



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

May 2002

Researcher:	Date:
Time start:	CB:
Time end:	Supervisor:

Hello. My name is _____. I am a research assistant at The Center for Research and Public Policy. We're calling on behalf of the Town of Newtown today and talking with residents about local issues, development, conservation, recreation, and taxes. Your input will help provide direction in planning for the years ahead.

Screeners

A. Are you one of the heads of your household and eighteen years of age or older?

- 01 Yes (Continue)
- 02 No (Ask for qualified respondent)
- 03 DK (Thank and terminate)

B. Are you currently a resident of Newtown?

- 01 Yes (Continue)
 - 02 No (Ask for qualified respondent)
 - 03 DK (Thank and terminate)
-

QUALITY OF LIFE

1. Please tell me if you would describe the quality of life in Newtown as...

- 01 Very good;
- 02 Good;
- 03 Poor; or
- 04 Very poor
- 05 DK/Unsure

2. And, would you say the quality of life, in Newtown, over the past two years has...

- 01 Improved;
- 02 Remained good;
- 03 Remained poor; or
- 04 Declined
- 05 DK/Unsure

3. Please provide us with two or three ways quality of life in Newtown might be improved?

LOCAL ISSUES

4. Please tell me the two or three issues or problems you are most concerned about in the Town of Newtown?

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

5. Please tell me two or three reasons you decided on Newtown as a place to live?

Now, I'll read a number of community characteristics. As I reach each, please tell me how important each is to you personally. Please use a scale of one to ten where one is very important and ten is not at all important.

Characteristics	VI										NAAI	DK
6. Rural setting	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
7. Quality of schools	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
8. Retail store availability	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
9. Recreational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
10. Open space	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	

11. In your opinion, would you say Newtown has a unique rural character?

- 01 Yes (Continue)
- 02 No (Go to Q13)
- 03 DK (Go to Q13)

12. Please tell me what that unique rural character is?

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT/HOUSING

Please think for a moment about the mix of housing in Newtown today. For each type of housing that I read, please tell me if there are too many, too few, or about the right amount in Newtown today (*Researchers: Read and Rotate*).

Housing	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	DK
13. Housing for first time buyers	01	02	03	04
14. Single family homes	01	02	03	04
15. Condominiums for all ages	01	02	03	04
16. Rental apartments	01	02	03	04
17. Active Senior housing	01	02	03	04
18. Moderate income housing	01	02	03	04
19. Assisted living for seniors	01	02	03	04
20. Condominiums for those over 55	01	02	03	04

Now I'll read several statements. As I read each, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement. (*Researchers: Read and Rotate*)

Statement	StrA	SA	SD	StrD	DK
21. Newtown is an affordable place to live	01	02	03	04	05
22. Newtown children can afford to live in our town, once they move out and are on their own.	01	02	03	04	05
23. New single-family residential development will increase taxes by increasing need for town services	01	02	03	04	05
24. Newtown has enough affordable rental housing	01	02	03	04	05

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Now, I'll read a number of different types of businesses and ask you, for each, if there are too many, too few, or about the right amount in Newtown today.

Businesses	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	DK
25. Retail stores	01	02	03	04
26. Small business offices	01	02	03	04
27. Research and development facilities	01	02	03	04
28. Corporate offices	01	02	03	04
29. Clean industrial facilities	01	02	03	04
30. Office parks	01	02	03	04
31. Agri-business	01	02	03	04

The following are a number of statements regarding economic development in Newtown. As I read each, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

Statement	StrA	SA	SD	StrD	DK
32. Business development will reduce taxes for residents	01	02	03	04	05
33. Newtown should encourage more business development	01	02	03	04	05
34. The addition of new active senior housing / active senior condos is a way to reduce taxes.	01	02	03	04	05

Some Newtown residents have encouraged additional economic commercial development in specific areas of town while other are opposed. As I read each area, please tell me if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose additional economic commercial development there.

Area	StrS	SS	SO	StrO	DK
35. Route 25	01	02	03	04	05
36. Fairfield Hills	01	02	03	04	05
37. Hawleyville	01	02	03	04	05

CONSERVATION/ENVIRONMENT

Please think about conservation and environmental issues in town. As I read each of the following statements, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

Statement	StrA	SA	SD	StrD	DK
38. Newtown if doing enough to acquire new open space	01	02	03	04	05
39. The town is doing enough to protect historic sites	01	02	03	04	05
40. The town is doing enough to protect historical buildings	01	02	03	04	05
41. The town is doing enough to protect aquifers	01	02	03	04	05
42. The town is doing enough to protect wetlands	01	02	03	04	05
43. The town is doing enough to protect groundwater	01	02	03	04	05
44. The town is doing enough to protect ridgelines	01	02	03	04	05
45. The town is doing enough to protect wildlife habitats	01	02	03	04	05

Statement	StrA	SA	SD	StrD	DK
46. The town is doing enough to protect farmlands	01	02	03	04	05
47. The town is doing enough to protect scenic vistas	01	02	03	04	05
48. The town is doing enough to protect woodlands	01	02	03	04	05
49. The town is doing enough to protect scenic roads	01	02	03	04	05

OPEN SPACE USE

If Newtown does acquire new open space, there are several potential uses for the space. As I read each, please tell me if you strong agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each as a use for the space.

Uses	StrA	SA	SD	StrD	DK
50. Leave it as it is	01	02	03	04	05
51. Foster a wildlife habitat	01	02	03	04	05
52. Passive recreation such as walking trails	01	02	03	04	05
53. Active recreation such as ball fields	01	02	03	04	05

PARKS AND RECREATION

The following are a number of recreational facilities or opportunities. As I read each, please tell me if there are too many, about the right amount, or too few in Newtown. (Researchers: Read and Rotate)

Recreational Facilities	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	DK
54. Ball fields	01	02	03	04
55. Tennis courts	01	02	03	04
56. Walking trails	01	02	03	04
57. Public boat docks	01	02	03	04
58. Golf courses	01	02	03	04
59. Biking trails	01	02	03	04
60. Swimming facilities	01	02	03	04
61. Horse riding trails	01	02	03	04
62. Cross country ski trails	01	02	03	04
63. Pedestrian walkways	01	02	03	04

And, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the need for the following in Newtown.

Recreational Facilities	StrA	SA	SD	StrD	DK
64. Community garden	01	02	03	04	05
65. Skate boarding park	01	02	03	04	05
66. Farmer's market	01	02	03	04	05

TAXES AND REGULATIONS

Now, please think about taxes and regulations in the Town of Newtown.

67. Please tell me if taxes in town are too high, too low, or about right for the level of services provided by the town?

- 01 Too high
- 02 Too low
- 03 About right
- 04 DK/Unsure

68. Would you say Newtown taxes are higher, lower, or about the same as taxes in neighboring communities?

- 01 Higher
- 02 Lower
- 03 About the same
- 04 DK/Unsure

For each of the following new or enhanced town facilities or services, would you be very willing, somewhat willing, somewhat unwilling, or not at all willing to pay additional taxes each year?

Statement	VW	SW	SU	NAAW	DK
69. Walking and non-motorized biking trails	01	02	03	04	05
70. New open space	01	02	03	04	05
71. New ball fields	01	02	03	04	05
72. A community center	01	02	03	04	05
73. Purchase and preservation of farms	01	02	03	04	05
74. A new town pool	01	02	03	04	05

(RESEARCHERS: Ask Q75a,b,c ONLY for those indicating 01 or 02 to Q70 – Open Space)

75a. You mentioned a willingness to pay additional taxes for new open space. Please tell me if would pay an additional \$150.00 annually?

- 01 Yes (Go to Q76)
- 02 No (Continue)
- 03 DK/Unsure (Continue)

75b. Would you be willing to pay an additional \$100.00 annually for new open space?

- 01 Yes (Go to Q76)
- 02 No (Continue)
- 03 DK/Unsure (Continue)

75c. And, would you be willing to pay an additional \$50.00 annually for new open space?

- 01 Yes
 - 02 No
 - 03 DK
-

76. As all towns do, Newtown also has land use restrictions in place. Please tell me how satisfied you are with these land use restrictions? Would you say...?

- 01 Very Satisfied (Go to Q78)
- 02 Somewhat Satisfied (Go to Q78)
- 03 Somewhat Dissatisfied (Continue)
- 04 Not at all satisfied (Continue)
- 05 DK (Go to Q78)

77. Please tell me why?

DEMOGRAPHICS

The following questions are for statistical purposes only.

78. What is the highest grade of school you have completed?

- 01 Some high school
- 02 Graduated high school
- 03 Some college
- 04 Graduated college
- 05 Post-graduate work
- 06 Unsure/DK

79. How many children do you have living at home under the age of eighteen?

- 01 # _____
- 76 None

80. How many years have you lived in Newtown?

- 01 # _____

81. Which of the following categories includes your age?

- 01 18 to less than 25
- 02 25 to less than 35
- 03 35 to less than 45
- 04 45 to less than 55
- 05 55 to less than 65
- 06 65 years or age or older
- 07 RF

82. Do you work in Newtown?

- 01 Yes
- 02 No

83. Do you own a business in Newtown?

- 01 Yes
- 02 No

84. Although it is difficult to answer, how many more years do you plan to live in Newtown?

- 01 # _____
- 76 No plans on moving
- 77 DK

85. What is your current marital status?

- 01 Married
- 02 Single
- 03 Separated
- 04 Divorced
- 05 In transition
- 06 RF

86. Which of the following best describes the section of town you live in...

- 01 Hawleyville
- 02 Sandy Hook
- 03 Dodgington
- 04 Botsford
- 05 Newtown Borough
- 06 DK

87. Do you rent or own your current place of residence?

- 01 Rent
- 02 Own

88. And what type of housing do you currently occupy?

- 01 Single family detached
- 02 Duplex
- 03 Apartment
- 04 Condo
- 05 Trailer
- 06 DK

89. I am going to provide a number of ranges describing income. In order to make statistical projections we do not need your exact income. Which of the following categories best describes your total family income before taxes?

- 01 Less than \$50,000
- 02 \$50,000 to less than \$100,000
- 03 \$100,000 to less than \$150,000
- 04 \$150,000 to less than \$200,000
- 05 \$200,000 and over
- 06 DK
- 07 RF

Thank you very much for your time and participation.

90. Gender (by observation).

- 01 Male
- 02 Female