

Upper Darby Township Comprehensive Plan
Public Meeting Number Seven – Drexel Hill Middle School
June 20, 2002

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

Strengths

- Police
- Trash removal
- Libraries
- Township Council
- Schools
- Strong sense of family
- Softball / basketball league
- Proximity to Philadelphia
- Public transportation
- Conveniently located businesses
- School curriculum / advanced courses
- Walkability
- Convenient location – “Seven-mile miracle”
- 69th Street is worth saving
- Performing arts program
- Community involvement
- Diversity in schools
- School district offers more than the region

Weaknesses

- Athletic facilities not in good shape
- Billboards
- Need anchor stores (like Wal-Mart)
- Need bike patrol in Stonehurst
- Crime
- Cut-through traffic on residential – not enforced
- Neighborhoods declining (i.e., along State Rd.)

- Lack of property owner maintenance
- Increased rental units
- Long traffic lights – encouraging cut-through traffic
- Speeding / racing (Radburn Ave.)
- High property taxes
- Major roads are too narrow
- Reputation for drug use at Upper Darby High School
- Traffic congestion
- Property values declining
- Lack of parking and parking enforcement
- Stop sign needed at Clover Lane/Copley Rd. intersection
- Lack of senior centers and adult day care
- Lack of recreation facilities for youth
- New modular homes incompatible with surrounding neighborhoods
- Gangs in Garrettford
- Lack of volunteerism
- Assets of Upper Darby are not communicated
- Lack of communication from the Township
- Lack of communication from the School Board
- Taxes increasing at higher rate than salaries
- Section 8 housing
- Unleashed dogs
- County reassessment
- Lack of police on streets
- Charity collecting at busy intersections
- Absentee landlords

Opportunities for Change

- Tax Billboards
- Parking program
- Attract nice restaurants
- Recreation centers for teens
- Address the needs of the elderly
- Establish an entertainment tax (Tower Theater)
- Create a local newsletter
- Switch from property tax to income tax

- Create a township information booklet – fund with advertising
- Use government funding to develop retirement villages
- Attract businesses to 69th Street
- Revise regulations for modular homes
- Take chains of businesses at 69th Street
- Create a community service program for high school senior project
- Lower school spending
- Revitalize through community involvement – no government
- Reinforce / save architectural and historical character – no big boxes
- Enforce property maintenance rules
- Improve safety – more eyes on the street
- Televise public meetings
- Stop school uniform policy
- Improve roads and parking to attract businesses
- Monorail – explore futuristic vision of Upper Darby
- Utilize local community organizations like Future Search
- Act on passion for Upper Darby – Community Action!
- Tree-lined streets – replace removed trees
- Homeowner sponsored tree planting
- Focus on improving basic services
- Attract satellite university campuses