

Upper Darby Township Comprehensive Plan
Public Meeting Number Five – Drexel Hill Middle School
June 13, 2002

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

Strengths

- School system
- Proximity to Philadelphia
- Strong religious community
- Athletic programs
- Lansdowne Symphony
- Strong neighborhoods
- Housing diversity
- Cultural diversity
- Excellent Police Department
- Quality older housing
- Strong sense of community
- Trees and landscaping
- Friendly neighbors
- Hip urban atmosphere
- Excellent public transportation
- Quality affordable housing
- Committed residents
- Performing Arts Center
- Child centered community
- Pedestrian friendly
- Nice playgrounds
- Fireworks at the high school
- Excellent English as a Second Language (ESL) program
- School district accommodating to ethnic diversity

Weaknesses

- High taxes
- Vacant commercial areas
- Degradation of 69th Street retail
- Lack of activities for children and teenagers
- Need more parental involvement
- School district spending
- Traffic may increase with increased business development
- Health issues related to the quarry
- Codes are allowing low quality housing types (i.e., pre-fab)
- Schools have declined
- Lack of neighborhood parks
- Inconsistent code enforcement
- Lack of nice restaurants
- Lack of parking in small commercial corridors – driving businesses away
- Stigma of inner ring suburb
- Kids on the streets late at night
- Diminished sense of security
- Kids trespassing on others' properties
- Lack of street cleaning
- Some properties are not maintained
- Limited on street parking
- Need more outdoor swimming pools
- Businesses moving out of Pilgrim Gardens and along Beaumont Rd.
- Older housing areas not attracting stable tenants
- Declining property values
- Overcrowded schools

Opportunities for Change

- Stimulate business development
- Find out why businesses are leaving
- Attract bio-tech firms
- Use 69th transit to attract businesses to 69th Street
- Involve churches – adopt street segments for improvements
- Celebrate Arbor Day –maintain existing trees and replace removed trees
- Build a skate park
- Encourage parent involvement in kids' activities
- Provide incentives to attract nice restaurants
- Community center and library (like Aston)
- Bring back the movie theater
- Walking paths in Pilgrim Park
- More greening of commercial areas
- Shake the stigma – gather community to address issues
- Encourage change in neighboring communities as well
- Use website to market the Township
- Reopen closed schools
- Help elderly and low income maintain properties
- More involvement of local representatives in school board meetings
- Televise public meetings (many cannot get out to meetings)
- Ensure that new business development is compatible with residential
- More senior centers
- Limit Section 8 housing