

## Shaftsbury Town Plan Survey – 2026

The Shaftsbury Planning Commission is seeking your input on priorities and objectives as it updates the Town Plan later this year. The Town Plan helps to create a series of long-range planning objectives for land use, development, historical and natural resources preservation, and quality of life.

Your thoughts and input are critical for helping determine priorities and shaping the future of Shaftsbury. Please note that this survey is anonymous and no personal details need to be disclosed.

Visit the Town Office (677 Route 7A) during regular business hours to pick up additional paper copies of the survey for your household and to submit your completed survey.

***All of the following survey questions are optional; please fill out as much or as little as you like.***

Please return completed surveys to the Shaftsbury Town Office by **August 31st**  
If you would like to complete the survey online, please visit: [tinyurl.com/ShaftsburyPlan](https://tinyurl.com/ShaftsburyPlan)

### General

1. How are you connected to Shaftsbury? (select all that apply)
  - a. I live in Shaftsbury year round
  - b. I live in Shaftsbury part of the year
  - c. I own property in Shaftsbury
  - d. I am a frequent visitor to Shaftsbury
  - e. I work in Shaftsbury
  - f. I own a business in Shaftsbury
  - g. Other:
2. What do you like the most about Shaftsbury? (Please rank from 1 to 5 with 1 = most important.)
  - \_\_\_ Community: my neighbors and friends, connecting with others who care about Stamford
  - \_\_\_ Size and scale: small village center surrounded by rural areas
  - \_\_\_ Natural resources: mountains, streams, trails, farmlands
  - \_\_\_ Arts, culture, and creativity: public events, historical character
  - \_\_\_ Regional connection: proximity to other municipalities with additional amenities
  - \_\_\_ Other:
3. For you, what are the important issues facing Shaftsbury within the next 10 years? (Rank your top 5, with 1 = most important)
  - \_\_\_ Economic Development
  - \_\_\_ Energy
  - \_\_\_ Lack of housing available at a reasonable price

- \_\_\_ Speeding/traffic volume on local streets
- \_\_\_ Quality of roads
- \_\_\_ Public safety (police, fire, EMS response)
- \_\_\_ Hazard mitigation
- \_\_\_ Natural resource protection
- \_\_\_ Access to employment opportunities
- \_\_\_ Shrinking population
- \_\_\_ Property taxes
- \_\_\_ Other:

4. In general, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	I don't know
Public meetings at the town office are well-advertised, accessible, and I feel encouraged to attend.				
Maintaining the historic appearance of the town is important to me.				
There is a strong sense of community among people in Shaftsbury.				
I feel engaged with the town and its residents.				
Shaftsbury should welcome and support new people.				

### Land Use & Development

5. How has the rate and type of development been in Shaftsbury over the past ten years? (select one):

- a. About right
- b. Not enough growth
- c. Too much growth
- d. Right amount of growth, but not well planned

6. Where should these types of development be located in Shaftsbury? (select all that apply)

	Wherever feasible	In undeveloped natural areas	In areas that have already been developed	Adjacent to villages	Within village centers	Anywhere but village centers	Nowhere in Shaftsbury
Restaurants / food service							
Elderly housing							
Affordable housing							

	Wherever feasible	In undeveloped natural areas	In areas that have already been developed	Adjacent to villages	Within village centers	Anywhere but village centers	Nowhere in Shaftsbury
Multi-unit housing							
Day cares							
Motels/Inns							
Retail stores							
Indoor recreation business							
Outdoor recreation businesses							
Farm-based businesses							
Light industry							
Construction / trade businesses							
Data centers							
Box stores							

## Housing

7. What is your top concern related to your personal housing situation? (Please select one.)
  - a. Paying ongoing housing costs (rent/mortgage, heating, utilities, etc.)
  - b. Property taxes
  - c. Finding an affordable house to buy
  - d. Finding affordable rental housing
  - e. Locating housing in a desirable area
  - f. Selling your house
  - g. Other, specify:
  
8. Do you think current housing options in Shaftsbury meet the needs of residents in the area?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. I don't know

9. Do you support the Town working with regional housing organizations to develop housing on town-owned property?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. I don't know
10. How do you feel about short-term rentals (less than 30 days, like AirBnB) in Shaftsbury?
- a. I am strongly in favor
  - b. I am in favor with some restrictions
  - c. I am strongly against
  - d. I do not feel strongly about short-term rentals
  - e. Other:

### Economic Development

11. Do you agree that there are enough opportunities to find a job . . .

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Within the Town of Shaftsbury			
Within a neighboring town			
Within a 30-minute drive			

12. What challenges do local businesses face in Shaftsbury?

### Natural & Historic Resources

13. How important do you consider each of these natural resources in Shaftsbury? (Rank your top 3, with 1 = most important)

- \_\_\_ Agricultural land
- \_\_\_ Forests
- \_\_\_ Streams, ponds, and wetlands
- \_\_\_ Ground water
- \_\_\_ Air quality
- \_\_\_ Fish and wildlife resources
- \_\_\_ Scenery
- \_\_\_ Other:

14. What do you consider to be the town's most important...: (your response can be specific or general)

Natural resource? \_\_\_\_\_

Historic resource? \_\_\_\_\_

Scenic resource? \_\_\_\_\_

### Transportation and Mobility

15. Do you feel that local roads are well-maintained in Shaftsbury?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

Specific needs or recommendations for where road improvements are needed:

16. Do you feel that facilities for pedestrians and bicycles are safe and adequate in Shaftsbury?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

Specific needs or recommendations for pedestrian/bicycling facilities:

### Community Services

17. Rate each of these community supported services on a scale of 1-5. (Rating: 5-Excellent, 4-Good, 3-Adequate, 2-Poor, 1-Bad)

Service:	1	2	3	4	5
Winter Road Maintenance					
Fire protection					
Local road maintenance					
Effectiveness of town officials					

18. For services that are not provided directly by the town, rate your experience accessing these things. (Rating: 5-Excellent, 4-Good, 3-Adequate, 2-Poor, 1-Bad)

Service:	1	2	3	4	5
State roads					
Community events					
Emergency Medical Services					
Trash/Recycling					
Outdoor Recreation					
Senior Services					
Childcare					
Internet					
Indoor Recreation					
Police protection					
Libraries					

19. Do you have any concerns about the quantity or quality of water available from your current supply source?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

If yes, please describe:

### Energy and Flood Resilience

20. Which, if any, of these renewable energy generation types do you support in Shaftsbury? (select all that apply)

- a. Wind turbines
- b. Small-scale hydroelectric systems (using dams on streams)
- c. Rooftop solar panels
- d. Small ground-mounted solar panel arrays
- e. Large ground-mounted solar panel arrays
- f. Biomass (wood-burning) heat systems

21. If you selected any of the above, where do you think they would be appropriate?

22. Have you dealt with flooding on your property in the past?
- Yes
  - No
23. If you answered yes to Question 22, was the damage caused by: (select all that apply)
- Inundation flooding: the rise of water that exceeds the banks of a river or lake
  - Fluvial erosion: when rivers and streams wear away banks

## Demographic Questions

All of the following questions are optional but answering them will help us understand who we've reached with this survey. Thank you!

24. If you live in Shaftsbury, how long have you lived in town?
- 0 – 5 years
  - 6 – 10 years
  - 11 – 20 years
  - 21 – 40 years
  - 40+ years
  - Prefer not to answer
25. How old are you?
- Under 18
  - 18–29
  - 30–44
  - 45–59
  - 60–74
  - 75+
  - Prefer not to answer
26. What is your race?
- White
  - Black, African, or African American
  - American Indian, Indigenous, or Native American
  - Pacific Islander
  - Asian or Asian American
  - Two or more races
  - Prefer not to answer
  - Other

27. Do you speak any languages besides English at home?

- a. Yes:
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to answer

28. What is your annual household income?

- a. Less than \$25,000
- b. \$25,000 to \$49,999
- c. \$50,000 to \$74,999
- d. \$75,000 to \$99,999
- e. \$100,000 to \$149,999
- f. \$150,000 or more
- g. Prefer not to answer