



Community Meeting
Blue Ridge High School
March 25, 2008

About 50 people attended the first *Imagine Greenville County* Community Meeting. The meeting was held in the auditorium of Blue Ridge High School and featured a short presentation on the process of creating a plan and the importance of doing the job the right way. The message was simple: while plans are made by many counties all over the state, not all are made equal. For this plan to work, it begins with the public—and with meetings like these.

Following the presentation, the floor was opened for attendees to discuss their concerns. A list of these concerns is shown below. Once compiled, attendees then prioritized these issues by placing “voting dots” on those matters that were most important to them. These dots were simple round stickers but they had a unique value because each individual had only four such dots at their disposal. Thus, when choosing where to place these dots (and their priorities), participants could only highlight issues at the heart of their concern.

The following comments show the result. The number to the right of each comment represents the number of dots that were given that comment. The higher the number of dots, the greater the priority. Thus, for the Blue Ridge community, the biggest, most crucial concern is the protection of natural resources and water supply.

RESULTS OF THE DOT EXERCISE

- Protection of natural resources/water supply – 25
- Proposed Animal Shelter – 24
- Need for better land use controls – 21
- Protection of private property rights – 20
- Road improvements for most of the rural roads – 12
- Too much government – 9
- Intersection improvements throughout the community – 9
- Sensible growth – 9
- Developers should pay for transportation improvements they create – 8
- Development impacts upon schools – 7
- Traffic congestion due to increased residential density – 5

- Development infringing on animal habitats – 5
- Better public notification about development projects – 3
- Protection of property values – 2
- Abandoned commercial buildings – 2
- The challenge to better manage growth – 2
- Protection of view sheds -1

Blue Ridge High School Community Meeting Survey Results

<i>How important are the following issues to you?</i>	<i>Avg. Rating</i>
Clean air and water	4.77
Preserving rural areas, farmland and open space	4.75
Maintaining natural beauty	4.75
Historic Preservation	4.26
Limiting development of flood prone areas	4.13
Community Appearance/Design	4.09
Reduced traffic in my neighborhood	4.00
Providing housing for all incomes	3.67
Convenient acces to my workplace from my neighborhood	3.59
Convenient access to recreational facilities from my neighborhood	3.44
Convenient access to schools from my neighborhood	3.38
Convenient access to shopping from my neighborhood	3.21
Encouraging economic development	3.03
Sidewalks in my neighborhood	2.45
<i>Scale: 1 (unimportant) - 5 (important)</i>	
<i>Greenville County should:</i>	<i>Avg. Rating</i>
Promote sustainable development and green building practices	3.88
Discourage growth in areas where adequate public infrastructure is unavailable	3.85
Provide information and incentives to encourage carpooling/vanpooling, etc.	3.64
Encourage development in already developed areas	3.61
Require businesses to share drive ways and parking	3.50
Promote commercial design to enhance community character	3.50
Reduce commercial development along major streets	3.39
Promote commercial development expansion along major highways	3.13
Promote commercial development in compact centers at major intersections	3.12
Encourage a mix of residential and commercial uses in the same development	2.45
<i>Scale: 1 (disagree) - 5 (agree)</i>	
<i>Please rate your support for the following types of businesses in your community</i>	<i>Avg. Rating</i>
Professional services/offices	3.30
Retail businesses	2.79
Restaurants/Bars	2.71
High Tech businesses	2.62
Manufacturing	2.26
Malls/Superstores	2.12
<i>Scale: 1 (no support) - 5 (support)</i>	
<i>Recreation</i>	<i>Avg. Rating</i>
More passive recreation facilities such as greenways and trails are needed	3.68
More active recreation facilities such as ball fields and swimming pools are needed	3.14
Recreational facilities are too far from my home	3.00
Recreational facilities are too crowded	2.83
I am not interested in public recreation facilities	2.24
<i>Scale: 1 (disagree) - 5 (agree)</i>	
<i>Please rate the preferred method of curbside garbage and recycling service</i>	<i>Avg. Rating</i>
Individual residents and subdivisions should contract with private entity	3.00
County should provide curbside service	2.63
County should contract with private entity to provide curbside service	2.56
No curbside service	2.55
<i>Scale: 1 (disagree) - 5 (agree)</i>	

Greenville County should encourage the following types of housing	Avg. Rating
Retirement Communities	3.56
Developments with a variety of housing types near shopping and services	3.44
Townhomes, patio homes, condominiums, etc	3.18
Low income/Public assisted housing	2.69
Apartments	2.66
Mobile homes	2.03
<i>Scale: 1 (disagree) - 5 (agree)</i>	
Please rate your support for the following types of housing in your community	Avg. Rating
Retirement Communities	3.15
Developments with a variety of housing types near shopping and services	2.94
Townhomes, patio homes, condominiums, etc	2.94
Apartments	2.12
Low income/Public assisted housing	2.06
Mobile homes	1.82
<i>Scale: 1 (no support) - 5 (support)</i>	
Transportation	Avg. Rating
County should add bike lanes, off street bike ways and other bicycle facilities	3.60
County should expand/establish public transit service	3.40
<i>Scale: 1 (disagree) - 5 (agree)</i>	
In order to pay for public road improvements, Greenville County should	Avg. Rating
Establish/Increase fees for development impacts on public roads	3.15
Issue capital improvement bonds	2.50
Establish a County sales tax	2.24
Increase vehicle registration fees	2.15
Encourage the State to increase the gasoline tax	2.00
Increase property taxes	1.85
<i>Scale: 1 (disagree) - 5 (agree)</i>	
Please rate the quality of the following	Avg. Rating
Congestion	3.50
Street connectivity	3.18
Travel safety	3.12
Greenway system	2.79
Street aesthetics/appearance	2.76
Pedestrian safety	2.74
Bicycle mobility	2.31
Public transit service	2.12
<i>Scale: 1 (low) - 5 (high)</i>	
Overall	Avg. Rating
Please rate the overall quality of life in Greenville County	3.80
Please rate the quality of Greenville County's water	3.32
Please rate Greenville County's public recreation	3.21
Please rate the quality of Greenville County's air	3.11
Please rate the quality and effectiveness of Greenville County Government	2.85
Please rate Greenville County's public transportation	2.21
<i>Scale: 1 (low) - 5 (high)</i>	