

VISIONING WORKSHOP #3 CHAT AND POLL SUMMARY COUNTYWIDE & GRASONVILLE



The purpose of this workshop was to solicit input from the community on topics related to the comprehensive plan as it relates to Grasonville residents, as well as any Countywide residents that wished to call in. Below is a summary of the chat conversations and poll responses received during this meeting, held on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 at 5:30pm.



Chat Conversation Transcript:

1. 5:11 PM Welcome to the Grasonville Visioning Workshop! Please familiarize yourself with the Webex functions, shown on the screen.
2. 5:14 PM All of tonight's participants have been muted to limit background noises. We'll open up the workshop to comments and questions soon – please raise your hand and we'll unmute you. At any time, feel free to enter comments into the chat box!
3. 5:44 PM where can we access the annual reports that have been done on implementation of the plan.
4. 5:46 PM Who is managing the housing study and when can we expect to see results of the study?
5. 5:49 PM Is there a written summary of the survey results that we can see?
6. 5:50 PM what control does the town or county have over phone/Cable/fIOS services and are there any changes in the works for Grasonville?
7. 5:51 PM Were the survey results compared to the recent survey that Parks and Rec had completed for its long range plan?
8. 5:52 PM <https://www.qacplan2021.com/resources>
9. 5:53 PM Towards the bottom of the page you will see the survey linked as a PDF that you should be able to download
10. 5:53 PM Is there a separate plan for northern QA? Are you working with town planning groups like Sudlersville?
11. 5:55 PM The Housing Study is being conducted by Partners for Economic Solutions, LLC who is the consultant working for the QAC Department of Housing and Family Services. The Study is anticipated to be finalized before summer.
12. 5:56 PM The PnZ Annual Reports are not posted on our website; however, those reports are available by contacting the Department. The Department will look into making MDP Annual Reports available online.
13. 5:57 PM i'm also interested in seeing the annual reports, would love to see them online!
14. 5:59 PM Where is hand raise icon
15. 5:59 PM opportunities: connecting to the bike trail!!
16. 5:59 PM Opportunity - Beauty and thoughtful, planned development
17. 5:59 PM Controlling traffic as a challenging.
18. 6:00 PM [Verbal Commenter] - Not yet, but we are working with all departments through our Technical Advisory Committee and the cross pollination of that data will be very helpful!
19. 6:00 PM Challenge - Traffic and congestion on weekends
20. 6:00 PM opportunities: Existing Main Street that could be revitalized as a vibrant ped friendly village center

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21. 6:00 PM challenges elevation and susceptibility to sea level rise
 22. 6:00 PM key opportunities- unique waterways as a community on the water. Challenge- access to those waterways, the health of those waterways, and resiliency
 23. 6:00 PM Curious about the construction to happen at the highway end of Long Point Road. It will interfere with the new extended bike trail and make the intersection at 50/301 crazier than it is now.
 24. 6:00 PM Opportunity to control growth.
 25. 6:01 PM Gotcha thank you re: raise hand
 26. 6:01 PM the third bridge option seems to put the thing right on Kent Island. Horrible for those of us who live here
 27. 6:01 PM Is there an opportunity for the county to purchase that last bit of open space and use it to enhance the bike path?
 28. 6:01 PM please put in more sidewalks
 29. 6:01 PM To keep the visions in the face of development.
 30. 6:01 PM Opportunity--keep small town feeling and small businesses by centering and supporting development in existing towns
 31. 6:02 PM There is not a separate plan for northern QA. A special topic workshop will include town planning along with a chapter in the plan. Please see the meeting schedule here <https://www.qacplan2021.com/get-involved> and the working outline https://www.qacplan2021.com/images/resources/current_documents/2021-01-26_Working_Outline.pdf
 32. 6:02 PM Improve retail on Main St.
 33. 6:02 PM Sidewalk expansion a must
 34. 6:02 PM object to new bay bridge span to help with traffic problems
 35. 6:02 PM Two items: Connecting to the bike trail extension would be great and on both sides of Rt. 50. Also, with regards to small business and residential districts... far too often middle class and lower class individuals get forgotten about in new comprehensive planning. In these tough times with Covid especially... less restrictive zoning regulations for small business owners in residential districts would be nice. Most lots are at least .5 acres and could accommodate some businesses but zoning is too restrictive to even allow the thought
 36. 6:03 PM agree with bridge comment
 37. 6:03 PM All unincorporated areas of the County (such as North County) are included in the QAC Comp Plan. We will be partnering with all incorporated Towns to coordinate planning efforts.
 38. 6:03 PM Thank you [Commenter 37]
 39. 6:03 PM NOAA flood maps have not been updated
 40. 6:04 PM Agree with [Verbal Comment] on importance of taking sea level rise into consideration and building resiliency
 41. 6:05 PM bridge lane expansion to 6 would match rte 50 lanes on both sides of the bay, makes too much sense
 42. 6:05 PM Is there a plan re walkability and design aesthetics around Fisherman's Inn area. Same for connectivity to rest of Kent Narrows area
 43. 6:05 PM Agree with bridge comment. Would be a big nail in the coffin for QAC

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44. 6:06 PM also incentivize mixed use buildings (retail on ground floor, apts on top)
 45. 6:07 PM Improve green space (planters, benches, lighting) in Narrows area. Currently, it feels like a sea of asphalt
 46. 6:07 PM yesssss [Commenter 45]
 47. 6:07 PM YES, [Verbal Commenter] = The Planning Comm is very interested in this topic and has been leading up to this process. We have received updates from local nonprofits on the data and projections.
 48. 6:07 PM affordable housing can be built in concert with smart resource conservation
 49. 6:07 PM Queen Anne's County Sea Level Rise and Coastal Storm Surge Vulnerability Assessment - <https://www.qac.org/1027/Vulnerability-Assessment-Study>
 50. 6:08 PM [Commenter 39], the FEMA floodplain maps for QAC were updated in 2014 and are the regulatory basis for the NFIP (which governs Maryland Floodplain regulations via MDE).
 51. 6:08 PM Improve signage of litter on our roads. Better oversight on garbage on the streets
 52. 6:09 PM Does responsible growth mean protecting the neighborhood feel of many of our housing areas?
 53. 6:09 PM Protect open areas and natural resources.
 54. 6:09 PM The trash is a hugely unsightly.
 55. 6:10 PM That's up to the citizenry.
 56. 6:10 PM Agree with [Commenter 51] and litter needs to be better controlled through enforcement and working with fast food and liquor outlets
 57. 6:10 PM Thanks to [Commenter 50] for the flood plain info
 58. 6:10 PM responsible growth might mean Not making the Long Point area look like an Industrial Zone, as some planning is indicating
 59. 6:11 PM How can the Comp Plan help address the growing trash problem?
 60. 6:11 PM Rt 50 blazes through the middle of Kent Island and Narrows making it very difficult to travel - locals and even visitors need better connectivity, beauty not just for convenience, but much more for business and development. Seems very commercial, when locals do not live this way.
 61. 6:13 PM agree w/ the natural resource protection mentioned by [Verbal Commenter]
 62. 6:13 PM will these chat comments be on record?
 63. 6:14 PM Are we going to talk about North Co. vision
 64. 6:14 PM Challenge - internet connectivity throughout the County
 65. 6:15 PM opportunity: capitalizing on the massive amounts of people who pass through every summer and getting them to spend money here and not just drive through
 66. 6:15 PM also encouraging ecotourism
 67. 6:15 PM Key Opportunity: to build on meeting needs of ever growing 55+ population.
 68. 6:15 PM Greatest challenge is beach traffic and increase from 301 and pending third span.
 69. 6:15 PM Gateway to the ES, small villages and town w/ strong historic/cultural and natural resources
 70. 6:16 PM Opportunity - more green space and parks. Connectivity of pedestrian and bike walkways/trails.

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71. 6:16 PM Opportunity: Creating an area that people want to visit and live in while balancing natural resources with residential and commercial entities. Challenge: Traffic, traffic, traffic. Controlling growth along the route 50 corridor.
 72. 6:16 PM It will be a challenge to maintain the health of many wonderful watersheds and keeping them as resources that residents can continue to enjoy.
 73. 6:16 PM Challenge: Town annexations that result in projects that don't fall within the overall county planning vision
 74. 6:16 PM I think one of the most overriding problem
 75. 6:16 PM WE need a requirement/encouragement for recycling our boat shrink wrap—it must not end up in our landfill.
 76. 6:16 PM challenges transportation infrastructure and multi modal opportunities
 77. 6:16 PM yes again [Commenter 75]!!!
 78. 6:16 PM agree with [Verbal Comment]
 79. 6:16 PM I agree with [Verbal Comment].
 80. 6:16 PM Challenge: better balance of fast food convenience with charm and sophistication
 81. 6:17 PM celebrating common interests of farmers and town residents. supporting family farmers
 82. 6:17 PM There is an opportunity to make more of a focus on our various watersheds as ecosystems as various growth opportunities are considered.
 83. 6:17 PM excellent point [Commenter 75] and also landscaping fabric that do not naturally degrade
 84. 6:18 PM opportunity: responsible and resilient development as opposed to sprawl (current challenge)
 85. 6:18 PM yes [Commenter 84]!!
 86. 6:19 PM Good comments from [Verbal Comment]: Curious about the construction to happen at the highway end of Long Point Road. It will interfere with the new extended bike trail and make the intersection at 50/301 crazier than it is now.
 87. 6:20 PM Pedestrian/bike access to local business and natural areas through and around KNarrows and Gville. Love the Cross Island Trail extension/planned underway and those recently completed!!
 88. 6:20 PM Designing roads to accommodate farm equipment with projected increase in traffic
 89. 6:21 PM Totally agree with current Vision Statement, please keep in place.
 90. 6:21 PM also very excited about bike + pedestrian access tom!!
 91. 6:21 PM Who wouldn't want to live and run businesses in a County in which zoning and permitting decisions implemented this vision?
 92. 6:21 PM also would like to see something more direct about empowering farmers as land stewards
 93. 6:22 PM Will there be an update to data on the various land use categories and changes to them as part of the update so that can be used to evaluate how the visions are being maintained
 94. 6:22 PM Agree with Greatest challenge is beach traffic and increase from 301 and pending third span.
 95. 6:22 PM I think this is a great vision statement, but I don't think it currently reflects the county considering development and traffic have come up frequently tonight as concerns.

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96. 6:22 PM Promote healthy living through access to parks, trails, and water activities and exceptional medical facilities
 97. 6:22 PM agree with comments on supporting the ag sector
 98. 6:23 PM Pedestrian and Bike connectivity needed Indeed!
 99. 6:23 PM Thoughtful planning based on increased traffic patterns, including bypasses around town clusters to allow residential and pedestrian patterns to be least impacted
 100. 6:23 PM Opportunity: Expand trails/access to neighborhoods and business areas to encourage less traffic and less impact on the environment.
 101. 6:23 PM yes [Verbal Comment]!!!!
 102. 6:23 PM Agree [Commenter 99]
 103. 6:23 PM Yes, [Verbal Comment], right on!
 104. 6:24 PM Agree [Verbal Comment]!!
 105. 6:24 PM Don't want to see open space converted to large solar and winds farms .
 106. 6:24 PM Yes [Commenter 98]
 107. 6:24 PM Is there really a huge building going up at that beautiful spot near North Point/brand new CCC Trail?
 108. 6:24 PM I'm afraid development is already impacting quality of life for KI residents.
 109. 6:25 PM Great comments!
 110. 6:26 PM rapid transit to Annapolis, Baltimore, and dc!!! we can start with a bus rapid transit to test the waters
 111. 6:26 PM Bike/Pedestrian along 18
 112. 6:26 PM we could use a new ruling by the state concerning restricting off-freeway traffic to county residents
 113. 6:26 PM Having a discreet composting facility in the QAC
 114. 6:26 PM Yes [Commenter 110]more public transit to those areas would be great.
 115. 6:26 PM yes to composting!!!!
 116. 6:26 PM Balance growth w/ protection of natural resources, maintain and enhance quality of life
 117. 6:27 PM Queen Anne's county is a unique county because of its location on our waterways- a big idea is for the county to become a model/leader for the state on resiliency efforts
 118. 6:27 PM Pedestrian bridge over 50 to connect to the cross island trail
 119. 6:27 PM More extensive plan for bike and walking paths throughout the county.
 120. 6:27 PM Supporting the Delmarva Oasis goal to preserve/conserv 50% of the shore by 2030
 121. 6:27 PM Higher penalties on littering
 122. 6:27 PM Tech and Agribusiness Jobs and attracting companies top consider QAC to locate here
 123. 6:28 PM Yay for BIKE/PED overpass
 124. 6:28 PM I vote Nesbit crossover lol
 125. 6:28 PM Kent Island is already a disaster for getting around after noon on the weekends. Residents are basically locked in our homes during that time

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126. 6:28 PM MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm / Sewer System) management and permit plan transparency/public education and how it relates to development and land preservation.
 127. 6:28 PM Using explicit monitoring and management of growth of the amount of impervious surface in making planning and zoning decisions.
 128. 6:28 PM Agree to Delmarva Oasis goal while making sure that the 50 percent not preserved are developed without sprawl
 129. 6:28 PM Expand heritage tourism!
 130. 6:28 PM Agree with [Commenter 128] on supporting the Delmarva Oasis strategy.
 131. 6:28 PM Re-Use of empty commercial space.
 132. 6:29 PM true cohesion of development and the natural environment- development that prioritizes pedestrian access/open space/ and preservation of habitat
 133. 6:29 PM Like heritage tourism
 134. 6:29 PM Make the education vision real, ie. use public high schools and Chesapeake College to create a workforce to attract high value jobs
 135. 6:30 PM agree reuse empty space, heritage tourism, Delmarva Oasis strategy, and more but can't type that fast.
 136. 6:31 PM Like very much the current vision statement, and hope we never forget that we have the most productive farmland in the state.
 137. 6:31 PM Offer some kind of financial incentive to help some run-down business store fronts make visual improvements.
 138. 6:31 PM Great point [Verbal Comment], and you are not alone
 139. 6:32 PM Could the county create opportunity zones with property tax breaks to entice businesses to the county?
 140. 6:32 PM [Verbal Comment], can you work remotely? There are a lot of opportunities, especially with the pandemic, to do remote work or to work in a hybrid fashion.
 141. 6:33 PM Nitro Circus star Travis Pastrana wanted to build a \$15 million extreme sports complex in Sudlersville that would offer different tracks for all ages and experience levels. Maybe another location in QAC would be suitable for such a destination for outdoor sporting.
 142. 6:34 PM Where are the DEIJ (Diversity, Equality, Inclusion and & Justice) communities in this process? Have we (QAC) reached out to these traditionally underrepresented citizens directly for this Comp Plan process??
 143. 6:34 PM TERRIFIC POINT [Commenter 142]
 144. 6:34 PM very good point Tom.
 145. 6:34 PM Re Nitro Circus, Maybe a location in another COUNTY would be more suitable
 146. 6:34 PM Amen [Commenter 142]!
 147. 6:35 PM Hi everyone any discussion about development coming at the beginning of long point community for Boat sale ...as we as group are totally against such commercial huge project
 148. 6:35 PM ([Commenter 140] most of my work involves fieldwork! i could commute but would rather not [unless i could commute easily by public transit??? perhaps straight to dc or Baltimore??? on a train???)
 149. 6:35 PM support [Commenter 142] comment

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150. 6:36 PM push for greater community involvement, private development raising the bar without burden on tax payers/ local government to pay for doing such i.e. architectural/store front improvement, aesthetics, etc
 151. 6:36 PM recruit a white collar industry that is looking for a nice location without the negative aspects of working in places like NYC
 152. 6:36 PM that was a great point that [Commenter 142] made- how can we get communities involved that may not have access to adequate internet services to attend these workshops? do you have paper surveys? a way to go and speak at church or community events?
 153. 6:36 PM You should contact the Historic Sites Consortium.
 154. 6:37 PM I'm just curious because I have not heard of this.
 155. 6:38 PM Thank you for taking the time to explain it, like I said I was just curious.
 156. 6:38 PM any plans for those abandoned outlet stores at the Kent Narrows?
 157. 6:38 PM Yes, the abandoned outlets are a huge eyesore!
 158. 6:40 PM Agree: Promote healthy living through access to parks, trails, and water activities and exceptional medical facilities
 159. 6:40 PM Copies of the presentations can be obtained at the Planning and Zoning Office.
 160. 6:40 PM Hi Lauren I have question can you unmute me?
 161. 6:41 PM Can we try to provide some type of incentive to get Douglas Development to redevelop that area around the abandoned outlets.
 162. 6:41 PM That all are so good at the chat thing: Is there a QAC Social Media page that is especially good for having this type of forum?
 163. 6:45 PM when is target coming
 164. 6:45 PM community center! with green space!
 165. 6:46 PM Would take a bike/ped overpass on existing overpass until better plan.
 166. 6:46 PM it was a good commercial property when rt. 50 had traffic lights.
 167. 6:46 PM Community Center where the old outlets are would be great.
 168. 6:46 PM Hi heard Aldi is coming in Chester is that right?
 169. 6:46 PM not now
 170. 6:46 PM exactly what i was thinking skip!!
 171. 6:47 PM Yes [Verbal Comment] with lots of green space. Anything would be an improvement though from what it is... even retail!
 172. 6:47 PM Opportunity: Create a mechanism for transparency and accountability of zoning and permitting decisions as to whether they support the vision developed by QAC residents and put into the Comp Plan
 173. 6:47 PM Yes, a large attractive venue where large events can take place.
 174. 6:47 PM I would encourage anything that would help improve the health of people who live in the County to help combat the growing obesity problem.
 175. 6:48 PM the visioning workshop for Kent Narrows is tomorrow night same time for anyone who wants to discuss the old outlets more!!
 176. 6:48 PM Growing obesity solution: less fast food, more connectivity!

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177. 6:48 PM I have heard Giant and Harris Teeter have been looking for locations in the county is that true?
178. 6:48 PM I have to run, but thank you for the opportunity to contribute.
179. 6:49 PM thank you for coming and giving input!
180. 6:49 PM TRAFFIC
181. 6:50 PM Coordinate as much input from the citizens and organizations.
182. 6:50 PM poll was too fast
183. 6:50 PM to develop goals/objectives that address the vision and are truly able to be implemented in next planning cycle
184. 6:50 PM Most important priority (didn't make survey), is traffic management
185. 6:51 PM resiliency
186. 6:51 PM Grasonville: YES connectivity
187. 6:51 PM Keep the rural areas rural and manage growth in the towns where adequate facilities are in place.
188. 6:51 PM QAC Connectivity will allow better growth!
189. 6:51 PM To maintain open space, agricultural environment especially in North County.
190. 6:51 PM Traffic Planning is top priority
191. 6:52 PM Respecting our critical area laws
192. 6:52 PM there's a good bike/pedestrian connection over the narrows already BUT the link from the Holiday Inn to the draw bridge seriously needs re-engineering
193. 6:54 PM Maintain rural character of the county that supports farm operations while enhancing livability and benefits of living in towns
194. 6:54 PM Very productive exchanges tonight.
195. 6:54 PM Nesbit would be a great spot and not near the narrows. And when you're out of breath... you can walk right into the Hospital
196. 6:54 PM does the Next Door portal need a plug from you?
197. 6:54 PM Thank you Lauren, you have done a terrific job!
198. 6:55 PM Priority for QAC: Having reasonable population growth and preserving and improving our agricultural heritage
199. 6:55 PM Where do we continue sending comments and questions - specific number or email please
200. 6:56 PM [Commenter 192] - good comment on trail connectivity, the Plan Com is also interested in continuing the connection process...
201. 6:56 PM Absolutely agree with [Commenter 198]. Most important.
202. 6:56 PM thank you [Verbal Comment]
203. 6:56 PM Awesome thank you Lauren!
204. 6:59 PM Thank you for the opportunity to have input in the process. Great job.
205. 6:59 PM Join Friends of Queen Anne's County Trails - group page on Face Book!
206. 6:59 PM Thanks for the chance to comment

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207. 7:00 PM Thanks so much to everyone for participating--great input and comments!
208. 7:00 PM thanks Lauren, good job
209. 7:01 PM thank you
210. 7:01 PM Thanks to county staff for all you do!
211. 7:01 PM thanks
212. 7:01 PM Thank you
213. 7:01 PM bye bye!
214. 7:02 PM Good job!

Poll Results:

In ONE word, describe what Queen Anne's County will be known for in the future:

- Traffic (2)
- growth
- development (2)
- Natural Areas
- Destination
- resistant (to change)
- Agriculture
- Gateway
- Vacation spot
- tourism
- Stopover on the way to the beach
- overdeveloped
- recreation & farms

What should PlanQAC's most important priority be for Grasonville?

- sidewalks!!!
- Pedestrian/Bike Bridge to connect Cross Island Trail
- traffic
- Connectivity
- Retaining opportunity for affordable housing in the grasonville area
- Promote healthy living via good public health facilities and outdoor spaces (bike trails, pedestrian walkways)
- Maintaining quality of living for people who live here.
- Be environmentally aware to keep our county beautiful

What should PlanQAC's most important priority be for Queen Anne's County as a whole?

- community connectivity in general!!
- Not sure.
- traffic
- To maintain open space, agricultural environment especially in North County.
- Transportation: Public
- Maintaining the rural feel of the county.