

Chapter 8

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES GOAL

CSFG1: Provide, maintain, and enhance a balance of effective community facilities and services within reasonable municipal fiscal limits, while protecting the health and safety of residents.

OBJECTIVES

Municipal Facilities and Services

CSFO1: Maintain Borough departments, staff, and programs in a manner that is efficient and effective in meeting the needs of the community.

CSFO2: Ensure the provision of available water supply and adequate sewage collection, treatment, and disposal for existing users, and the development of additional supplies and capacities to meet anticipated needs consistent with the Land Use Plan.

CSFO3: Maintain and enhance stormwater facilities, promote efforts to replace, repair, and improve stormwater infrastructure, and require advancements in best management practices for new facilities.

CSFO4: Promote integrated water supply, wastewater, and land use planning efforts conducted in conjunction with adjacent municipalities, the county, state, and utility providers.

CSFO5: Maintain and, as necessary and feasible, enhance the capabilities of the Borough Police Department to provide optimum levels of protection.

CSFO6: Continue to provide and enhance cost-efficient and effective solid waste collection and recycling services.

CSFO7: Maintain a reasonable balance between revenues and expenditures in the Borough budget while being responsive to demand for services and facilities, and continue to track and update the Borough's Capital Improvements Program.

Non-Municipal Facilities and Services

CSFO8: Consider the impacts that planning, zoning, and land development decisions have on community facilities and services.

CSFO9: Maintain and enhance cooperation between the Borough, the school district, and other participating municipalities for joint planning, development, and communication regarding critical shared interests.

CSF10: Communicate and coordinate with fire and ambulance companies to ensure adequate service is provided to Borough residents and businesses, and support increasing the capacity of emergency service providers through advances in technology, equipment, training, and personnel.

CSF11: Encourage the maintenance and improvement of existing utility systems to service current and future users.

CSF11: Continue to support and coordinate with a full range of human services providers within the Borough.

CSF12: Maintain efforts to retain public services, such as the library and post office in downtown Kennett Square, and enhance the viability of these facilities within the Borough.

CSF13: Promote volunteer opportunities in Borough programs to better serve residents and businesses, and recognize contributions of time and effort that volunteers provide.

CSF14: Maintain (create?) an organization to sustain and increase the interest and awareness of arts and cultural events in the community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES

ADMINISTRATION

- CSF-1 Evaluate staffing and consultant services periodically to ensure efficient management of the community.** The staffing of the Borough should be evaluated to ensure the administrative needs of the Borough are being met. Personnel with specific qualifications may be necessary to manage new programs or existing programs that need particular attention. The use of consultants should be periodically evaluated to consider if their work is effective and necessary.
- CSF-2 Maintain active participation on the Kennett Area Regional Planning Commission (KARPC).** Because Kennett Square is the primary urban center in the Region, it is important for the Borough to communicate with the surrounding communities. Kennett Square actively participates in the KARPC. This participation is vital due to numerous regional issues that affect the Borough, such as provision of water and sewer services, funding of the Library, and traffic circulation. The Kennett Square representatives provide a key link to understanding these regional issues that affect the Borough and are responsible for presenting the perspective of the community to the surrounding municipalities.
- CSF-3 Maintain communication with other municipalities in the Region, particularly on issues such as emergency services, extension of water and sewer lines, regional trails, and other topics of a multi-municipal nature.** Communication between other municipalities in the Region should be maintained in general. Coordination on specific efforts or issues such as major new developments, extension of sewer facilities, and trail connections will be critical. Continual participation on the KARPC is one means to preserve active communication with the surrounding communities.
- CSF-4 Monitor the condition of Borough facilities and implement improvements as necessary.** Borough Hall is becoming inadequate for the needs of the Borough. In particular, certain aspects such as storage of materials and meeting room space are limited. The Borough should evaluate space needs and consider alternatives. One concept is to consolidate some of the Borough functions in a new location within the Borough such as on Birch Street or in the area of the old NVF facility. This may provide more appropriate office facilities, in addition to moving the Borough street department out of Anson B. Nixon Park, and potentially providing

new space for the police department. While consolidation of Borough offices at a new location may become necessary or preferable, the Borough is committed to maintaining some key functions in “downtown” Kennett Square regardless if an additional location is developed.

WASTEWATER AND WATER SUPPLY

- CSF-5 Coordinate with private water providers that currently serve (or could in the future serve) the Borough.** The Borough should investigate options that would result in the most cost effective and efficient service for Borough residents.
- CSF-6 Support planning and seek funding for rehabilitation of aging sewer and water supply infrastructure that will encourage economic development and redevelopment.** Careful evaluation of the current system should provide information for potential funding opportunities as well as the potential to tie upgrades to future development proposals.
- CSF-7 Regularly update the municipal Act 537 Plan in order to consider population growth and potential redevelopment opportunities while maintaining consistency with local and multi-municipal planning efforts.**
- CSF-8 Support development and re-development projects that integrate site design and sewage disposal methods that implement current Act 537 planning and minimize existing site constraints.** New development should provide equivalent upgrades to current facilities.
- CSF-9 Continue to encourage innovative wastewater treatment and disposal systems to reduce impacts on natural resources and watershed water balances.** Efforts should be made to continually evolve the system to incorporate new technologies and applications to reduce the impact on the environment, such as land application, particularly to meet DEP requirements.
- CSF-10 Develop integrated plans for water supply and wastewater services through Act 537 Plans and municipal Comprehensive Plans, Zoning Ordinances, and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances in order to ensure safe and reliable long-term supply of water and wastewater disposal options, avoid capacity shortfalls, and protect natural resources.**
- CSF-11 Actively participate in municipal and multi-municipal water and wastewater planning efforts that are based on 1) up-to-date projections of growth and demand, 2) accurate evaluations of existing local treatment and supply capacity, and 3) realistic assessments of the availability of new water supply sources and viable wastewater disposal options.**
- CSF-12 Track NPDES Phase II and TMDL requirements to ensure Kennett Square is in compliance with the regulations when applicable.**

STORMWATER

- CSF-13 Continue to update Kennett Square’s stormwater management ordinance to ensure proper design and maintenance of stormwater management infrastructure while considering the incorporation of emerging technologies and practices.** New developments should incorporate progressive and emerging technologies to mitigate stormwater issues.
- CSF-14 Provide public education and information about cost-effective stormwater management and maintenance practices to owners and operators of stormwater management facilities and the general public.** This action could include informational packets or a page, or links on

the Borough website in regard to contemporary solutions for stormwater management such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and information on the dangers of pesticides and herbicides, and other similar issues.

- CSF-15 Develop and identify municipal and multi-municipal funding mechanisms to plan, construct, monitor, map, maintain, improve, expand, operate, and inspect stormwater infrastructure.** Effort should be made towards these ends to improve the potential to secure funding to upgrade and maintain existing facilities and monitor the performance of different applications.
- CSF-16 Support ordinance revisions, land use decisions, and land development designs that reduce stormwater runoff, erosion and sedimentation, pollution, and flooding.**
- CSF-17 Support the implementation of DEP-approved Pennsylvania Act 167 Stormwater Management plans.**
- CSF-18 Support cost effective strategies, techniques, and initiatives to meet the long-term operation, maintenance, and management needs of stormwater infrastructure in the Borough.**
- CSF-19 Track NPDES Phase II, MS4 and TMDL requirements to ensure Kennett Square is in compliance with the regulations when applicable.**

SOLID WASTE

- CSF-20 Support the continued use of the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority Landfill as an essential element of Kennett Square's long-term solid waste management program.**
- CSF-21 Ensure that residents are provided with appropriate materials or convenient and accessible recycling pick-up or drop-off locations throughout the Borough, in accordance with PA Act 101 (1988).** Ensure new residents receive recycling bins and that drop-off facilities are available and that residents are aware of their location and hours.
- CSF-22 Encourage all residents and business institutions to participate in recycling and waste reduction activities and to use products comprised of recycled materials.** Consider incentives for or recognition of residents and businesses that participate in recycling.
- CSF-23 Support efforts to recycle additional types of materials as technologies and markets become available and encourage all municipalities and their residents to participate in regional household hazardous waste collection programs.**
- CSF-24 Promote education, outreach, and community-based activities that increase awareness of the need for waste reduction and proper waste disposal, such as "SECCRA Swap", the Borough's "Spring Clean Up" and the Chester County Household Hazardous Waste collections.** Assist in the publication of materials that raise awareness for waste reduction such as pamphlets or information on the Borough website. Continue well received events such as the Spring Clean Up.
- CSF-25 Support the development and use of alternative energy generated at landfills.**

EMERGENCY SERVICES - POLICE

- CSF-26** Periodically review police staffing levels and response times to ensure that adequate protection is provided.
- CSF-27** Maintain an awareness of regional interest in expansion of the local police service and/or shared police services. Carefully evaluate whether expanded or shared police service might benefit from a cost or service increase standpoint.
- CSF-28** Conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the potential costs and benefits of expanded space for the police force. The feasibility of a new location should be evaluated whether through expansion at the current location, sharing the Dalmatian Street facility that the Kennett Fire Company owns and operates (through the creation of a Public Safety Center), or a new facility.
- CSF-29** Maintain appropriate training and education on an ongoing basis in order to continue to provide efficient and effective police service to the community, particularly with respect to evolving areas, such as technology based crime. Ensure that continuing education is a priority for the police force and that adequate funding is available to maintain a force that receives proper training.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- CSF-30** The Borough, through the Emergency Management Coordinator and Public Safety Committee, should continue to update the Emergency Management Disaster Plan on a regular basis and ensure that designated shelter areas are available to provide assistance to Borough residents.
- CSF-31** Continue participation in the Southern Chester County Co-op for its mutual aid agreement regarding sharing of equipment and other resources during emergencies.
- CSF-32** Continue support of mutual aid agreements between Emergency Management Service (EMS) providers to ensure appropriate levels of service and response times.
- CSF-33** Maintain a database of residents who would need special assistance during emergency situations through the Special Needs Registry and have a plan to assist such residents during an emergency. Create and maintain a database of residents with special skills (medicine, security) who are willing to assist during emergency situations and have a plan to utilize these resources during an emergency.
- CSF-34** Encourage and support volunteer EMS providers to seek grant funding from the state and federal levels and alternative sources.
- CSF-35** Continue/create record-sharing coordination between the Borough and local EMS providers to provide information on new development and redevelopment.
- CSF-36** Continue to disseminate information to residents and businesses on prevention and preparedness such as use of fire alarms, proper display of house numbers, escape plans, 911 protocols, and the Special Needs Registry.

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES

EMERGENCY SERVICES – FIRE AND AMBULANCE

- CSF-37** Monitor fire service staffing levels and response times to ensure that adequate protection is provided by Kennett Fire Company No. 1 as the primary responder and Longwood Fire Company as the backup.
- CSF-38** Determine equitable funding for the volunteer fire and ambulance companies and budget appropriately on an annual basis.
- CSF-39** Support local fire companies through publicizing the continual need for volunteers and the importance of the service they provide. Aside from fire services, the additional work and volunteerism of the fire companies such as disaster assistance, parades, and other activities should continue to be promoted both to show support and to promote interest in serving with these organizations.
- CSF-40** Monitor ambulance service staffing levels and response times to ensure that adequate protection is provided by Longwood Fire Company as the primary responder and Kennett and Avondale as the backups.

LIBRARY / POST OFFICE

- CSF-41** Support the opportunity for the renovation, expansion, or relocation of the Bayard Taylor Library in order to maintain this important community facility within the Borough. Continual communication and coordination with the Library should be made with the goal of maintaining the Library within the Borough in conjunction with development of other facilities such as the YMCA and potential public facilities such as a parking garage.
- CSF-42** Determine equitable funding for the Bayard Taylor Library and budget appropriately on an annual basis.
- CSF-43** Publicize within the local community the need to support (with funding and time) the Bayard Taylor Library and the services it provides the community.
- CSF-44** Promote the continued presence of the Post Office within the Borough, particularly its retail facilities and customer service. Regardless whether the Post Office participates in potential development or redevelopment efforts in the Borough, efforts should be made to maintain the retail portion of the Post Office in the Borough. It is possible that some of the delivery/distribution aspects of the Post Office may be better suited to another area within the Borough or in another municipality.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

- CSF-45** Support the installation of appropriate safety measures (e.g. signage, sidewalks, crosswalks, lights) for students commuting to their schools, particularly pedestrians and bicyclists. Safety improvements should be a priority both for students and for pedestrians within the Borough to assist with encouraging walking as a means of transportation within the Borough.

- CSF-46 Communicate with Kennett Consolidated School District (KCS D) regarding proposed and approved development plans that may impact student enrollment levels and after-school use of school facilities for community and recreational purposes.** The Borough should share information on potential new developments in the Borough that may effect the school such as the NVF site and Magnolia Place development which may add students to the population. In addition, the use of school property for recreation should be communicated with the school district.
- CSF-47 Promote and encourage before- and after-school programs, as well as early childhood care and education facilities, that provide additional educational and extracurricular activities for children in a safe environment.**

HEALTH CARE

- CSF-48 Support development or enhancement of health education and outreach programs offered through the Kennett Area Senior Center addressing nutrition, exercise, health screenings, and management of chronic health conditions.**
- CSF-49 Educate residents about medical services available throughout the region.** In addition to major facilities such as the Jennersville Regional Hospital, assist in increasing residents awareness of alternative and specialized facilities. Examples that residents may not be aware of include the AI DuPont Hospital for Children and local walk-in clinics such as the CVS Minute Clinic and Premiere Urgent Care in East Marlborough Township.
- CSF-50 Assist Spanish-speaking residents to access services provided by Project Salud, a bi-lingual and bi-cultural primary health care facility located in New Garden Township.** Non-English speaking residents may be underserved by the health care system. The Borough could offer educational materials in Spanish to direct residents to available services.
- CSF-51 Coordinate with the Southern Chester County United Way to assess the need for, and availability of, dental services for uninsured and under-insured residents of the Borough.**
- CSF-52 Refer eligible residents to non-profit and County agencies that provide prenatal and post-partum health care services for disadvantaged women, infants, and children.** The Healthy Start program through Maternal and Child Health Consortium provides this type of service to eligible women.

HUMAN SERVICES

- CSF-53 Encourage charitable giving and volunteerism to support Kennett Community Services or other non-profit entities serving disadvantaged individuals or families in the Borough.**
- CSF-54 Assist with public outreach for and referrals to the local Head Start program, or other early intervention programs which serve low-income pre-school children.** The Chester County Intermediate Unit runs a Head Start satellite program out of Kennett Presbyterian Church on South Broad Street.
- CSF-55 Provide opportunities or incentives for social service agencies to locate or expand facilities where services are provided to residents in the Borough.** The Borough could assist with helping these agencies to find local businesses willing to house educational sessions or other joint opportunities.

- CSF-56 Assist non-English speaking residents with interpretation and document translation assistance at Borough offices.** The Borough could consider adding a bi-lingual staff person if the need exists in addition to providing copies of essential materials in Spanish.
- CSF-57 Support, through referrals and outreach, the continuation and enhancement of food programs and social services for seniors provided by the Kennett Area Senior Center.**
- CSF-58 Support youth programs such as those offered at the “Garage” youth center, especially those that create intergenerational interaction and relationships.** The Kennett Area Senior Center is partnering with the “Garage” youth center to match teens with local senior citizens in the “Hands Across the Ages” program. It is a living history program that incorporates storytelling and theater. The program was just underway in September 2010.
- CSF-59 Collaborate with the Inter-Gen Coalition to coordinate efforts to develop supportive options for seniors in the Borough.** The Inter-Gen Coalition advocates for senior citizens to remain within the community as they age and for them to have regular interaction with the youth of the community. A senior housing option in the Borough that offers access to supportive services would help to meet this goal.