

**Upper Darby Township Comprehensive Plan**  
**Public Meeting Number Three – Watkins House Senior Center**  
**June 6, 2002**

Meeting participants were asked to list the strengths and weaknesses of Upper Darby Township, as well as comment on opportunities for change.

**Strengths**

- Strong sense of community
- Quality education
- Quality police and fire service
- County and local official are responsive to citizens
- Good code enforcement
- 69<sup>th</sup> Street Athletic Association
- Summer parks program
- Housing diversity
- Community spirit (small town atmosphere)

**Weaknesses**

- Poor Paratransit service
- Poor relationship between the Township and SEPTA
- Poor communication between the Township and residents
- Lack of minorities in decision making positions
- Section 8 housing
- High degree of land speculation
- Tax delinquency
- Absentee landlords
- Inefficient animal control
- No anchor stores
- Lack of variety of 69<sup>th</sup> Street stores
- 69<sup>th</sup> Street no longer safe place to shop
- High crime (example – Clover Lane and 69<sup>th</sup> Street)
- Lack of activities for youth
- Leash law is not enforced
- Lack of school choice

- Overcrowded classes
- Non-residents attending Upper Darby schools
- Lack of historic preservation programs
- Lack of zoning enforcement – need better communication
- Need better services for Seniors to deal with “shut-ins”

### **Opportunities for Change**

- Attract anchor stores to revitalize 69th Street
- Recruit citizen stakeholders / partners in the community
- Attract better quality commerce
- Utilize the regional draw, e.g., Tower Theater as the cornerstone of commercial revitalization
- Limit multi-family dwellings
- Improve communication between government and citizens
- More efficient management of Township government
- Start a senior companion program
- Market gateways into Upper Darby – improve the perception
- Market Upper Darby to young professionals and families
- Citizen participation to manage youth programs
- Include aesthetics in the zoning ordinance
- Establish a communication center to address citizen concerns
- Provide incentives to attract commerce
- Establish a community center for youth
- Establish private / public partnerships