

Of the 2025 people who took BethelSurvey.com, 875 also spent extra time writing a final comment about issues in Bethel which the survey did not address, or did not cover adequately. These are strong opinions and we thank you for sharing them.

*For ease of use we are presenting the final comments by topic. This group includes comments about **open space, wildlife and environmental issues**. See also the separate listing of comments on the topic of recreation. Rather than try to extract sections, we are listing the entire comment from each person who had something to say about these issues, though their comment may in fact address several topics.*

Typing and spelling errors have not been corrected - the comments are presented as written. The number represents the respondent number and is left here for ease of discussing the comments. The number is not linked to any personal information.

146 I'd like to see something done about the noise pollution in downtown Bethel. All too often cars drive down the streets with radios blaring...it would be great to have an ordinance. I've very concerned about the new construction of a new CVS being built on Library Place. I would have preferred to see some kind of park built there, with benches, trees, etc. What business will go into the old CVS location? I fear Bethel is being turning into a mini-strip mall community and will lose it's small town flavor. We desparately need to preserve the green and open spaces, to allow for more areas where residents can relax and visit around town. We do NOT need to keep paving over so many areas in our community.

154 Above all I believe that bethel needs to aggressively hold on to its small town roots. overdeveloping will kill this town. We all want more money and increasing the amount of residents surely brings more money to the town via property tax. However it also brings a bundle of issues. The high school is in need of rebuilding, our roads are getting crowded, open space is dwindling away. We need to head in the direction of Redding not Danbury. Speeding vehicles is also an apparent out of control issue in this town. Cars routinely speed through Greenwood Ave making it dangerous to cross the street. I feel its only a matter of time until there is an incident near the Bethel Cinema. The area is poorly lit and I constantly witness close calls as drivers are often completely oblivious to the crosswalk. As a resident near the schools I'm consistently amazed at the horrific disregard for the 15 MPH speed limit clearly posted. Although I can certainly understand drivers at 25 MPH I'm horrified when cars drive by at what seems to be well over 40 MPH. We need money to fix the high school and fund other projects and at the same time lives are being endangered by speeding vehicles. I propose we start ticketing speeders in town with an overpowering police presence. Wilton, CT is famous for DWI arrests along RT 7. its common knowledge that when you drive through Wilton you should take it easy. We need the same reputation in Bethel. If you're going to break the law and endanger human lives, you must pay a penalty.

156 I believe it is next to impossible to stop growth and deveopment. Those with political & financial clout will push their agenda through regardless of what is best for the town or it's people. People with children will always demand that not enough is being done, although as adults looking back most of us got what we needed to be sucessful from the school system of our time. Does driving up the cost of living here benefit the taxpayer or those collecting on the loans? Will this still be small

town America when we submit to these increases and growth year after year? Will what we lose really matter? How can the town keep it's integrity and sell out to big deveopment at the same time? Is Bethel just a few good meals for the development machine to take what it wants before moving on? Maybe it's not important. Not enough people seem to vote or care. Bottom line for me is keep costs as low as possible, put in some environmental improvements, preserve the land, a few bike trails would be nice and heathier school lunches. Oh, South St. is in dire need of repavement. It feels like I'm driving down a crater filled war zone every time I go to Bethel Food Market. All in all, I'm very happy to be a Bethel resident and would just like the town to keep the charm that it has now.

159 i feel that not enough is being done to save the environment in this are and the town is being very overdeveloped with condos. there is way too much traffic in this small town

180 Bethel is not doing enough to preserve open space. It seems that every other week, another tract of land is leveled to put up condos or a subdivision. This town does not need more residential development. It increases the burden on school and town services, drives up taxes, and destroys what little natural beauty is left in this town. We need to toughen our zoning regulations and not roll over every time Toll Brothers comes knocking. We also need to get proactive about acquiring and preserving undeveloped land.

184 If the survey got rid of all personal questions that do not pertain to town improvement - personal income, schooling, types of credit cards etc.. will not help the town. Intstead the survey needs more question on how to stop: over-development and over-taxation. Similarly, more quesitons are needed on the High School and Library building fiascos, and how they can best be remedied. But, just as in the past, the Town of Bethel is more interested in the amount of money they can take - as illustrated by all the personal financial questions- from the taxpayers of Bethel.

192 Well I have told you how I feel about Terre Haute. It is the one gem we have. Bethel offers virtually NO recreation for anyone over the age of 18 except for Tennis and Soft Ball. I sell Real estate. It is extremely difficult to convince people to live in Bethel with taxes so high and virtually NO services except for Police. I realize the Library is a service but let's face it, my taxes exceed \$15,000. I sure would like someone to tell me what I get?

193 I would like to see better maintenance at Meckauer Park

238 A lot of money is being put into the town's parks and a lot of work is being done, but there are some things that can and should be improved on. Many people go to Meckauer and Parloa park every day, but the equipment there needs to be imporved. Children play on inadequet swings and slides. Many people play basketball at these parks. Any day you will see at least 20 people trying to fit on these small courts. At Meckauer park the court is too small to play a normal game of five on five basketball, and the courts don't have the necessary lines for free throws and three point shots. Also, while playing at these parks get hungry and thirsty, but their is no where to get something to eat or drink. Personally, I would turn the empty building next to the bathrooms into a snack stand, or at the very least put vending machines at the park. A snack shed could make money for the town and create jobs oppritunities for people in Bethel.

301 The things that I consider as a priority are as follows: the second level of the Bethel Library should be completed as quickly as possible. I know people who refuse to come to this library because they think it inferior to other libraries. It would also be nice to see a concert room with stackable chairs and a piano. I also think the front room of the library in the original building should be open to the public, and not just used for staff and special programs. It's beautiful up there. Terre Haute is also important in my book. It is a beautiful area of land, with a wonderful view. Hiking there is wonderful,

and I hope to see the day when I can go in by myself, and not with the Preservation Advocates for Terre Haute (PATH).

317 I don't know how to solve problems, but the problem I see not only here in Bethel but elsewhere is a lack of forethought. Public transportation has fallen into disfavor just when we need it most. Why didn't someone think 15 years ago that trains should have been upgraded rather than abandoned. Why do we spend so much time on new roads and traffic lights when we should be thinking of walking or biking lanes. Why not eliminate vehicular traffic in downtowns everywhere. Heaven knows we can all use the exercise and it would be nice to clean up the air by banning gas-burning vehicles in certain areas. I worry about the state of the world in the next 25 years; I'll be dead but will I have left clean water, clean air and a healthy environment for the generations to come. I really don't know. Isn't it time to say "no" to the ways it's always been done and try something new? I'm growing tired of the same old rhetoric; I want someone to propose mass transportation, energy conservation and other diverse programs that truly bring us into the 21st century.

344 I think it is important that downtown Bethel (Greenwood Avenue) remain the site of locally owned and operated businesses so that the small-town character is preserved. the Route 6 corridor, because of its proximity to Route 84, can handle big box franchises without infecting downtown. Creative zoning regulations could preserve downtown while encouraging corridor development. I also think that preservation of open space is critical in an area where there is very little left.

364 Tick problem is very significant - consider controlled deer hunts by residents. Clean-up empty lot across from Citgo station on Greenwood - downtown parking is one option for this spot.

365 Well, after taking the survey, I see the town of Bethel has not changed in anyway with the new government officials. They are more interested in the amount of money their citizens make, as indicated by all the personal monetary questions on income, credit cards, types of cars driven etc... so that they can gauge the tax increase for next year. My answer is this: freeze the tax increases, check all your budgets prior to year end to see where there is unused money and cut back on the budgets. By checking before the year end closing date I'm sure you'll find the extra money! Do an internal audit without warning and I'm sure you'll be surprised at the funds you'll find. Additionally, and just as important, Bethel needs to stop the overdevelopment of it's land before it destroys the small town charm. Terre Haute needs to be preserved AS IS - no golf course and no "harvesting." Make it passive recreational with trails for all. Likewise, Bethel needs to stop the overdevelopment by outside construction firms/developers, such as Ovenrock partners, from creating more urban sprawl. Reservoir Street and it's surrounding neighborhoods do not need any more traffic thru them. Similiar projects throughout Bethel are taxing (literally) the people, the infrastructure and supply system of Bethel. Causing power fluctuations, water main breaks, flooding, traffic concerns and stressing all departments at the increased demands. Furthermore, The town swimming pool and golf courses should NEVER have be in this survey. They should NEVER have been brought up! Both were shot down for various reasons by the citizens of Bethel -why are they still here? Because the town is lead by a select group of cronies who continue to beat a dead horse. The town spoke out numerous times against both projects, was anyone listening to them? Let me refresh your memory the answer was a resounding: NO WE DON'T WANT THEM. The Library project was just a precursor to the horrendous mismanagement of the Bethel High School project. The library is oversized and underutilized. The High School is heading in the same direction. Stop where you are, look at what can be cut in the new addition and renovated in the old building. Most importantly, keep within the approved amount of bonding/loans that the citizens original approved - do not request more money, the town citizens can not afford anymore.

393 Many roads need to be repaved. I live on Rockwell Road, off the entrance of 302. The road is all torn up with huge pot-holes and everytime it rains, I have a huge lake at the top of my driveway.

Too much open land is being taken away on Rockwell Road. Not happy with destroying the farm property to build 6 or 7 new houses on Rockwell Road. The two ponds are now filled with brown filthy water. Not good for the wildlife.

395 Land conservation is the most important thing!. Since we dont have the 2 or 1 acre zonings to preserve values i think it might be smart to keep the town pristine . Our mill rate has gone up steadily while other towns are lower Fairfield is 19 and such we dont have the high value of those towns per household but we are not going to get that from stores, large condos unless your improve services like fire and police.

418 A major concern of mine relates to the amount of development. Having lived in Bethel only two years, I am alarmed that a housing project, The Ridges, is being built done the street and another multiple housing project is in the plans over the hill in back of me. Bethel's charm for me has been its woods and ridges. They are rapidly being defaced.

443 Priorities: Preserve Terre Haute Improve and finish library Street paving

458 I have been living in Bethel over 10 years now and would like to see Bethel remain a small town. I do not like all these Condos being built all over town. I would hate to see the woods taken away along Reservoir street. I would like to see more stores open up that will bring more families to the town to spend an afternoon walking around. More historical events to learn more about our town. More events that will bring us together. Also, more advertising of these events. I usually find out about it a week later in the Bethel Beacon.

466 I have lived in Bethel all of my life and am very sad to see all this overdevelopment. There is only so much land in this town and if development continues as is we are very soon going to have no land left and we will be a very overpopulated town.

472 Bethel is a unique town with a lot of potential. I've lived here for 2 years and, despite that I am a renter, not a homeowner, care tremendously about this town. Greenwood Ave. needs a shot of energy, culture. We need to preserve our open space and promote outdoor and cultural activities.

482 I would love to see a dog park somewhere in town. Also, I have taken several Adult Ed classes in Bethel. I would suggest that the teachers be screened to be sure that the classes are not advertisements for their personal business pursuits. I had one excellent experience in adult ed and two bad experiences in which I paid to hear their personal businesses advertised. I would like to take more classes but would be very cautious in the future. I would also like to take the opportunity to say that Bethel is a wonderful town, I have been here almost 20 years and I am glad that I raised my son here. This survey and the ideas raised have given me an idea of what great potential Bethel had to be even better!

516 When you asked about recreation, you left out horseback riding. There are many, many horses in Bethel, and the needs of horse people are always overlooked when planning trail systems and opne space uses. We are banned from all Land trust properties. We pay extra taxes for the land we need for our animals,and on our barns. We spend a lot of money locally for our animals' needs as well.

562 How a dog run? Ridgefield has one that is really nicely kept. I'd even be willing to pay a small fee to help with maintenance.

601 The survey seems unintentionally slanted to obtain certain answers in some instances. For example, I am concerned about drinking water, but not about global warming. In addition, other questions are not specific, particularly the open space questions. We all need a certain amount of open space, but when only a handful of residents are making use of , for example, the Terre Haute property, this is not a well-utilized preservation benefitting residents. A golf course with community pool would have had much greater use to residents. Bottom line is - great questions, but more specificity could be had, especially related to the shopping questions.

634 stop the commerical corporate development, focus on conserving resources. OUR MONEY SHOULD NOT BE GOING ALL TO BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL! much of Bethel's population are elderly, have no children, or send their children to other out of town schools. if the parents of bethel high students want improvements, great, they can pay for them. stop making everyone else use their money towards something they could care less about. and it's pretty ridiculous when a bill keeps failing to change the budget and people attempt to keep trying to pass it. hello, no means no.

666 I would like to be better informed about town government. I would like minutes of board meetings, etc. to be available on the town website. The information available now is very limited and static. The website could also be a central source, with links, for town services, programs, community activities, volunteer opportunities, etc. Since the Library provides Internet access to everyone, people without access at home could still take advantage of this. Open space is very important to me; the natural beauty of Connecticut is one of its most valuable assets. I enjoy biking, hiking and cross-country skiing in the local parks and Trust land, and on the Blue Trail system. We need more action to preserve open space before it is gone. Is there a group that coordinates all the relevant information: planning & zoning, land trust, state farmland and open-space preservation, Nature Conservancy, etc.?

717 EXCESSIVE OVERDEVELOPMENT!!! Every pretty patch of woods in town is being pulled down for more housing or commercial space and we do not have the room for all these people and their cars and their kids in the schools! Also, something needs to be done about this selfish minority of big mouths ruining our town called the Bethel Action Committee. Paulsen simply doesn't want to pay taxes on a house he inherited and he doesn't send his kids to the local school, so he doesn't care how he ruins the town and the schools for the rest of us. Surely something can be done to shut him down. He is a DISGRACE.

755 Well, from several of your questions, I deduce that the writers of the survey are politically liberal. While I am concerned about the environment I don't agree with a lot of the solutions that the "green" party pushes. The taxes in Bethel are way too high. I would like for my parents to move here but even if they found a house they could afford, the monthly taxes would make it impossible on a fixed income. I understand that the high school needs some serious repairs but the money needs to be found within the current income. Other areas seem to be able to fund their programs and schools with much lower taxes which is pushing a lot of our retired people out of the area.

760 A bike trail/ bike lanes would be great in bethel and would help to bring people into the downtown area. Also, a dog park (like southbury's) would help to build a sense of community that is sometimes lacking in Bethel.

779 I would really like to see Bethel put in a Rail Trail or similar paved recreational pathway. I believe this will benefit the community tremendously and provide a means for people to improve their quality of health and life.

781 I think that Bethel needs to take a larger, more global, view of its Terre Haute property and make it part of the undisturbed land that runs through Western CT. We don't need to buy it, or find

ways to pay for it (Which is a REALLY big plus), we just need to leave it alone, or at most develop it for passive recreation. If the town just absolutely has to develop it, we better be prepared for the potentially devastating effects due to flooding on the western part of town, as well as possible problems that could develop in the watershed area (such as loss of potable drinking water). Then the town will have to come up with a lot of money and the land tracts that are undeveloped with which to replace this valuable asset. I think that overdevelopment is the single largest problem that Bethel is currently facing, on both an environmental front as well as an aesthetic one. I feel that the town is powerless against these ruthless developers, but perhaps if the town offered tax-relief incentives to developers who make minimal impact on the existing landscape, we would see more responsible and attractive development. We should be promoting the small-town character of the town much much more. I would like to see broader promotion for the town (Ie in NY papers) to be used as an arts center (even seasonal), crafts center (more summertime crafts fairs and workshops) and for bicycling, or other non-invasive sporting events. It would even be nice to see an old-time town fair in the late summer or early fall as a means to create town unity, and also to draw out-of-state tourists. I think we also need to encourage the development of bed-and-breakfast type places as opposed to the awful hotels along Rte. 6. In summary, I think that one of our biggest challenges, both locally and nationally, is the preservation of our natural resources, our architectural heritage and our small-town flavor which makes Bethel such a unique and wonderful place to live. We really must, as the stewards of the town, make sure that we don't pave Paradise for all future generations of Bethelites!!!!!! I think the town needs to stop further residential development until such time as the town has a larger business/corporate tax base to pay for the discrepancy between residential tax revenues and the drain of residences on city services and educational needs. That being said, I think we must very carefully look at further business development to limit the negative impact it will have on the water supplies in the western part of town and the Stony Hill area, and also how it will negatively affect the traffic

809 1) A park in the downtown area would be nice as would a Town Pool at one of the existing parks (such as Mekaur or Bennet). Most residents are currently using pools in other towns. If we had our own it would bring in extra revenue. 2) A traffic light or 4 way stop is a MUST on the corner of Taylor and Plumtrees. 3) More merchant events (such as Trick or Treat ST) 4) Town Flea Market or Monthly Auction

950 Save Bethel's Natural Gem: Permanently preserve Terre Haute as open space. Future generations will be so grateful. Keep the small town downtown small and unique. Think of the future, \$5 gallon gas: Maximize use of the RR, walking, biking, the wonderful ability to do business, shopping, recreating downtown w/o a car. Bring people to this center w/o their car. Cluster new development!

1043 We could use a Town pool or spray park, municipal golf course, and to do a better job of preserving open space. Bethel has a wonderful charm about it, and more thought needs to be given to sizing things right rather than building bigger developments and buildings.

1055 Need to address speeding problem on Greenwood heading towards Sycamore. I live on Elizabeth St and there are WAY too many people that use the street as a drag strip; cars go WAY too fast down our street, and many homes have small children. Put in some speed bumps or start handing out \$300 tickets, or restrict traffic. Put up a concrete barrier next to the strip mall to prevent people from using Elizabeth as a route from the Spot at night. Is there a vehicle noise ordinance? Too many loud motorcycles driving around. Complete the Ives Trail. Property taxes are crazy and need to be lowered. Bethel should have its own garbage service and also include recycling pickup. Designate in-town streets (like Elizabeth) or areas as historic and prohibit any commercial development. Ex. call the area around Blackman/Elizabeth/South St 'The Sealy District' and make it historic. I hate to see homes being turned into businesses. If you do not act soon, there will be no more down-town

residential. Ridgefield uses Ballard Park for free concerts. Why not do something similar with the space in front of the Municipal center?

1064 Buy more open space

1065 What is never addressed in this town is the pollution and contamination of water supplies by companies such as Vanderbilt Chemical and Kanthal. This town has five superfund sites, there is extensive groundwater contamination, and companies such as Vanderbilt spew toxic chemicals into the air 24/7. There was a toxic waste dump site that was excavated at Vanderbilt. There is groundwater contamination and ongoing testing of wells for contamination. They store thousands of pounds of very dangerous chemicals which are brought into the plant by train or truck right through downtown and residential areas. There have been at least two fires there that I am aware of, one of which resulted in a huge fine by the EPA, and neighboring residents were never notified. What is being done to protect the citizens of Bethel? We should have a reverse 911 system to alert residents in case of a fire or toxic release at one of these industrial plants. There should be maps of groundwater contamination made available to the public so those with wells know if they are at risk and can test their water. The plan to expand the industrial park will just bring in more companies with the possibility of more pollution. The town should be looking to expand economic development without further compromising the environment and the health of residents. I previously commented on the use of pesticides in parks. Why can't the town go to a policy of no pesticide use in public areas or at least an integrated pest management program? It would be wonderful for the children of this town to have natural, pesticide free parks to play in. Buy a string trimmer and stop using weed/grass killer right around children's play structures. Also, the grass outside the Police Station does not have to look like a golf course. One huge difference between the way issues are addressed in this town and surrounding towns, is that when a problem arises in a town such as Ridgefield, it is made public and a solution is planned and implemented. Here, it seems as though nothing is ever planned out properly, huge issues are never made public or addressed, and nothing is ever resolved or adequately completed. Things are always half done or not done at all. A few good examples are the half a library (which flooded last year right after it reopened), the high school renovations that have never happened, the Chestnut Street culvert that was never properly repaired causing the town to face DEP fines, and the streetscape project which did not adequately address drainage issues resulting in downtown businesses being flooded.

1159 i love bethel. no complaints except not being able to use the nature conservatory. no entrance from aunt pattys lane any longer. we were told cant come in that way any longer.then how?i donate money to them. no longer unless they tell me where to enter

1184 take down the signs in other towns and on state roads to our parks, they are already too crowded.

1205 Implement town-wide trash removal for residents. Rabies vaccination clinics - dogs and cats (probably best on different days.) Initiate Habitat for Humanity / Christmas in April community project(s) ("Keep Bethel Beautiful") A number of my fellow residents and I are very disappointed that a Big Y plaza, currently under construction, has taken the place of a picturesque tract of land next to Hollandia on Route 6 - shameful - as within a stone's throw one could access other supermarket choices. My family is deeply concerned about the "leave no open land" policy that seems to be in place. This policy has and continues to squeeze out & displace wildlife, gouges the land eliminating the natural landscape qualities and does little to improve our overall quality of life. How many drug stores, supermarkets and big box companies in our community (and surrounding communities) will be enough? I honestly wonder if there is sufficient consumer business to support all of them - and at what cost to the environment / wildlife? I believe that what could differentiate our sweet town from others would be a land / community conservation mindset vs. overdevelopment. Now that's a legacy and a

gift to leave for future generations worth every effort. Thank you for the opportunity to give voice to our vision for Bethel.

1344 Bethel needs to maintain its home town appeal. Not interested in big stores and traffic congestion and loud noisy night spots. Keep it clean, safe where we can provide a quality life for everyone, old to young. Newtown is already over developed as is Danbury, and Brookfield - keep the peace and undeveloped space.

1356 1. More intelligent use of open land. For example, let archery hunters on all open land to help control the raging deer population. 2. Stop virtually all development in Bethel. Let's keep it a nice small town. Why compete with everyone else?

1417 If we could seal the deal with the Ives Trail, this would be a lasting legacy for Bethel, Danbury and Ridgefield.

1446 fix BHS, and get on it. environmental issues need to be confronted; land conservation, recycling, pollution reduction. fix the traffic light at the intersection of chestnut/nashville/302 - does not change efficiently on Sunday nights.

1480 One issue stands out, not being able to use Makower Park. The Park is filled to capacity, at high times, with cars and obviously, NOT FROM BETHEL. Solution, auto windshield stickers for a nominal fee from Bethel town hall. No need to hire someone, just have a sign in place at the entrance for Bethel residence only and an occasional police patrol car check autos. No sticker, parking ticket. It also would provide a small income for the town with very little effort on the town's part. Thanks very much, 39 year resident

1520 Bethel is trying too hard to impress itself. We need to concentrate on core infrastructure and stop erecting monuments to importance. The future is in cyber libraries, which don't need to be overgrown burdens on resident's wallets. It's ironic that the people most needing a public library are lower income residents, and the cost of this behemoth is driving tax rates up too high for low income individuals to live in Bethel. Bethel needs to remember the value of clean air and open spaces. The most important way to reinforce that commitment would be to drastically reduce taxes on undeveloped land. If people could afford to keep their open land, this town could keep the innate charm and peace we life-long residents remember. Back when you saw as many meadows and woods as homes. It's probably a losing battle, but for pity's sake stop trying to 'improve' everything and in the process devour our natural resources to pay for it. If we can't reverse this trend Bethel will be just another overcrowded mini-metropolis.

1530 One of the biggest problems in town is the overpopulation of deer in the residential areas. I would applaud any town official with the courage to address this problem.

1588 STOP THE URBAN SPAWL! Enough land has been destroyed and continues to be so. We need the plants, trees, animals and insect life to maintain a healthy environment here in Bethel. A place for my grandchildren to play and see a bunny or dragonfly. The new CVS building has destroyed and will be paving over so much beauty here in the downtown area. It was NOT needed and there are so many more instances like that. What are the Bethel Commissions thinking? Obvious they are not. Do they want Bethel to become Queens, NY? It is sliding down that slope. We need good schools (that means teachers) it isn't the building that gets kids to learn. Our fire and police departments should be

given the help they need to protect the residents and community. The library is the mainstay of a town. We need to finish it, so there will be a place for the kids to have programs(not just huddled up by the elevator). A place where teens can have a dignified teen area to go to, rather than a humid stale basement.

1596 The public officials that sought to facilitate the commercial development of the Terre Haute property should be lined up against a wall and shot for their profound shortsightedness (or greed, or incompetence or both), and at least voted out of office. Open space is a resource that shouldn't be squandered in the rush to Bethel's economic and cultural "renaissance". By taking a good look around, it should be apparent that factors such as this figure significantly in an improved quality of life for a town's citizenry, and therefor to its economic well-being.

1635 Please keep open space preservation on the top of your "to do" list. Bethel is lovely community. while I don't live there, I enjoy leisure activities there. It would be a shame to see your quality of life suffer due to urban sprawl and big box development.

1654 Deer are too numerous and must be hunted to protect our health and plants.

1662 It is time for Bethel to find a way to keep taxes down. Use state consortiums or school-based purchasing groups to get the best prices on everything from gas to heating oil to textbooks. The town has to do a much better job of planning for capital purchases and projects. We can't defer capital projects year after year and then try to do three or four in one or two years. The library is a prime example of a poorly executed project. When the project came in over bid, it should have been scrapped or rebid. There is no excuse for having a second floor that is essentially useless. Why put all of the money into a library addition and then have the ability to fully use the new space. The high school is another long overdue project that seems to be heading for disaster. Look at the Barlow project in Redding and take heed. If there is not enough money to do the project as proposed, value engineer what you can and then go back to the voters upfront for more money, and it is absolutely essential that a construction manager be hired. Bethel officials need to start thinking outside the box on how to get more for our money. Bethel is fast becoming a town that even middle class people - our sons and daughters, our teachers, our highway crew, firefighters, etc. - cannot afford. Bethel's forte has been its socio-economic mix. Let's work hard not to lose this. Bethel needs more open space and more industry to broaden the tax base. Expand Clarke Park while maintaining as much open space as possible, encourage business in the Commerical-Industrial corridor along Route 6. Offer tax breaks and incentives. Is the Economic Development Commission still viable? If not, it should be. Last, but not least, police should enforce the crosswalk laws in downtown Bethel. You take your life in your hands to get across the street. If you are in a town like Ridgefield, you wouldn't think of not stopping for a pedestrian. We also need better enforcement at traffic lights. Time and again I see people running a light long after it has turned red. There is almost a complete disregard for the law. My last comment is about your survey. What on earth do my credit cards, what I watch on TV, my cell phones and other non-related to Bethel questions have to do with this survey?

1725 Overall, I think we need a much greater emphasis on environmental issues (open space, global warming, energy conservation) and more programs (festivals, classes, etc) regarding different cultures. Thanks!

1750 Bethel is far behind surrounding towns in preservation of open space. This is not merely an environmental issue, but an economic issue as well (new developments almost always cost the town more in services, especially education, than we get back in tax revenues). In particular, establishing

the Terre Haute portion of the Ives Trail should be a top priority. This will be a nationally-recognized trail, of great benefit to Bethel.

1781 Bethel has a considerably sized bicycling community. These are well educated involved citizens and with that being said we should have the roads to support this usage. I have visited many cycling friendly communities over the years and we are way behind in making roads safe for bicycles and car shared usage. We make home to one of the best bicycle companies in the world and having the bike lanes and wide shoulders on our roads would help in many ways. It is healthier for people, cycle commuters save energy and local business get a boost from the groups that meet here to ride. I would commute to work more if the roads were Friendlier and more suited to safe cycling. Also if the Electric company is going to rip our roads apart then they should replace them in good order, not patch and leave a mess. How did this benefit us besides paralyzing our daily commutes? For a while it took less time to ride my bike to work than it did to drive my car. We chose to live in Bethel because we see it as the next great town in Fairfield county. It has great parks and a nice downtown. We felt that by the time our children are ready for school the facilities will be in order and therefore we should continue to invest in town facilities and people. Let's make Bethel Great

1796 Same as said above.....concerns are traffic in town, lack of green open space, sprawl, taxes (let's not tax our elderly out of town!), zoning issues, and general concern over lack of long term vision for the town and preserving small rural town feeling.

1847 I found that some of the commissioners do not pay heed to the average citizen. In my time I have found much cooperation with US Representatives and US Senates, even the US President on one occasion-this in my capacity of a veterans advocate. However, it would seem that the Bethel Commissioners think they are "above" getting personally involved in the plight of deserving individuals. I also have no use for the idea of private development of the Terre Haute property and resent how Bethel Commissioners are trying to push it on us. I also have no respect for the Head of the Parks Department who I, and others, have called on several occasions about Overlook Park and Bennett's Memorial Parks. She cares little for the individuals and does not allow even the bathroom facilities to be used during the summer, EXCEPT by those who RENT the park. Since our taxes pay for the maintenance of the park, we should have the same conveniences as those who RENT IT FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS. I have lived in five states and have never seen this occur. She is very aware of mine and others' dismay in this area, yet totally ignores us. I also find Kathleen Gillen to be totally offensive in her treatment to me and other low income Bethel citizens. She makes us feel inferior and is totally unsuited to her position as Social Service Director in Bethel. I assure you that opinion is held, not only by private citizens, but also by other Social Workers and professionals currently in positions in Bethel over Senior Housing and other Senior Services.

1877 As an added suggestion for the use of the Terre Haute property, a town recreational center with an attached public golf course is a noble idea. The kids in this town really don't get enough fresh air or do not get enough exercise while they're out. The rec center should include public fields, e.g. soccer fields, baseball fields, etc. much like Kids' Kingdom in Brookfield. On to the golf course, golf is awesome, people like it. People also pay lots of money to do it; therefore, it's a good thing for the town to have another place for people to spend their money. It also provides a place where teenagers can get fairly decent jobs and learn good work ethic, manners, etc. Next and final point: this survey was a bit too long.

1891 The disastrous destruction of the open space on Nashville Road is heart breaking. To do what????? To build more horrible condos, I suppose. Having driven to Bethel via Nashville for 38 years I am disgusted that Bethel thinks so little of land preservation versus BIG BUSINESS. The

developers must love you. Watching those old trees, etc., fall by the hundreds was very sad. I'm glad I live in a town that has an active enthusiastic land trust that has preserved land instead of giving it over for the mighty dollar !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

1908 The Terre Haute property is your last big opportunity, and it must not be squandered. I feel this survey (thus probably the town) is not considering enough options. It's not a matter of development or no development. You must have it both ways, in fact. I think Bethel's commercial development so far is near perfect. But the abysmal state of the schools make the town a non-starter for families moving into the area. (The two families I know in Bethel avoid the schools. One refuses to have kids because of the schools. The other home schools.) The public schools must be fixed. That likely means the town needs some tax-generating economic development in Terre Haute, unfortunately. If this is done in a concentrated way, according to the principles of Smart Growth (which suits the rest of Bethel's development well) adding a small commercial or office district, and dense housing on, say 1/4 to 1/3 of the property, that would leave plenty of open space left over for recreation. Paving the whole thing over with single-family homes or big-box stores and parking lots will only make the town's financial problems worse.

1911 Let's get smart about development; Redding never seems to be forced to accept "low-income" housing through that ridiculous state mandate. We have more than our share. Keep the town properties open to hunting.

1921 I don't live in Bethel but I do use you trails and I would stress that these are a great resource. Generally when I use the trails I visit a business in Bethel so supporting the trails supports the town.

1938 Global warming needs to be taken seriously--Al Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth" is still at Bethel Cinema for all to see. All other issues globally take 2nd place to this. Also, more needs to be done re alternative fuel sources, such as grains & to keep large corporations & oil companies from blocking this technology.

2003 Post office parking needs to be improved, more spaces are needed. New business is fine but would rather see the reuse of existing buildings than building new buildings that may stay vacant for months/years. Would be nice if Parloa park get a nicer play set like Meckauer Park got. An cabana with a few picnic tables would be nice but not necessary or a good shade tree may be nice that a picnic table could go under unlike the small ornamental ones that were planted. Would prefer a rail trail like bike path at some of the parks that could be used for biking and walking...bike routes may be nice on some of the roads but some are so busy it's scary to bike for leasure, hense the bike path in parks...such paths would be good for jogging and rollerbladers too..

2025 Bethel is changing, and not for the better. Developers are ravaging the land, building in degraded wetlands, or hillsides, anywhere they want, apparently. Meanwhile my propety taxes are going up every year. I wonder how much longer I can live here. There doesn't appear to be any control over this explosion, no master plan to save some wild land or habitat for wildlife - zoning is a mess, mixing residential and industrial zones to the detriment of home owners. Growth is a very mixed blessing. The new library is much too big, sticks out, isn't an improvement, for example. NO MORE. Re: Bethel businesses - I walk to shops in town; do not use my car to shop in Stony Hill. Re: parks - Parloa Park 3 or 4 times a week, all year, for walking. Re: Economic Development - Development is out of control, destroying the environment/habitat and quality of life. Re: Vehicle purchase - I only buy used cars and drive them for 15-20 years. Re: Internet - I do not use the Internet.

2032 Re: Open Space - Not enough open space. Also, zoning is inconsistent & unacceptable. Re:
How Terre Haute should be used. 1. Residential development - NO WAY 2. Commercial Harvest - NO
3. Commercial Development - NO WAY