

Windsor 2040 Online Townhall Forum
Summary of Comments and Ideas
Report #1
Assets, Issues, Opportunities, and Vision
November 2014

What is a Online Townhall Forum?

As part of the Windsor General Plan Update, the Town is using an innovative, new community engagement tool to engage residents in a dialogue about Windsor's future – the online Townhall Forum. The Townhall Forum, run through a service called Mindmixer, is an community engagement tool that allows residents to communicate with each other, Town leaders, and Town staff about the issues relevant to Windsor. A benefit of using the online Townhall Forum is that residents can easily provide input into the General Plan Update process from their home or workplace computer, on their mobile phone or tablet, or from any other location with an internet connection.

The Town will use the online Townhall Forum throughout the General Plan Update process to gather input from community members on key topics and issues. This document summarizes the first round of input. The first round of the online Townhall Forum, which was open from August 15 to October 31, allowed residents to provide input on six topics, including:

- Why Windsor?;
- Health and Quality of Life;
- Transportation and Mobility;
- Growth and Development;
- Economic Development;
- Other, General Comments.

Residents were reminded of the Forum on the website, through multiple email blasts, and during public meetings for the General Plan Update. Participants also accessed the site via the Forum's url: <http://windsor2040.mindmixer.com>. Once an account is created, residents provided input – called ideas – and comment on each other's input. Participants could see each other's comments and provide responses, creating an interactive atmosphere. Participants provided a total of 51 ideas, not including comments, across the topics.

The following section lists the topics and questions posed by the Town on the online Townhall Forum and provides a verbatim summary of input from participants.

Comments provided in this report are ideas or suggestions provided by visitors to the Windsor2040 website. Comments have not been edited for spelling or content.

Topic Name: Why Windsor?

Windsor has been characterized as a fun, family-friendly town, a gateway to the wine country, and an affordable place to live and raise a family. The town has good schools and parks and great community events. So, what makes Windsor unique that isn't found anywhere else? What are you most proud of?

Idea Title: I really like the Town Green and the events that occur.

Idea Detail: Could the concerts occasionally maybe 3-4 times go a little longer say to 9 PM for certain entertainers. The Farmers Market on Sundays has a musical group but the staging is not up to what it could be. How could that venue be enhanced to bring more people to Windsor to enjoy and enrich our Town. I know that wine tasting may be added to the Farmers' Market. What could the Town do to use this expanded economic opportunity to better connect Windsor to the Wine Country.

Idea Author: Sam S

- Comment 1: On second thought, it might be wiser to keep bartering activities desperate from retail activities. Different days of the week. | By Terry T
- Comment 2: The farmers market is a great venue for a bartering market for produce as well as good and services. This would take some management, but it could provide great value and reduce unnecessary consumerism. | By Terry T

Idea Title: Lots of trees and a small town atmosphere.

Idea Detail: Town Green and square.

Idea Author: Ralph A

Idea Title: Wonderful neighborhood community

Idea Detail: For the past seven years we have lived in Vinecrest Estates in east Windsor. We have found that our neighbors have been the best neighbors we have experienced in our adult lives. Strong towns like Windsor are fundamentally built upon strong, cohesive, protective neighborhoods. Windsor's general plan should encourage strong neighborhoods.

Idea Author: David H

Idea Title: Clean, safe, small town feeling

Idea Detail: I chose to live in Windsor with my family because the town felt quaint. It appeared the city paid attention to the details of providing a clean and unique place to live while being affordable.

We need more places that cater to families with children. And a place for teens to go that contribute to their independence and growth in a safe atmosphere.

Idea Author: Kelly J

Idea Title: My idea is to keep Windsor

Idea Detail: My idea is to keep Windsor quaint, "mom and pop" type shops and businesses, a family destination through tourism and "day trippers". At the same time retain our family local,

and encourage businesses that cater to that.

We need a "destination" attraction off Highway 101, close to Hotels. My idea is to embrace our farming and agriculture roots. Demonstration gardens. farm animals, cooking demonstrations, food and drink pairings. Brewing and Fermentation competitions and demonstrations. Events for children and adults alike. (Oluf's Ranch right off 101 and Shiloh Rd. or as Mark Millan suggested at the Economic Development Forum, Vic Possi's farm across from World Mark. These sites would make perfect a location for a destination site.)

Idea Author: karen A

Idea Title: I'm most proud of the fact that even though we live in 2014:

Idea Detail: For the most part Windsor is a safe place to live. I like that we have at least one park in every subdivision. I like that you can visit the Town Civic Center and be known and have a conversation with anyone and feel heard, even if they don't agree. I like that as much as the Building and Planning Department can, they consider our old oaks, creeks, River, and ecology an important aspect of our community to protect. I like that our Town Staff is community minded and supports community activities, programs and concerns.

Idea Author: karen A

Topic Name: Health and Quality of Life

The General Plan Update offers an opportunity to improve our resident's health and quality of life. Where do you think we should begin? Healthier food options? More parks or fitness centers? Access to nature and open space? Better transportation facilities for walking and biking? Let us know your ideas!

Idea Title: Buses, Bikes, Walkers, and Fast Food

Idea Detail: Bike and pedestrian safety needs to improve at Old Redwood and 101. We need a bike and pedestrian underpass or overpass. Bus stops should be moved from mixed use buildings. Condo's upstairs are adversely impacted by running buses. Natural gas burning buses still emit fumes. Too many fast food restaurants exist in the Town limits. Population 26,000 + Fast Food: 15+ (Corporate Chains)

Idea Author: karen A

Idea Title: Let's look at additional community garden opportunities and

Idea Detail: Our community garden is very beautiful and creates a community of friends. Can we look at additional gardens. As to food security which is having food produced for eating, in the community it is grown. Can we do more to encourage and assist more people growing food and marketing food locally. Windsor owns land that was once a farm. Is this an asset that can be better used to produce food while still having its primary use as part of our reclaimed water system? Health can be better served is Windsor considers encouraging health food alternatives and possibly discouraging what could be described as less health food alternatives. I am speaking to sodas or soft drinks with high sugar contents as opposed to natural juice drinks with possibly less sugar. I speaking to the alcohol and tobacco advertising in stores and where it is placed and how it is encouraged in stores. What can Windsor do to encourage change in what products are encouraged and what products are not front and center. The

Idea Author: Sam S

Idea Title: Keep Windsor Sr. Center pool open year round

Idea Detail: Please, please, please keep this pool open year round so that seniors who use it can maintain their healthy exercise regimes year round. Please allocate funds to keep the pool open, heated and staffed from 10:00 AM to 4:30 during Winter hours. Also, during times when swimming lessons for kids are not scheduled, keep the pool open continuously for lap swim, rather than closing between 2pm and 4 pm when nothing is scheduled. This pool is a GEM ! Natural gas is cheap! People need jobs and I'm sure a winter lifeguard staff could be formed if the jobs were advertised.

Idea Author: Glen C

Idea Title: Continue the creek trail south from Kaiser Park to Vintana

Idea Detail: Continue the trail to the high school and Vintana along the creek and connect it with the Vintana creek trail. It would eliminate a lot of car trips to drop off high schoolers and would be a great place to walk.

Idea Author: Lois F

Idea Title: Community events that are not just grown-up "parallel play"

Idea Detail: As an introvert attending many community events alone, I sometimes feel isolated in midst of the crowd. I'd love to see creative events which encourage the creation and nurturing of relationships and compassion between neighbors. Or projects that connect wise, active seniors with young people who are looking for a purpose, job skills, and hope. Or art that involves a broad spectrum and not just the elite. Or efforts to make healthy, locally grown food affordable -- and cultural sharing around the preparation and eating of that food together.

Idea Author: Laurie M

Idea Title: Encourage parents to let kids to WALK TO SCHOOL

Idea Detail: Childhood obesity is well documented, as is our over-reliance on cars. It is disheartening to see hundreds of moms driving cars and lining up twice a day to drop off or pick up a child at school when we live in a safe town like Windsor. When feasible, walking to and from school should be encouraged for both kids health and to decrease vehicular traffic impacts. Perhaps the town could fund a public awareness campaign to encourage parents to organize "walk your kids to school" events and groups, similar to Bike to Work days.

Idea Title: Limit growth

Idea Detail: Water is becoming more and more scarce. Building more houses will potentially diminish water supplies for existing residents. It's fine to count of water wells that are fed by Lake Sonoma and the Russian River until the state or federal government decide that that water will be controlled/limited.

Idea Author: Scott M

Idea Title: Windsor's population is over 26,000.....

Idea Detail: With a population of 26,000 + why do we need at least 15 fast food restaurants within a 4 mile radius? Why do we need this many manufactured prepared-fast good

restaurants? Move bus stops out from under residential buildings more than one story in the Old Downtown area. The buses run while they wait for riders, buses should shut off their engines while waiting for riders. All bus pick ups should be at the Train Station in the Old Downtown and not scattered within a 100-1000 ft of each other. This would free up parking spaces desperately needed downtown

Idea Author: karen A

- Comment 1: Our micro-managing of town land has resulted in increased cost for all of us. Where will my kids live if we continue to restrain only one side of the Supply demand equation? | By Michael F
- Comment 2: I'm not a fast food fan, but I wish there were more affordable family restaurants. | By Laurie M

Idea Title: We need a sound wall for Alden Woods subdivision.

Idea Detail: The freeway noise is so loud now, that we have to walk across the street to talk to our neighbors...The noise has driven the housing prices down considerably, compared to one block away! Please address this issue soon.

Idea Author: Judy T

Idea Title: Continue the sound barrier

Idea Detail: The freeway noise is sure to increase over time and continuing the sound barrier on the east side of the freeway past the central exit going north will improve the quality of life for all home owners in that area.

Idea Title: community walks

Idea Detail: Monthly walks for historical touring of the Windsor area led by long time residents

Idea Author: Terry T

Idea Title: Improve existing sidewalks to facilitate wheelchair travel.

Idea Detail: Build more sidewalks. Increase parking spaces at Town Green including more handicapped parking.

Idea Author: Ralph A

- Comment 1: Connect portions of sidewalk that are separated from one another (eg, Gumview Road) | By Terry T

Idea Title: maintain rural feel

Idea Detail: Keep high density development centrally located near TG and not in rural boundaries

Need plans to relieve increasing traffic congestion

Idea Author: Marcia R

Topic Name: Transportation and Mobility

Getting around Windsor has become more challenging as the town has grown. What transportation issues do you think the Town should address? Relieve traffic congestion? Offer more transit options/ service or school bus service? Provide more bikeways and sidewalks? Improve trails along creeks? Improve traffic safety?

Idea Title: Let's get walking and taking the bus once in a while

Idea Detail: Our creek trails are one of the more important features in Windsor. We can get out the maps and determine what properties need to be more engaged in completing our trails. The Town is not going to take land but we can be very aware when development is being contemplated, to advise the proponents of the projects how important our creeks are and encourage with all our might, working together to make a trail system that works for everyone. I currently take the bus into Santa Rosa approximately once every 10 or so days. Taking the bus allows me to be physically walking and getting exercise while saving gas and money. For many time is of the essence and the bus would not be a choice but for others, it could be. I would like to see if our Windsor Shuttle could be used by the schools to help alleviate some of our traffic problems in the mornings and afternoons. Working with the schools is a priority and one that will really take some work to fully understand the needs of each other.

Idea Author: Sam S

Idea Title: Improve bus service

Idea Detail: I don't use the bus service but I hear it is very difficult to get most places via public transit. I wish, for example, that there was a way to get to the ocean via bus. I hope you can solicit feedback from those who regularly ride the bus on how to improve the system to meet the needs of working class people.

Idea Author: Laurie M

Idea Title: Build new bridges on Old Redwood Highway

Idea Detail: The bridges along ORH between Shiloh and Hembree are too narrow for pedestrians or bicyclists. If walking you have to wait for a gap in traffic and then run across the two bridges to avoid getting hit.

Idea Author: Scott M

Idea Title: More sidewalks and creek-side trails.

Idea Detail: Straighten Los Amigos Rd. as was originally promised. Resurface Cottontail Way to make it one color.

Idea Author: Ralph A

Idea Title: East meets West

Idea Detail: The bike lanes are dangerous between the west side of Windsor and the east side of Windsor. Windsor River Rd/Old Redwood Highway to HWY 101 needs to be re-designed for the safety of all bike riders but especially school children.

Ideal solution: Cross under or cross over Hwy 101 for pedestrians and bike riders.

Idea Author: karen A

Idea Title: Town and the School District

Idea Detail: One of the visions the Town has is to get people out of their cars and on their feet or bikes. With the School District's current design of classes that will never happen.

The School District should reconsider having only two grades at each elementary school. This design has too many families driving on crowded roads. If schools were K thru 5th more students could walk or ride their bikes.

Our bike lanes are unsafe along Old Redwood Highway and Windsor River Rd. With three of our schools on the east side of 101 and three on the West side of 101 there is no way to commute to school safely without riding on a bus or in a car. Too many Windsor families would rather drive their children to school than have them walk or ride a bus.

Idea Author: karen A

Idea Title: Add pedestrian/bike bridge over Hwy 101

Idea Detail: Improvements currently underway at Old RW Hwy and Lakewood interchange should help, but a real bicycle/pedestrian bridge over 101 that was well away from high traffic areas would be ideal. (see Berkeley's Gilman street pedestrian bridge over I-80)

Idea Author: Glen C

Idea Title: The trails along the creeks need to be improved

Idea Detail: We frequently hike along the Windsor Creek Trail. Recently, a wooden footbridge was removed from Windsor Creek between Foothill Oaks and Lakewood subdivisions. A permanent footbridge is needed so that access to the trail is other than over a posted private driveway.

Idea Author: David H

Idea Title: creek trails

Idea Detail: There are some excellent possibilities for creek trails (Windsor River Road)

Idea Author: Terry T

Idea Title: make the Town Green car free

Idea Detail: Can you imagine a Town Green without any auto traffic, completely safe for families, no auto noise or fumes, with parking on the outskirts?

Idea Author: Terry T

Idea Title: relieve traffic congestion

Idea Detail: Becoming significant issue at central exit and at Shiloh-need plans to manage this better

Idea Author: Marcia R

Topic Name: Growth and Development

Windsor's population is expected to grow and change in the future. Families and individuals will move to Windsor because it is a desirable place to live. Existing residents will age and seek alternative housing options. Windsor's youth will become adults and begin their own families in town. There will be greater demand for housing of all types to meet the needs of current and future residents. What kind of housing do you think Windsor's young adults, families, and seniors will need in the future? Would you support developing areas within the Town's Urban Growth Boundary in order to provide a variety of housing options for existing and future residents?

Idea Title: Develop in-fill policies that encourage mother-in-law units

Idea Detail: Allow higher density in-fill housing such as mother-in-law additions or micro-housing (aka tiny houses). Consider an amnesty program to allow illegally added residential housing units to be inspected and brought up to code without penalties.

Idea Author: Glen C

- Comment 1: I'd love the idea of a tiny house development, too. | By Laurie M

Idea Title: Owner occupied affordable housing!!!

Idea Detail: The investors have gobbled up all of the affordable homes. We need families to have an opportunity to own their own homes in Windsor.

Idea Author: Judy T

Idea Title: We have to have variety of housing choices

Idea Detail: With the demise of redevelopment funds, subsidizing housing has almost disappeared. A direction to take is to ensure that new development provides a variety of housing sizes and types, such as smaller square footage units, creativity is live work possibilities. I would have preferred the Hembree Village which faces the back of Walmart to have address Victory lane with a more active use such as live work with small and moderate for sale detached housing placed behind. The same can be said for the Windsor Mill with an opportunity of active uses facing the Smart Train track and lets mix the types rather than what being approved. Same with Bell Village, can we reasonably accept 380 units of the same thing? Have we asked this question. Have we really asked the question of how big folks envision Windsor to become in 20 years. I hope the GP process gets to this elephant in the room so to speak.

Idea Author: Sam S

Idea Title: Smart Growth guidelines as included in the original Plan.

Idea Detail: Keep growth commensurate with infrastructure. Limit population growth rate on

an annual basis. Maintain a green belt around Town. DEMAND that we get the "SMART" train service we have been paying for over the last six years. Give priority to permits for multi-unit dwellings, but keep the total within the overall growth controls.

Idea Author: Ralph A

Idea Title: Truly affordable housing

Idea Detail: It seems to me the important, and perhaps unspoken, question driving this process is: "What type of people do folks want to move into Windsor, and who do they wish would just move away?" This consideration will fuel all the policy decisions with regard to housing, jobs and development. I am concerned about what seems to me to be a growing gap between rich and poor and deep institutional racism, and long for a realistic alternative that is more just. I'd like to see building of smaller homes ideal for first-time buyers, and well-managed rental housing, combined with a comprehensive approach to supportive services that benefit everyone

Idea Author: Laurie M

Idea Title: Careful Planning

Idea Detail: Multi family dwellings within the Station Area Plan/Train Station. Protect historical homes wherever they exist. Single family dwellings beyond the Station Area Plan. At the same time control growth, protect open spaces and agriculture. Restrict housing if we need to in order to protect Windsor's quality of life

Idea Author: karen A

- Comment 1: Agreed - Keep urban growth boundaries intact. Encourage in-fill with legal pathways for adding mother-in-law units, micro-housing (aka tiny house movement), consider an amnesty pathway for bringing illegally added residential units up to code and including on tax rolls. | By Glen C

Idea Title: More single family homes

Idea Detail: I think we should encourage more single-family developments in Windsor. People want to live in neighborhoods so their kids can play with other kids. I like the Lakewood model which has both homes and townhouses. That would allow for a mixture of housing prices - affordable, mid-range homes, and upper level homes.

Senior housing is okay but in 30+ years after all of the baby boomers die there won't be enough elderly people to buy those senior homes. There will be a surplus of senior housing so I think focusing on that kind of housing is short sighted. It is better to focus on small types of housing, like condos and townhouses, for people of all ages.

We need more schools to accommodate the extra children. I favor a school outside of the growth boundary so the school is surrounded by nature, and it drives traffic away from the other traffic-congested areas of town. The natural surroundings could be used by teachers in creative ways to teach the children their lessons.

Idea Author: Stephanie B

Idea Title: shouldn't the wording be outside the urban growth boundary.

Idea Detail: All land inside the boundary is available for development per underlying land use designation and current zoning.

Idea Author: Michael F

Idea Title: Plan for housing within the existent growth boundaries

Idea Detail: Windsor needs to continue to develop in a planned, responsible manner. There needs to be a mix of rental units and single family residences approved. Remaining available land lies in the undeveloped urban growth boundary areas, particularly Special Areas C and D. Area C should be extended along a northern boundary to the northern edge of the Foothill Oaks subdivision. LAFCO action would probably be required, but should be undertaken as part of the new General Plan.

Idea Author: David H

Idea Title: more owner occupied housing

Idea Detail: Solar on every home, electric vehicle charging stations, homes built with rain water harvesting and laundry to landscape systems, drought resistant landscapes, sensor controlled lighting, internet capable

Idea Author: Terry T

Idea Title: support development near Town Green but not rural areas

Idea Detail: higher density development near TG could enhance foot traffic and business success and provide more transportation options

We are strongly opposed to destroying the rural, small town feel by developing areas like Special Area D

Idea Author: Marcia R

Topic Name: Economic Development

As we emerge from the recession the Town is focused on improving Windsor's economic conditions and job market. Windsor's strong neighborhoods, Downtown/Town Green development, and location in the Sonoma wine country offer great opportunities. What kinds of retail businesses would you like to see in Downtown Windsor or in your neighborhood to meet your family's day-to-day needs? Do you think Windsor should continue to capitalize on wine-related tourism and industry growth?

Idea Title: Can we focus priorities identified in the Economic Plan?

Idea Detail: We have an economic plan and if we could incentivize those types of employers and producers that are identified in the plan, it could be helpful. Cloverdale managed work with Bear Republic Brewing to find sufficient water for their relocation. A big deal. We have an area on Conde that has met the needs of two wineries for production and one for storage and the like. We have the Sonoma County Vintners distribution site on Conde. these type of uses

are ID's in the plan, What type of proactive effort could be made to attract others. Hotels and tourism is a clean industry which creates significant economic value to a community with some impact but not necessarily as much impact as other types of development. We need to continue to encourage growth in the old downtown (not really old). We have some terrific opportunities with the airport expansion as well as the employers currently doing business in the Airport Business Center, the largest business center north of San Francisco and south of

Idea Author: Sam S

Idea Title: The businesses around the Town Green need help and guidance.

Idea Detail: I've lived in Windsor 24 1/2 years, and it is still a 'bedroom community'. Shops need to be open when customers are around if they want to succeed. We need a bakery, a white table cloth restaurant or two or three, an upscale grocery store/market, and some retail stores that will keep shoppers and shopping dollars in Windsor instead of sending them to Santa Rosa and Healdsburg. Our "wine related tourism" business is mainly the provision of lower cost accommodations. That's OK if that's all we want and can do.

Idea Author: Ralph A

Idea Title: Branding and Destination

Idea Detail: Shop-Eat-Play Live-Work-Shop Eat-Taste-Enjoy

Friendly-Family-Fun

THREE WORD jingles are wearing out. Too many Towns/Cities have their own three-word jingle. Windsor is unique....we need unique branding. Fresh, new, innovative branding.....

How about a "destination" attraction off Highway 101, close to Hotels? One idea is to embrace our farming and agriculture roots.

Demonstration gardens. Farm animals, cooking demonstrations, and food and drink pairings. Brewing and Fermentation competitions and demonstrations. Events for children and adults alike. (Oluf's Ranch right off 101 and Shiloh Rd. or as Mark Millan suggested at the Economic Development Forum, Vic Possi's farm across from World Mark. These sites would make perfect a location for a destination site.)

Windsor needs an Art District!

Idea Author: karen A

Idea Title: Good Companies & Don't Focus on the Tourists

Idea Detail: We need to attract the kinds of businesses that hire people with college degrees. We cannot teach our kids that it is important to have an education, tell them it is worth it to take on educational debt, but then when they move back home the only employer is Walmart or some other big-box store. We need real companies with real jobs, good, high-paying jobs.

I favor the idea of more office buildings on the Town Green. It will give the area customers during the day during the week, people who might not live in Windsor. There are lots of great businesses along Bell Road. More of that. I DISAGREE that we need to focus on bringing in

tourists. I think that is inconsistent with being a family friendly town. People traveling to wine country are not the same as families living here. We should continue to cater to families, as they live here and spend money here each and every day of the year. It is more steady, reliable income. I don't care about competing with Healdsburg.

Idea Author: Stephanie B

Idea Title: Bigger isn't better

Idea Detail: Things are great in Windsor. Building a lot more houses and creating a lot more businesses will take away Windsor's small town atmosphere, which is the reason people have moved here in the first place.

Idea Author: Scott M

Idea Title: Evolving market forces will best determine growth

Idea Detail: The Town has done an excellent job of focusing commercial development in central locations on both sides of US101. It also has strictly limited less than desirable businesses, such as tattoo and massage parlors to restricted areas. In general, market forces should be relied upon to determine which businesses will succeed and which will not. Having said that, the Town policy limiting Town Green businesses to retail, as opposed to professional, is probably too restrictive.

Idea Author: David H

Idea Title: let it freeform government should not be making the selection

Idea Detail: Government moves too slow to be the gate keeper for a prosperous vibrant economy. Let the free market handle the needs of the people.

Idea Author: Michael F

- Comment 1: Unfettered free market economic development without some government gatekeeping (health and safety regulations for example) can result in issues like cannabis dispensaries / smoke shops in areas frequented by minors, or auto-body paint shops too close to residential areas. Gov does move slowly, for sure, but "gate keeping" is an essential role of government. | By Glen C

Idea Title: a garden store, similar to Harmony Farms

Idea Detail: Good garden supply would fit well with the rural nature of the area and the interests of many residents

Idea Author: Terry T

Idea Title: industry attraction

Idea Detail: It is inevitable that Windsor will profit from the wine industry. I wonder what specific incentives and attractions Windsor has to entice new businesses and how they can be contacted to create synergies

Idea Author: Terry T

Idea Title: yes to wine related tourism and support of TG development

Idea Detail: We moved here because of TG but need more businesses that bring repeat customers like Olivers.

We also moved here to live in a peaceful residential area with lovely countryside close by and do not want that destroyed by uncontrolled growth

Idea Author: Marcia R

Topic Name: General Comments**Idea Title: Keep it up**

Idea Detail: The work currently being done on the center intersection has a whole lot of potential.

Idea Author: Sam S

Idea Title: Improved Access between East and West

Idea Detail: We need improved foot and bike access over US 101 so that pedestrians and bicyclists can move more freely between East and West Windsor. The narrow footpath across Shiloh Road is not adequate, and there should be at least one, and hopefully several pedestrian, cycle overpaths crossing the freeway to improve foot traffic safely across the freeway.

Idea Author: David H

- Comment 1: All good suggestions and I would like to add that the local transit bus does not come to the Starr Rd area. It used to many years ago and now it ignores this side of town. Why? As I recently retired, I would like the bus to come along Starr and Windsor River Rd. to be able to go to the Walmart/Home Depot shopping area....also it used to stop at Raley's to shop for food. Just would like to be included like the rest of the east side Windsor population that get transit service. | By Richard M
- Comment 2: I agree, but what about ADA access to those "overpaths"? In fact, with an aging population, what is being done to improve ADA access in general? | By Ralph A

Idea Title: Continue to control population growth.

Idea Detail: Don't try to compete with Healdsburg for 'upscale' tourist dollars; they have too much of a lead. Instead position our Town as a lower cost alternative for accommodation and eating (whatever happened to our Carl's Jr. and why don't we have Burger King, Wendy's,

Chipotle, and other low-cost chains largely lacking in Healdsburg?) Get another gas station or two and see if that sparks some price/services competition. More parking in the Town Green area is an absolute must. How about a nice ***** bar or two and a couple of nice taverns besides Patterson's? If the so-called SMART folks can't provide us the rail service we have been paying for the last six years, why don't we provide Windsor-only bus service to and from the nearest station if and when any ever open? Bottom-line for much of the above is that we need ACTIVE and CREATIVE action from a Town Economic Development Commission and an equally ACTIVE Chamber of Commerce.

Idea Author: Ralph A

- Comment 1: Kelly...I wish I could agree with your comments about fast food, but I can't. My family has lived here 24 1/2 years, and the only restaurants that have survived and prospered are fast food...particularly pizza. We have had 'white tablecloth' restaurants that have been very good, including one that achieved one Michelin Star, but they didn't/couldn't last. Maybe you and I have different definitions/visions of what a 'fast food' restaurant is? My comments were made in an economic context, not a social one. We can't take many dollars away from Santa Rosa, but we can face facts, use what we have, and offer a lower cost alternative to Healdsburg which has only a few 'fast food' places. I think we agree on the need for more 'grown-up' night time entertainment venues | By Ralph A
- Comment 2: If one is interested in fast food restaurants they should move to Santa Rosa. Families move here to be in a safe clean environment and don't typically live off fast food. I agree we need additional nightlife destinations for singles, couples and families. But make it unique. We don't need or want for that matter to be Healdsburg but should keep the quaint town atmosphere. | By Kelly J

Idea Title: Sum it up

Idea Detail: Windsor isn't a "boutique village" like Healdsburg. We are a family community with family restaurants, shops, parks and events. Our town offers much for families traveling with children, but we need to add more to increase revenue. Unlike Healdsburg travelers can afford returning to Windsor, Sonoma County, the "HEART of the Russian River Wine Region", NOT the GATEWAY. Can we do all of this and protect our history too? Create a sense of PLACE now and remember our past? How about an Art District?

If we continue to cater to wine-related tourism we might stay stuck as we are, with no real identity. If we take the wine related businesses and mix with foods, agriculture and education, history, art, and families our possibilities are endless

My day to day needs are met in Windsor, but at a higher cost... I heard at an economic development meeting once that if everyone in Windsor shopped Windsor entirely there would be no economic collapse in Windsor.

Idea Author: karen A

Idea Title: Diversity of input

Idea Detail: Have the focus groups invited thus far in the process included the working poor of our community? Have they included those teenagers who enjoy hanging out on the Town Green once a week in the summer (whom some label as a “nuisance”)?

Idea Author: Laurie M

Idea Title: community seed bank for local gardens

Idea Detail: Make organic and heirloom seeds available to local gardeners Also, a bartering faire on the Town Green for local food and services

Idea Author: Terry T

- Comment 1: Produce bartering fair on the plaza is a great idea. Graton residents have been doing this for years and use a Yahoo list serve to communicate among participants about what they have to barter. Trading my extra tomatoes for your extra cucumbers would be GREAT! | By Glen C

Idea Title: Improve sidewalks Starr/Arata

Idea Detail: The sidewalks, pedestrian and bike paths are not complete on Starr Road or Arata Lane-2 of the busiest streets in Windsor. The Green Dog Resue project has nowhere safe to walk dogs, children on bikes and walking could be hurt or killed while going to or coming home from school. You can hardly push a stroller over the railroad tracks. Improve safety.

Idea Author: Kelly J

Idea Title: initial focus on preserving oaks and environmental assets

Idea Detail: It seems there is a big push to grant developers right to build anywhere. We understand need for affordable housing but don't support the push to develop all possible areas especially part of Special Area D when so many other developments are already going forward. In addition the ongoing water worries don't seem to be factoring into the eagerness to get as much housing built as possible. In the past there seemed more respect and appreciation of environmental features. Now it seems that anything including oaks and rural space are expendable in the push for rapid housing growth.

Idea Author: Marcia R

- Comment 1: Right from the early days of Windsor Town, we had a Heritage Tree Ordinance to protect our beautiful old Oaks from random destruction by builders and overly-ambitious grape growers. What happened to it??? | By Ralph A