

WESTMORELAND

2003 MASTERPLAN

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A The SURVEY PROCESS

As part of the process of generating a new master plan, we conducted a town survey. The purpose was to determine public concerns and perceptions of the present town and what direction the people would like to see the town take in the future. From the results we put together a list of charts and recommendations for town growth.

The mechanics of initiating the survey was to modify a survey used in the previous master planning process. We reviewed town surveys from similar sized communities in the area using a library of surveys from SWRPC. We had 850 forms printed. About 150 went to out of town property owners and 650 were distributed to all post office boxes and town mail boxes. This then included all town property owners and renters. The forms were mailed out late February and were expected to be returned March 22. The last actually came in May 1 but indeed the majority was returned within one month. An example of the survey form is attached.

APPENDIX B SAMPLE SURVEY

TOWN OF WESTMORELAND

PLANNING BOARD

399-4471

westmoreland@prexar.com

The Planning Board is in the process of updating the 1986 Westmoreland Master Plan. Much has changed since the original plan was adopted, and the update is needed to comply with state law. Your input is important to us in determining what direction residents and property owners would like to see the town develop. All property owners and residents 18 years of age and older are invited to participate.

If there is more than one adult in your household, each may fill out the questionnaire using some identifying mark. Numbering each person is one suggested way of doing it.

Thank you for your help in moving Westmoreland into the future.

Master Plan Questionnaire

- 1. Do you own property in Westmoreland? Yes___ No___
- 2. Do you reside in Westmoreland? Yes___ No___
- 3. How many people 18 years of age or older live in your household? _____
- 4. How many children at home? 0-4yrs___ 5-9 yrs___ 10-14 yrs___ 15-17yrs___
- 5. Where are you employed? Keene___ Home___ Westmoreland___
Brattleboro___ Retired___ Other (list)_____
- 6. Please rate the services provided by the town:

			NEED		
EXCELLENT	GOOD	ADEQUATE	IMPROVEMENT	POOR	

SCHOOLS _____

FIRE/RESCUE _____

POLICE/SAFETY _____

TOWN GOVERNMENT _____

RECREATION _____

ROADS _____

WASTE DISPOSAL _____

LIBRARY _____

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

7. Conservation and Preservation

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = most important) rate the importance of each of the following conservation and preservation objectives.

Forested areas	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Existing farm land	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Historic buildings	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Historic areas	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Farms	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Wildlife habitat	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Wetlands (ponds & streams)	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
River shore lands	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Aquifers	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Hilltops & hill sides	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion

8. Would you be willing to see the town budget increased for any of the following: (ie. possibly resulting in increased taxes)?

FIRE/RESCUE YES___ NO___ POLICE/SAFETY YES___
 NO___

RECREATION YES___ NO___ ROADS
 YES___ NO___

SCHOOLS YES___ NO___ WASTE DISPOSAL YES___
 NO___

LAND CONSERVATION YES___ NO___ LIBRARY YES___
 NO___

HISTORIC AREA PRESERVATION YES___ NO___

9. Compared with current levels, should Westmoreland encourage growth in the following categories?

	Increased Activity	Remain Same	Decreased Activity	No Opinion
Industrial development	_____	_____	_____	_____
Commercial/retail development	_____	_____	_____	_____
Office development	_____	_____	_____	_____
Single family homes	_____	_____	_____	_____
Multi-family homes	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mobile homes	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cluster housing*	_____	_____	_____	_____

*(cluster housing with accompanying protected open space)

10. In your opinion, do you view the future of Westmoreland as?

Rural/Agricultural _____

Rural/Residential (multi-acre lots) _____

Suburban (one acre or less) _____

Mixed rural/commercial/industrial _____

Mixed suburban/commercial/industrial _____

11. How do you find out what is happening with local/town government issues? Check all that apply.

___ posted notices ___ word of mouth

___ radio ___ school notices

___ Keene newspaper ___ Westmorelander
___ other, please specify _____

12. What other ways would you like to see town information available?

Town Web site Yes___ No___

Quarterly Selectman's letter Yes___ No___

Other suggestions _____

Your thoughts or comments will be appreciated. Please use the back or an additional sheet of paper, if necessary. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

Please drop off or mail (P. O. Box 55) your questionnaire to the town hall no later than April 15th

Preliminary Version – February 12 , 2002 Same as 1/24 plus numbering of questions.

With regard to results, we received a total of 241 forms which included 277 responses. 202 forms were from residents. With 576 households (per 2000 census) this means a 35 % response rate for households. About 150 forms were sent to out of town property owners. 38 of these forms were returned for a 25% return rate. Both of these return rates were very good. The returns were then tabulated onto a survey worksheet and charted using Excel. A copy of the worksheet with total numbers and the charts is attached.

APPENDIX C

SURVEY RESPONSE DATA

1. YES - 245
NO - 6

2. YES - 202
NO - 37

3. ONE - 37
THREE - 21
FIVE - 1
TWO - 129
FOUR - 3
SIX - 0
MORE - 0

4. 0-4 - 33
15-17 - 26
5-9 - 30
10-14 - 33

5. KEENE - 82
WEMD-24
RETIREED - 80
HOME - 22
BRATTLEBORO - 17
OTHER - 50

6. SCHOOLS
EXCELLENT - 72
GOOD- 90
ADEQUATE - 30
NEEDS IMPV - 7
POOR - 0

FIRE/RESCUE
EXCELLENT - 77
GOOD - 90
ADEQUATE - 41
NEEDS IMPV - 6
POOR - 0

POLICE/SAFETY-
EXCELLENT - 30
GOOD- 50
ADEQUATE - 66
NEED IMPV- 42
POOR - 21

TOWN GOV
EXCELLENT- 29
GOOD- 103
ADEQUATE- 60
NEED IMPV- 25
POOR - 3

RECREATION
EXCELLENT- 15
GOOD- 70
ADEQUATE- 57
NEED IMPV- 38

POOR- 14

ROADS

EXCELLENT- 41
GOOD- 112
ADEQUATE- 49
NEED IMPV- 70
POOR- 7

WASTE DISPOSAL

EXCELLENT- 35
GOOD- 92
ADEQUATE- 64
NEED IMPV- 19
POOR- 2

LIBRARY

EXCELLENT- 70
GOOD- 103
ADEQUATE- 30
NEEDS IMPV- 3
POOR- 0

7.0

FORESTED AREAS

1 - 119
2 - 58
3 - 24
4 - 7
5 - 8
NO OPINION - 7

EXSISTING FARM LAND

1- 139
2 - 48
3 - 18
4 - 10
5 - 5
NO OPINION - 16

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

1 - 105
2 - 59
3 - 33
4 - 17
5 - 8
NO OPINION - 4

HISTORIC AREAS

1 - 85
2 - 59
3 - 40
4 - 19
5 - 9

NO OPINION - 6

FARMS

1 - 130

2 - 49

3 - 18

4 - 8

5 - 4

NO OPINION - 6

WILD LIFE HABITAT

1 - 139

2 - 55

3 - 15

4 - 6

5 - 8

NO OPINION - 6

WETLANDS

1 - 133

2 - 40

3 - 22

4 - 7

5 - 11

NO OPINION - 10

RIVER

1 - 129

2 - 50

3 - 57

4 - 3

5 - 14

NO OPINION - 4

AQUIFERS

1 - 146

2 - 33

3 - 3

4 - 10

5 - 9

NO OPINION - 12

HILL S

1 - 101

2 - 60

3 - 37

4 - 8

5 - 11

NO OPINION - 11

8. FIRE/RES YES - 111

NO - 108

RECREATION – YES- 59

NO - 154

SCHOOLS	YES - 107 NO - 109
LAND CONSV	YES - 149 NO - 73
HIST AREA	YES - 82 NO - 126
POLICE	YES - 102 NO - 117
ROADS	YES - 110 NO - 108
WASTE DIS	YES - 75 NO - 128
LIBRARY	YES - 61 NO - 156
9. IND REV	INCREASE - 77 REMAIN - 100 DECREASE - 46 NO OPINION - 11
COMM/RET	INCREASE - 79 REMAIN - 111 DECREASE - 40 NO OPINION - 13
OFFICE	INCREASE - 68 REMAIN - 113 DECREASE - 32 NO OPINION - 25
SINGLE FAM	INCREASE - 63 REMAIN - 131 DECREASE - 35 NO OPINION - 11
MULTI- FAM	INCREASE - 16 REMAIN - 80 DECREASE - 116 NO OPINION - 14
MOBILE HMS	INCREASE - 3 REMAIN - 48 DECREASE - 151 NO OPINION - 19
CLUSTER HS	INCREASE - 48 REMAIN - 41

DECREASE -117
NO OPINION - 25

10. RURAL/AG - 83
RURAL /RES - 131
SUBURBAN - 7
MIXED RURAL/COM/IND - 54
MIXED SUB/COM/IND - 8

11. POSTED NOTICES -82
RADIO - 47
KEENE PA153PER -
WORD - 177
SCHOOL NOTICES - 31
WESTMORELANDER -187
OTHER - 30

12 TOWN WEB YES - 120
NO - 39

SELECT LTR YES - 158
NO - 32

OTHER -

This reporting form covers surveys # - _____ to # _____

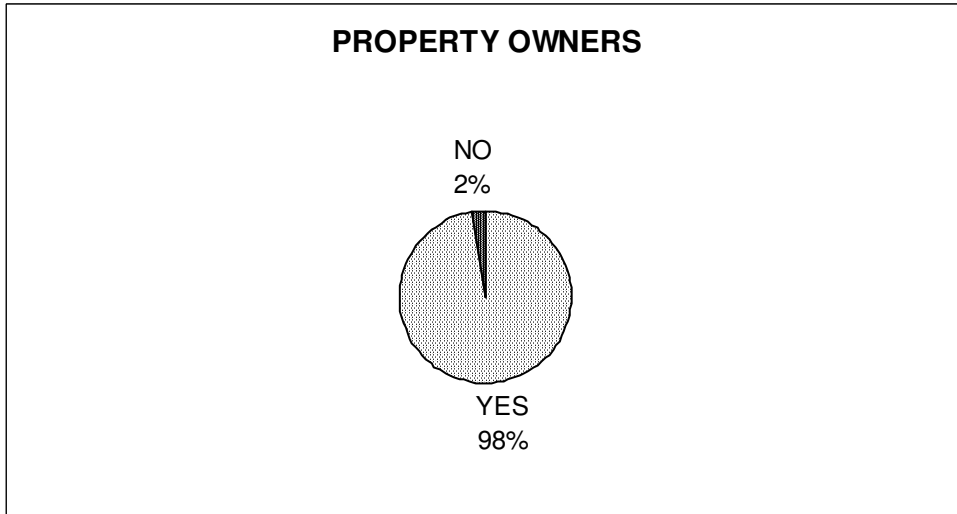
These surveys included #__277_____ participants

Note: Get this total by adding the numbers at the upper right corner of the returned surveys.

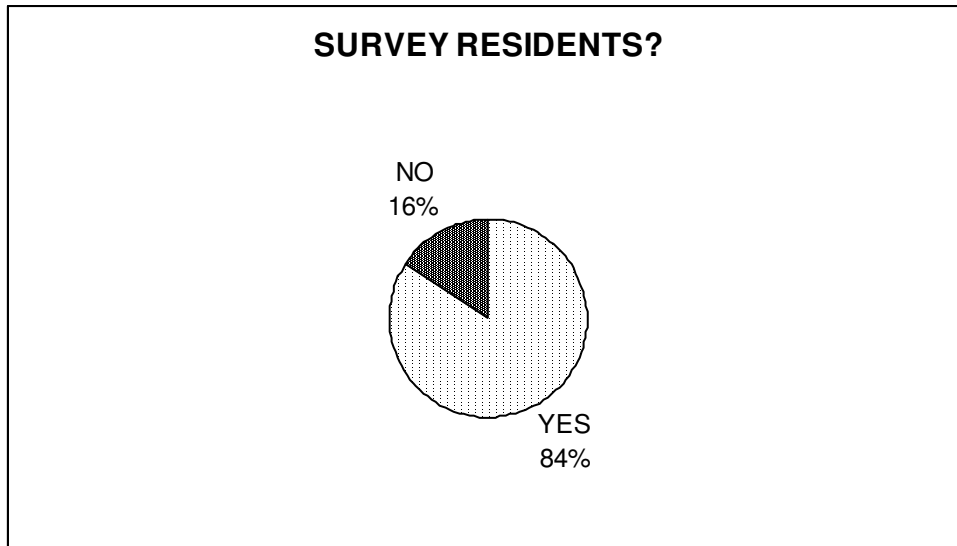
DONE BY _____

APPENDIX D CHARTED SURVEY RESULTS

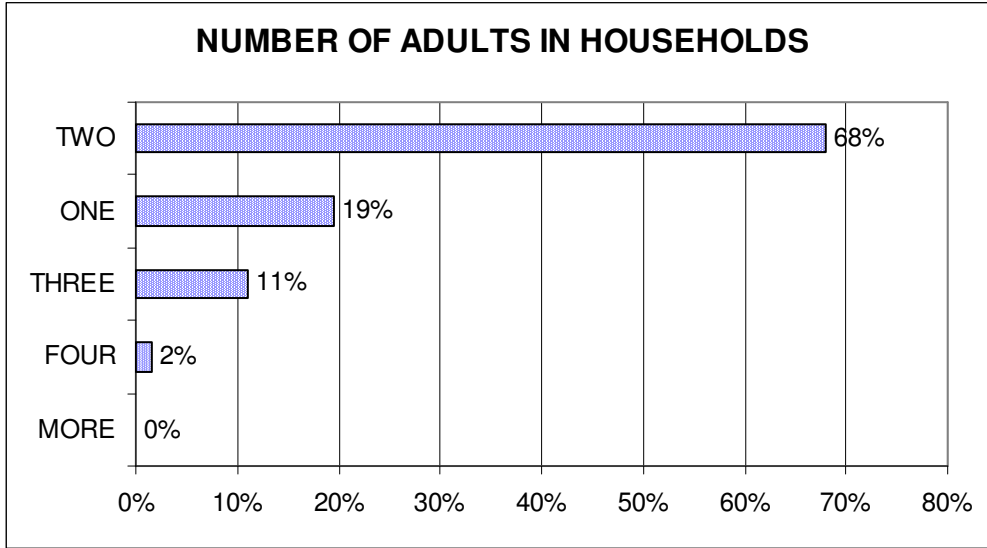
1.0 Do you own property in Westmoreland?



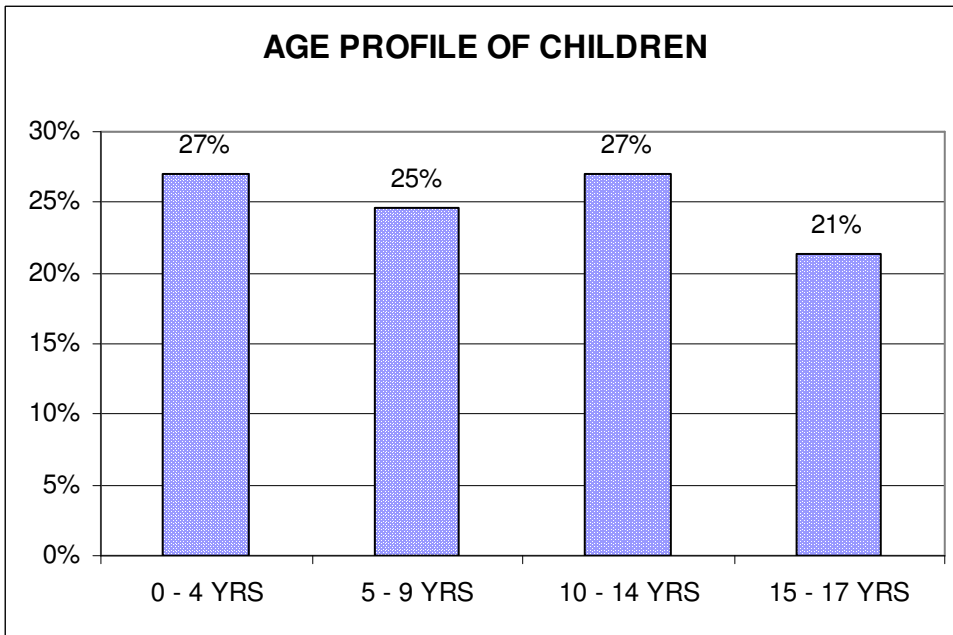
2.0 Do you reside in Westmoreland?



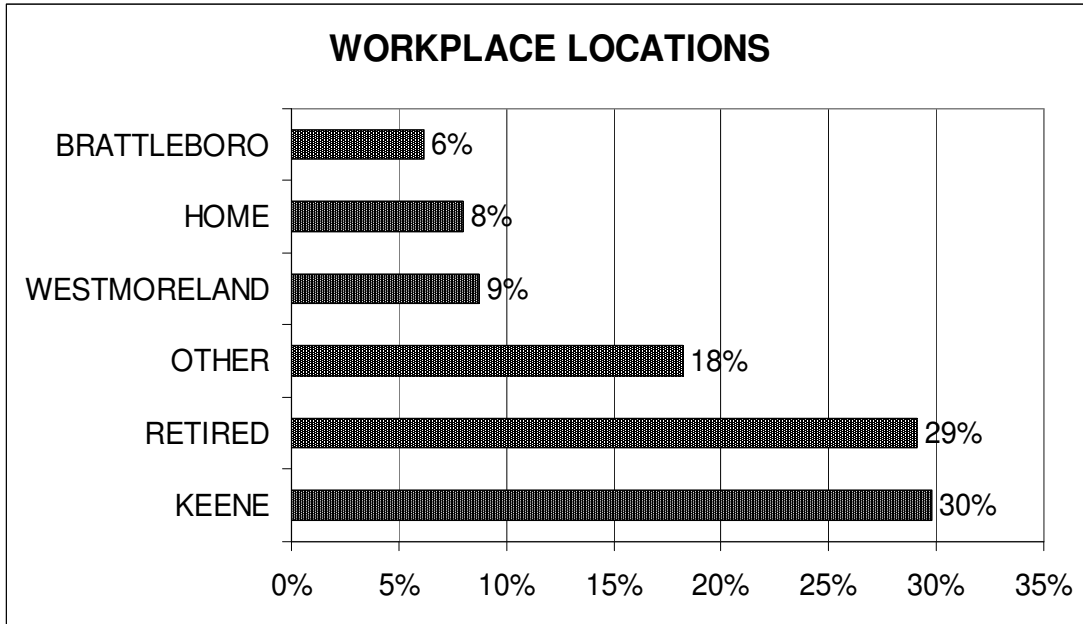
3.0 How many people 18 years of age or older live in your household?



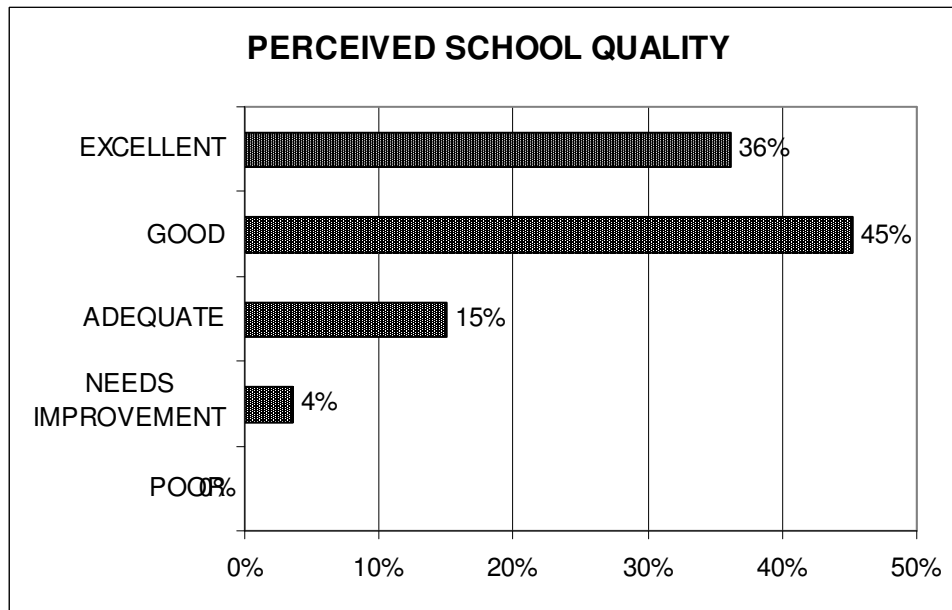
4.0 How many children at home?

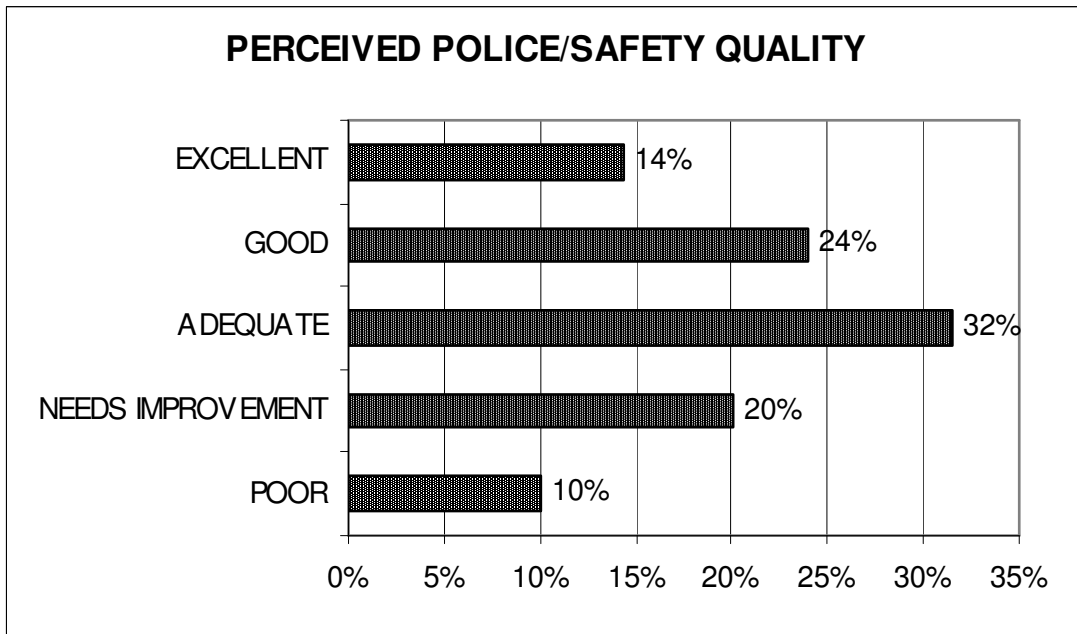
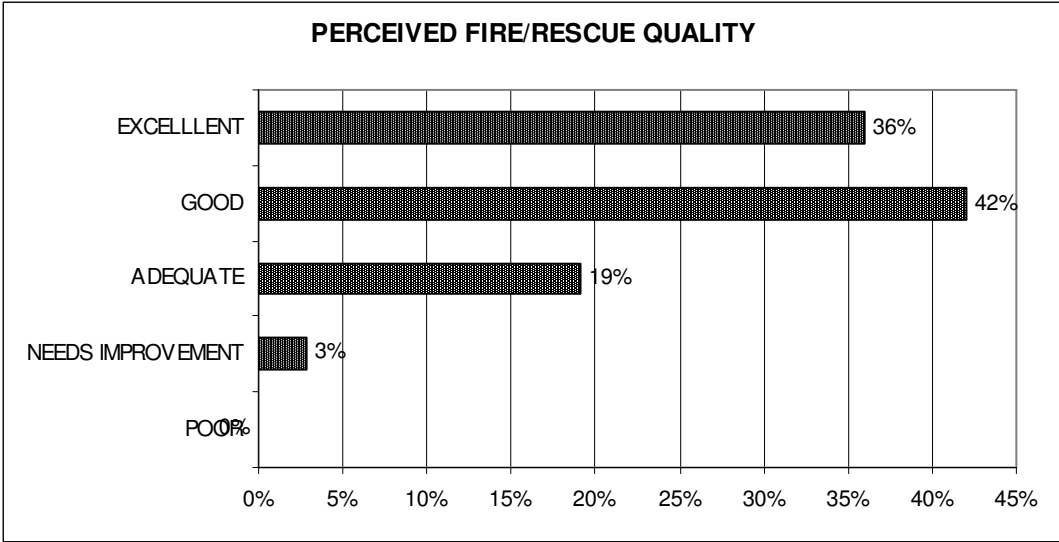


5.0 Where are you employed?

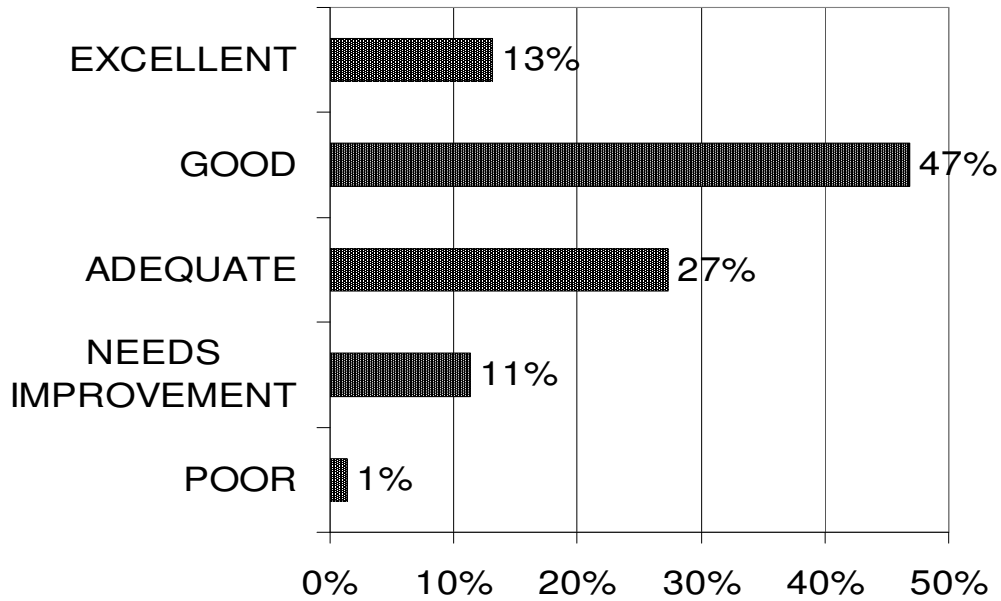


Question 6.0 Please rate the services provided by the town:

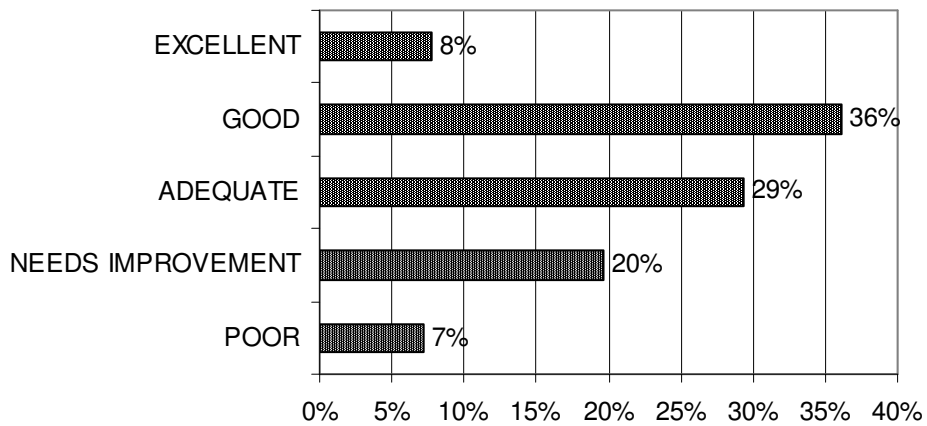


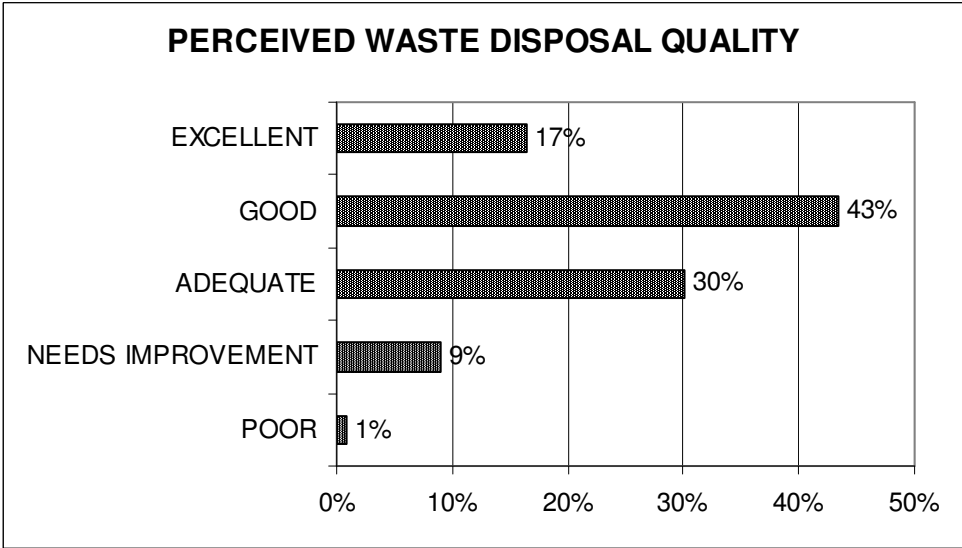
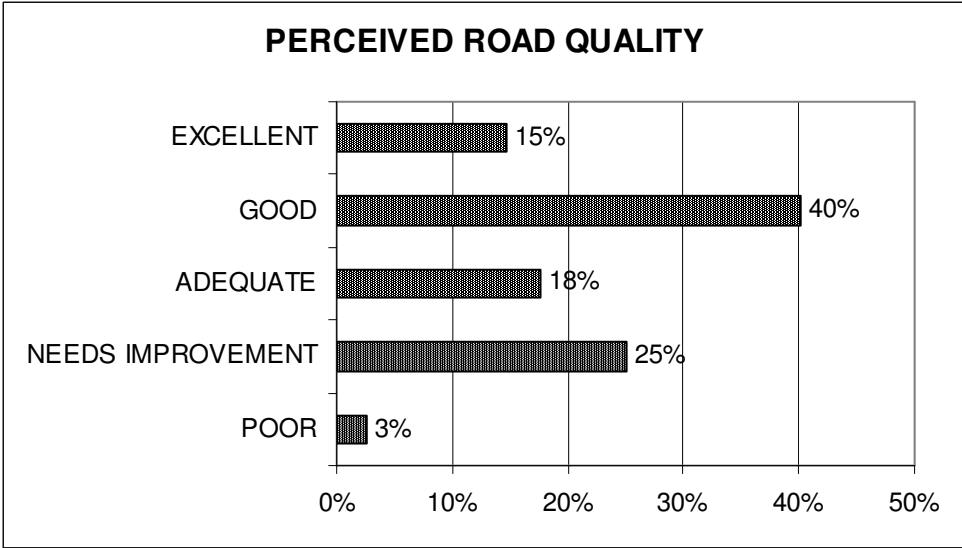


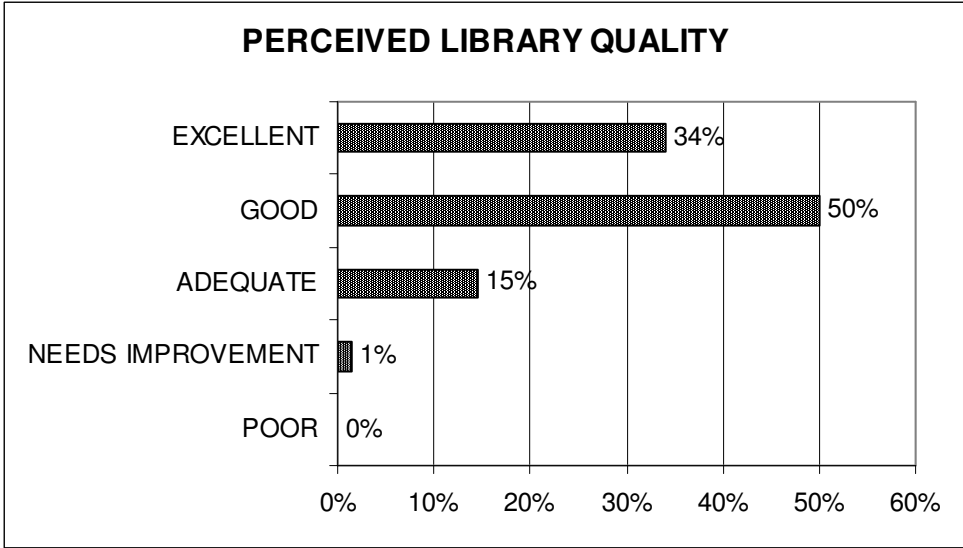
PERCEIVED TOWN GOVERNMENT QUALITY



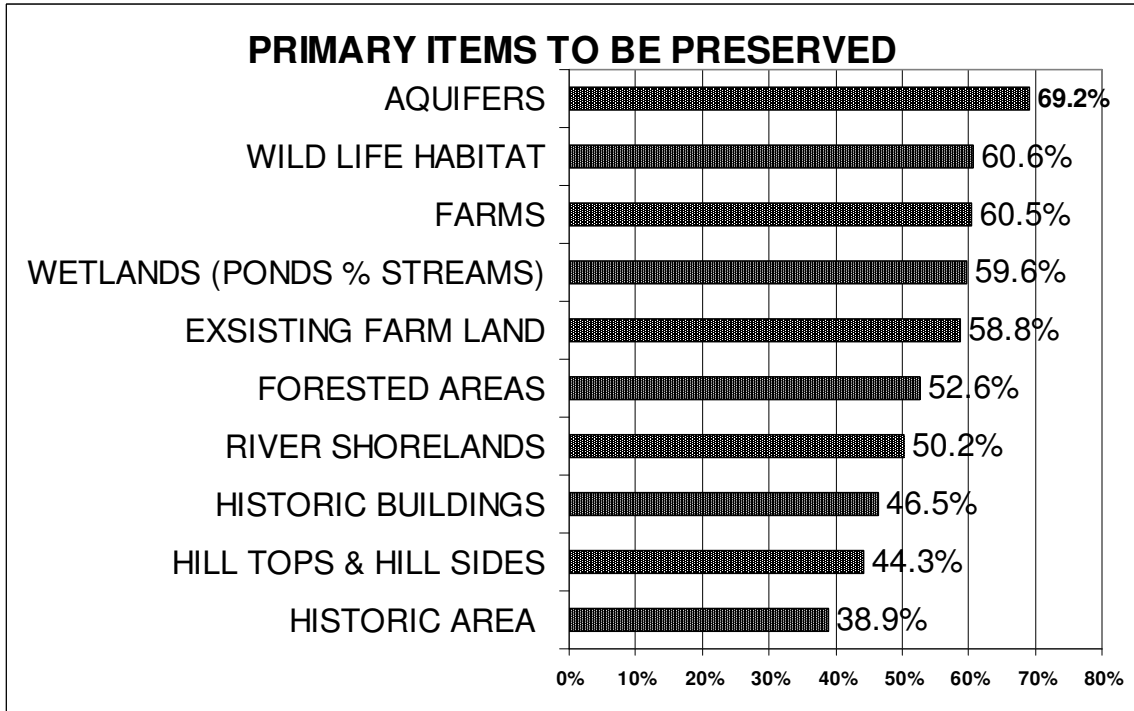
PERCEIVED RECREATION QUALITY



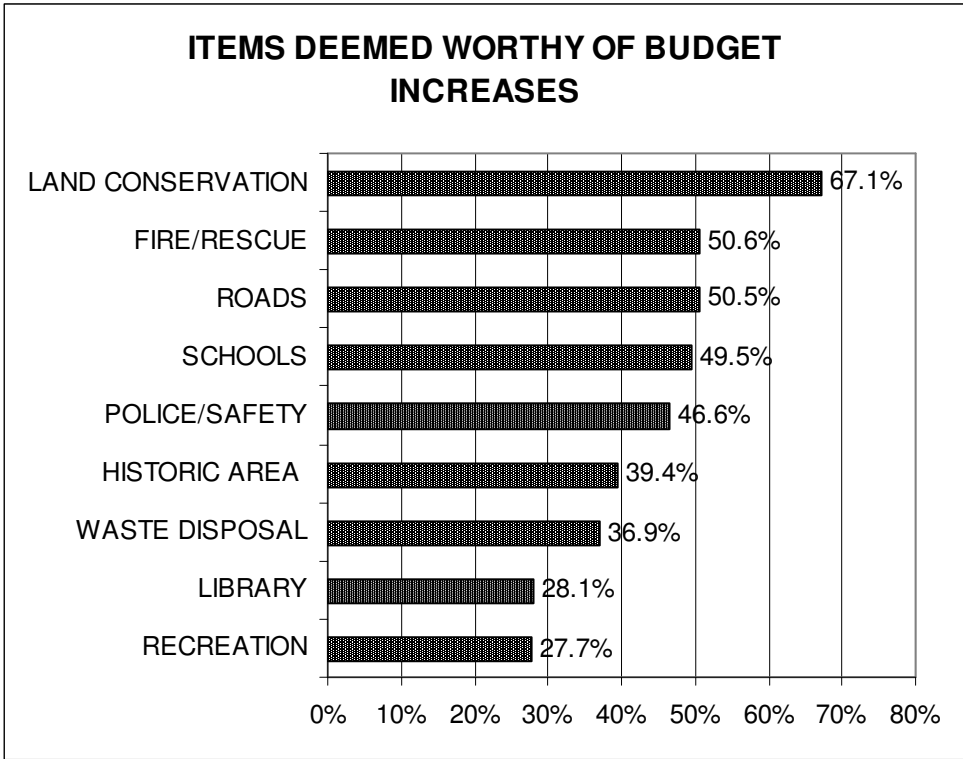




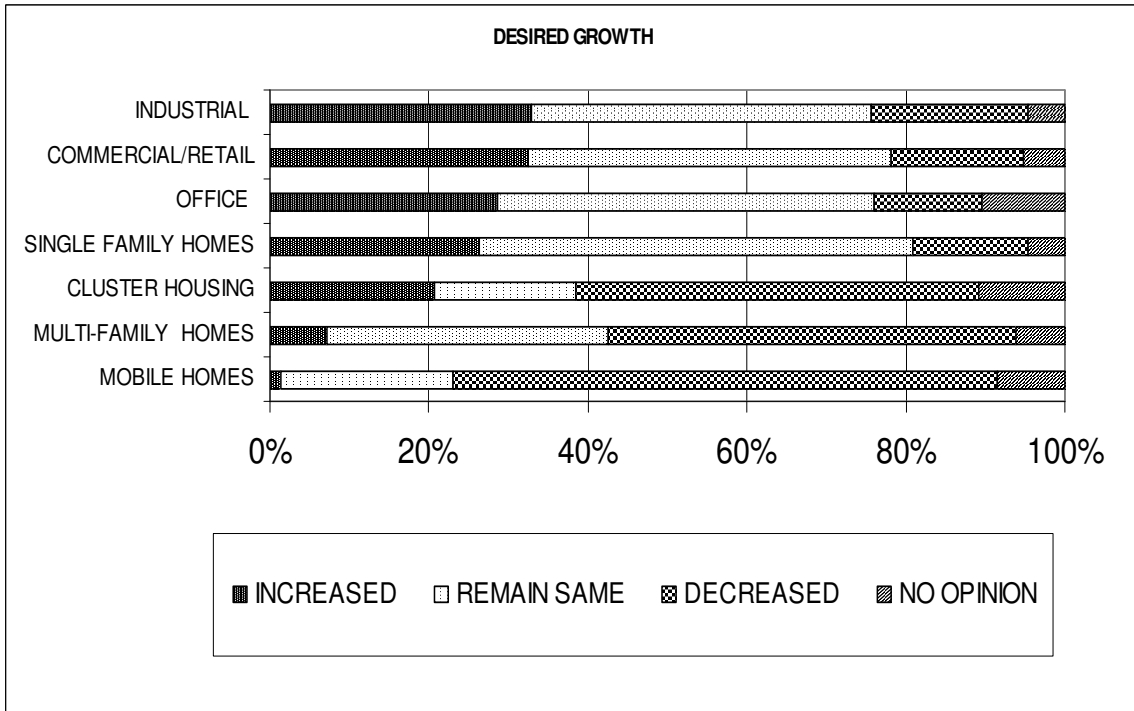
7.0 Conservation and Preservation. Rate the importance of each of the following conservation and preservation objectives.



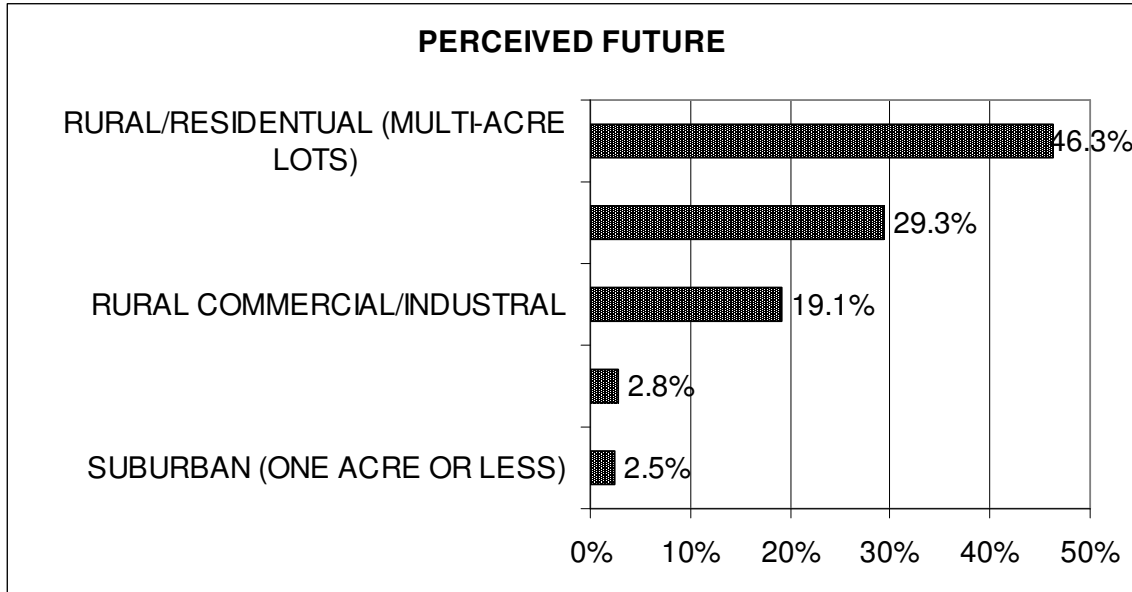
8.0 Would you be willing to see the town budget increased for any of the following?



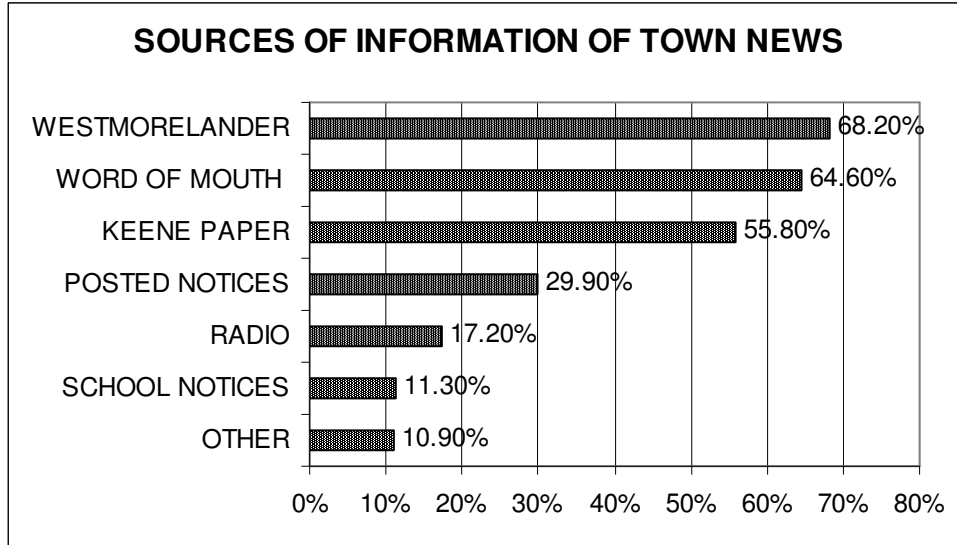
9.0 Compared with current levels, should Westmoreland encourage growth in the following categories?



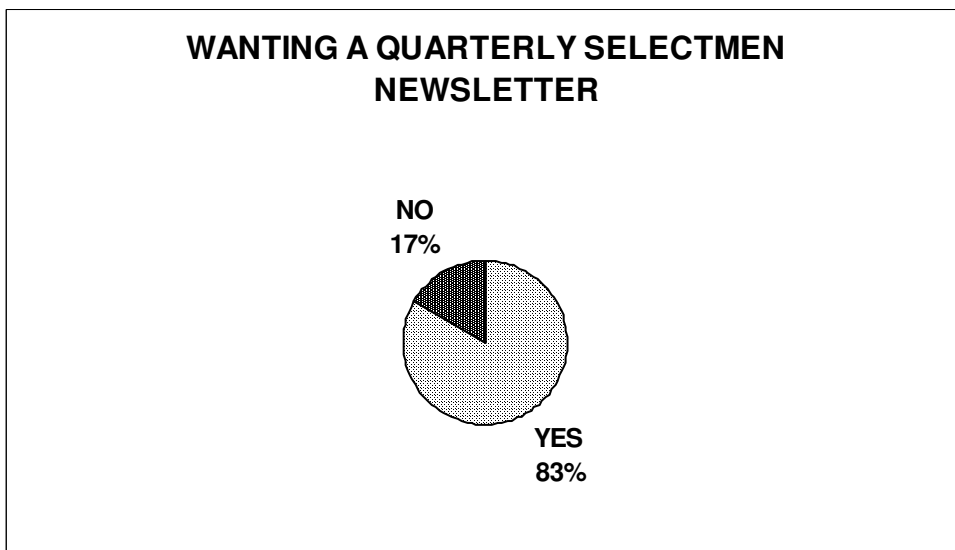
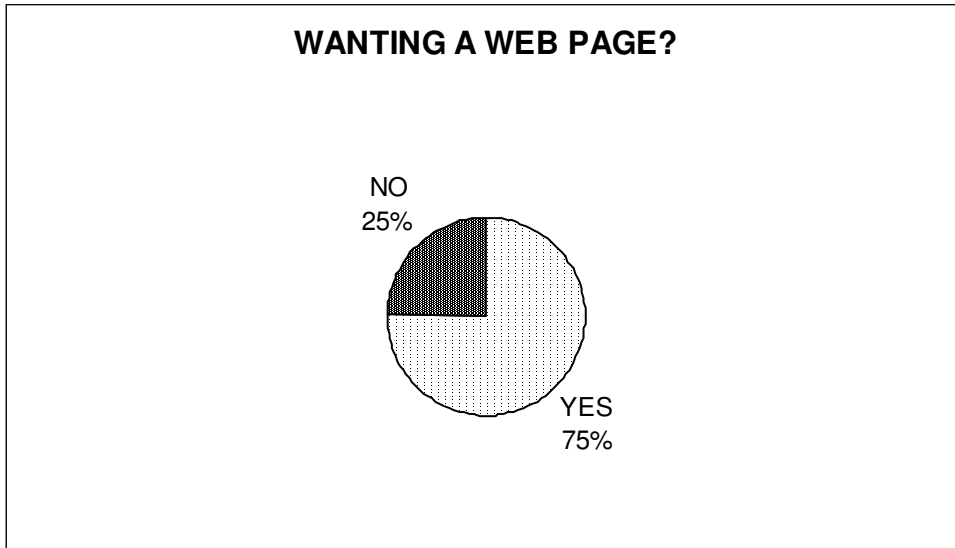
10.0 In your opinion, do you view the future of Westmoreland as:



11.0 How do you find out what is happening with local/town government issues. Check all that apply.



12.0 What other ways would you like to see town information available?



APPENDIX E SURVEY COMMENTS BREAKDOWN

The 130 comments listed below were taken from the 800 master plan survey forms sent out at the end of February 2002. The comments were sometimes shortened with no editing intended. The survey form numbers were retained in case more detail might be needed. We sorted the forms as we think they would be addressed to the different parts of our town government.

SELECTMEN (62 Comments)

TAXES (5 Comments)

- 9 – Taxes too high
- 16 – Lower taxes
- 94 – Control spending.
- 162 - Wants much better and responsible fiscal leadership.
- 211 – Wants relief from the tax burden

TRANSFER STATION (15 Comments)

- 30 - Wants better waste disposal and recycling
- 36 – Wants trash pickup at roadside
- 40 - Implement pay/bag program in order to increase recycling.
- 45 – Better recycling –
- 77- Wants more recycling of more types of materials.
- 118 - Doesn't want a pay per bag system
- 121 – Wants pay per bag system using clear bags
- 129 – Close transfer station and use Keene's.
- 166 - Close the dump.
- 176 – Don't join Keene for waste disposal.
- 177 - Enforce recycling.
- 185 – Use Keene waste disposal.
- 209 – Likes the “no charge” for garbage.
- 221 - expand hours at dump
- 225 – Better hours for the dump

ENFORCING LAWS (13 Comments)

- 31– great zoning rules but irregularly enforced- limit the number of unregistered vehicles per home.
- 36- Require lots be cleaned up and broken down cars removed (lowers property values)
- 76 – Wants equal regulation of ordinances to all residents
- 81 – Enforce laws on junk cars and violations of environment including the filling of wetlands to build houses.
- 82 – Get loggers to cleanup leftovers
- 111 - Wants town laws enforced.
- 129 - enforce zoning regulations.
- 135 – Wants town government to be more consistent in following town/state laws concerning new property improvement/construction (building/filling wetlands as well as improper waste disposal) - wants consistent enforcement for the betterment of all town people.
- 138 – Wants zoning laws, taxes and procedures equal for all
- 145 – Uphold regulations, laws, and statutes without leniency or favoritism.
- 159 – Wants enforcement of existing regulations, hold town officials responsible for their actions or lack of actions. Rt. 12 unsightly - wants monitoring of industrial park activities (fill and storage) – wants Tree Huggers checked to see if they are following what they were approved for - against growth -

187 – Board of Selectmen need to run the highway dept. not the other way – Russell driveway used town equipment, better than Butterfield and Pierce lanes.
228 – Officials need to be aware of and enforce laws regarding wetlands/environmental issues, now too lax.

COMMUNICATIONS (12 Comments)

21 – Wants monthly selectmen's letter
36- Use direct mailing for town information
39 - put selectmen's letter in the Westmorelander
76 - Better communications.
90 - Wants selectmen's letter and through the Westmorelander.
137 – Would like town info mailed free to out of town people.
138 - Not getting town info until too late
159 - wants more communication with residents with direct mailing – wants chat page on town web site - wants town forums/open house with officials.
160 - Wants better communications and letters for special issues.
169 – Wants direct mail for town news.
185 - Distribute the Selectmen's letter to the Westmorelander.
210 – Wants large public bulletin board at the recycling center.

RECREATION (7 Comments)

31 – Town needs to fund recreational opportunities for kids - Would like town to join Spofford day rec. program in summer
39 - need town landing on the river
45 - Have free beach access to Spofford Lake.
117 – Wants summer recreation for kids
153 – Wants bike trail, additional tennis court, lights for the courts, better basketball hoops.
211 - would like a senior citizens group for trips, meals, games, ect.
221 - wants adult recreation, bike paths, dog walk.

MISC (10 Comments)

39 - Concerned about jail growth
124 – Wants more auditing of departments - Wants funds to be set aside for large \$ items.
160 – Adoption for class 4-6 roads.
164 – Wants transportation for non drivers possibly by volunteers.
188 – Don't know loyalties of new selectmen.
211 - wants a volunteer work program to exchange work for tax rebates
218 - Wants to see selectmen working with the school board.
221 – Expand hours of operation at town offices
227 – Annual inventory of taxable property forms are a pain for taxpayers. Check other towns.
229 – Wants sidewalks on main roads for safety.

PLANNING/ZONING COMMISSIONS (13 Comments)

22 - Wants zoning changes to encourage homes to be built closer to roadways.
35 – Need to provide adequate housing for elderly not needing health care.
42– Concerned about town losing charm by urbanizing.
66– Wants commercial/industrial limited to Rt. 12 corridor – want more industrial/commercial/office development - maintain country living vs. suburbia development
73 – Review the Connecticut River Management plan.
76 – Wants proactive planning/zoning.
77 - Wants to encourage farms and preservation.
89 – Retain rural character - Modify zoning for affordable housing to be combined with industrial/commercial development - Limit sign size – Prohibit billboards.

96 – Limit development.
165 – Town needs upgrading /growth.
198 – Don't encourage growth – retain rural character
208 – Hope to see town remain rural and farm land.
228 - New homes affecting wildlife, slow development. – Increase the minimum acreage required for new lots/houses. Doesn't want to see Westmoreland become Nashua. New development/businesses/houses brings more cost and problems than tax money.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (9 Comments)

22 – Wants preservation of open space via town forests such as Walpole and Chesterfield– More conservation easements through education
76 – Wants commitment to preservation.
111 – Wants public access to the Connecticut River
118 – Use current use tax for land conservation.
123 - Use conservation fund to acquire land, especially along river watershed.
137 - Might be willing to sell or donate land.
159 - Town needs to protect its natural resources.
199 – Might be candidate for conservation easement
211 - Wants county land along river put to more use.

LIBRARY (2 Comments)

116 – Library could use more resources
175 – Library hours too limited for child to use.

SCHOOL BOARD (7 Comments)

33 – Playground improvement and preschool needed.
45 - Join with Chesterfield for our own high school
53 – Safe playground for children
95 – Playground at school needs to be renovated.
129 - Teach basics thoroughly in school.
215 – Wants all day kindergarten.
220 – Wants decent playground

FIRE/RESCUE (2 Comments)

172 – Replace the fire chief.
183 – Time for a new fire chief, rescue is good.

POLICE (16 Comments)

1 - Get a new town constable - Stop overweight trucks on River Rd.
30 – Need a full time police officer –
42 – Stop speeding on our back roads - need police response when called and to patrol.
47 - Slow down traffic.
66 – Concern about speeders/ town has been negligent about solving issue.
75 – Wants to be able to contact police/safety more easily.
77 – Police should have listed number.
90 – Wants police we can call directly, unlisted number is unacceptable.
112 – What police?
122 – Wants to know how to call police if needed.
123 – Wants full time police
131 – Wants a town constable who is available.
154 – Wants speed patrol on Rt. 63.
196 - Wants speed limits enforced.

218 – Wants more law enforcement especially at school.
220 - 220 – Share patrolmen with Chesterfield

ROAD AGENT (10 Comments)

1- Don't skim pave roads – Don't ditch too deep along roads
10 – Pave Poocham and Paine Roads
18 – Roads are very bumpy since tarred last summer
39 – Need long range plan to black top roads
82 - Snow removal well done. - Pave Paine Rd.
93 – Paving gravel roads a necessity.
124 - Doesn't want roads with private residences maintained
177 – Ease up plowing/sanding.
196 – Wants road edges filled.
232 – Fix mud conditions on Paine/Poocham Rd.

MISCELLANEOUS (9 Comments)

11 – Cleanup/weather proof town hall bulletin
45 - Wants free non commercial classified ads in Westmorelander.
53 - Westmorelander not timely
66- Wants public announcements at village store/Mac/others.
75 – Town government issues should be in Westmorelander/ best way to communicate.
127 – Friendly and caring people in community.
194 – Uses transfer station as info source.
209 - Use Monadnock Shopper for town information.
229 - Likes small town atmosphere.