

FOSTER COMMUNITY SURVEY

To plan for the future of our town we need your ideas and suggestions. Please complete the following questions by circling the number next to the answer you have selected. If you don't know a particular answer, simply circle "DK". This survey is anonymous. We are not asking you to put your name on the survey. We simply need your input to help the Town better serve our residents. So, please complete and return the survey in the enclosed postage paid envelope before the last day of April 2003.

1. Do you own or rent your residence? 01 Rent 02 Own

2. What year did you first move to Foster, Rhode Island? 01_____

3. Please tell us the two or three major reasons you selected Foster as your Hometown or why you continue to live here?

4. We realize this may be difficult to answer, but how long do you expect to live in Foster, Rhode Island?

01 Lifetime	04 Two to five years	06 11 to 15 years
02 Less than one year	05 Six to ten years	07 15 years or more
03 Up to two years		08 DK

5. And, which of the following best describes the reason why you might move from Foster?

01 Job relocation	05 Looking for a different community
02 More affordable housing elsewhere	06 Foster is too rural
03 Better schools elsewhere	07 Foster is becoming too suburban
04 Need a change	08 Other: _____

6. Including yourself, what is the total number of people living in your household? 01_____

7. Generally speaking, in the last five years, would you say Foster has become a better place to live, a worse place to live, or has it remained the same?

01 Better	03 Worse
02 The same	04 DK

8. There are many different issues in Foster affecting your quality of life here. What is the single issue or problem you feel most concerned about?

9. Now we will list several statements. Please read each statement carefully and tell us if you strongly agree (SA), agree (A), disagree (D) or strongly disagree (SD) with each statement.

a. Foster leaders should maintain the town's rural character.	SA A D SD DK
b. Dirt roads in town are part of our rural character and should be kept as they are.	SA A D SD DK
c. Dirt roads can slow town progress and many should be paved.	SA A D SD DK
d. Foster should combine grades K through five with Glocester to save money.	SA A D SD DK
e. Property owners in Foster have too few rights and are over regulated.	SA A D SD DK
f. The appearance of the town's Public Works garage should be improved.	SA A D SD DK

- g. The Town should not control commercial development on Route 6. SA A D SD DK
- h. Mobile homes should be allowed in Foster. SA A D SD DK
- i. Town officials should encourage affordable housing in Foster for residents with moderate incomes. SA A D SD DK
- j. Taxes are high enough, compared to other Rhode Island towns and should be stabilized SA A D SD DK
- k. In addition to State efforts, Foster should add extra protection for our wetlands. SA A D SD DK
- l. Foster should have a full-time paid fire department. SA A D SD DK
- m. Foster officials should add more commercial zoning in town. SA A D SD DK
- n. Foster should work to attract planned commercial development. SA A D SD DK

10. Now, please rate many of the characteristics of the Town or services currently provided by the Town of Foster. Please circle one answer, very good (VG), good (G), poor (P) or very poor (VP). And, if you don't know, please circle DK.

- a. Recreational facilities VG G P VP DK
- b. Recreational programs VG G P VP DK
- c. The value of our taxes for the services we receive VG G P VP DK
- d. Overall quality of Life VG G P VP DK
- e. Education system VG G P VP DK
- f. Condition of roads and bridges VG G P VP DK
- g. Condition of dirt roads VG G P VP DK
- h. Water quality from wells VG G P VP DK
- i. Fire department services VG G P VP DK
- j. Police department service VG G P VP DK
- k. Rescue/Ambulance service VG G P VP DK

11. Some residents have suggested Foster needs additional services and facilities. The following is a list of the suggestions. We would like to know how important each is to you.

Please circle only one answer. Circle very important (VI), somewhat important (SI), somewhat unimportant (SU), or not at all important (NAAI). If you don't know circle DK. If you circle very important or somewhat important, please tell us if you would be willing to additional local taxes for the service or facility.

- | | Very Impt. | Some Impt. | Some Unim. | Not Impt. | Agree Taxes? | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|----|
| a. Teen Center & Programs | VI | SI | SU | NI | Yes | No |
| b. Senior Center | VI | SI | SU | NI | Yes | No |
| c. Additional public transportation | VI | SI | SU | NI | Yes | No |
| d. Low income housing | VI | SI | SU | NI | Yes | No |

e. Some evening hours at Town offices	VI	SI	SU	NI	Yes	No
f. Town owned open space	VI	SI	SU	NI	Yes	No
g. Town owned animal shelter	VI	SI	SU	NI	Yes	No
h. Senior housing	VI	SI	SU	NI	Yes	No
i. Recycling center	VI	SI	SU	NI	Yes	No

12. Some residents consider Foster a rural community. In your own words, please list five or six characteristics of a rural town?

13. Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion?

- 03 Foster has grown too fast. The pace should slow or stop.
 04 Foster should encourage moderate, managed growth.
 05 Foster needs the tax revenue and should encourage growth.

14. As in any town or community, every service provided by Foster has a price tag. However, please tell us areas where you feel Foster should be spending more money.

15. The following is a list of recreational activities. Please circle each of the activities you would like to see in Foster.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01 Neighborhood parks/tot lot | 05 Biking Trails |
| 02 Ballfields | 06 Cross Country Skiing areas |
| 03 Hiking trails | 07 Camping areas |
| 04 Swimming pools | 08 Tennis courts |

16. Circle each of the following, which you feel, is threatened?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 06 Wildlife habitat | 04 Scenic vistas/open space |
| 07 Farm land | 05 Woodlands |
| 08 Historic buildings and sites | 06 Scenic roads |

17. Please tell me what controls, if any, should the Town use to protect:

a. The Scituate Reservoir _____

b. Your individual water supply _____

18. Which of the following areas of town best describes where you are living.

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 01 North Foster | 03 Clayville | 05 Moosup Valley |
| 02 Hopkins Mill Area | 04 Foster Center | 06 Cucumber Hill/West Foster |

19. What is your occupation? _____

20. What town do you work in? _____

21. Please estimate the length of your longest daily one-way trip to work?

01 _____ 02 DK

22. Please tell us the category which best describes your total family income before taxes.

01	Under \$9,999.00	04	35,000 – 49,999
02	10,000 – 24,999	05	50,000 – 59,999
03	25,000 – 34,999	06	60,000 or more

23. What is your year of birth? _____

24. How many children do you have? _____

25. How many children under 18 years of age live at home? _____

26. How many more children would you ideally like to have within the next five years?

01 _____ 02 DK

27. Are you.....

01	Single Male	05	Single Female
02	Married Male	06	Married Female
03	Divorced Male	07	Divorced Female
04	Widower	08	Widow

Economic Development Section:

1. In Foster, would you like to see more:
Commerce (restaurants, shops); Y/N (circle one)
Industry (manufacturing); Y/N
Business (services, offices); Y/N
- 2A. If Yes, what would you like to see? _____
- 2B. Where would you like to see it located? _____
3. What would you Not like to see?
4. What do you think caused old Foster businesses to fail, or will be a deterrent to new Businesses?
5. If you presently operate, or would like to operate, a home-based business, what keeps you from expanding that business?
6. What could the Town do to help you expand your home-based business?