. They want the barking stopped, dogs kept on leashes, and the owners to clean up after dogs.

Recreation

There were plenty of good ideas and opinions offered about recreation programs. One particular comment received about recreation in general is worth noting. "I wish my grown children would have had the opportunities of the YPCC, skate park, new fields, ice rink, etc. improved over the last five years".

Utilities

As expected, the most frequent comment about utilities was that the water/wastewater rates are too high. In reality, Ebensburg's rates are reasonable when compared to other authorities in the region. The Borough obviously needs to do a better job of public education relative to the rate structure. Council should also consider the extent to which bimonthly billing adds to the perception that rates are high, and consider whether monthly billing would help correct that perception and help residents budget the expense.

Property Maintenance

Residents made it clear in their comments that they would like to see properties cleaned up in Ebensburg. Those most frequently mentioned are along East High Street between Caroline Street and the lake, and along West High Street between Sheetz and Marian Street.

Streets

Many comments were offered suggesting that general street maintenance be improved, but another section of the survey indicated approval of street maintenance. None of the comments were specific about what improvements should be made.

There were a few comments concerning the hot topic of snow removal, but fewer than might be expected.

Sidewalks

Residents approve of the sidewalk projects and want to see those continue.

Garbage & Recycling

There were three comments made relative to garbage and recycling more frequently than others. Residents want to see recyclables collected more than once each month. They want the ability to place grass and tree trimmings out with the trash. A dozen residents still have not gotten over the Borough having a single garbage collector.

Downtown

Residents offered more comments about the downtown than any other specific topic. They want to see businesses attracted to the vacant storefronts, and they expressed ideas on the type of business they would like to see in town. Parking was a frequently mentioned issue, with many expressing a preference for free and additional parking. The streetscape project is popular with residents.

Events

Many positive comments were received on the Borough's events here and elsewhere throughout the survey. Several residents suggested free concerts in a park.

Police

Few comments were received about the police department. Several suggested that the police increase their visibility, and that the number of officers be increased.

Miscellaneous

Comments were received about a wide range of issues. Most issues did not receive more than one or two comments. Eleven residents thought the taxes were too high, with four specifically complaining about school taxes. Four thought the fire siren should be eliminated since members carry pagers.

46 residents indicated that they were pleased in general with how things are going, and 37 more expressed that Council and staff were doing a good job.

Events

We asked residents to comment on the Borough's events. Many offered suggestions to improve the events. In general, residents are very happy with the events with 53 describing them as terrific, great, excellent, etc.

Skate Park

We sought the residents' opinion on the planned skate park. By a clear majority, residents approve of and support the skate park. Several concerns were raised, however, including safety, liability, drugs, behavior, cost, parking, supervision, noise and vandalism. While they want the skate park, they want it secured and protected. The following comments are typical. "Good example of borough efforts to improve the community". "I think any new and exciting program for youth is a great investment". "Do it right and keep it patrolled".

Summary

Overall, the survey results demonstrate the residents' belief that Ebensburg is headed in the right direction. They approve of the projects, and want to see improvements continue.

There are always a few in any study that have absolutely nothing good to say about anything or anybody. In this particular study, there were ten or so that did not support any project, did not approve of any service, and were in general negative in every way imaginable. One wrote, "Why should we promote Ebensburg? More crimes will occur". Another wrote, "Stop spending money on improvements. It will only bring more outsiders to our town". Such comments are frustrating, but fortunately they are very few in number.

There were many good ideas generated to improve services, projects and events. Each and every one will be evaluated, and to the extent possible and practical, will be implemented.

EBENSBURG BOROUGH CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS

SURVEY CONDUCTED: 6/01/06 to 6/30/06
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED: 1,300
TOTAL HOUSEHOLD RESPONSE: 354
SURVEY RESPONSE RATE: 27%

1. Please check the box that best describes your opinion on each of the following questions:

	<u>excellent</u>	<u>good</u>	<u>fair</u>	<u>poor</u>
a. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in Ebensburg?	31%	59%	9%	1%
b. How do you rate the quality of life in your neighborhood?	29%	56%	13%	2%
c. How do you rate Ebensburg as a place to raise children?	41%	49%	8%	2%
d. How do you rate Ebensburg as a place to retire?	23%	38%	32%	7%

2. Please rate the quality of each of the following Borough services:

	<u>excellent</u>	<u>good</u>	<u>fair</u>	<u>poor</u>
a. Garbage collection	46%	38%	9%	7%
b. Recycling	37%	47%	13%	3%
c. Leaf Collection	29%	47%	20%	4%
d. Water/sewer/garbage billing service	23%	49%	21%	7%
e. Street maintenance	19%	52%	29%	0%
f. Litter control	18%	55%	22%	5%
g. Street sweeping	23%	56%	17%	4%
h. Snow removal	24%	51%	19%	6%
i. Street lighting	24%	54%	15%	7%
j. Animal control	15%	51%	26%	8%
k. Traffic enforcement	20%	53%	20%	7%
l. Water quality	28%	56%	12%	4%
m. Building code enforcement	15%	52%	26%	7%
n. Property maintenance enforcement	11%	53%	28%	8%

3. Overall, how would you rate the quality of services provided by Ebensburg Borough?

<u>excellent</u>	<u>good</u>	<u>fair</u>	<u>poor</u>
20%	59%	18%	3%

4. Please rate how safe you feel from the following:

	<u>very safe</u>	<u>somewhat safe</u>	<u>somewhat unsafe</u>	<u>very unsafe</u>
a. Violent crime (e.g., rape, robbery)	38%	55%	7%	0%
b. Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	27%	61%	9%	3%
c. Fires	61%	36%	2%	1%

5. Please rate how safe you feel walking alone at night:

	<u>very safe</u>	<u>somewhat safe</u>	<u>somewhat unsafe</u>	<u>very unsafe</u>
a. In your neighborhood	45%	47%	8%	0%
b. In the borough's downtown area	40%	50%	9%	1%

6. To what degree are the following problems in Ebensburg Borough?

	<u>not a problem</u>	<u>minor problem</u>	<u>major problem</u>	<u>extreme problem</u>
a. Loitering	39%	53%	7%	1%
b. Drugs	8%	45%	37%	10%
c. Traffic, congestion, speed, enforcement	18%	45%	27%	10%
d. Crime	20%	69%	11%	0%
e. Graffiti	49%	47%	3%	1%
f. Run down houses and buildings	27%	61%	9%	3%
g. Animal waste	34%	54%	10%	2%

7. In the last 12 months, about how many times have you or other family members experienced the following?

	<u>never</u>	<u>once or twice</u>	<u>3-12 times</u>	<u>13-26 times</u>	<u>more than 26 times</u>
a. Used the Ebensburg library	33%	23%	22%	12%	10%
b. Used the Young Peoples Community Center (YPCC)	64%	17%	10%	4%	5%
c. Participated in an outdoor recreation program	55%	23%	13%	5%	4%
d. Visited the Ebensburg Borough Swimming Pool	69%	15%	6%	3%	7%
e. Visited a neighborhood playground	48%	22%	15%	9%	6%
f. Visited Lake Rowena	28%	40%	24%	6%	2%
g. Walked or biked on the Ghost Town Trail	39%	17%	21%	13%	10%
h. Attended a borough council meeting	76%	20%	4%	0%	0%
i. Served as a volunteer at a borough-sponsored event	72%	17%	8%	2%	1%
j. Used curbside collection of recyclables	24%	6%	49%	11%	10%
k. Used the Internet for anything	29%	6%	7%	8%	50%
l. Visited the borough's Website	50%	27%	18%	10%	2%
m. Requested police, fire or ambulance service	47%	38%	12%	2%	1%
n. Contacted a borough representative with a complaint	61%	32%	5%	1%	1%
o. Traveled outside of Pennsylvania	17%	26%	35%	13%	9%

8. In recent years, Ebensburg Borough has undertaken many new projects. Following are just a few of those. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with each.

	<u>very satisfied</u>	<u>somewhat satisfied</u>	<u>no opinion</u>	<u>not satisfied</u>
a. Young Peoples Community Center (YPCC)	32%	25%	37%	6%
b. Construction of Prave Street	40%	26%	32%	2%
c. Memorial Field	51%	24%	24%	1%
d. Ghost Town Trail	63%	16%	20%	1%
e. Improvements to borough swimming pool	22%	22%	54%	2%
f. Replaced playground facilities in neighborhoods	44%	27%	28%	1%
g. Improvements to Lake Rowena	30%	33%	33%	4%
h. Lloyd Street sidewalk project	40%	27%	25%	8%
i. Julian Street sidewalk project	44%	31%	20%	5%
j. Downtown streetscape project	55%	28%	7%	10%
k. Downtown bike racks, benches, trash receptacles	56%	27%	12%	5%
l. Refurbishing of Gazebo Park	52%	30%	15%	3%
m. Downtown Christmas decorations	63%	25%	7%	5%
n. Borough Website	5%	33%	58%	4%
o. Renovations to municipal building	19%	24%	54%	3%
p. Construction of Saltlick waterline	15%	15%	55%	15%
q. Publishing of borough newsletter	45%	36%	17%	2%

9. Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

	<u>strongly agree</u>	<u>agree</u>	<u>no opinion</u>	<u>disagree</u>	<u>strongly disagree</u>
a. I think Ebensburg is headed in the right direction on the road to improvement.	28%	51%	9%	8%	4%
b. Ebensburg should continue to replace sidewalks in other sections of town.	34%	48%	7%	8%	3%
c. I like the new trees being planted along sidewalks.	47%	35%	5%	9%	4%
d. Ebensburg provides excellent recreational opportunities for our youth.	24%	45%	18%	10%	3%
e. It is great to see Ebensburg, Cambria Township and Jackson Township working together. Do even more along those lines.	46%	36%	13%	3%	2%

10. On average, how often does your household come downtown for purposes other than work?
 0% never 14% seldom 12% once/month 20% once/week 15% twice/week 39% > twice/week

11. On average, how often do you shop or take care of personal business downtown?
 4% never 16% seldom 16% once/month 20% once/week 22% twice/week 22% > twice/week

12. When you come downtown, where do you usually park?
 10% Cherry St. Lot 1% Courthouse Lot 66% Street meter 8% private lot 15% other _____

13. When visiting downtown, what stores do you typically patronize?
 This answer was sought by the Ebensburg Area Business Commission. Answers varied greatly, and will be evaluated separately by the Business Commission.

14. What additional stores/services would you like to see downtown?
 This answer was sought by the Ebensburg Area Business Commission. Answers varied greatly, and will be evaluated separately by the Business Commission.

15. For the existing stores and those you would like to see, what operating hours are preferred?
 This answer was sought by the Ebensburg Area Business Commission. Answers varied greatly, and will be evaluated separately by the Business Commission.

16. What would encourage you to patronize downtown businesses and services more?
 108 More restaurants 199 Different local stores 99 National chains 5 More metered parking
 122 Free parking 160 Less truck traffic 56 Better hours

17. What newspaper(s) does your household read regularly?
 240 Tribune-Democrat 50 Altoona Mirror 177 Mountaineer-Herald 30 Traders Guide 16 Other

18. To which radio station(s) does your household listen regularly?
 81 96-Key 84 Froggy-95 71Cool-101.7 41 Rocky-99 29 Hot-92 25 WHPA-93.5 16 850-AM

19. What television stations are frequently watched in your household?
 247 WJAC-TV (Ch. 6) 143 Fox 8/abc23 170 WTAJ-TV (Ch. 10) 81 Other

20. How do the following impact your shopping decisions?

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not Important</u>
TV Advertising	28	130	108
Radio Advertising	8	95	164
Newspaper Advertising	65	148	61
Merchant Sales Events	97	116	63
Direct Mail	37	92	106

To better analyze survey results, we would like some basic information about your household. All responses will remain confidential.

1. What is the total number of people in your household?
60 One 128 Two 44 Three 44 Four 29 More than four
2. How many members of your household fall into the following age groups?
28 Under 5 years 66 Ages 6-12 61 Ages 13-18 59 Ages 19-25 340 Ages 26-65 168 Above 65
3. In which municipality do you work? Retired = 81 Ebensburg = 107 Johnstown = 32 Other = 11
4. Do you own a computer? 77% Yes 23% No Do you have internet access? 80% Yes 20% No
If so, would you prefer to conduct Borough business online (utility bills, permits, applications, etc.)? 60_ Yes 155_ No

We asked five questions on the survey that required a written response. The three questions below generated very similar comments, so those responses have been combined. We have also added any comments jotted in the margins and elsewhere from the survey form.

1. Are there any services that you would like to see added or improved within Ebensburg Borough? In what manner?
2. Are there any areas in which you feel that Ebensburg Borough could be more efficient?
3. Do you have any other comments about anything else?

Traffic

- Reduce number of trucks in downtown (44)
- Conduct truck inspections (1)
- Add stop signs at more intersections (1)
- Better enforce stop signs (1)
- Stop kids from playing in the street (1)
- Adopt noise ordinance for stereos (1)
- Stop residents from parking in front of neighbors (1)
- Increase speed enforcement (19)
- Increase parking enforcement (1)
- Improve traffic flow at Sheetz (1)
- Make narrow streets 1-way (1)
- Eliminate parking on 1-way streets (1)
- Stop the winter parking rules (1)
- Enforce winter parking only during storm (4)
- Ease traffic congestion (1)
- Remove the pedestrian signs from the middle of street (2)
- Add pedestrian sign in the street at post office (2)

Animals

- Eliminate barking dogs (9)
- Enforce dog waste ordinance (12)
- Enforce leash law (8)
- Reinstitute trapping service (2)
- Need an animal shelter (1)
- Clean up after horses (6)

Recreation

- Want an indoor tennis court (2)
- Repair the east end tennis court (4)
- Have more activities for teens (5)
- Have more adult activities (2)
- Heat the swimming pool (6)

Add sliding boards at the swimming pool (1)
Improve the bathhouse at the swimming pool (1)
Add another umbrella at the swimming pool (1)
Keep improving the swimming pool (1)
Improve services at the YPCC (1)
Increase the YPCC staff (1)
Better organize activities at the YPCC (8)
YPCC is too elitist (1)
Stop funding the YPCC (3)
More YPCC programs for 3 and under (1)
Better advertise the north central recreation center (1)
Purchase the batting cages on Lakeview Road (1)
More supervised playground activities (2)
Have fewer rules at parks (1)
Clean Lake Rowena (4)
Dredge Lake Rowena (1)
Make Lake Rowena a focal point of town (2)
Begin youth camps (1)
Get the skate park built (1)
Remove the lights from center ward playground (1)
Provide a bike/walk path to swimming pool (1)
Add restrooms at the trail (1)
The Ghost Town Trail is unsafe at intersections (1)
Provide lights along the trail (1)
Keep vehicles off of the trail (1)
Remove sandboxes from playgrounds (attracting cats) (1)
Thank you for playground improvements (2)
Plant shade trees at the parks (1)
Should have less property damage at facilities (1)

Utilities

Maintain private laterals off-property (1)
Rates too high (30)
Explain the rates to customers (2)
Lower rate for minimum usage (2)
Natural gas rates too high (1)
Cable TV too expensive (1)
Saltlick project was a good idea (1)
Saltlick project was a bad idea (2)
Serve customers within the borough only (1)
Make businesses pay more than residents (1)
Make township customers pay more than borough (1)
Direct debit bills (1)
Bill once each month (1)
Stop fluoridating the water (1)
Make meter reader wear a uniform (1)
Water should be cleaner (1)
Conduct line flushing overnight (1)
Get the plant expansion project completed (1)

Property Maintenance

Clean up rental properties (5)
Require inspection of rental properties (1)
Clean up properties in town, stricter enforcement (20)
Enforcement is too strict (1)
Should not need building permits (1)

Stop throwing cut grass into streets (3)
Clean up COG (1)
Be friendlier (1)
Clean up junk cars (1)
Enforce grass ordinance (1)
Form group to help elderly cut grass (2)
Be more strict with zoning rules (1)
Happy with crackdown on high grass violations (2)
Take care of the Prave Building (2)
Take care of Clark Powell Building (1)
Take care of Penelec Building (1)
Enforcement is biased (3)

Streets

Do more street sweeping (6)
Street sweeper is too dusty (1)
Need better snow removal (13)
Haul more of the snow away (2)
Earlier removal of snow (1)
Don't plow driveways shut (1)
Don't damage yards when plowing (2)
Coordinate plowing with no-parking signs (1)
Improve street maintenance (21)
Better supervise the highway employees (1)
Ban solicitation in traffic (1)
Add Victorian lights throughout town (1)
Clean up road kills (1)
Trim weeds along curbs (1)
Paint traffic lines (1)

Sidewalks

Continue to improve sidewalks (20)
Replace sidewalks on East High Street (2)
Replace sidewalks on West High Street (2)
Make people shovel their sidewalks (1)
Make residents pay for sidewalks (1)
Don't make residents pay for sidewalks (2)
Be careful of sidewalk cost for residents (1)
Eliminate all brick sidewalks (1)
Happy with streetscape (1)
Give more notice in advance of sidewalk projects (2)
Protect the old trees (3)
Remove the old trees (3)
Add more species of trees (1)
New trees are too close together (1)
New curbing is too high (1)
Too many cigarette butts on sidewalks (1)

Garbage/Recycling

Recycle more than once each month (9)
Make garbage collector accept grass/trimmings (15)
Allow choice of garbage collector (12)
Provide more information about leaf pickup (2)
Schedule leaf pickup (1)
Provide more notice for annual pickup (2)
Provide more than one cleanup day each year (7)

Provide a spring leaf collection (3)
Provide an extra pickup day for the holidays (1)
Allow for newspaper recycling (2)
Increase the bag limit for garbage (1)
Make the garbage collector do a neater job (1)
Allow lower cost for only 1 garbage bag (4)
Garbage rate is too expensive (2)

Downtown

Increase business recruitment efforts (15)
Improve marketing of downtown (2)
Emphasize need to support downtown businesses (1)
Advertise times when meters are free (1)
Get a theatre in downtown (4)
Stop making improvements in downtown (6)
Extend the improvements east and west (2)
Promote a “friendly town” image (1)
Get an Arts Center in downtown (1)
Get a video store in downtown (1)
Attract unique shops (1)
Remodel store fronts (2)
Provide additional parking (5)
More courthouse parking (2)
Free parking (14)
Free parking at post office (1)
Mark the crosswalks better (1)
Clean up the downtown (1)
Cleanup the Falchini lot (1)
Refer to downtown as “uptown” (1)
Get more bars in the downtown (2)
Need fewer bars (1)
Get more restaurants in the downtown (2)
Attract another Dollar General type store (4)
Attract a Mom & Pop store (1)
Attract a grocery store (1)
Need fewer pizza shops & law offices (1)
Sweep parking lots (1)
Add flowers in downtown (2)
Encourage banks to offer loan training (1)
Expand decorations/flags outside of the downtown (1)
Better advertise events (1)
Install sign at trail directing to downtown (1)
Lights are too bright (11)
Lights are great as is (3)
Turn the benches around (2)
Streetscape looks great (14)
Streetscape is bad (7)
Christmas decorations are great (6)
Christmas decorations are bad (3)
Bring back the snowflakes (2)

Events

Extend hours of farmers’ market (1)
Hold a winter carnival (2)
Anxious for Dickens of a Christmas (1)
Hold an art showcase (1)

Improve the Christmas Parade (1)
Hold free concerts in the park (6)
Hold more sidewalk sales (1)
Hold more events (11)

Government

Council should be more active (1)
Public works should be friendlier (1)
Negative toward Mayor (1)
Negative toward Manager (9)
Negative toward Community Development (8)
Council & Manager unapproachable (1)
Too much government involvement/control (5)
Staff should be more polite (1)
Employees should be residents (13)
Summer employees should all be residents (1)
Attend fewer conferences (1)
Limit power of borough officials (1)
Good job by Council (8)
Good job by Manager (6)

Police

Increase visibility (7)
Increase number of officers (8)
Police do a good job (2)
Conduct more drug raids (1)
Should respond to minor incidents (1)
Should follow up on calls (1)
Need more night patrols (1)
Afraid of police department (1)

Miscellaneous

Drug Treatment Center is needed (1)
Provide a grocery delivery service (1)
Expand the library hours (1)
Increase enforcement of ordinances (1)
Ordinances are too threatening (1)
Provide tax incentives for historic home improvement (1)
Taxes are too high (11)
School taxes are too high (4)
Provide a taxi service (2)
Market the borough to college students (2)
Keep the airport (2)
Attract more doctors (2)
Don't hire low bidders (1)
Recruit a volunteer service corp (1)
Better support the troops (1)
Allow use of home for business use (1)
Enforce the curfew (2)
Stay within the budget (1)
Spending too much money (1)
Join with the township (2)
Don't do anything with the township (1)
Nobody is ever asked to volunteer (1)
Better control outdoor burning (1)
Allow handicap parking at residences (1)

Use the fairgrounds for a craft show (1)
Reduce pollution from power plants (2)
React faster to resident problems (1)
Improve information on the website (1)
Make noise ordinance effective at 9 p.m. instead of 11 (1)
Concentrate on neighborhoods, not the downtown (1)
Start a welcome wagon (1)
Install welcome signs at borough entrances (1)
Install county seat signs (1)
Eliminate the fire siren (4)
Welcome diversity (1)
Raze the old jail (1)
Enhance stormwater drainage (1)
Better inform the public on issues (1)
Add more senior housing (1)
Newsletter is great (1)
Newsletter is a waste (1)
Persons indicating they are pleased with things as they are (46)
Persons commenting on a "Good Job!" (37)
Thanks for the survey (4)

Ebensburg sponsors several events during the year including PotatoFest, Homecoming, Wheels & Wings, Art In Bloom, and Farmer's Market. Please express any ideas you have for making these events bigger and better.

Potato Fest

Extend the hours until 10 p.m. (2)
Expand to two full days (5)
Don't exclude vendors (2)
Have more vendors (1)
Have an indoor site if it rains (1)
Add a parade (1)
Move it from downtown to the lake (1)

Wheels & Wings

It is too loud (3)
It is a rough crowd (2)
Make it a full weekend day (2)
Expand to more days (1)
Need vendor booths (1)
Need more food vendors (4)
Add tables in the park (1)

Homecoming

It's great (1)
Add a parade (1)
Have more refreshments (2)
Shuttle service (1)
Add more lights (1)
\$5 is too expensive to list a yard sale (1)

Farmers Market

Add more vendors (3)
Have more farmers markets (6)
Start earlier (1)
Have longer hours (1)

Art In Bloom

Get qualified judges (2)

General Comments Regarding Events

Use the Falchini lot, or condemn it (1)

Have more parking (2)

Events are getting better & better (3)

Excellent, terrific, etc. (53)

Increase advertisement (12)

Get different input (1)

Have concerts (3)

Do not need events (1)

Have them at the lake, not downtown (1)

Have businesses sponsor attractions (1)

Showcase local high school talent (1)

Allow use of business restrooms (1)

Need more volunteers (1)

Don't like the crowds (1)

Need to add a beer tent (1)

Provide electricity to vendors (1)

More local and less distant booths (1)

Organizers are considered unfriendly (1)

Events are difficult on residents (1)

Have multiple day events (1)

Add events at airport (1)

Sponsor street dances (1)

Don't forget about Spirit Night (1)

Don't make the events any bigger (1)

Looking forward to Dickens of a Christmas (7)

Does this bring money to Ebensburg? (1)

Why promote Ebensburg? More crimes will occur (1)

What is your opinion of the new skate park planned at Lake Rowena? Any suggestions or concerns?

Good idea! (133)

Not needed (36)

Get the go-cart track too (2)

Buy the pitching machine on Lakeview Rd (2)

Have a safety concern (3)

Have a liability concern (6)

Have a drug concern (1)

Have a behavior concern (5)

Have a cost concern (1)

Great location (5)

Bad location (3)

Have a parking concern (2)

Must be supervised (6)

Must be patrolled (8)

Have a noise concern (4)

It's a dying sport (1)

Will attract unwanted outsiders (3)

Have a vandalism concern (3)

Encourage youth to help fund it (2)

Make youth pay for it (3)

Allow time for adult use too (1)

Will it upset the fishermen? (2)