

Chapter 8: Community Facilities and Services

Survey Results

Municipal Facilities and Services

Municipal facilities and services consist of administration, volunteer groups, finance/funding, and parks (already addressed in the recreational resources survey).

1. Is your municipal administration sufficiently meeting the needs of your residents in regard to the services they are responsible to provide?

10 Yes **1** No **1** Somewhat **0** No Opinion

If no or somewhat, please specify what services could be improved: **Administration, public hours, zoning/code enforcement officer responsiveness; failing septic systems.**

2. Following the adoption of the Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan, tools, such as regional transfer of development rights, will be available for municipalities in the Region. As a result, it may be necessary to expand the responsibilities of current personnel or hire new personnel to manage these programs. If an additional need was identified (based on the recommendations of this Plan, increased population, or other circumstances) would your municipality be open to expanding its workforce (and incurring the additional expense)?

6 Yes **2** No **1** Somewhat **3** No Opinion

If no or somewhat, why not? **Resources inadequate currently, too much money in 537 planning and schools and therefore no money for a municipal tax increase; difficult to raise taxes in a slow economy; can't speak for elected officials.**

Municipal Facilities and Services Summary: Respondents were generally satisfied with the services provided by their municipalities with a need identified to expand the scope of some services to meet the needs of residents. While respondents indicated that municipal leaders were willing to implement recommendations of the Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan they identified concerns in regard to funding and that it could be impacted by the economy and parallel planning programs.

Utilities

Utilities consist of a diverse range of facilities, including stormwater management facilities, solid waste management/collection, water supply, wastewater facilities, energy transmission, and communication networks.

- Please rate the adequacy of the following services in meeting the needs of residents in the Region. If your municipality does not currently participate in any of the following simply check not applicable.

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Don't Know/Not Applicable
Stormwater Management	6	4	1	1
Flood Protection	4	7		
Public water	3	1	2	5
Public sewer	2	1	3	5
Solid Waste Management	6	4		1
Recycling	9	2	1	
Household Hazardous Waste	1	6	2	3

Please note specific problems with any services that you rated as poor, or where additional services are needed: **Potable water is undrinkable; OASA is inconsistent in expanding capacity as planned; need a household hazardous waste drop-off in the Region for electronics; Chesapeake Bay Initiative/stormwater regulations; 537 planning a disaster; household hazardous waste drop-offs are too far; no public water or sewer; all are private - not municipal; Recycling through SECCRA is marginal; inadequate identification and advertisement of proper way to dispose of household hazardous waste.**

- If public water or sewer services were offered to your community at a confined or restricted level (that is using fixed service boundaries), what would be your municipality's level of interest in these services?

Public Sewer

5 Interested **5** Somewhat interested **1** Not Interested **1** Already Served

Public Water

5 Interested **4** Somewhat interested **1** Not Interested **2** Already Served

If interested, please note where they would be appropriate: **Nottingham Village; Nottingham Village; satellite systems for low-income residents with a concentration of failed systems; only in sewer service area; level of interest follows cost; older villages with small lots need sewer soon; villages and housing developments; sewer sized for subdivision – not intended to be expanded; water sized for community – i.e. a community well versus a Chester Water Authority water line.**

- Should municipal ordinances be updated (where necessary) to permit wind farms, solar farms, or other forms of alternative energy in your municipality and the Region?

9 Yes **1** No **2** Maybe **0** No opinion

If no or maybe, why not? **Concentrated facilities are inconsistent with the area – individual use is okay; population density; appropriate as long as they don’t compete for use of prime ag soils.**

4. Are your municipal ordinances/537 (sewage facilities) Plans, etc., effectively guiding your municipality/Region regarding water and sewer planning?

4 Yes **4** No **4** Somewhat **0** No opinion

If no or somewhat, why not? **Without viable expansion – no options and therefore planning is limited; you’ve got to be kidding; working on a new 537 plan; elected officials don’t have knowledge or experience to do 537 planning effectively; services are piecemeal and when a developer presents a proposal; just adopted our own 537 plan 2 months ago; have effect only with public sewer – not onlot; incomplete 537 – too much politics involved.**

Utilities Summary: Respondents were generally satisfied with the overall provision of utilities in the Region. While opinions of public water and sewer had roughly half of those surveyed checking “Don’t Know/Not Applicable,” roughly 3/4 of respondents were interested (to some degree) in the provision of public water and sewer throughout the region (on a community scale). Further, those responding were completely divided on whether municipal ordinances were effectively guiding sewer and water planning in the region. Respondents thought that localized alternative energy options were viable and worth further consideration, but not on a commercial or industrial scale. They also identified solid waste needs in the Region – like better recycling programs and a Household Hazardous Waste disposal day closer to the Region. To our surprise, they did not identify stormwater or flooding as an issue.

Emergency Services

Emergency Services include police protection, fire protection, ambulance service, and emergency planning and response/emergency management.

1. Please rate the adequacy of the following services in meeting the needs of residents in the Region.

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Don’t Know/Not Applicable
Police protection	5	4	3	
Fire protection	9	3		
Ambulance service	10	2		

Please note specific problems with any services that you rated as poor, or where additional services/facilities are needed: **State police are too far – but municipalities are too small and don’t have the knowledge to run a regional force and tax base is too small; residents want more services; Union Fire Co. service area is too large; state police are slow/not available; state police response time can be variable.**

2. Is the rate of volunteer participation with the emergency services adequate to meet the needs within the Region?

7 Yes 2 No 2 Somewhat 1 No opinion

If no or somewhat, please provide detail: **New residents don't volunteer; fire company is stressed; have heard they need more daytime volunteers; volunteers must be protected financially and legally and be supplied with the necessary equipment.**

Emergency Services Summary: Respondents are generally happy with fire and ambulance service, but opinions on police service are more divided. Size of service areas, response times, and volunteerism are concerns.

Educational Facilities

Educational facilities include K – 12 schools (both public and private), higher education institutions such as Lincoln University, and library facilities, such as the Oxford Public Library.

1. Please rate the adequacy of the following services in meeting the needs of residents in the Region.

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Don't Know/Not Applicable
Public Schools K - 12	8	2	1	1
Private Schools K - 12	7	4		1
Higher Education	3	6		3
Library	7	5		

Please note specific problems with any services that you rated as poor, or where additional services/facilities are needed: **Not enough tax base for public schools – need more state money; Oxford Library needs more money to meet growing needs; need bookmobile service; Lincoln University serves some well – but not all needs in the region; not enough higher education facilities to keep community economically viable.**

2. Is the level of coordination between schools and municipalities adequate on issues such as public use of recreation facilities, population growth, school expansion, etc?

3 Yes 6 No 2 Somewhat 1 No opinion

If no or somewhat, please provide detail: **Municipal regulation doesn't correspond with school planning; does not exist; have no communication with school board; school wants more commercial/industrial uses to fund expansion – but don't realize it will attract more residents and exacerbate the funding problem; Oxford School District stinks in public relation arena; school facilities should be center of community activity.**

3. Do municipal ordinances permit the construction and operation of Plain Sect (Amish and/or Mennonite) schools to serve those populations as necessary?
- 10 Yes 0 No 0 Somewhat 2 No opinion

Educational Facilities Summary: Respondents are generally satisfied with educational facilities but concerned with taxes and funding. Coordination between the Oxford Area School District and municipalities is generally not viewed favorably.

Health Care

Meeting Health Care needs is critical to achieving and maintaining a healthy sustainable community, although some community needs may not be evident to residents or even elected officials. Health Care considerations include hospitals, medical needs, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.

1. How would you rate the facilities and services provided by the Jennersville Regional Hospital and allied physicians and medical services (located in neighboring Penn Township), with regard to the major medical needs of the Oxford Region?
- 5 Good 5 Adequate 2 Poor 0 Don't know

2. Are there unmet health care needs for any of the following demographic groups? (Please note yes or no.)
- 2 Elderly 2 Disabled 1 Children 3 Low-income 0 Racial minorities 7 Don't know

If yes for any group, please provide detail: **Challenge to find adequate transportation to get low income residents to healthcare services.**

3. How would you rate the need for a trauma facility in or near the Oxford Region?
- 2 High 5 Medium 5 Low 0 None

4. Are residents of the Oxford Region adequately served by local medical care/services?
- 8 Yes 0 No 3 Somewhat 1 No opinion

If no or somewhat, please provide detail: **Trauma center is needed; one can't expect a trauma center in a rural area like this; Jennersville is fairly close – others quite distant; its Jennersville or nothing.**

5. How would you rate the level of dental services available to residents of the Oxford Region?
- 7 Good 4 Adequate 0 Poor 1 Don't know

6. Do the members of the following demographic groups have access to affordable health insurance? (Please note yes or no.)

1 Elderly 1 Disabled 1 Children 1 Low-income 1 Racial minorities 8 Don't know

Please provide detail for any group not selected indicating inadequate access to affordable health insurance: **Difficult to judge – but many do not have affordable healthcare; doesn't exist for workers whose employers don't provide it.**

7. Are there medical services accessible and available to uninsured and underinsured residents of the Oxford Region?

1 Yes 1 No 10 Don't know

If no, please provide detail: **Neighborhood Services facility is full.**

8. How would you rate the quality of housing and services provided by The Village House at Ware Presbyterian Village in Oxford Borough?

6 Good 1 Adequate 0 Poor 4 Don't know

9. Over time, do you anticipate an increasing need for affordable housing options and supportive care for the elderly?

11 Yes 0 No 1 Don't know

Please provide detail: **General trend; baby boomers; population growth.**

Health Care Summary: The respondents to the Community Facilities survey indicated that, in general, the health care needs of the community are adequately addressed by existing facilities and services. There is, however, some concern about access to services and insurance for low-income residents.

Human Services

Although human services are typically offered on the regional and county level instead of the municipal level, residents frequently turn to their most local form of government for information and assistance. Please respond to these questions as they apply to the Oxford Region as a whole.

1. How would you rate the availability of the following types of assistance for residents in need:

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Don't Know
Shelter/Housing	1	3	3	5
Hunger/Food	2	4	2	4
Clothing	3	5		4
Home heating	2	3	1	6
Bilingual Services	1	4		7

2. Are you aware of any residents who are homeless/living on the streets?

0 Yes 12 No

3. Are there housing and services available to assist the homeless?

1 Yes 1 No 9 Don't know

If yes, please describe: **Neighborhood Services Center?**

4. Do low-income residents within the Region have access to the following special needs assistance:

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Mental health services	1	2	9
Mental retardation services	1	1	10
Drug and Alcohol addiction	1	1	10
Disability services	1	2	9
Children and Youth	2	1	9

Available in West Chester - but not within the region.

5. How would you rate the importance of addressing the following public health issues within the Oxford Region?

	High	Medium	Low	No Opinion
Childhood nutrition / obesity	6	6		
Recreation / active lifestyles	4	6	2	
Disease prevention	4	7	1	
Bio-terrorism / emergency response planning	2	2	8	

6. Does the Oxford Region have adequate access to the following?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Fresh / nutritious food	11		
Behavioral health services	4	1	7
Child care	9	1	2
Adult day care	3	2	7
Job training / workforce development	3	3	6
Youth development programs	6	3	3

Human Services Summary: The survey responses show a minimum level of knowledge, on average, concerning human services needs and programs. It does not appear that homelessness is an issue in the region. Some general education about health and human services programs may be beneficial.

Summary of Services

Increased funding is often a necessity to improve services or increase a service area. Please check up to 5 areas where increased funding would have the largest positive impact for the Region.

Service	✓ Prioritize top five (5) areas
Stormwater Management	1
Flood Protection	
Solid Waste Management	6
Recycling Facilities	4
Police protection	5
Fire protection	5
Ambulance service	5
Public Schools K - 12	6
Private Schools K - 12	1
Higher Education	2
Library	3
Hospitals	2
Trauma Center Access	3
Assisted Living Facilities	6
Nursing Homes	1
Access to Services	4

Other Comments: Funding to maintain or increase effectiveness is very important; increased funding from state, county, or federal; funding will be needed for public water and sewer where failing; a lot of support comes from neighbors and the community; more more is needed in our region; so many services in West Chester – but that is a good distance from West Nottingham Township.

Please contact **Mark Gallant** with any questions or comments: 610-344-6285 or mgallant@chesco.org