

Who runs Bolton? You do!

The Master Plan Steering Committee needs your guidance in developing a vision for Bolton’s future. The Committee seeks your opinion on topics relating to the community’s development over the next 15 years. The results of this questionnaire will help to shape Bolton’s landscape and provide a foundation for future decision making. Please take the time to complete this survey and strengthen Bolton’s vision – your future!

Surveys can be filled out hardcopy or online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TownofBolton>. Please mail hardcopies to the Master Plan Steering Committee, Town Hall, 663 Main Street, Bolton, MA 01740 or drop off in the mail slot at the Town Hall rear entrance.

To have your voice heard, please return your survey by **27 June 2020**.

General Questions

1. How long have you lived in Bolton? (check one)
 - 1 – 10 years
 - 11 – 20 years
 - 21+ years

2. Why do you live in Bolton? (check all that apply)
 - Small community, rural charm
 - Good place to raise a family
 - Convenient location for commuting/other interests
 - Good schools
 - Affordable
 - Other (please specify)

3. Why did you answer Question 2 this way? _____

Services

4. Please identify Bolton’s top three strengths:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

5. Please identify Bolton’s top three most needed improvements and/or services:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

6. What commercial amenities and services would you like to see in town (check all that apply):
 - Grocery store
 - Pharmacy
 - Restaurants
 - Fitness center

- Other: _____
- No additions needed

7. What Town amenities and services would you like to see in town (check all that apply):

- Community center
- Additional commuter options
- Trash removal
- Other: _____
- No additions needed

Housing

8. Do you have difficulty affording to live in Bolton?

- Yes
- No

9. If yes, would you pursue an affordable housing option in Bolton if one was available to you?

- Yes
- No

M.G.L c. 40B Comprehensive Permit Law mandates that Massachusetts towns maintain 10% of their housing stock as “affordable”. The Town of Bolton is currently at 3.6%. Until this percentage is met (which for Bolton is approximately 104 *additional* affordable housing units), developers can circumvent local bylaws and the town has very little say as to where and how these developments are built.

10. If the town could encourage the development of affordable housing of a specific type, would you prefer this housing to (rank 1-5, 1 being the MOST preferred and 5 being the LEAST preferred):

- Address the needs of our senior population
- Address the needs of families with children
- Be combined with new business in a mixed-use development
- Stand alone as a residential development only
- No preference

11. If the town could encourage the development of affordable housing in a specific area of Bolton, would you prefer that housing to be (rank 1-5, 1 being the MOST preferred and 5 being the LEAST preferred):

- On the outskirts of town
- Near the junction of 495 and 117
- Spread throughout the town and neighborhoods
- Near the town center
- No preference

Transportation

12. What is your employment status?

- Employed
- Unemployed
- Handicapped and unable to work

- Stay at home parent
- Student
- Retired
- Other: _____

13. If you work, in what city or town do you work? _____

14. How do you normally commute to work each day? (check all that apply):

- Commute to train station (South Acton, Littleton)
- Get dropped off at the train station
- Work from home
- Drive myself
- Carpool
- Bike
- Other: _____

15. If you usually drive alone to work, what prevents you from using other ways (such as carpooling, public transit, or biking) to get to work? (select up to 3)

- No shuttle service to train stations
- Transit service doesn't match my route/schedule
- Not enough parking spaces at train stations
- Difficult to find others to carpool/vanpool
- Work late or irregular hours
- Cannot get home in an emergency
- Poor bike access
- Use my car on the job
- Need to make stops on the way to work or home (including childcare/other)
- Prefer to drive my own car

Historical and Cultural

16. To preserve the town's rural character, for which of the following would you be in favor (check all that apply):

- Protect open space
- Encourage historic preservation
- Scenic roads designations
- Create historical districts
- Protect landscapes
- Preserve farms
- No additions needed

17. Do you feel that you are sufficiently aware of the goings on in town?

- Yes
- No

18. Which notification for town events do you find most useful? (rate 1-3, 1= currently use, 2= sometimes use, 3= don't use)

- Newspapers (The Bolton Independent, The Item)
- Council on Aging
- School newsletters
- Facebook
- Nextdoor
- Houghton Building sign
- Email notices such as Town Hall news and announcements
- Bolton Access TV
- Neighbors/word of mouth

19. What local cultural activities would you likely participate in (rate 1-3, 1= strong interest, 2= some interest, 3= no interest)

- Community events, local festivals
- Volunteering
- The arts
- Lectures/talks
- Educational
- Outdoor
- Sports
- Historical
- Exercise
- Performing arts

Demographics

20. Are you male or female?

- Male
- Female

21. How many people are in your household?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6+

22. Please indicate your age:

- 18 – 30
- 31 – 40
- 41 – 50
- 51 – 60
- 61 – 70
- 71 – 80

- 81 – 90
- >90

Council on Aging

23. How important is it for you to remain in your home as you age?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important

24. How important is it for you to remain in Bolton as you age?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important

25. What factors would influence your decision to leave your home when you retire (select all that apply)?

- Home size: Looking for a different home size that meets your needs
- Affordability: Looking for a more affordable home
- Maintenance: Maintaining your current home is too expensive and/or too much work
- Living Independently: Looking for a home that will help you live independently
- Relationships: Wanting to be closer to family and friends
- Public Transportation: Needing more access to public transportation
- Climate: Wanting to live in a different climate
- Taxes: Looking for a community with a lower tax rate
- Other, please specify: _____

26. What type of housing would you consider in retirement (select all that apply)?

- Stay in your home
- Accessory apartment (e.g., in-law)
- Apartment rental complex (one or two bedroom)
- Multifamily
- Townhouse/condo
- Cottage style dwelling (1,200 sf or less)
- Senior living community
- Other, please specify: _____

27. What housing-related factors did you consider when retiring? _____

Other

28. Would you be more likely to participate in Town Meeting if it occurred on a Saturday?

- Yes
- No

29. Is there anything else you would like to share? _____

Thank you for your time!