

Borough of Ebensburg

Citizen Survey Results

March 2010

Ebensburg Borough

Citizen Survey Overview

Ebensburg Borough conducted a survey of its citizens in February 2010. A total of 1,245 surveys were mailed. 308 responses were received, or a 25% response rate.

Quality of Life

95% of residents rated the quality of life in Ebensburg as “good” or “excellent”. 91% rate the quality of life in their particular neighborhood as “good” or “excellent”. 94% also feel that Ebensburg is a “good” or “excellent” place to raise children.

74% of the residents found Ebensburg to be a “good” or excellent” place to retire. Only 5% 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, recycling, leaf collection, street sweeping, street lighting and traffic enforcement. Over 70% approve of the litter control, animal control and building codes enforcement.

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

- 1) Yard Waste Composting received “good” or “excellent” ratings from 60% of residents. In fact 11% rated it as poor. This result is difficult to evaluate as the yard waste compost site is essentially self-service. It is believed that confusion was created when the permanent site on Tanner Street was closed and the temporary site at the rear of the municipal building was opened.
- 2) Street paving received “good” or “excellent” ratings from 69% of the residents.
- 3) Snow Removal received ‘good” or “excellent” ratings from 65% of the residents. This is sharply down from previous evaluations, and was almost certainly influenced by the blizzard conditions endured during the survey period.
- 4) Property Maintenance Enforcement received “good” or “excellent” ratings from 67% of residents. Comments indicate a growing frustration with the appearance of properties along East High Street and West High Street, about grass not being cut, and the overall condition of rental properties.

Overall, 87% of residents rated Borough services as “excellent” or “good”.

Public Safety

The degree to which Ebensburg residents feel safe is phenomenally high. 99% report feeling at least “somewhat safe” from violent crime. 94% feel safe from property crimes. 99% 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, 96% report feeling at least “somewhat safe” walking alone at night in their neighborhood. Nearly the same percentage feel safe walking alone in the downtown.

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 39% finding them to be a “major” or “extreme” problem.

24% of residents describe traffic related issues as a “major” or “extreme” problem. In fact, only 25% would say that there is not a traffic problem. The comments received make it clear that residents would prefer to see trucks utilize the bypass around town. A few comments specifically mentioned speeding in general.

Loitering, crime in general, graffiti and rundown housing 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 in the last 12 months.

Six of the activities evaluated involved recreation-related programs. 52% of residents do not utilize the YPCC. Only 15% used the facility more than once per month. 46% do not participate in any outdoor recreation programs. 67% do not utilize the swimming pool, and in fact only 6% used the pool more than a dozen times. 39% 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. 70% have utilized the Ghost Town Trail. 79% have been at Lake Rowena at least once

68% of Borough residents have used the library in the past year. 77% are using our voluntary recycling program. 40% have had reason to call upon area emergency services. 23% have volunteered at least once at a borough-sponsored event.

Concerning technology, 59% of residents regularly utilize the Internet. 25% do not utilize the Internet at all. 42% have visited the Borough’s Website more than once or twice in the past year, and 30% 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. 33% 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, 30% did not offer an opinion on the Borough’s Website, presumably because they are not familiar with it. But only 6% declined comment on the streetscape project or the Christmas decorations, because everyone is familiar with those projects.

Of those expressing an opinion, the percentage of those who are either somewhat or very satisfied with recent projects are as follows:

YPCC	92%
Tennis Center	90%
Prave Parking Lot	97%
Memorial Field	98%
Ghost Town Trail	98%
Playground Improvements	99%
Lake Rowena Improvements	99%
24-Hour Facility Access	99%
Hockey Rink	90%

West Highland Sidewalks	93%
North Marian Sidewalks	95%
West Ogle Sidewalks	91%
Streetscape Project	94%
Penn Eben Park	95%
Kimball Park	95%
Christmas Decorations	97%
Free Concerts	98%
Borough Website	98%
Borough Newsletter	99%

Future Direction

92% 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. The same percentage approves of the new street trees planted.

95% of residents expressing an opinion agree that Ebensburg provides excellent recreational opportunities for our youth.

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 Rocky 99.

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

Area Services

We asked residents to rate 10 different services provided to Ebensburg Borough. Residents are satisfied with water, telephone, cellular, internet, natural gas, library, fire and ambulance services. 13% expressed dissatisfaction with the school system. Judging from comments received, that level of dissatisfaction is aimed at the current middle school controversy. 30% are dissatisfied

Computer Access

81% of residents own a computer and have access to the Internet.

Specific Questions

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.

Marketing Campaign

We asked for ideas from the residents on how we can enhance our campaign to market Ebensburg as “a great place to live, work and play”. Overall, the residents seem to support the campaign and offered a great number of positive comments. Several suggested a new focus on adult programs and activities. Seven noted that several of our employees do not live in town.

Added or Improved Services

We asked if there were any services that residents would like to see added or improved. A second question asked for general comments on any subject at all. The answers were so frequently co-mingled that we found it necessary to combine them when tallying the results, and group them by subject matter.

Cutting Costs & Improving Efficiency

We asked for tips on how we could cut costs or improve efficiency. There was a wide variety of answers with few repeated.

Community Events

We asked for ideas on how to improve our events. In general, the events are incredibly popular. Residents did offer some ideas for improving specific events. For example, several suggested that the area and the number of days of PotatoFest be expanded. A few are not fond of Wheels & Wings. Surprisingly, Homecoming did not generate a single comment.

Swimming Pool Project

We sought residents’ opinions on the proposed swimming pool project. As this will be a big decision for Council, we listed each and every comment received rather than combining some. Of the 308 surveys returned, 237 commented on the pool project.

I support the project and the tax	141	64%
I support the project, but not the tax	52	22%
I do not support the project at all	30	13%
I do not have enough information to decide	4	2%

Ebensburg Downtown Partners

These projects received a very high score from residents. Only a dozen or so negative complaints were received.

Central Cambria Coalition

The Coalition has the overwhelming support of the community. No more than a handful of negative comments were received. Several suggested that the Coalition tackle the pool project and shared or regionalized police.

Any Comments About Anything Else?

Traffic

The most frequent traffic-related complaint concerned truck traffic, although not nearly as many as in past surveys.

Animals

Only a few complaints were received related to dogs, horses and skunks.

Recreation

There were plenty of good ideas and opinions offered about recreation programs.

Utilities

Very few comments were received concerning water, sewage and other utilities.

Downtown

Residents are generally pleased with the appearance of downtown, but are concerned about the lack of stores.

Garbage & Recycling

There were three comments made relative to garbage and recycling more frequently than others. Residents want to see an expanded list of materials accepted for recycling. They want to have clean-ups more frequently than once each year. And several expressed a desire for yard waste composting, apparently unaware that we already provide that service.

Police

Few comments were received about the police department.

Staff

A variety of comments were received about staff members.

Property Maintenance

Only a few comments related to property maintenance, and those dealt mostly with High Street properties.

Streets

Our street maintenance received high marks. Most of the comments received were complaints about snow plowing. Contributing to that was the fact that the survey was conducted during weeks of blizzard conditions.

Christmas Decorations

Ebensburg's Christmas decorations received high marks.

Sidewalks

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

Miscellaneous

Comments were received about a wide range of issues. Most issues did not receive more than one or two comments. The vast majority of miscellaneous comments were very positive.

Comparison of 2010 Survey to Survey of 2006

Quality of Life – Residents' opinion on the quality of life Ebensburg has to offer, although already high, continues to improve. In 2006, 90% of the residents rated the quality of life in Ebensburg as good or excellent. In 2010 that number has risen to 95%. Today, 94% of residents find Ebensburg a great place to raise children.

74% believe that Ebensburg is a good or excellent place to retire, up from 61% in 2006.

Borough Services – 91% of residents rated garbage collection as “excellent” or “good”, up from 84% in 2006. That is a bit surprising since a new contractor was recently hired and has encountered some transitional problems. Nearly all borough services received higher marks in 2010 with the exception of snow plowing. The survey was conducted during the month of February during blizzard conditions and is likely not a fair evaluation of snow operations.

Overall, 87% of residents rated Borough services as “excellent” or “good”, up from 70% in 2006.

Public Safety – As indicated in the survey, a remarkable 99% report feeling at least “somewhat safe” from violent crime. In 2006, 38% felt “very safe” from violent crime. That number in 2010 is up to 61%. The 2006 number may have been affected by the highly publicized Malloy murder that occurred in Cambria County during the survey period.

Activities – The 2006 and 2010 surveys both evaluated how frequently residents participated in 15 activities during the previous 12 months.

Participation at the YPCC increased from 36% to 48%. Participation in outdoor recreation activities increased from 45% to 54%. The number using playgrounds increased from 52% to 61%. Those who have visited the Borough’s website increased from 50% to 70%. A comparison of all 15 activities showed improvement in each area.

Concerning technology, while one section of the survey indicates that 81% of borough residents own a computer, this section reveals that 25% still do not utilize the Internet at all.

Future Direction – In 2006, 87% of residents expressing an opinion believed that Ebensburg was headed in the right direction. Today, that number has increased to 92%.

Support for the ongoing sidewalk projects remains strong at 88%.

Results of Previous Surveys

Residents appreciate the survey and the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions and be heard. It is important that they be taken seriously. There is no point to spending the time to draft and mail the survey, to complete and return it, and then tally the results if attention is not paid to the contents.

Many ideas expressed in the 2006 survey have since been implemented:

- Increased enforcement of stop sign violations.
- Increased parking enforcement.
- Constructed tennis courts.
- Added umbrella at swimming pool.
- Added fitness center at YPCC.
- Built the skate park.
- Added restrooms at the lake.
- Blocked vehicles from Ghost Town Trail.
- Removed old sandboxes from parks.
- Added direct debit of checking accounts for bills.
- Increased property maintenance enforcement.
- Stricter enforcement of high grass.
- Fire-damaged Prave building removed.
- Added second recycling day each month.
- Added newspaper recycling.
- Added additional downtown parking.
- Better marking of crosswalks.

Developed the Falchini lot (Penn Eben Park).
Added free concerts in the park.
Increased full-time police officers.
Improved stormwater drainage in sections of town.
Expanded Wheels & Wings.
Providing electricity to vendors.

This survey, after being reviewed with Borough Council, will be used to assist in establishing priorities for future projects.

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 generally negative in every way imaginable. While frustrating, 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: 2/01/10 to 2/28/10
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED: 1,245
TOTAL HOUSEHOLD RESPONSE: 308
SURVEY RESPONSE RATE: 25%

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?	39%	56%	4%	1%
b. How do you rate the quality of life in your neighborhood?	35%	56%	8%	1%
c. How do you rate Ebensburg as a place to raise children?	48%	46%	5%	0%
d. How do you rate Ebensburg as a place to retire?	31%	43%	21%	5%

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	45%	46%	7%	2%
b. Recycling	37%	45%	14%	3%
c. Leaf Collection	33%	48%	16%	4%
d. Yard Waste Composting	17%	43%	29%	11%
e. Street Paving	16%	53%	26%	6%
f. Litter Control	18%	56%	23%	4%
g. Street Sweeping	24%	57%	17%	3%
h. Snow Removal	20%	45%	23%	12%
i. Street Lighting	27%	55%	13%	5%
j. Animal Control	17%	58%	19%	6%
k. Traffic Enforcement	22%	60%	14%	5%
l. Water Quality	38%	52%	8%	2%
m. Building Permit Enforcement	15%	62%	19%	4%
n. Property Maintenance Enforcement	11%	56%	23%	10%

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>
24%	63%	7%	5%

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)	61%	38%	1%	0%
b. Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	43%	51%	5%	1%
c. Fires	71%	28%	2%	0%

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	58%	38%	4%	1%
b. In the borough's downtown area	54%	41%	5%	0%

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	43%	53%	3%	1%
b. Drugs	10%	51%	33%	6%
c. Traffic, congestion, speed, enforcement	25%	52%	18%	6%
d. Crime	27%	69%	4%	0%
e. Graffiti	57%	41%	1%	0%
f. Run down houses and buildings	24%	66%	8%	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	32%	24%	24%	9%	11%
b. Used the Young Peoples Community Center (YPCC)	52%	18%	14%	7%	9%
c. Participated in an outdoor recreation program	46%	26%	19%	4%	5%
d. Visited the Ebensburg Borough Swimming Pool	67%	18%	9%	4%	2%
e. Visited a neighborhood playground	39%	21%	24%	8%	7%
f. Visited Lake Rowena	21%	37%	32%	8%	2%
g. Walked or biked on the Ghost Town Trail	30%	19%	26%	10%	15%
h. Attended a borough council meeting	76%	16%	5%	2%	1%
i. Served as a volunteer at a borough-sponsored event	67%	17%	11%	1%	3%
j. Used curbside collection of recyclables	23%	8%	12%	20%	23%
k. Used the Internet for anything	25%	8%	7%	5%	54%
l. Visited the borough's Website	30%	28%	27%	8%	7%
m. Requested police, fire or ambulance service	60%	34%	5%	1%	0%
n. Contacted a borough representative with a complaint	63%	32%	4%	1%	0%
o. Traveled outside of Pennsylvania	12%	21%	44%	11%	13%

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)	44%	29%	21%	7%
b. Ebensburg Tennis Center	34%	13%	48%	5%
c. Prave Parking Lot	43%	17%	38%	2%
d. Memorial Field improvements	54%	23%	22%	1%
e. Ghost Town Trail	62%	21%	15%	2%
f. Replaced playground facilities in neighborhoods	51%	25%	23%	1%
g. Improvements to Lake Rowena (paving, restrooms, boat launch)	53%	24%	22%	1%
h. 24-hour access to recreation facilities	44%	15%	41%	1%
i. Lake Rowena hockey rink	26%	11%	58%	4%
j. West Highland Avenue sidewalk project	57%	22%	15%	6%
k. North Marian Street sidewalk project	58%	21%	16%	4%
l. West Ogle Street sidewalk project	54%	22%	17%	7%
m. Downtown streetscape project	66%	22%	7%	5%
n. Penn Eben Park	67%	17%	12%	4%
o. Kimball Park	63%	20%	12%	4%
p. Downtown Christmas decorations	74%	18%	5%	3%
q. Free concerts in Penn Eben Park	66%	16%	15%	2%
r. Borough Website	39%	29%	30%	1%
s. Publishing of borough newsletter	58%	30%	11%	1%

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.	40%	46%	7%	6%	1%
b. Ebensburg should continue to replace sidewalks in other sections of town.	43%	35%	11%	9%	3%
c. I like the new trees being planted along sidewalks.	41%	40%	8%	7%	5%
d. Ebensburg provides excellent recreational opportunities for our youth.	42%	40%	13%	3%	1%

10. Ebensburg Borough is conducting an ongoing advertising and marketing campaign to promote Ebensburg as a great place to live, work and play. Do you have any ideas on how we can better promote Ebensburg?

11. What newspaper(s) does your household read regularly?
 71% Tribune-Democrat 17% Altoona Mirror 56% Mountaineer-Herald 5% Traders Guide 6% Other
12. To which radio station(s) does your household listen regularly?
 22% 96-Key 30% Froggy-95 15% Cool-101.7 19% Rocky-99 11% Hot-92 16% WHPA-93.5 3% 850/1400
13. What television stations are frequently watched in your household?
 82% WJAC-TV (Ch. 6) 44% Fox 8/abc23 51% WTAJ-TV (Ch. 10)

14. How do you rate the following services available in Ebensburg Borough?	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Satisfied</u>	<u>Not Satisfied</u>
Water Supply Quality	79%	19%	3%
Verizon Telephone Service	58%	38%	4%
Cellular Telephone Service	62%	33%	5%
Internet Access	59%	37%	4%
Dominion Natural Gas	53%	40%	7%
Comcast Cable Television	31%	39%	30%
Central Cambria School System	48%	39%	13%
Ebensburg Public Library	77%	22%	1%
Dauntless Fire Company	95%	5%	0%
Ebensburg Area Ambulance Service	87%	13%	1%

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

1. What is the total number of people in your household?
 72 One 132 Two 31 Three 42 Four 19 More than four
2. How many members of your household fall into the following age groups?
 24 Under 5 years 45 Ages 6-12 56 Ages 13-18 80 Ages 19-25 314 Ages 26-65 112 Above 65
3. In which municipality do you work? Retired = 65 Ebensburg = 119 Other = ??
4. Do you own a computer? 81% Yes 19% No Do you have internet access? 81% Yes 19% No

1. Ebensburg Borough is conducting an ongoing advertising and marketing campaign to promote Ebensburg as a great place to live, work and play. Do you have any ideas on how we can better promote Ebensburg?

Stop blocking off streets so people can pass through. People don't want to be bussed into town to partake of events.

Borough employees should live in borough. (7)

You are all doing an excellent job! Look at some of the other boroughs and Ebensburg really excels.

Increase marketing.

Forego a building permit and 1st year taxes with stipulation of 5 year contract or lease.

Continue to improve look of the borough and the quality of the community events. Word of mouth is the best advertisement.

More activities for those age 50+.

More shops and businesses. Fewer trucks.

Target people who are thinking of moving here.

Activities, classes for adults. Need places to go after 8 pm.

Hold line on taxes. More desirable shopping. More restaurants, jobs.

Just promote the amenities and what is already here.

The events really promote a sense of community and are unique in this region for a town this size. That will attract people.

Safety, and neighbors looking out for each other.

Stress family living environment.

Develop and promote cultural arts, not just industry.

Advertise availability of recreation opportunities/leagues in neighboring towns through neighboring schools.

Interview kids at outdoor recreational activities, sports, parks, pool.

Look into taxes. A tax base more in line with towns same size would be a selling point.

You do not have anything for the kids that is free.

Put up more signs at entrance roads.

You really do an excellent job already.

Better events for young adults.

Keep up your program.

Word of mouth.

How can you promote it if you fine people for not removing their snow. You don't want people to stay here.

More frequent community events and yard sales, more events at parks, events for children.

Major highways intersect here. Close to many golf courses, good colleges and universities.

Continue to improve sidewalks, lighting, appearances, etc.

More parking space. More night life activities. Fix rundown homes.

Promote family-owned business and support them. Promote friendly atmosphere and safe environment.

Keep up the good work!

More festivals, especially summertime.

Pennsylvania's Where & When magazine. Pursuits.

Lower taxes. Ease up on ordinances.

Most comfortable summer weather.

Do what you're doing. Seems to be working.

Control spending.

You have all made Ebensburg a place to be proud of again.

Reduce water rates.

Ebensburg has a wonderful feeling of community, great schools and is a fantastic place to raise a family.

By maintaining the parks & playgrounds, maintaining the streetscape, and the services already provided to borough residents.

Bathrooms in parks. More kid/family friendly.

Stop racism.

Publish real crime rate, not hide. Drugs a real problem especially in parks. Closing time not enforced.

TV ads, radio ads, billboard ads.

Should not be a priority. Taxpayer money can be better spent.

Focus attention on those already here and not concentrate on bringing in outsiders.

Get young people involved in clean-up. Cleanup their acts, cleanup their appearance, clean up the neighborhoods.

Clean-up problem with old nuisance abandoned vehicles. More parking and better access to reservoir.

Promote the awesome tennis center, ice rink, Ghost Town Trail, YPCC, pool. Ebensburg is great for families.

Borough is doing a fine job.

I like the billboard on Route #219.
New restaurants and shopping.
Encourage residents to buy local when possible. Makes a huge difference to support local business.
Don't promote. This will keep the drugs/trash out.
Team with the schools and fire, ambulance to leverage strengths. Good for all involved.
Tax-free for new industries for 10 years.
Continue what you are doing. For the most part we are very satisfied.
Don't waste money on this. The town speaks for itself.
Promote business growth downtown.
No other ideas. You seem to cover all bases.
Increase TV coverage of our events.
Needs to be more visible. I have never seen it.
Promote restaurants and stores to college students at SFU.
Are there efforts to promote "Go Green"?

Questions #2 and #8 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.

- 2. Are there any services that you would like to see added or improved within Ebensburg Borough? In what manner?**
- 8. Do you have any other comments about anything else?**

Traffic

Eliminate truck traffic (7)
Speed in residential districts (2)
Too many people are running red lights
Give us a "right turn on red" at High & Center.
Speeding trucks (2)
Enforce illegal turns.
Add stop sign at West & Sample Street
Enforcement of pedestrian crossings. The majority of cars do not stop.
Parking on one side of Julian Street at all times. How would you get a fire engine through there if there are cars on both sides?
Get the trucks out of town. The police should stop this problem or are we waiting for something tragic?
Winter parking ordinance. There is no need to fine someone when there is no snow. Double the fines when it is snowing.
The truck traffic through the center of town is dirty, dangerous and loud. Truckers are mean when they have to wait in traffic.
The truck traffic in town is outrageous; dirty, noisy. They should be diverted to the highways or forced to pay a fine.
East Highland Ave is main traffic route from schools; gets very busy. Control speed.

Animals

Enforcement of animal waste clean up. There are always big piles in the strip between Penn Eben Park and Julian Street.
I have nothing against the Amish but I feel they should have to carry buckets and clean up after their horses.
Control skunks.
Dog park
Need a dog catcher for people who let their dogs go in your yard and never pick it up.

Recreation

Tennis center is great; run in very organized fashion.
It would be wonderful to have a YMCA. The YPCC is great and the camps and basketball are full.
Borough should sponsor a 5K run.
The one thing missing in this town is an indoor walking track. It should be incorporated with an existing project.
"Itty Bitty" programs at YPCC are great, but are disorganized. (2)
Provide link from YPCC to EYL.
Dredge Lake Rowena. (2)
More hockey/basketball leagues with increased interest.
Need skate park. (3)
Need more interaction with kids and free things for them to do.

Dues too high at YPCC.
Better maintenance on Ghost Town Trail for dog waste.
YPCC has old broken equipment, and is cluttered. (2)
Have more community athletic events during the summer such as 5Ks, sprint triathlons, etc.
Ebensburg & Cambria Township should pursue the YMCA/YWCA idea. Not borough's responsibility but would be great.
Recreation Director needs to be more accountable. (2)
It is difficult to get answers from YPCC about open gym, and staff is not helpful.
YPCC disorganized (2)
The YPCC has never operated well and I've stopped going. The programs are disorganized.
Recreation programs are disorganized. Kids signed up, after delays, then dropped.
Large walking park with trees.
The lake should have a boardwalk around it and pavement. This could be the showcase of the town.
All reservoirs, lake and pond should be cleared of garbage.
Expand playground at Memorial Field.
Heat the pool. (7)
Senior activities need to be addressed. Youth activities and recreation are excellent; seniors need the same.
Need more activities for kids and teens, like YPCC dances.
Remove the graffiti in slides at playgrounds.
Bike lanes on the main roads in town.
Paddle boats on Lake Rowena. (6)
I would like to see swimming lessons at the borough pool for children on summer mornings.
Restrooms at or along Ghost Town Trail. (5)
The leagues at YPCC are disorganized. Games changed for some and not others. Double bookings cause short notice changes.
YPCC needs better utilized. Community organized trips could be planned and organized.
YPCC needs to be better managed. Equipment in poor condition.

Utilities

Our water is orange.
Our water has fluoride and chlorine which cause cancer, and has iron that deposits on the faucets and sinks.
The quality of the water needs to be improved. Tends to look cloudy and brown when the hot water is used.
Decrease the cost of water and sewer if homeowner away for an extended period. Unfair charging full price for utilities not used.
Should update water and sewer systems
More basic cable channels.
Water is my highest annual utility bill, higher than heat bill. Single users need a break. We subsidize families and garbage.
There should be a better way to charge for water, sewer & garbage. Minimum users are overcharged.
The internet service provided is not user friendly.
More options for TV service. Comcast has a monopoly on our area.
Comcast service is too slow for computer.

Downtown

Need more stores (9)
Mexican Restaurant (1)
More restaurants (7)
Grocery store (2)
Need specialty shops
Need dollar store (4)
Need movie theatre. (5)
Bring back a small department store.
More businesses.
Renovate the eye sores near Hoover's Garage. Fix properties near West End Market.
All the parking meters prohibit townspeople from shopping downtown, that's why they travel to the malls.
No shops uptown for old people that can't get to store. Other towns have all kinds of stores. You left Dollar General leave.
Better restaurants. Better music store. Cleaner and bigger pet store. A breakfast place.
We need to get the space in the old school filled up. I feel the borough needs to promote this building more.
Need to apply pressure to derelict signing such as Music Mart and Ebensburg Bedding.
Everything looks great. We're proud to be "burgers".

Downtown Ebensburg is beautiful again. I am very proud of our town and love to invite people to see it.
Empty buildings need to be filled.
Drive through and look at any other Pennsylvania downtown, then thank God you live in Ebensburg. Great work!
Parking needed for post office. Dumpsters are an eyesore and should be enclosed.
Benches should face sidewalks. Who wants to look at parked cars?
Downtown looks great. Thank you for all you've done. Keep it up so we can attract more businesses.
Improvements have made the biggest difference. All the improvements are beautiful.
Need to renovate the rear of the buildings in 100 block of North Center Street. Terrible view when stopped at light.
Excellent job on streetscape and Christmas decorations.
Lights too bright. (3)
Need to keep downtown spaces filled and encourage usage of local businesses; possibly by free parking.
The town overall looks beautiful, especially at Christmas.
I am very proud of the downtown; happy to say I'm an Ebensburger.
The renovations are nice downtown, but Ebensburg needs parking. That has always been a problem.
Downtown is coming along nicely.
A coffee shop or grocery store should be brought into town.
Need small shops. Shops could be at street level and offices above.
I think the fairgrounds should be used for an indoor flea market with a \$10 fee to pay for use of each person's place.
We are fortunate to have what we have in Ebensburg! But fix up the side of the old jail warden's office.
We need unique business like Barnes & Noble, Starbucks and forego the permit and 1st year taxes with stipulations.
Downtown is beautiful. Wish there were more stores.
Any changes make for a beautiful appearance. I'm old enough to remember the Penn Eben. I love the park and love the name.
Parking should be improved.

Garbage/Recycling

In other places you can put out what you want for garbage. Why can't Ebensburg?
We should have separate recycling bins for different products.
The first word we had from Hugill was last week when they stapled the recycling schedule to our blue cans.
I would appreciate clear glass, green glass and brown glass recycling.
Recycle more things more often.
Pick up old appliances several times/yr.
Spring clean-up is too early in year. Move back one month so people can get ready.
Anxious to have yard waste program start up again. (2)
Make yard waste composting more accessible. (3)
A place to dump yard waste from pruning is needed very much. (2)
I would like to know more about curbside collection of recyclables.
Collect yard waste curbside.
Assign different days for leaf collection for different parts of town. Make people aware of where composting is.
Clean ups twice each year. (5)
Cleanups 3 times/year.
Thanks for providing a location for yard waste composting and spring clean-up.
The yard waste collected should be turned into compost and then sold to offset the cost, as Altoona does.
Leaf collection is a good service. An announcement when it will be stopped each year would be good.
Leaf vacuum needs to come more often.

Police

I believe there is a dangerous drug problem in town. I would like to see more publicized raids.
Police doing a very good job. Ebensburg police are very professional.
Police force is pathetic. Should spend more time on crime rather than watching people shovel snow.
There is a major drug problem that needs to be addressed. Known dealers are simply being ignored.
Save gas and have some on foot or bicycles in spring/summer. Would be nice to see our police.
We have a major drug problem and it needs to be addressed instead of swept under the carpet.
Need speed control on Julian, High, Center and Marian Streets.
Why don't you buy a better police vehicle? You buy property. Police are more important.
Too many strange looking beings wandering around 3am to 5am.
Please monitor the playgrounds at night. They become teen hangouts.

Better enforcement of parking near intersections and stop signs.
Hire a 5th FT officer.
Stop selective parking enforcement, and do better job enforcing.
Have police protect us instead of stopping all cars and giving out parking tickets. Ebensburg is nothing but a cop money maker.
More police.
Maintain 24-hour police protection.

Staff

Borough manager and Council have brought town a long way in last 10 years.
Better communication from borough manager.
Manager needs to answer the questions of taxpayers, not pay lip service.
You are doing a great job. Keep it up. We appreciate it.
Current manager makes things happen.
Requiring manager and Main ST manager to live in borough would open their eyes to conditions for residents.
Borough manager is on top of things.
I commend the borough staff and Council. I believe they are doing a fantastic job.
Employees should live in town. (7)
Manager negative (3)
Manager positive (6)
Ebensburg Borough has an excellent paid staff.
Manager and Borough Council should be commended for the progress made in recent years.
I think the borough and manager should be more in tune with financial responsibility.
Borough workers are not friendly. They look like you are a bother to them. No friendliness.
You do a great job!
Community Development Director often “not in yet” or “gone for the day”. If fulltime should be here fulltime. (8)
Manager is always ready to help when customer has a problem.
Give maintenance staff some personality.
Maintenance supervisor needs to be more people friendly. (3)
Tax collector should be in office during day to collect taxes. That’s when the public inquires about taxes.
Tax collector should have regular office hours. (3)
Thank you for getting a tax collector who will have regular business hours.
City Manager does not address problems when approached. He says if I help you then I have to do same for others.
Combine city manager and main street manager.
Need to treat public works employees better.

Property Maintenance

There is need for property standards to be met. Most people keep their homes in good repair. One or two dumps create eyesores.
Hedges that block traffic should be cut.
Enforce grass cutting and sidewalk snow removal especially North Center Street.
Keep grass mowed on vacant properties.
Do something with the eyesore white building beside Nulton Building.
Code enforcement is poor, especially across from borough building. Those buildings are a disgrace.
Have someone clean up Seaman property.
More closely monitor run down properties with time limit on renovations; like bldg across street from municipal bldg.
Better enforcement on abandoned vehicles.

Streets

Streets & sidewalks much improved in recent years.
Clean streets year round.
Don’t plow snow into driveways and front walks. (3)
Clear piles of snow from intersections. (6)
Snow plowing needs to be earlier in morning. Too many residents shovel walks before work and come home to plowed-in walks.
Improve snow removal from sidewalks on High Street downtown; occasional openings not enough.
Need better snow plowing in residential areas. (16)
Need more street sweeping. (3)
Plowing is less than adequate. What is purpose of alternate side parking if don’t plow during time frames.

Need more street lighting. Center Street at Highland very dark.
Get cars off street. They park on both sides of the roads. They should park in their own driveways.
No on-street parking during winter emergencies.
Spend more money on snow plowing instead of swimming pool.
Snow removal in Ebensburg used to be excellent. What happened?
Side streets are barely plowed.
Our street plowing is the worst. Every year Council says what a great job the staff does, and they are wrong.
What has happened to plowing the streets? Streets haven't been touched in 3 days. Some are 1-way with 6 inches of snow.
Better plowing for Woolenmill Street
Need better street maintenance.
Snow removal is horrible this year. Plows too fast. Intersections not cleared.
Enforce snow removal on sidewalks. Children walking to school have a hard time.
Complete sidewalks through main arteries. Should not have to cross the road to get to a flatter sidewalk.
Stop people from plowing snow across the road.
We are required to keep our sidewalks shoveled, but the borough does not clear their own.
Slow snow plows down and be more careful. (2)
Don't leave 3 feet at side of street unplowed.
Snow removal has been excellent considering the snow conditions we have had. (5)
The lack of drainage on Cherry Street causes issues with water and winter ice. Curbs needed here also.
Cars should not be allowed to park perpendicular to the sidewalk forcing walkers to climb snow banks or go onto the road.
They need to pay more attention to the alternate side parking, and make sure that they plow each side after cars are moved over.
The Amish not cleaning up after their horses.
Why not have trucks doing both plowing and removing snow at same time?

Christmas

Ebensburg is beautiful at Christmas and I thank all the workers who work to make the town look great.
This town is absolutely beautiful at Christmas.
The 12 Days of Christmas in county park was very nice. I suggest that they be spread out a bit more.
Too much borough labor and electricity being spent in Christmas decorations.
There is nothing better than Ebensburg at Christmastime. Thank you for making the town look so beautiful.
Too many white lights. It looks like an airport runway. Add a little color; it's hard on the eyes and dangerous when driving.
Quit spending money on Christmas decorations. They are nice, but money could be better used.
My daughter visited at Christmas and was amazed at our decorations. Thank you so much!
Terrific job at Christmas. Dickens is wonderful and the decorations are outstanding!
My children loved the 12 Days of Christmas display.
Would like to see more color in Christmas lighting. All white too blinding and don't show up on snowy background.
Only light the wreaths and not the light posts. It would look prettier and save electricity.

Sidewalks

Pay more attention to the quality of work that the contractor does.
Please complete East High to Lake Rowena before North Center Street. Lots of folks go to Lake Rowena. (2)
I don't think the homeowner should have to pay for sidewalk/tree improvements.
Plant maple, hickory or oak; not all sidewalk trees. I've also noticed that some of the trees being cut are perfectly healthy.
There are many people that walk and really appreciate the new sidewalks. Thank you!
Quit building sidewalks; expensive and not used anyway. (2)
Add trash receptacles on all new sidewalk projects.
Another case where Ebensburg continues to improve while other towns get worse. Keep up the good work.
Do not like the new trees. All the same and town looks more like a new housing development than beautiful historic community.
We hate to see how unattractive North Center St becomes when all the gorgeous old trees are gone.
I hate the sidewalk project. You have taken a charming little town and turned it into a miniature railroad look.
Everyone should be treated same and they are not when it comes to the sidewalk projects. Rich shouldn't get special treatment.
We live by Memorial Field and concerned about people walking on the roads. We now have sidewalks on both sides of the road.
The areas that have the new sidewalks and new trees look great. Need to do the rest of the town.
I walk the sidewalks and think they are great. But the salt that PennDOT throws on West Highland Ave is ruining them.
Stop sidewalk projects unless they need to be fixed.
Assist with sidewalk snow removal for a fee. (3)

Continue the sidewalk program. (22)

Shoveling of borough-owned sidewalks needs improved.

Sidewalk needs extended all the way down South Center Street.

Refrain from building sidewalks. Not needed or used. Just makes residents angry. Also a big waste of money.

The borough should have a list of people who would be willing to clear our sidewalks of snow for us who can't shovel.

Borough needs to maintain its own sidewalks in both downtown parks over weekends.

New sidewalks are great!

Planting trees near the new sidewalks seems foolish. Won't the tree roots break up the new sidewalks years down the road?

Misc

Wonderful area to raise children, unbelievable recreation opportunities for such a small community. Something to be proud of.

As residents for 86 years we are proud of our hometown. Thank you for all you do.

Thank you for listening to past suggestions like recycling and yard waste disposal.

I have seen a big improvement in Ebensburg the last ten years – appearance, activities. Thank you!

Drop tourism and make borough more responsive to the residents. Motorcycles and Ghost Town Trail bring undesirables to town.

I appreciate this survey and being heard. Thanks.

Great improvements in the town!

We don't think Ebensburg needs another park that is proposed now for the Babcock property.

I am happy to live in Ebensburg.

You're doing a great job. Keep it up!

We moved back to Ebensburg 40 years ago, and the improvements in last 10 years are just wonderful!

Much appreciation to borough for making our town somewhere to be proud of again.

All is very good. I enjoy living in this town.

Every time we get this survey we say the same concerns, so apparently no one listens to suggestions.

I rented in Ebensburg and recently purchased a home. I'm highly pleased with Ebensburg.

Have a light installed outside the Route #22 exit at Wal-Mart and the name Ebensburg placed near it.

When Ebensburg is in the news, it's always good news. I think we have passed Westmont as the place to be.

Stop building parks; not needed; waste of money.

Thank you for the survey. Continue communications through the surveys and newsletter.

Reduce building permit costs.

This town was dying for a long time, and now seems to have new life.

No one should cut trees down next to road without borough permission.

All things done by borough are great.

We have a pretty nice little town. Extremely lucky to have a great volunteer fire company and police force, and great people.

Keep up the good work, and thanks for your efforts.

Replace the 2" water line on Lincoln Street.

Add Victorian signage to Ebensburg stating it is the county seat.

Please bring back Lee Disposal and reign in Comcast; they stink.

I think that the Council and staff are doing a great job on everything. There always seems to be positive news about Ebensburg.

More local services for senior citizens

Don't take the lowest bidder; in the long run work is unsatisfactory.

Not enough spaces in Prave lot.

You will probably throw this away because it does not follow what the borough manager wants. Council acts like his puppets.

I feel glad everyone is doing a wonderful job of making Ebensburg a wonderful place to live and work. Keep up the good work.

The borough is very well run on every level. Many thanks!

We have made great strides in the borough. Keep it going

We are proud of our town and love living here.

I think building permits for small projects are too costly.

Thank you!

Very proud to live in Ebensburg. We coach, fundraise and donate, and will continue. Thank you Ebensburg Borough for great job.

Building industry is very nice and you've done a good job with that.

You need to establish a cultural center. One weekend in the courthouse in April is not enough to show you celebrate the arts.

Need a volunteer office of some kind. A core group of people who can sign up for volunteer opportunities at their leisure.

Good job Ebensburg!

I love Ebensburg!

Overall I believe Ebensburg Borough is an excellent place to live and learn.

Borough council meetings need to be in borough newsletter so public can attend.
 Plan like you would an average home budget. Shorten these surveys. Most people won't send them back.
 Keep up the good work regarding the budget. Our thanks to all the services that are provided to us and all the special events.
 I proudly show my town to visitors. Delighted with continued improvements.
 Keep up the good work
 Cut costs. Cut costs. Cut costs.
 In general love living here and don't think could live anywhere else. Look forward to Ebensburg being even better place to live.
 Ebensburg is a great town to live in and raise a family. Please convince CCSD to lower taxes.
 Quit cutting down the historic trees that make Ebensburg a nice place.
 Trick or treat night was not advertised; just on the internet.
 A system of checks and balances needs placed on the codes enforcement system. It's too arbitrary.
 Borough meetings are hopefully advertised in local paper? Thanks for this opportunity.
 10 pm Curfew
 Better mass transit for seniors.
 Ordinances should be enforced equally on all.
 Need skunk and cat removal.
 Borough services are good. No complaints.
 Do not allow anymore income-based housing.
 Need redesigned intersection near Sheetz.
 Drop taxes and get the community to chip in.
 Increase hours at library. Should be open Saturday.
 Lately I have been very proud to say I am from Ebensburg. We have a very positive image again.
 A system to warn residents of danger if escaped prisoner, vehicle break-ins, burglary.
 Town looks neat and trim.
 Over the years the borough has benefitted greatly by timber harvest. Plant more oak and chestnut trees for future harvest.
 Slow down with anything that may cause cost increase until economy improves.
 Alcohol & drug rehab. I know lots of people who would like to get help but don't want to drive to Johnstown or Altoona.
 Parking should be improved.
 Better funding for the public library. More promotion of churches and church-related activities.
 We need an arts center that can serve as museum for current artists, a venue for music and dance, theatre and more.
 Include Candlelight Drive with services provided to rest of Ebensburg Borough.
 Improve stormwater drainage.
 No more mobile homes in the borough. It brings down the value of a framed home.
 Need dumping areas for debris, leaves, yard waste, ashes/cinders. People will dump somewhere. Should be controlled.
 Indoor walking area for seniors.
 Historic preservation.
 More things for teenagers. Theatre/movie complex would be nice. Concerts at fairgrounds.

3. Ebensburg Borough Council and staff are constantly seeking ways to cut costs and improve operating efficiency. Do you have any ideas that might help?

Too many vehicles.
 Hire a full-time in-house tech to repair equipment and vehicles.
 Have a drop off and pick up point for compost, and charge a fee.
 Stop the sidewalk projects, and improve the streets we have now.
 I'm not worried about costs, just so long as projects are done correctly.
 Eliminate redundancy of effort when plowing, reduce number of passes with plow.
 The sidewalk projects put people out, cause expense to homeowners and does not take homeowners in consideration.
 Do things right the first time. Too many "do this" and "not this" compared to other areas I've lived.
 Only hire within the borough. Why hire people when they don't even live in town?
 Cut retirement funds & overtime. You people are out of control with spending.
 Maybe lowering sewer rates to compare with other towns in the area.
 Hire high school/college students for projects. Improve organization at YPCC. Sports events get overbooked.
 Have jewelry & gun raffles as fundraisers.
 Take advantage of volunteers whenever possible.
 I can't believe what you guys are able to accomplish with so little. Seems always something new being added or improved.

Hire qualified plow drivers, ones who don't speed up and down the street.
Have the local high school students perform their community service hours for the borough to give back to their town.
Make the recreation director job part-time.
If improvements are not within the budget, do without them rather than raise taxes.
A rate decrease for single people not using a lot of trash, like a per/bag fee.
Full-time staff should be working at office and not at home. (3)
Council is doing a good job. (6)
The lights are beautiful uptown, but maybe just a smaller bulb. (2)
Hopefully during Council or committee meetings tax dollars don't pay for alcohol.
Cut costs... but then say about swimming pool project?
Why are members of maintenance crew out riding in the streets after hours and not plowing snow in borough trucks?
At this time you are doing a great job.
I am a dedicated volunteer and hope dinner and lunch meetings aren't paid for by tax money. Have meetings at borough building.
I think Council and staff do great in keeping property taxes down.
Quit wasting money for recreation and get some real good paying jobs and employment into Ebensburg. Tattoo parlors – really??
Currently doing a good job on fiscal responsibility.
We trust the Council and staff in doing a good job for us.
Less standing around when doing manual work in neighborhood.
Stop taking taxable property out of taxation, i.e. Babcock, Penn Eben. They come at a significant future cost for repair.
Less frequent pay raises.

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

Keep up the good work.
Events are great. Great opportunities to get together in the community and showcase Ebensburg.
I think they are all great. (9)
No changes. I enjoy them as they are. (6)
I like the Spirit Night held every 3-4 years.
Use rain dates. (3)
Love all these events; volunteer at many of them; keep them.
Get more vendors.
Need more parking for events.
Tip top the way they are.
Create a volunteer list. I would love to be called to volunteer but did not know when or where needed.
The events are very nice as done now. (3)
They're all fun and we hope they continue.
All events are very well managed.
All are very good. People work hard on these projects. (3)
The events are too big for a small area. Move some to the fairgrounds.
The events are all too crowded. Spread out.
For a small town, Ebensburg does a great job with these events.
The volunteers do a great job.
Need more to do for young adults. We are in mid-20s and these events are geared for young and old audiences.
Spread some of the events out from center of town, include more areas of town.
No ideas to make them better. We are just thankful that Ebensburg has all of these events. Really enhances the quality of life here.
We love these events. Definitely promotes Ebensburg.
Advertise in local towns. Open a booth at the fair.
Have free give-away contests at each one.
Just continue to have these core events. Consistency counts!
It's too congested. Vendor lines are too long to wait in. Use part of the lake area. Put all cars in one place.
They don't need to be bigger. Already crowded enough.
Another summer event.
Winter carnival.
Expand all events further out, like to the mini-mall and YPCC.

Keeping up the good spirit for these already established events hopefully will increase participation.
I enjoy all of these events except Wheels & Wings, which I have no objection to, I just don't eat wings.
Involve a larger area of town. We do not attend these events any longer because it is too crowded.
More food vendors to eliminate long lines. Additional trash cans across town/residential areas to eliminate litter.
Volunteers do all the work. Give them credit; not the community development director.
How about a Community Day? Churches, volunteer organizations; invest in your community day.
We support all these wonderful events.
Move them to fairgrounds and stop blocking streets to restrict businesses from operating.
Advertise more.
I believe for some events your fairgrounds would be better suited. They have ample parking.
Loved Spirit Night.
More widespread marketing.
The borough does a nice job with all of these.
Have 2 community garage sales.
4th of July Parade.
More access to electric hookups so fewer generators are needed.
Nice events. These do more for advocating the positives of Ebensburg than any waste of TV, radio and advertising spending.
Make them 3+ day events starting earlier in day and ending later.
Provide parking. Residential parking interfered with. Littering abuse of properties.

Potato Fest

Run till p.m. (2)
Make 2 full days (22)
Do not extend to 2 days.
Fewer other foods than potatoes.
Kids' patch is great.
Need closer parking for disabled.
Add a tennis tournament.
You finally routed traffic properly.
Gets bigger and better every year. Need more street space. (2)
Move it to Lake Rowena and 2 days. (3)
Move PF to beginning of September. Weather is always bad. Use local entertainment.
Move it to an earlier date.
Spread it out. Too crowded. (5)
Vendor locations should be more accessible to public. Vendors in the bank lot is a bad idea; they are hidden.

Wheels & Wings

Needs more space. (2)
Wider spaces for show cars.
Wheels & Wings is a nuisance.
Wheels & Wings is very expensive. Paid \$7 for a lemonade.
Have more food vendors, food other than wings and fries.
Should be cancelled. We don't need the noise pollution.
Need more wing vendors.
A poker run as part of Wheels & Wings it would keep the riders in town another day.
Need more law enforcement and patrols during Thunder in the Valley and Wheels and Wings.
Get rid of Wheels & Wings, save money and aggravation. If so great take your kids and W&W to the fairgrounds.
Enforce speed limit during Wheels & Wings to help decrease noise for residents.
I understand that Wheels & Wings probably brings money to the community, but it is noisy and dirty.

Dickens

Move the Friday night concert.
Donation for dance entry.
Have singing groups only at concert.
Too many activities to attend. (3)
Too many craft shows.

This is a very unique event, and thanks for having it!
Have concert only every other year.
Dickens is not original. How about modernizing?
The calendar of events is too confusing.
We love Dickens!
Depends on weather so much, so think of other projects.
Should have had outdoor food vendors.
Too early in December, seldom snow.
What a great idea and a great way to get in the holiday spirit!
Streets were not plowed. (2)
Dickens is a big draw. Charge more. Allow more time between events.
The Dickens dance seems to attract older group. Perhaps more modern music?
Family bonfire and sled riding by Appledale for Dickens Weekend.
It's too cold for an event in December.
Contests for Dickens costumes and home decorations.
Have several Christmas concerts during December.

Homecoming

No comments received.

Farmers Market

Need more vendors.
Promote and ID local growers.
Expand and promote more participation.
Would be better at Lake Rowena.
Market it better for more vendors.
Would be nice to add an antique flea market. Have dealers pay fee for space and sell.
Start earlier and end later in year.
I really like the Farmers' Market idea. It would be nice if more vendors took part.

Art In Bloom

Should be street side. More people would get into it if put under their nose.
Competition for age groups.
Market place for sale of plants and flowers, and free art classes.

Concerts

Longer concerts.
Love the concerts in the park. Rock, alternative, country, oldies and classic rock are ok, but polkas???
I love concerts in the park.
Have more of them.
Enjoyed concerts in the park. Add food vendors.

5. **A major project to rehabilitate the borough's swimming pool is being considered. Improvements to the pool are necessary to bring the facility into compliance with current regulations and to provide modern amenities to increase usage. The \$1 million project would be funded with a \$300,000 grant, \$100,000 in local fundraising, and the balance with debt. What is your opinion of the proposed project? Any suggestions or concerns?**

For all other questions in this survey some of the answers were shortened, and duplicated answers were combined. For this question relative to the pool project, each and every answer is included below regardless of how long or how many times the answer may have been repeated.

I don't have enough information.
Good idea! (7)
Believe pool needs improvement, but not to planned expense.
Complete improvements, bring into compliance, modernize as funds are available; but no higher taxes.
Scale back. Too much debt. Do not undertake more than available funds will pay for.

Go for it! (3)

As a child I spent many days at the pool and it needs repaired.

I think the pool is necessary in a community – an important project.

It needs to be done. (3)

Waste of money.

A one-time levy would be OK.

Excellent idea. I like plans outlined in newsletter. My family is anxiously awaiting the changes so we can enjoy them. Keep it family-friendly.

So long as tax is removed after paid off.

Conduct a marketing program to neighboring towns promoting our pool.

I will use often if heated.

I support project if pool is run as a business, not supported by taxpayers.

We need to complete it for the area children; great asset to the community.

Please do this. It needs improved.

Either raise taxes to pay for it, or raise pool fees, but not both.

The pool is needed for the kids.

The water needs to be heated. My family skipped the pool the last two years and went to Nanty Glo as it has a cover, diving board and slides.

Have more fundraising. Get kids involved; girl scouts, boy scouts, YPCC, etc.

Do whatever it takes. The pool keeps kids busy and active in summer.

I don't think the pool would be used enough.

Sounds great. I think you will have community support if you ask.

Use the CCHS pool.

Yes, but do it correctly.

Best idea in Ebensburg in 50 years.

This project needs to happen, but take out slides. They are a fleeting attraction requiring replacement in future.

Fund with money raising events.

I think it's great. I think more will come to pool when heated and more modern.

Great project.

Needs to be heated. Season is too short.

I think the project is needed and will be great when completed.

Don't cut corners. Do it right.

It's a drawing card for the borough. Fix it.

Absolutely no tax increase. Already increasing school taxes for new school.

Depends on size of tax increase. Obama said 2 billion was a "moderate" increase.

The majority of the debt should be on those who use the pool.

The pool should have been kept in good repair.

Nice family benefit but big price tag.

It's a necessary project. Our kids always loved the pool.

Get township involved. The borough can't fund the area.

About time!

Needs to be renovated to decrease costs. Patrons go to Nanty Glo because their pool is nicer. We need to compete.

Old pool should be totally eliminated and start from scratch.

My children used and worked at the pool for years. I would hate to see it not refurbished. It would probably bring more people to the area if fixed up like Windber.

Too much debt for limited time a pool can be used in this area.

Increase pool rates to pay for renovations

I think it's a good idea if every household would voluntarily donate to this cause.

No need to make it as lavish as seen in the sketches. Make it clean, crisp & cool.

We have too short of a season for swimming to have such a debt.

Much needed improvements to pool. Our children enjoyed it for years and it is important for a new generation to enjoy.

Look at moving the pool into Memorial Field area.

The pool is well used, an asset and should be pursued.

I think it's a great idea. It would bring more families into Ebensburg.

No one uses the pool. Waste of money. Skate park instead.

I think it is a wonderful idea. It gives young kids somewhere to go during summer.

We need a swimming pool. Cost seems like too much. I would think you could build a new pool for a lot less. People build olympic pools for a lot less and the hole is already dug here.

Do what needs to be done for increased use and safety.

With the number of families that use the pool, is it worth putting all the money into it?

This project is not necessary. Raise the money from those who use the facility.

To make it last for years to come is a real plus.

I support the project, and would support tax, but should also seek donations.

I feel the pool does need revamped, and if the borough can do it, they should.

The upkeep of the pool is a must. Can't tell you the joy I had raising my family and going to pool most days in summer.

This is too much debt. Scale project back.

No concerns. Put some money into it.

It is necessary.

This needs to be scaled back. It should not cost this much for amount of usage.

We need a new swimming pool.

The children need this activity.

I'm in favor.

Might be better to build a new one closer to town.

Project is too big. Fix or replace it, but pool customers will make their own fun. It needs to be heated and hours expanded.

I think at the present time fiscal responsibility is more important than the swimming pool.

It could definitely use improvements.

I think it is a waste of taxpayers' money. It only serves a minority of residents. Use money elsewhere. How many days a year is it used versus the cost. Poor usage. You bought a hockey rink. How often is it used?

We support it, if handled the same way as YPCC and tennis center.

I agree that the pool needs to be fixed. We need a place for our kids to swim.

Favorable.

We have not used the pool in several years, however the proposal sounds like a good idea.

It appears to be necessary, but no more taxes please.

We have not used the pool in 6 years and do not feel this is necessary to force on everyone. Do not support a tax increase for something I have no use for. This pool design is overboard.

Keep it to a minimum so our taxes are not increased.

What about a splash park for little ones?

Support this effort. The pool is an integral part of Ebensburg's recreation offerings.

Possibly avoid some frills and keep the cost down. I support increase if small.

It needs the improvements.

Taxes are increased high enough already for school improvements, salaries, pensions and benefits. Should be recalculated for teachers and city employees.

Unrealistic. Taxes are too high.

I do not feel that this would be a wise choice this year due to the economy. I would use the \$400,000 to make improvements that are necessary but not drive us into debt. Taxes are already being raised and many are laid off due to the sell of Laurel Crest. I enjoy having the pool but you have to consider the amount it is used. DO NOT get rid of it but maybe wait a year to raise more money or when things are stable.

It should be done.

Borough pool does need updated.

This is a great addition to all of our fantastic recreational events/programs. Fundraisers, dances and community yard sales could go towards the project.

I support a tax increase for the pool project. Please continue with these plans. This is for our children. I strongly support this plan. This will continue to serve generations!

It needs it! Wish it was closer to town. Maybe create a trail so children can walk to pool.

We need to maintain our pool and all recreation facilities.

Is the revenue really worth it?

Time for upgrade!

Only if it is heated.

Go ahead as planned.

Can the money be better spent elsewhere now? The pool is only open May-Sept.

I am in favor of the pool project. Our family has used the pool for years and would support updates.

Heated.

Love it!

More fundraising needs to be done. Local sponsors; put business names as advertisement to make money. I support tax, but \$600,000 is a lot for taxpayers to fund. The pool needs these improvements.

I would support expanding it. Many times things are built that could have been better. Include everything you want in project. Do it!

I really think the community would support a YMCA instead. No basketball court. Just an indoor pool & gym. Lease the land. The borough pool was fine with the baby boom years but there are less kids nowadays. A YMCA would attract all generations. Cumberland MD has a great one.

I support. Family use by Central Cambria students could reduce cost for Ebensburg residents.

Do whatever it takes. I absolutely support the tax.

Take it easy on the food prices. Hot dogs and snacks are inexpensive.

Good idea as long as taxes are not increased.

Some items could be cut that are not a necessity; the fluff. Stick with basics. Is the furniture necessary? Umbrellas? I support a small tax increase if it is a no frills project.

There is not enough usage of the pool to justify this kind of spending. The residents are taxed enough. Borough forces homeowners to pay for sidewalks; the residents need a break.

If I got something in the mail, I would donate at least \$10. Taxes are raised for everything else, so we have no choice.

Sounds good!

Try to raise money through the annual events in town such as chances. Not a permanent tax increase. Renters never pay with tax increase.

I think any improvement is positive for especially our young people in the area. Right now I'm a single mother, so I'm not sure if a tax hike would be affordable for many in my circumstances.

I support a tax for it, but don't go into debt for recreational purposes.

We certainly need to renovate the swimming pool. I think people like me will donate to it.

Necessary improvements should be completed to maintain compliance only. I wonder if usage will increase. Has a study been done that implies increased usage with improvements?

No interest in pool.

I can hardly keep up with the taxes we have.

It is definitely needed and we support it.

It is needed and you would get more people there to pay off the debt.

I support the project, but no tax. Raise rates instead.

Great!

Joke. Not enough people use it.

It must be maintained and operated by those who would want families and children to feel welcome and want to swim there. I support the tax if the pool is well-maintained for the children.

Since the pool provides a super place for the young and young at heart in summer, I would be in favor of the project, but would not want to impose financial strains on the elderly.

I think it is important to keep this wonderful facility up to date. Growing up in Ebensburg my family walked to the pool almost every day during summers. My children used it often.

Do it now!

Too expensive unless the pool can be heated.

There is much more important things to spend money on. Swimming pool only used 3 months a year. Crazy idea.

Agree if no tax increase and no family fee increase. It is already expensive for middle income families.

This is something that needs to be done.

Use the money you have the best way. Let the pool pay the rest in time, without a tax increase.

Improve the swimming pool. Pool is needed primarily for youth.

Think repairs have to be done. Pool needs heated. But don't think we should go in debt.

I support this.

I think this is a great project. Borough pool definitely needs updating.

If you make it attractive and reach a distance a lot of out of the area people will support the facility.

I think it would be a worthy project, but only if the pool is heated.

Sounds great.

It is much needed. Even a small increase is too much for us seniors, but the young people deserve it.

Why waste money on something only used 3 months a year? No tax increase. Taxes are already too high.

Overdue.

I think it's a great idea. My only problem with the pool is that I don't think the lifeguards are supervised well enough. These are young kids watching the safety of our family and they need better training and supervised.

The town needs to keep its pool. If we can get by with a "Chevy" instead of a "Cadillac" then so be it.

Only the smallest of tax increase. The school is probably having a big increase for middle school. Taxes too high will hurt development and home sales.

This project is very important and should be done. We support a tax increase for it because there is a great need for the children and adults of Ebensburg to have this facility.

Support the project. We must invest in our young families.

I feel that the improvements to the pool are necessary and should be implemented.

I do not use the pool, however I feel the pool is a great resource for the younger people in the community. I absolutely would support a special tax.

Kids need a pool. No tax increase; cut out waste.

I think the proposal is great, but the pool needs to stay open until 8 or 9 pm when the water gets warm and people who pay for the passes and taxes get home from work and can enjoy the pool.

It is a large project with a very hefty price tag. I am not convinced it is worthwhile given the limited number of people/residents who use the pool.

I think this is a great idea.

Pay for it the way taxpayers do. Budget, sacrifice and borrow or don't get it.

Long overdue.

Not familiar with pool. My concern would be if enough residents use it and is it worth updating?

Not sure if support tax for pool. You have many that are on limited funds.

The amenity is not something our family uses. However it's an asset to the community. Maybe a less expensive plan without debt would be better. It's unfair regardless of how small the tax is to ask citizens to take on more debt. Families are dramatically restructuring their personal budgets to keep their homes.

Wonderful for young and old. I believe the community would back this and could easily raise money.

If the pool is not being utilized to its maximum, reduce its size while making improvements. Our population has declined and the recent census will give the present direction for future needs.

Trash the whole idea and see outside the box. Install Olympic size indoor pool for year-round. All money for three months – an economic waste. No profits. With indoor pool, regulate hours for different ages. No tax increase if for an outdoor pool.

I support a tax for just minimal improvements to bring into compliance.

I support the tax, but project should be downsized.

Depends on usage. We do not use the facility however it's a nice amenity for the borough. I support the tax only if it was supported by those that use it as well, meaning a fee to use it.

I wouldn't anticipate using it myself, but it may make the community more appealing to families. So provided it would be done with fiscal responsibility I support it, including the tax, up to \$100/year would be OK.

Worth doing. Don't start until local fundraising has reached its goal. This will give you a good idea of local support. I support a small tax increase IF there is a definite termination to increase and rescinded upon reaching goal.

Do not tax people who do not use pool.

Need pool. Avoid taxation. Promote 50/50s, yard sale and donations by borough residents.

It is nice to have a pool, but concerned about the cost.

Why was the pool put so far out of Ebensburg? I would go to pool but too far away.

A much needed project.

Money well spent.

I can support special tax if only a small amount.

A splash park section will increase numbers. I've been to pools with splash parks and they are a great attraction. If done properly, will not cause need to increase taxes.

Pool should be self-sustaining on user fees. Privatize the pool. No more help from borough taxes.

I think it's a great idea and one that should have been thought of many, many years earlier.

Pool not cost-effective.

If you support the pool project, and the debt service required a small tax increase, would you still support it?

I support the project and the tax	141	64%
I support the project, but not the tax	52	22%
I do not support the project at all	30	13%
I do not have enough information to decide	4	2%

6. Ebensburg Downtown Partners has renovated the former Lee Hardware building for occupancy by the State Education Retirement System; renovated the former Schettig's Hardware for occupancy by the Boy Scouts; is completing renovations to the former Karen Jewelers; and is currently renovating the Italian Village building. What is your opinion of the downtown improvement projects?

They look nice. (19)

Beautiful. (7)

Great! (38)

First class!

Awesome. (2)

Looks good. (32)

They make the uptown much nicer. (2)

Great to see renovations to Main Street.

I know it is difficult to keep businesses in town. I am glad to see new ones with the renovations.

Excellent job. (20)

I like it very much. (3)

They modernized the town without detracting from our "small town" atmosphere.

It looks much nicer downtown.

The improvements are a great plus to our town considering some towns have trouble with their older structures.

Anything to improve the beautification and make older buildings desirable to business is great.

All look great. Downtown is beautiful again!

Excellent! It has added a lot to the borough.

I don't care. Not bringing real establishments for shopping, etc.

Beautiful! I enjoy walks to view improvements and shopping (Pages & Light, Embroidery, Art Unlimited, Emporium)

Excellent. I wish we could get rid of the utility poles.

Big improvement. Terrific job.

Fix was in with Lee Hardware. I'd like to have opportunity to buy the building with the grant money nobody had access to.

Very helpful. Makes the whole downtown feel upgraded.

Good thing we have Mr. Kimball.

Very attractive facades. Need tenants.

Very nice work. The businesses need to provide parking for their employees.

Looks great. But who is going to fill these spaces? Shame to see them vacant.

We need more businesses, not parks and renovated buildings.

Would have been better to bury overhead electric lines.

Downtown improvements are wonderful. Need to include Music Mart & Gearharts.

Thanks to LR Kimball for all he has done.

Best downtown in Cambria County!

Building improvement projects are always good if possible.

All projects have made an improvement, but there is reason to go uptown for anything; no stores.

They make our town more inviting.

Practical and very attractive.

Kimballville

Thank God for LR Kimball

Everyone is really impressed with the improvement in our downtown.

Very happy to see these projects enhance the beauty of Downtown Ebensburg.

I don't see a lot more traffic from these places. What the downtown needs is stores to bring people into town.

Possibility of turning some businesses into business incubators to bring more to Ebensburg.

No businesses there.

Please continue the renovations.

Great improvements to downtown. The newly renovated buildings are very eye catching.

Very nice of Mr. Kimball.

They look nice on the outside, but will they provide useful services to a large portion of Ebensburg's residents?

They are all very nice, but too much retail vacancy. Need shops where seniors can shop within walking distance of homes.

Good work. Town appears much nicer.

Downtown businesses look great. I would like to keep the historic look of downtown.

They are adding to Ebensburg's appeal but there needs to be more businesses in town to attract more people.
 Very good improvements rather than tearing them down and or leaving vacant.
 Very nice but not enough stores for shopping.
 Great! Ebensburg is ahead of the game as far as keeping storefronts full.
 These buildings all look very nice but there is no reason to go downtown. There are no stores downtown.
 Nice, but who benefits? The borough or the building owners?
 Beautiful. Would like an open house during a summer event.
 Improvement projects are great but not if the resulting rent is prohibitive. It would be nice to see some nice retail specialties.
 The project benefits LRK only.
 It makes out town more appealing to people passing through town and appearances mean a lot.
 I think they are great, but I liked Lee Hardware and upset to see it go.
 Except for Italian Village Pizza, more offices are not needed.
 Keep up the good work.
 Impressive, especially considering the economy. The old school, US Bank building and Pearl buildings need occupied.
 It's nice to have them done without a tax increase.
 I think it's wonderful and further adds to Ebensburg's downtown aesthetic appeal.
 Kimballs did well with it.
 Pretty buildings are nice, but one day we'll be faced with a name change to "Kimballville".
 Quit wasting money. Instead send the snow plows out earlier.
 We are very proud of Ebensburg and all the renovations that have been done – very beautiful.
 Nice that they can afford to do so.
 They need to continue with hopes of attracting business to downtown area.
 Good, but please occupy these places with more stores/restaurants instead of private businesses.
 Look good, but interfering with other neighbors. Soon you will be changing the name Ebensburg to Kimballtown!
 Nice but still dead. Need more business.
 Will borough take on debt to benefit all small businesses? It seems wrong to take on debt for individual's business ventures.
 Beautiful enhancements to the town. Keep going. Our downtown looks great.
 Very well received. There are many others downtown that are overdue. Need to expedite.
 Very nice. I live downtown and walk by many of these buildings every day. They look great.
 Need businesses other than offices.
 It's too late. Have you noticed how many houses and businesses are for sale?
 It has done a lot to improve the looks of Ebensburg. It has always been a nice town and we need to keep it that way.
 Should try to preserve some of the old buildings for their charm.
 All good projects. Town looks better than it ever has!
 You should have kept the previous businesses in those buildings. I think it's a waste of money and space.

7. Ebensburg Borough, Cambria Township and Jackson Township have formed the Central Cambria Coalition for the purpose of joint planning, sharing services and joint purchasing. Do you support this form of intergovernmental cooperation? Do you have any ideas that the three municipalities should be working together on?

I support this. (88)
 Makes sense with Cambria Twp. Jackson is too far away. (2)
 I support this. Should work together on events and make bigger. (2)
 Work together on fire and police protection.
 I think this is a good way to save costs. (11)
 We should all work better together. (16)
 Maybe the coalition could work on the pool project.
 Excellent. Should share more services if possible. (2)
 Makes a lot of good sense to me.
 No sharing of the police force.
 Regionalize the police force. (9)
 Should have been doing this years ago.
 Do not support this. Purchase your own equipment, then won't pay to fix someone's junk.
 With shrinking populations, all local governments must work together
 Look at joint recreation.
 Work on development, and consolidation if possible.

Work together on pool.

Cut costs by sharing staff and equipment.

Proceed slowly. (2)

There should be more sharing of equipment and services.

Nice to see the two areas join.

Consolidation is the way to go as communities get smaller. People need to be more regional and less territorial.

Improve the airport.

Concentrate on drugs.

The joint purchasing should be the only thing this coalition should be involved with.

I think merging some of our operations with Cambria Twp is a good idea; purchasing joint equipment that both can share.

Most projects and geography overlaps. Our planning should too.

I would like to see Cambria Twp and Ebensburg become one, but will probably not happen in my lifetime.

No. We should not stick our noses into other municipalities.

Work together on road work, police coverage and water.

For police, cooperation should be in the training and intelligence phases.

I love sharing services and hope this translates into lower costs. Consider police and fire sharing.

Good ideas have sprung forth from coalition. Joint garbage/recycling and joint police.

