

TOWN PLANNING INITIATIVE

HARRISON COUNTY

The Town of Milltown



Public Meeting #1

August 18, 2023

Meeting Summary

The project team facilitated the first public meeting for the Milltown Comprehensive Plan, part of the Harrison County Town Planning Initiative. The meeting occurred during the Milltown Community Festival on August 18, 2023 at 215 West Main Street in Milltown, Indiana. The meeting lasted two hours with two members from TSWDG gathering public input for the Milltown Comprehensive Plan from festival attendees. The purpose of the meeting was to hear priority issues from residents to inform the development of the plan.

Attendees –

- Amy Williams – TSWDG
- Matt Pytel – TSWDG

Overview and Discussion

The project team prepared two boards with which to engage Milltown’s residents. The first board, Areas of Opportunity, presented a map which residents used to identify desired locations for new pedestrian, recreation, and transportation amenities. The map was also used to identify areas for new development and redevelopment.

The second board, Join the Conversation, shared a series of prompts for Milltown’s residents. These prompts were targeted to identify the things residents like about Milltown as well as the things they think need improvement. They also encouraged residents to identify the community’s challenges, strengths, and potential development opportunities.

The project team also prepared postcards to share with Milltown. These postcards contained a link to the Milltown Comprehensive Plan online survey so residents that did not share input in person can do so online.

Board #1 – Areas of Opportunity

On the map, residents marked Main Street in downtown Milltown as the ideal location for restaurants, a coffee shop, and a place for gathering and community events. Some residents specified that restaurants should be built or implemented near the Cave Country Canoes site to draw visitors into town. It is noteworthy that Cave Country Canoes may already be constructing a coffee shop on their property.

Residents also marked the banks of the Blue River as an important area on the map. They identified the areas between the river and downtown as potential sites for restaurants, gathering spaces, and parks. Finally, an area of farmland on the Crawford County side of Milltown, west of the Blue River and just southwest of downtown, was identified as the desired site for a housing development.

Board #2 – Join the Conversation

This board posed a series of prompts to residents. The following summary lists the responses to each of those prompts.

My favorite thing about Milltown is ...

- Everyone knows each other
- Cave County Canoes Summer Concert Series and community-wide events
- It feels like home

My biggest concern is ...

- Property maintenance – people need to clean their properties
- Offer regular/monthly large item or bulk trash pickup
- Don't convert the church into housing or halfway/rehab housing
- Combat drug abuse
- Need more police patrols near the school

In order to grow as a community we must ...

- Clean up and maintain properties
- Expand town and its boundaries
- Add education opportunities – trade school

We are facing housing challenges related to ...

- Need for more housing and quality housing
- Fix – or tear down – older homes

I have an idea ...

- Christian bands at festival on Thursday
- Restaurant along the river
- Multipurpose event space/room – community center
- Hold more community festivals

- Coffee Shop in Downtown

We can support business owners by ...

- Building more restaurants
- Broadband needed on Crawford County side
- Sharing posts and business presence on Facebook and getting to know one another

New development and redevelopment should occur at or along

- Downtown along the river

We could improve our transportation network by ...

Our parks and recreational facilities could benefit from ...

- A community center to host events