

APPENDIX

Neighborhood Statistical Survey

Survey Document

Page 1

Survey Results

Page 4

Survey Comments

Page 6

SAMPLE 2007 HAMDEN HIGHWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY DOCUMENT

INTRODUCTION

This survey of Hamden residents living in the Highwood neighborhood and surrounding area is being conducted for the purpose of collecting preferences and opinions regarding the development options for the neighborhood following the proposed DEP remediation. This survey is designed to provide further information that will help the Consulting Team working with the Town of Hamden to discern which neighborhood redevelopment options under consideration are most desirable and why.

This important survey asks you for information as well as your opinions, preferences, and priorities on various redevelopment options. Please take the time to fill out this survey to the best of your ability. If you have any questions about the survey, please call Gretchen Deans at (860) 571-7147. Thank you in advance for your participation.

PART 1. PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION/DEMOGRAPHICS

A.) Your age? (Check appropriate box)

- under 24 55 to 64
- 25 to 34 65 to 74
- 35 to 44 75 or over
- 45 to 54

B.) Your sex? Female Male

C.) How long have you been a resident of the Highwood neighborhood or surrounding area?

- Less than 2 years 2 to 5 years 6 to 10 years 11 to 20 years 21 years or more
- Not a resident of Highwood or the immediate surrounding area

D.) Do you rent or own your residence?

- I/We own this residence I/We rent this residence

E.) (OPTIONAL): NAME _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

F.) Is there an impact to your home related to environmental issues in the Highwood neighborhood? Yes No

If yes, is it: Structural Flooding Contamination Other _____

G.) What is your goal for your property?

- Hold long term Sell short term Sell longer term Other _____

H.) Do you expect your house and or property to be remediated? Yes No

I.) What other things do you expect to be done to improve your property?

Survey continues on next page.

PART 2. REUSE OF HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The consultant team has already offered suggestions on the reuse of the former Hamden Middle School based on earlier input from the neighborhood through a series of community meetings. When looking at redevelopment options for the neighborhood, the reuse of middle school should also be considered. In this section, please give your feedback on the possible reuses of the middle school. It is likely that a number of options can be accommodated on the middle school site.

Please rate how ATTRACTIVE the following middle school reuse options are in your opinion, checking the appropriate box. Please read the following list and indicate whether you would currently classify them as “Not attractive at all”, “Somewhat unattractive”, “Somewhat attractive” or “Highly Attractive” within the Hamden Middle School region. (Please check one box per row, leaving a blank if you are unsure or have no opinion.)

Attractiveness:

	Not Attractive At all	Somewhat Unattractive	Somewhat Attractive	Highly Attractive
A. Police Substation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Hamden Parks & Recreation- fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Hamden Public Works	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Town of Hamden Storage Facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Public Health Agency-classrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Mental Health Agency-classrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Vocational School- classrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Cooking School- classrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Elderly Housing- upper floor classrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Market Rate Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Theater Space-Auditorium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L. Health Clinic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
M. Indoor Swimming Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N. General School Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
O. Day Care Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P. Boys and Girls Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q. Banquet Facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
R. Arts and Music classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Survey continues on next page.

PART 3: DEFINING COMMUNITY ISSUES.

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability, checking the appropriate box. Please read the following list of individual **COMMUNITY ISSUES** and indicate whether you would currently classify them as a “Major Issue”, a “Moderate Issue”, a “Minor Issue” or “Not an Issue” within the Highwood neighborhood. (Please check one box per row, leaving a blank if you are unsure or have no opinion.)

<u>Importance-Hamden Middle School Community Issues</u>	Not an Issue	Minor Issue	Moderate Issue	Major Issue
A. Area Ground Water Pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Area Soil Pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Lack of Affordable Housing in General	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Lack of Affordable Housing for Seniors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Substandard Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Lack of green space/trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Space for Classes- Ages 5-17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Space for Classes- Ages 18-55	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Space for Classes- Ages 55+	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Deteriorating Roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Deteriorating Sidewalks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L. Resale Value of homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
M. Local property taxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PART 4. LIVABILITY, CONCERNS, & NEEDS (Please keep responses as concise and to the point as possible.)

A.) How would you currently rate the Highwood neighborhood as a place to live and work?

- Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Unsure

B.) What is your **GREATEST CONCERN** regarding the redevelopment of the Highwood neighborhood?

C.) What is the **MOST IMPORTANT REDEVELOPMENT ISSUE** facing the Highwood neighborhood today?

D.) Overall, from a redevelopment standpoint, what is the **GREATEST NEED** within the Highwood neighborhood at this time?

E.) Other comments, or suggestions?

ON BEHALF OF THE CONSULTANTS, THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS IMPORTANT SURVEY.

Final Highwood Neighborhood Survey Results

Surveys returned to date
(Mailed to over 600 residents)

78

Age of Respondents

Under 24	1
25-34	3
35-44	7
45-54	16
55-64	26
65-74	13
75 +	10

Sex of Respondents

Female	45
Male	32

Years of Neighborhood Residence

Less than 2	3
2-5	9
6-10	10
21 +	45
Not Highwood	2

Own/Rent

Own	72
Rent	4

Home impacted by environmental issues

None	21
Structural	16
Flooding	7
Contamination	38
Other	12

Goal for the property

Hold long term	40
Sell short term	15
Sell longer term	14
Other	5

Expect house and/or property remediation

Yes	26
No	37
Unsure	3

Rating of Reuse of Middle School from Most Attractive to Least – Overall average in ()

- on a scale of 1 to 4 with 4 being Most Attractive.

- Hamden Parks & Recreation fields (3.3)
- Police Substation (3.1)
- Arts and Music classes (3.0)
- Boys and Girls Club (3.0)
- Theater Space-Auditorium (2.9)
- Day Care Center (2.9)
- Cooking School- classrooms (2.8)
- Health Clinic (2.8)
- Vocational School- classrooms (2.8)
- Public Health Agency-classrooms (2.7)
- Indoor Swimming Pool (2.7)
- Elderly Housing- upper floor classrooms (2.6)
- Mental Health Agency-classrooms (2.5)
- General School Space (2.5)
- Market Rate Housing (2.4)
- Banquet Facility (2.2)
- Hamden Public Works (2.0)
- Town of Hamden Storage Facility (1.8)

Community Issues Starting with Most Major – Overall average in ()

- on a scale of 1 to 4 with 4 being Major and 1 being Not an Issue.

- Local property taxes (3.7)
- Deteriorating Sidewalks (3.7)
- Resale Value of homes (3.6)
- Area Soil Pollution (3.6)
- Area Ground Water Pollution (3.3)
- Deteriorating Roads (3.1)
- Lack of green space/trees (3.0)
- Substandard Housing (2.9)
- Lack of Affordable Housing for Seniors (2.9)
- Space for Classes- Ages 5-17 (2.7)
- Space for Classes- Ages 55+ (2.7)
- Lack of Affordable Housing in General (2.6)
- Space for Classes- Ages 18-55 (2.4)

Rate Neighborhood As a Place to Live & Work

Excellent	3
Good	18
Fair	30
Poor	17

Neighborhood Survey Comments

Other Impact Comments

Property value
Little of all listed
What the mitigation will do to the neighborhood in terms of truck removal traffic.
Foundation needs to be inspected. Cracks notices. Need to determine cause & then repair or sell if unrepairable.
Stability & quality of neighborhood
Mold & moldy odors
Live in nearby neighborhood
Societal
Report from soil testing - yet to be corrected to clear deed.
It is really important to avoid any more asphalt paving in the neighborhood. Albertus has already paved over enough to make the area noticeably warmer in summer
None that I am aware of
Home value
Potential remediation traffic/trucks
Low income, irresponsible, disrespectful neighbors, criminal element
Not sure
Criminal element crossing Mill-Rock border

Other expected property improvements

My property value is dependent on the value of the other properties in the Newhall area. Make it clean and value will be fair and not low.
Nothing
None
Repair front porch & steps landscape front & back yard, redo window & doors
Taxes, cannot sell on market value
Landscaping, safe sidewalks, green space
Improve blighted conditions along Newhall St. by holding property owners to improve, maintain their homes' appearance
Have water co. improve the landscaping and perimeter plantings on their "Water Park" directly opposite my house
All contaminated soil to be removed & property restored in order to hold its value & no restriction which will allow me to sell at the top value.

Other expected property improvements (continued)

Make it safe & make it saleable
My property doesn't need improvement
Mold inspections quarterly
Total clean up and occupancy of vacant building in community.
Routine care as needed
Clean up neighborhood make use of blight property owned by town
The removal of all contaminate soil 100%
We aren't sure we want to be "remediated" and don't know what is available for improvement.
I have no idea. Hope for finance for leveling home. Subsidence.
I want to reestablish the lawn my tenants destroyed.
Plant more trees.
Landscaping. Three trees removed from southern city strip in early 60s never replaced!
In addition to "F" above, I expect 4 feet of soil to be removed across the entire property; clean soil put in its place and extra soil place in areas that have sunk due to the trash/contaminates beneath the land. Then they need to be leveled and the grass replaced. Anything removed must be replaced
Remediation off the neighborhood
Flooding that cause damage to sidewalks & Street
Repair Mill Rock Road!! And install speed bumps/traffic calming. Road is busy and many people speed, also go through stop light at Prospect/Mill Rock
Landscaping
Clean up the area around my home
I'm not in the contaminated area just nearby
Replace contaminated soil, check foundation of existing of outside foundation to make sure crackings are repaired. To be responsible for all areas that are destroyed.
All of these properties need buy out by the one responsible for this mess.
Maintain character of neighborhood, avoid inappropriate uses of the site & rescuing it economically and keeping crime down
Landscape, sidewalks, building structure replace
Clean 100% contamination. Reduce traffic, drug problems, crime. (Police is not the answer.)
Structural repairs
Not Sure
Testing of the soil in the basement, remove all pollution so my grand children can come visit and play at my house.
Buy the property

Other expected property improvements (continued)

Remove the bad soil.
Possible halt to trucking from Morse to Armory to Whitney POLITICAL ISSUE.
It's been over 8 yrs. And nothing has been done. At this point I expect nothing. I have no faith in our town rep.
My property doesn't need improvement
Fix all of the structural damage
Landscaping, street & park improvement

Items of Great Concern re Redevelopment

When will it get done? Impact doing the clean up and use of park and school after clean up are all important concerns for me.
I do not want my taxes again.
That my home on Winchester was not identified and that there could be contaminates on or near the property.
Property values
Resale of property, property value, repairs to select property
Pollutions - ground water
Keeping crime out. Keeping "appearances" up.
That remediation will be delayed & nothing happens.
Increased traffic
That it will become an even more racially & economically segregated section of Hamden
The environmental problems to be taken care of & all contamination be removed & truck it off site area. Property values must be retained and no restriction in the area.
That the plan that is decided will improve the neighborhood.
Increasing density will lower the quality of life for all.
Area soil pollution
Soil contamination, ELUR/Zoning Districts, Discrimination against neighborhood
Safety
The issue recurring.
That the neighborhood is revitalized to the standard which others may want to come in and enjoy.
Total removal of all contaminated soil to the depth required for complete remediation.
DEP disguising ELURs, disruption of digging up 4' of soil
To redevelop the area and maintain the value of homes.
To maintain the value of our homes, and encourage new development
Clean up the pollution
Not removing all of the contamination from neighborhood.

Items of Great Concern re Redevelopment (continued)

Deserted buildings. The loss of decent park, walking areas
Fairness to current dwellers, rational & economic plan, whatever it is; community improvement generally; park space; class rooms
Quiet & sustain architecture character & trees. Add or reinforce a few local stores to walk to.
Traffic Control
Cost vs. long term impact of improvements
I would like to see good employment opportunities and educational/vocational support to prepare residents to become eligible to fill these positions.
Density
1. That the suggestions are from people from Guilford who don't know/understand the neighborhood! 2. A multi-use facility, as they proposed can lead to no-one being in charge.
Currently a diverse, integrated community. Keep it that way.
Area is over populated therefore no new housing should be allowed, with possible exception of senior housing on upper floors of the former middle school. Seniors have a stabilizing effect. Our neighborhood should not be turned into a huge industrial park. South Hamden needs trees & open space like the north end.
The amount of time that it will take to do the remediation.
Sidewalks-Roads-Flooding-Lack of upkeep of catch basins.
Disruption to traffic around the area.
Truck traffic in area due to hauling away of debris/contaminated soil. Creating a multi-purpose community facility for all to enjoy.
Safety
Landscaping and structural needs such as dead tree removal, drive ways, etc.
It will not be useful to those that live here.
Which plan is accepted, where soil to go and disruption of neighborhood for remediation
To make sure the upkeep of all properties are maintained! No one is accountable for bulk pickup, illegal dumping allover unused area, sidewalks to be replaced absentee landlords are accountable and business.
This is a predominantly Black neighborhood and there's no concern by our town to fix up or do anything about this area. Except to keep raising our taxes. And there's no other concern about us period.
Misinformation regarding security & pollution.
A reuse of site that fails to give the neighborhood a new economic base and that places an unwanted activity i.e. public works warehouse, in middle of residential neighborhood
Improved safety, more sense of community
To fix all problems involving people property and bring all property values up to the standards that every one in this town would want.
The more low-income programs under the guise of "youth-development" will once again bring in undesirables who are unappreciative, unsupervised, void of any respect for other or laws.
Consultants & contractors will make move but there will be minimal positive affect on the neighborhood.

Items of Great Concern re Redevelopment (continued)

I will lose my equity in my house that I struggled to build.
Complete disregard for other peoples' property. Area is a freakin' dump. Papers, bottles etc thrown on my property with regularity. My street has turned into a ghetto.
Think they should get rid of the old polluted houses and rebuild better safer homes without lead paint and contamination, better streets, more police protection, more affordable homes, get rid of factory too close to homes.
No space houses too close.
The streets are not clean enough. The sidewalks need fixing.
Greatest concern is planning by designers to be overzealous and not sensitive to needs of minority population. We do not want a project that stalls & the fails so all \$ lost.
To follow through & carry out the current final remedy plan from DEP to remedy the surface pollution, more divisive obstruction will only lead to delay & a less <u>vital</u> neighborhood.
Over crowding if buildings are added. How nice the development looks. Traffic.
The look of the neighborhood after the construction and the removal of the soil.
Contamination of soil

Most Important Redevelopment Issue

The school and park areas are key. Also homes that can not be cleaned, what will be done with those properties?
High taxation
Cleaning up the contaminated issues.
Remediate property give owners help in uplifting area
Remove contamination
Redeveloping personal property
Creating affordable & safe housing that is pleasing to community and follows town plan for development.
Attractive retail and commercial property.
1-Integration 2-Soil Pollution
Contaminated property & resale value of homes.
Resale value of Property
Traffic congestion, particularly at the corner of Newhall & Mill Rock Rd. will be an even worse problem then it is now. Whatever is planned, access to the site should be from a major artery (i.e. Dixwell Ave.) NOT through Mill Rock Rd.
Property remediation
Crime & Safety
For me, the issue would be if they're just gonna' flip the soil, it will definitely re occur

Most Important Redevelopment Issue (cont)

Contamination, blighted community center, deteriorated sidewalks & abandoned middle school
Attracting and accommodating, commercial and non-profit entities to stabilize the neighborhood and improve quality of life.
Severe impact on value of houses, making neighborhood really good place to live
The devaluation of property because of contamination.
The resale of existing home because of the contamination of environment.
Our community not having a voice in the decision making process.
How best to co-mingle residential with small businesses to the greatest advantage of each.
Speeding traffic
The competency or lack of it of those directing evaluation and planning efforts
No more condos or apartments. Fix up existing structures & maintain landscape.
Resolution of the DEP study and remediation for those neighbors truly affected by settling and was issues.
Attracting & keeping residents & businesses in this neighborhood.
For residents to understand government and appreciate the benefits of the DEP program
Keep it green - no more dark roofs, paving. Keep the ambiance of a residential neighborhood.
Environmental safety. Speeding on Goodrich & Morse Streets
Will we remain a viable residential neighborhood with families & attractive homes or become the industrial tax workhorse for Hamden without regard to the quality of life for the residents. We don't need more housing or industry. We need to rebuild and enhance our quality of life.
People with structure problems with their homes in the area. Relocation and rebuilding is a lot of work!
Flooding - polluting - quality of life issues.
Cleaning up polluted soils and fixing up properties with structural damages.
Viable community center with park, meeting rooms, classrooms and improved landscaping of Mill Rock Park area.
Clean Up Efforts
Landscaping
The clean up
Soil pollution
ELUR's, land/resale values
tutorial classes for all that may need them including computer, sewing, including some college courses and support group, Teen center. Kids are just hanging out without no real purpose. We need housing.
By out and fix up the neighborhood then the neighborhood would be up to par with other section of the town.
Facts.
Hamden has made some strides in placing new businesses along lower Dixwell, but muchmore need to be done. Housing is seriously deteriorated in neighborhood
Make it safe, draw people out in the neighborhood, sense of community, ability to shop and commute

Most Important Redevelopment Issue (cont)

Old, run down buildings, junk cars, paper and filth around houses side walks need fixing, people and their dogs must be taught how to care & pick up.
100% remediation of houses.
The pollution we live in. Structural damage in the houses.
Keeping it clean like it used to be. There is a bad element so I do not foresee this "Hood" ever being nice again. Nobody cares. Check it out for yourself.
Getting rid of the pollution on the property and in houses. Factory too close to home at 87 - 91 Marlboro. Truck trailers make lots of noise from midnight to 5 AM - disturbing noise at night.
Rec & parks
My sidewalk. Dirty soil.
To assure that a broad-based stakeholder group guide the process. Today we have a small vocal number of people grabbing personal power. A true neighborhood organization is needed.
To enhance the attractiveness of the neighborhood (without spoiling it by adding congestion)
Clean it up 100% or purchase the homes.
Contamination of soil

Greatest need from Standpoint of Redevelopment

Is it unrealistic to ask for a clean up that ensures our health now did for future generations.
To lower the taxes
To make the people in the area feel safe of health concerns and good about their neighborhood.
Remove contamination
Property surrounding the middle school area. The bldg itself.
Remediation of soil done adequately but cost effectively
Jobs for youth.
Correction of soil pollution issues together with good PR to counteract fear and suspicion
Crime, pollution and resale values
Complete the environmental problems and restore the neighborhood to where property value is restored.
Property values. Do not decrease
Preservation of open space, parks, low density development.
Clean the contaminated soil and treat the ground water that is polluted.
Move forward with property remediation
Redevelopment and keep Hamden PD patrolling
100% clean up and reduction in property tax
Remediation, demolition of homes with severe structural damage, preservation of current housing stock.
Truth, honesty & genuine concern from town leaders, relevant action to remedy problems now

Greatest need from Standpoint of Redevelopment (continued)

100% clean up
100% cleaning of contamination
To make sure all streets, all side walks and all water drains are in good shape structurally.
Whatever prevents empty/deserted bldgs - both houses and offices.
Train local teams to fix up house for people one at a time.
Traffic on Putnam, and on Morse and Armory.
Increase peace of mind/security - environmental clean up for long term which will lead to improved health & welfare for residents. Also, as important - decreasing crime in this neighborhood.
To see some work to remediate actually happen: e.g. remediation of eligible, designated homes.
Keep a good supermarket.
Rec. center for teenagers, including pool, so that they are not tempted to get into mischief or crime, such as bicycling in packs -- muggings.
Small business/shopping center within walking distance, drug store, grocery, post office?
An infusion of money to: remediate; rear down homes as necessary; make all necessary repairs to homes, the middle school building, roads & sidewalks. Begin the process ASAP despite the 10-year plan those responsible for the mess might have envisioned.
Parks, rec and ball fields to be remediated along with all homes in the area.
Low interest funds for the up keep of property.
The clean up of polluted properties.
Taking care of those homeowners who have issues with ground contamination and redeveloping the school into a viable community center. There is nothing like this in the area.
Ensure that the HMS does not stay vacant
Making the area look good in terms of landscaping and a few repairs to properties and store fronts.
Closure
Sole pollution
Fixing substandard/settling homes
We need a community based office that can help you with all problems or that can refer you there by being an advocate to get things done, stop passing the buck on unemployment agency to help find jobs, to educate all (funding).
Housing, recreational facilitation for young peoples health care.
Facts regarding pollution.
We're not experts, but jobs seem to be critical to rebuilding the economic circumstances of families in the neighborhood. Crime is a serious issue. Give residents the means & incentive to improve the housing stock.
Safety, affordable improvement to houses
The whole area needs redevelopment.
More police and more responsible parents supervising & disciplining their children.

Greatest need from Standpoint of Redevelopment (continued)

Open house, less dense.
Better class of people. With that comes caring for neighbors and property. No trash and maybe beautification.
To remove the pollution from peoples homes make newer affordable houses. Tax break for all the polluted homes for now the pollution causes the value to decrease.
Vacant building
I can't sell my house.
The clean up - to put this old, major issue to rest. It's time these homes were restored and property values restored.
To clean up the whole neighborhood for the ones that want to sell their home at a good rate.

Other comments & suggestions

Do the clean up right and lives and community will be saved and you will be judged accordingly.
Please lower taxes especially for the retired.
To bring the value of homes in the area up to market value and competitive selling.
Continue/increase police patrols. Presence of law enforcement will hopefully decrease crime and drug activity in the area.
Please coordinate the development in line with the new town plan for development (zoning).
From Pt 2 on Middle School: Take down the old middle school with its sad local history. Opt. 1: create a small scale commercial site to house a laundromat, self dry cleaning, dollar store & convenience store. It would provide inexpensive alternative to local residents & allow for street - pedestrian traffic needed by seniors. Combine with reasonably priced apts. above - set in attractive looking buildings. These could attract SCSU & Albertus Grad Students, Faculty & Staff. HA Parks & Rec fields -emphasis on facilities for 10-18 year olds - basketball, skateboard course, also ice skating. HA Market Rate Housing_ especially if it could be made to attract racial diversity for lower middle class. NA Theater Space & Swimming Pool- It would be totally segregated. NA General School Space - bad history wouldn't be forgotten. SA Banquet Facility - lge church groups might use if cost was low. HA Arts & Music Classes - dependant on cost to participants.
The best use of this land is an extension of the industrial park.
How can you re-use school as general school space or as a day care center in a space that was too polluted to continue the middle school there?? Crazy? ----- Success of Open Studios weekends over past 2 years demonstrates us can be made of classrooms, exhibit space & studio space. Mill Rock between Prospect & Newhall is too heavy now with traffic, often at high speed. The neighborhood is already trying to address this problem & doesn't want it made worse by whatever is put on the middle school site.
Overall I would say for the former HMS, before putting new tings in position, do something for the kids.
Why is this clean up taking so long? We have not got street cleaning in over a year. Yet for the past 3 yrs. property taxes went up.
Neighborhood needs preschooler school readiness, quality extracurricular activities, homework help, recreational & cultural activities to attract people town wide

Other comments & suggestions (continued)

Bring back life to community.
The dormant building (The community center & the Middle School) be put to valuable use to the community.
Any use for MS that's well cared for and leaves as much public open space as possible.
Spring is beautiful there.
I am a 4th generation resident/business owner with ties to the Highwood Neighborhood. My great grand father, grand mother and their family moved here from Italy in the early 1900s. We've been here ever since.
Whatever you do, make the property a good neighbor. Rent to Albertus night school so they will not expand more. Put regulations on lighting, no outdoor amplification, and integrate the school & neighborhood activities. Stop & Shop is the only institution which brings people of the neighborhood in contact with each other on a regular basis. Any kind of community center would improve the social interaction of neighbors.
Is my address in Highwood
Feels indoor pool and boys and girls clubs are much needed also added an outdoor swimming pool option. This survey should have been much more widely distributed!
We've been in limbo long enough. I want to get on with my life. Olin, RWA and all parties should top the stalling and get on with the rebuilding. Do the right thing!! NOW!!
Sidewalks & new roads should also be in place with the remediation.
Lower taxes.
Get Kath Schomaker, District 5 Town representative, involved since this is her district! The Hamden Town council needs to be more proactive in this whole issue. Where have they been?
I have a tree that the neighbor or I can('t) afford to cut down. The tree is damaging the entire driveway and walkway.
A drop off box to be placed so all individual complaints can and would be addressed by you, helping those with the problems. Have an on site ????? That can help anyone in need, paid by another organization.
Stop the paper work. It's been about seven years and let us see some results.
People in general need to take more care and pride in the way their standard of living is.
I refuse to pay one more penny in taxes for any of your programs. I am single childless and tired of paying. Let others start caring for their own. My taxed have doubled and my services have decreased. And I'm disabled and hereby forced out of a family home of 50+ years due to crime/other residents and Hamden Town Gov't.
Letter to mayor attached
Need I say more? Just look at the area. Big difference in the last 25 yrs. Not so in other areas of Hamden such as Spring Glen or Mt. Carmel. Why? Bet you can figure it out.
Activity for children. Boys and girls club
No reuse of the Middle School is attractive until the DEP writes a letter to homeowners that cancels our previous letter which devalues property. Also remediation of contaminated soil in Middle School site. Your ideas are premature until DEP takes care of business.
Solar panel energy fields on ground or buildings very attractive!
Newhall Community Center needs to be removed and nothing should be rebuilt in its place. The grounds should be nicely landscaped to blend in with the grounds surrounding the middle school.