

RESPONSES TO SURVEY QUESTION NO. 20

I think Canterbury should try to preserve the small, historical atmosphere with limited growth in small cluster neighborhoods and try to preserve large tracts of land for recreation and wildlife.

The unique atmosphere of this town is its rural character. It attracted us many years ago, and is still very important to us, setting Canterbury apart from the surrounding towns, which haven't seen the need to protect that quality.

Continued controlled growth to ensure sense of community, and avoid overburdening town resources. A place where (almost) everybody knows your name.

There are so many expanding communities near-by, so many shopping centers, cluster homes ... LET'S BE DIFFERENT!

Farms, "cottage industry".

Canterbury should be a welcoming community to the changing face of the traditional family. There are more single parent families. The current situation here leaves these people on the outside as they cannot afford to make a home here. There should be an effort to make living here more within reach.

Single family, residential community with large acreage lots and conservation land. I thought the minimum lot size was sacred?

We need to be a community that is open to all. Our taxes are too high and we are shutting out honest, hard-working people who grew up here that want to live here now. We need more business in town. We have a strong volunteerism element in town. You will lose that if the town starts controlling things like recreation. The wealthier (\$) this town becomes, the more true community it loses.

An integrated and diversified community emphasizing agriculture, home businesses/industries/unique shops. Open space and communally interesting areas (villages) historically sensitive, yet progressive.

We like the ruralness of the town. Due to the high taxes, we definitely need to bring in revenue. I support businesses that would bring in tax money, yet I don't want to see a business in a rural setting. Certain areas (106, Rt. 93, etc.) can be developed for business. Would like small professional services that would fit in with community. We need to offer and seek opportunities for adult living which will bring in tax revenue, but not burden the school system. (Loudon is doing one with federal funding – why not us?)

The same caring community it is at present. I personally would like to see more housing for the retired and elderly – such as – cluster, condo, townhouse – but I really would not like Canterbury to become the low income mecca with attendant school issues, etc.

I would love Canterbury to stay as close to rural country as possible. People supposedly move here because they love this small town, country setting – yet, we now need sidewalks, street lights, pools, or recreation paid by others. We are not Concord or Penacook and shouldn't strive for that.

Maintain rural character and community. Seek ways to join with other communities in providing services, such as police and fire and schools to decrease taxes on property.

Remain small and as exists currently because shopping and outside activities are within an easy commute. Possibly provide van or small shuttle from library area to Concord one day a week for non-drivers similar to Concord "CAT" bus.

Be a common sense community. Know that growth and expansion will destroy the character of the town. "Low income" "affordable housing" should not be part of the "plan."

Preserve the "quaint village" look of the center.

Close-knit rural community.

Growth is inevitable, but we can preserve the current character of the town.

Canterbury should strive to be a community that captures the classic small town atmosphere. Continue to provide community programs while expanding these as the residents' needs are expressed and using town talents to execute these programs.

Canterbury should strive to maintain its "small town", energy conscious, friendly atmosphere. Land conservation, resource conservation, recycling, and carbon footprint awareness, should be priorities of all town officers, employees, and residents. Volunteerism should be encouraged and reorganized.

I hope Canterbury can continue its community spirit and rural feel. I hope the town can also take a good look at its school district and think about alternatives for better educating middle- and high-schooling. Too many families choose private school right now.

Some loosening of restrictions to allow for more affordable/workforce housing:
To reduce the perception that we are an "elitist" community.

We should try to continue to be a “country” town. We are close enough to Concord to keep the urban amenities there.

It should maintain a small historic village atmosphere with rural homes on scenic roads. Artisan shops should be encouraged as well as small scale commercial farms.

Basically as it is, a warm and friendly rural community. No more trophy houses! We are not Hopkinton!

Keep it close as possible to old Canterbury of 50 years ago. You can’t control the style of some of the new houses, but most don’t look “country.” I guess they call this progress.

I would only hope that you keep the wonderful, friendly, small town atmosphere. Please do not get greedy and lose it!

Continue to be a small family-oriented community that is not over-populated. Stay green!

It should remain a rural, community-orientated, quiet, nature loving, neighborly place to live.

I would like to see Canterbury introduce some cluster housing. Any new developments should have very strict roads built (paved) with an eye on keeping natural environments (no clear cutting). I see Canterbury introducing some public area (pool/fields – for our children and adults to enjoy).

A rural community with lots of open space, as “green” as possible with many community activities to participate in. Affordable housing.

Rural, close knit, single family, with strong school system.

Stay the same! We moved here to get away from the congestion, noise, unpleasantness of living in Concord.

Maintain rural, small town charm while incorporating “affordable housing”, apartments, etc.

Continue to be rural and scenic and to limit development.

To be a progressive small town, with continued strengths in community and natural environment. Protection, while working to attract appropriate businesses and industry to increase tax base.

Canterbury should be a community of all ages and incomes.

Canterbury should focus on keeping the town quiet, non-controversial, and try to keep its image of a quaint place to live in, not try to get more and more people to move here. Existing residents should have more to say about what type of development moves in.

The rural community is what sets Canterbury apart from other towns. It would be nice to maintain the rural community setting.

Not overdeveloped.

Stay rural. Continue to offer free programs through library, etc.

Just like it is now!

Keep its rural character but allow for some growth. Provide monies for upkeep.

A diverse community with an agricultural segment that preserves its rural character and basic small service/retail business to minimize travel for life's essentials.

Envision Canterbury moving towards more sustainable and affordable living – conservation of wetlands, bird and wildlife habitat, agriculture with local farmer's market – affordable living – home industries – cottage/farming.

Town meeting should be moved to a Saturday and no town meeting should be permitted to run past 10:00 p.m. If necessary additional business on following Saturday.

Canterbury is going to continue to grow. We should be conserving the existing open farms to remain as they are. We should make it easier for landowners and developers to build affordable housing on backlands, undeveloped areas on the western side of town especially. We should be promoting cluster housing with small lot sizes instead of homes everywhere along existing roads.

Remain unchanged.

Small town atmosphere – best schools in the state – safe place for all families – cool trails for dirt bikes and ATV's – farmer's market – neighbor-helping-neighbor type of town.

As much the same as possible! They aren't making more land and you can't go backwards. Wonderful small towns are getting gobbled up by retail big box stores, developments, etc. We have a treasure and must preserve it. You cannot go back and take away mistakes/development.

Would like to see it stay as type of community as it currently is. It is why we moved here. If we want retail/commercial/industrial, we can drive 20 minutes and access. We like it this way.

Canterbury needs to have more – a full grocery store – mini-medical building – and a restaurant, maybe a pizza-type shop. Exit 18 has space for this type of development.

Same as it is today.

A bedroom community with essential services provided in town. An agricultural /forestry/crafts/home occupation community, with commercial/industrial development limited to existing zoned areas (or reasonable expansions of same).

Preserve the center as a picture perfect historical area.

I would like to see Canterbury retain its small town/rural character, and not become a suburb of Concord. I also think that the town center could be a bit denser to create a more “critical mass” of activity.

The way it is now, if possible.

To remain as is. Conservation committee needs to concentrate on saving their land, and stop asking townspeople to support their pet peeves.

Quiet and undeveloped.

More compact centers with historic-looking houses and businesses. Tax advantages for keeping or starting agriculture/farms. Severely limit growth outside compact centers.

A friendly and cooperative community of people who proactively protect the town’s natural resources while balancing that with the needs of people who live in a rural community.

Canterbury should strive to maintain its small town close-knit structure with a strong volunteer involvement. It should increase community recreation opportunities to encourage the coming-together of community members. An effort should be made in zoning to allow for affordable housing for young families with children, and also to allow our older citizens to continue living in Canterbury as long as they wish to.

Keeping it rural and free from broad-based development is important to me.

We would like to see Canterbury remain the same. We love living in this community and proud to call it our home. We would not like to see subdivisions or business build up near town. Near 93 would be okay.

Growth should continue to be prudently managed to protect the unique character that attracted us here in the first place.

We moved to Canterbury because of the lack of businesses. We love the river, deer, etc. Would like to see affordable small developments for elderly 55 or older housing. We don't want landfills near the river! That could pose a real threat!

We like and would like to see preserved the small town character and (relatively) low tax burden of Canterbury. Nice but unnecessary programs we can do without to keep taxes lower.

I'd like Canterbury to be a small, rural town where children are safe riding their bikes, adults can walk safely and the townspeople are friendly, open to new ideas, and conservation-minded.

To remain a friendly town, but expand a little as far as business, services, recreation, etc.

Tourist destination with limited services and access. Local regulations to preserve rural agricultural character of the town.

Open to new ideas to help lower taxes. Bring in small businesses.

Canterbury should retain its rural character. Only cottage industries, bed and breakfasts, and small offices should be allowed. No big development.

Maintain rural flavor as much as possible. Do not become another Tilton, NH.

More mixed housing clusters for elderly and lower income. Look still like classic NE town in the center. Maintain rural character outside the center. Maintain and encourage environmentally-sound planning and maintenance decisions. Town meeting a forum for town decisions. Townspeople take initiative to make fun things happen for all.

Retain/expand rural character, family farms, walking forest, cottage "industry". Retain/expand community building activities – knitting/spinning group, community gardens, garden workshops, lecture series, historical society programs.

A community with high social capital – opportunities to connect with neighbors through things like farmers market, the fair, book groups, community projects, etc. A community that values open space and environmental conservation and promotes that. A community that supports local agriculture and production of local items.

The type it has been for the last 10 years. I am fearful that each time we make “improvements” we are eroding the town we have and love. Let’s not improve ourselves in to Bow or Derry – they were once probably like Canterbury.

Economically mixed with more opportunities for informal social interaction. Increased support and awareness of local businesses that are congruent with town history and heritage.

Small community with a BIG heart.

Re: Recreational Fields: We would hope that facilities at the elementary school could be utilized for town use. Beyond that, we would support a multi-purpose field for various outdoor sports. We’d like to see a boat launch as part of a waterfront recreational area.

Don’t change.

Rural, diverse population (rich professionals – poor working class).

Safe, pleasant, with a view to the future. Open space, cluster housing, support education, expand commercial/industrial zones, to lower property taxes.

Eco-friendly – crime free – rural – educated – tight-knit.

Scenic New Hampshire.

People friendly and environmentally concerned.

It is my highest priority that we are first and foremost a community that cares about, and for, each other.

Living here is a peaceful place to live. Living on the outskirts of the city says it all.

Canterbury should strive to maintain its rural character by encouraging the preservation of open space and discouraging development of open space for residential and business use beyond the present allowances.

Town government cannot make a “community.” People do that. The government should have policies that allow the people to act, not do the acting itself.

Conserve what we have. Keep developers out. Plenty of crappy towns around – don't let Canterbury be one of them.

Same as it ever was.

The town needs to open up the agricultural zone to cluster. We need to force development off the roads and out of the eye of people. We need developments like Cambridge Drive.

More of the old Canterbury ethic where neighbors respected and helped neighbors and others when they needed it but did not try to control and restrict how people used their land or lived their lives.

We believe Canterbury should remain the way it is now with a focus on rural, small town atmosphere, adding more agricultural incentives.

The affordable friendly place to raise a family but keeping the town rural.

Basically the same, quiet, rural, protect more scenic areas, large lot low density development.

Rural, moderate increased development with expanded stand-alone small business and professional services.

A community that respects our beautiful land and location. While not against public housing, per se, I would hate to leave us open to half-assed development of "cheap" properties. If we can help small families to live here comfortably and realistically – GREAT!

Rural, agricultural, and nice contrast to Concord and Tilton.

It's about right – just some fine-tuning please.

Canterbury should strive to allow and plan for growth in a way that protects its natural resources, scenic beauty, and character. Increasing opportunity for social/community interaction should be considered (recreational resources and community gathering places – like a coffee house, eatery, etc.)

Friendly, quiet small town atmosphere. Not a lot of residential development. It would be nice to see the town come together more. Lower taxes.

I would like to see the town remain small and family-oriented. I like the slower pace and natural outdoors. It is a safe and friendly place to raise a family, and I would like it to stay that way.

Keeping small town atmosphere, limiting building permits in Sherwood Forest, supporting elderly in community.

Remain rural, agricultural. Protect open space, forests, wetlands, wildlife habitat. Keep community spirit.

More common-sense planning of our town. Respect private landowner rights. Remember if Canterbury closed its doors to development and change, you would not be reading this!

Rural, environmentally aware.

Free from regulation, free from “green social engineering”, free from newcomers closing the door, free from short-timers making laws and then leaving.

Leave it alone.

Develop businesses at I-93, Exits 17 and 18. Satisfied with current status of town.

Canterbury should continue to be a rural type of community with adequate size lots to promote this. Note: Affordable housing as used in this survey should be thrown out as all housing is affordable if you have the money. People can choose where they live, and also how much money they can expend.