



Council District #6 Public Open House #1 Summary

Purpose:	Council District #6 Public Open House #1
Date and Time:	April 27, 2026, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location:	Moriches Bay Recreation Facility, 313 Frowein Rd, Center Moriches



The Town of Brookhaven has initiated an update to its existing Comprehensive Plan, originally adopted in 1996. The Comprehensive Plan will provide a blueprint for long-range planning in the community.

As part of the first phase of public engagement for the Brookhaven Comprehensive Plan, an open house was held on Monday, April 27, 2026 at the Moriches Bay Recreation Facility from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The open house drew more than 37 participants, including residents, property owners, business owners, and other stakeholders. Outreach for the event included the project website (www.planbrookhaven.com), flyers distributed throughout the Town, a press release and project cards.

The open house featured an interactive, walk-through format with ten (10) activity stations. Attendees were able to explore the stations at their own pace, learn about different aspects of the project, and share their input and ideas. A Participant Guide was provided to help navigate the stations and encourage feedback.

The activity stations included:

- **Station #1 - Project Overview:** The what, why and how of the project.
- **Station #2 – Community Profile:** Highlights of existing conditions in Both the Town and Council District #6. This includes most current data available and a series of maps!
- **Station #3 – Vision:** Use the sticky notes to describe what makes the Town and Council District #6 a great place to live, opportunities and concerns, and what you'd like it to be like in 5, 10, or 20 years.
- **Station #4 – The Places We Gather:** Using the stickers and map, identify where you go, what you do there and how you get there.
- **Station #5 –Serving the Generations:** What are your generational needs (Housing, healthcare, etc.)?
- **Station #6 –Idea Center:** Share your ideas on a variety of topics such as economic development, housing infrastructure, recreation and more for the Town.
- **Station #7 –Future Land Use Mapping Station:** On the map, use markers and sticky notes to identify areas you would like land use changes and areas to remain unchanged.
- **Station #8 – Kids Table:** This is a place for kids to be creative and share their ideas.
- **Station #9 –Take the Survey:** Take the online community survey!
- **Station #10 –Other Thoughts:** Have more to share? Write it down at this station!

Station #1. Project Overview

This station provided an overview of comprehensive planning.

- A Comprehensive Plan is both a vision for the future and a blueprint for how to get there. The Comprehensive Plan will identify a vision for the future and outline a series of recommendations and steps to implement the vision.
- The planning process is being led by the Town of Brookhaven Department of Planning, Environmental, and Land Management (PELM), facilitated by a consultant team led by M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C., supported by Bay Environmental, Camoin Associates, and Cashin Associates.

The comprehensive planning effort will be both focused on the big picture townwide, while also dialing in on the unique district-by-district needs. A vision, goals and suggested recommendations will be drafted for both the Town and each of the Council Districts:

- **Townwide Plan**
 - Sets the overall vision for the Town's future
 - Addressing shared priorities such as:
 - Housing, Transportation, Recreation, Community services, and more!
 - Guides policies and decisions that apply across the Town
- **District Plans**
 - Focus on hamlets
 - Identify local challenges and opportunities
 - Provide tailored goals for:
 - Land Use, Infrastructure, and Redevelopment
 - Celebrate what makes each area unique

The Town of Brookhaven is split into six separate Council Districts, and a map was displayed to guide participants on what district they reside in.



Station #2. Community Profile

This station provided an overview of the Town and District #6's demographics, growth trends, income, education, and employment. Town and District #6's population, population growth, and housing statistics were displayed in tables and graphs. Income, education, and employment data were also displayed in tables and graphs, accompanied by a brief narrative highlighting notable data.

Nine (9) maps were displayed at this station:

- Town of Brookhaven Hamlets
- Townwide Population Density
- Existing Zoning (Town and District)
- Environmental Constraints
- Agriculture
- Existing Transportation
- Community Facilities (Town and District)
- Parks, Recreation & Open Space (Town and District)
- Historic Places

Community Profile Highlights include the following:

- Council District #6's population is about 16.7% of the Town's population & 30.7% of the land area
- Slightly lower median age compared to the Town
- Population trend differs: Town +6.5%, District +2.7%
- Homeownership is lower (71.9%) than Town (75.2%) & Suffolk County (82.5%)
- Slightly larger households in Council District #6
- Council District #6 has similar employment patterns as the Town but faces challenges with lower incomes

Station #3. Vision

This station allowed participants to share what they hope Brookhaven will look like in the future and describe what makes the Town so special to shape the vision for the Town and District #6.

Themes included in what makes Brookhaven a great place to live:

- Open space is identified as a major asset for the Town, which should continue to be prioritized and protected to maintain rural character
- Diversity in spaces for public access including beaches, parks and open space
- Protecting sensitive wildlife to ensure the next generations experience a health and intact natural environment

Themes identified by participants (written as presented, in no particular order):

- The vision of Brookhaven should be to reserve our land for wildlife. Protected land is necessary to keep the integrity of our community
- Safe the trees
- What makes Brookhaven & specifically District 6 appealing is its rural and semirural character, unlike most of Long Island, which has been overdeveloped and has declined

Station #3. Vision

- Access to beaches and parks
- Keep open space
- Town Services, accessible reps, open space
- Protect the wildlife habitat
- Limit development
- Beaches, parks, neighbors, quiet neighborhoods, open space
- Open space for farmer makers, better roadways, less potholes and better traffic infrastructure
- That it's not overdeveloped
- Keep open space
- Open space, a beach within our own community, local businesses
- Do not overdevelop. We need the greenery
- Unlike a lot of the region, across Long Island, the destructive policies of Albany are not as evident & must stay that way – more rural in character

Themes included in concerns and challenges for the Town:

- Many participants had similar concerns with irresponsible development impacting their livelihoods and long-term residents
- Transportation related qualms are due to increasing congestion and lack of safe streets measures
- Mismanagement of waste with current infrastructure unable to support the current utilization, additionally a lack of proper waste disposal resulting in pollution

Challenges/concerns identified by participants (written as presented, in no particular order):

- Too dense, population that cannot be supported by infrastructure or enrollment
- Solid waste management is a major concern
- Selling off land that was “sold” to them and promised to not “sell” that land was supposed to be protected
- Concern: illegal apartments
- Concern: too many apartment complexes
- Control the population – stop the overdevelopment leads to more garbage and traffic – keep our waterways clean
- Traffic if you keep building it they will come
- Concerns: dirty – garbage + dumb sites literally everywhere – every on + off ramp, every stop light, every back or side road. Congestion – people everywhere cars don't follow speed limits – no enforcement drag racing on WFP, MTK Hgwy. Side roads. Pollution, overdevelopment
- I am very concerned about a proposed 20,000 plot cemetery in E. Moriches that would serve non-residents
- Overdevelopment and irresponsible development
- Safety, crime, transportation and access to public spaces. Taxes and permitting are also challenges for existing land owners
- We don't want our land overdeveloped
- Less red tape for new construction would help builder build homes quicker
- Odd and unusual chain link fences along Montauk Hwy
- Concerns: overdevelopment, illegal residents, encroachment of urban problems, litter, threats of high density

Station #3. Vision

- Concerns: all the woes that now have overtaken western Suffolk – heavy traffic, litter illegal residents, crime

Themes included in opportunities and strengths for the Town:

- Giving the youth the space and resources to give involved in local politics, sparking involvement in community decisions
- A large tax base gives Brookhaven the opportunity to support their citizens in diverse and innovative ways
- Increasing public access to the abundant natural resources within the Town

Strengths/opportunities identified by participants (written as presented, in no particular order):

- Revisions and restoration of people that care about our land
- Opportunities: we pay a lot in taxes – use it wisely – continual cleanups, community engagement, investment in passive recreational opportunities * third spaces* safe places to gather, make Brookhaven a leader in managing human-wildlife conflicts – wildlife underpasses, speed enforcement
- Better village access. Community businesses. Better access to beaches. Maybe a ferry for district #6
- Finding a productive way to engage community engagement and the importance of political education to the youth. Reassuring them their voice matters and to show up to bipartisan things such as this to express their
- Preservation

Themes included in aspirations for Brookhaven in 5,10, or 20 years:

- Many participants desire Brookhaven to continue to have rural character and quiet neighborhoods
- Ensure that critical areas of natural resources are conserved and protected into the future
- Improvements to infrastructure that supports micromobility including expanding the sidewalk network and enhancing bike lanes

Aspirations identified by participants (written as presented, in no particular order):

- Still have rural character
- E-bike lanes + e-scooter lanes separate from just a strip on the roads. Sidewalks throughout
- That all residents live in a clean safe Town. Coram, Medford, Mastic are vastly different places than Shoreham, Mt. Sinai, East Setauket. Clean up the on + off ramps consistently stop the drag racing on neighborhood streets and roadways. Redevelop not overdevelop
- No more development of apartments etc. (the greed is insatiable) no more illegal apartments (they ruin quiet neighborhoods and push out nice neighbors)
- Brookhaven esp. District 6, should be even more rural & quieter than it is now and a great safe place
- Close the landfill, cleaner water, more activity within the recreation centers, more diversity
- Protect land to remain and not be “sold off” by the Town
- Preservation of character, fewer ticks, more public access to water
- Better transportation including rail options, improved roads, sidewalks, and bike trails. Also improved safety and crime prevention
- The same as today

Station #3. Vision

- Close the landfill! Institute a zero waste policy
- Still have rural character, open spaces
- This community can not commute via bike or walk to ask this of “your” community is so exaggerative – This is called Long Island – to get from here to there is not easily excessed via bike. Be realistic – we drive on LI that is how we commute

Themes included in what makes your Hamlet/Council District a great place to live:

- A variety of public spaces including beaches, parks, recreational areas, and preserved lands
- Rich local history with national importance such as the Ketcham Inn
- Embodying a small town feel in a region of fast-paced development

Themes identified by participants (written as presented, in no particular order):

- Beaches, Parks, farms, open space, neighbors in quiet neighborhoods, recreation areas, preserved lands
- History, parks, beaches and villages. Also love local businesses
- Connect rail + trails from north to south
- Love the historical trails, parks, museums! Would like to see more
- Small town feel, open space, town \$ investment (rep. participation)
- Deep-rooted history
- What makes it a great place to live is the open space & preservation, small town feel and absence of high-density housing
- Our “protected” land the “we” the people in our Hamlet to enjoy. It is vital for our community to have these spaces to enjoy
- George Washington’s Booksale (Ketcham Inn)
- History respected
- Open space, beaches
- One of the last of its kind left on Long Island
- Environmentally friendly
- Nature

Themes included in aspirations for your Hamlet/Council District in 5,10, or 20 years:

- Maintain and protect open space as it is a pillar in the way the local community identifies themselves with their neighborhoods
- Expand pedestrian infrastructure to foster walkable hamlet with seamless connections to surrounding neighborhoods
- Slow down unfavorable development within the District including large scale warehouses and solar farms and ensure public buy-in

Aspirations identified by participants (written as presented, in no particular order):

- Stop selling land to the Town – back sell it and make a profit
- I want the land and wildlife to be preserved for future generations. No solar “farms” or other destructive uses
- Public access to the bay
- Not over developed

Station #3. Vision

- A progressive, open-space preservation mindset with an emphasis on reducing human-wildlife conflict. Tree – enforce or enact a tree code. Walkability, livability, safer roadways. Stop the mega warehouses
- Keep our land preserved and not overbuilt on it
- No more sidewalks + curbs – don't need to look like Nassau County
- Keep rural character District #6
- Leave it alone
- More pedestrian access to paths and preserved lands. As well as pedestrian access to villages. Bike paths and sidewalks would be great
- Keep it rural
- Please leave the open space and land as it is now. Preserve it for the wildlife and future generations
- Less development
- Also a safe place for the people to ride their dirt bikes, quads, motorcycles & race cars. L.I. need a strip. Instead of the year after year crackdowns create a safe place for people to ride
- Lots of open space!
- Sidewalks – pedestrian friendly neighborhoods to hamlets
- Make sure it does not look like Nassau County
- More beautiful with plenty of open space
- I would like my district within 5, 10, or 20 years to reflect and represent all demographics that live within the community. Representation of all demographics in our local and Town government as well as recreation programs that bring out all ages from within the community.

Station #4. The Places We Gather

This station included a board and large Town boundary map enabling participants to identify areas of public activities. Including where you gather, how you get there and what activities you take part in.

Common themes from the 'Places we Gather' activity:

- Along the South shore, especially between Patchogue and Bellport, Moriches and Fire Island are popular locations for marine recreation including fishing, swimming and enjoying the beach
- Main Street by Route 98 is a common destination for educational resources and community centers
- A prominent location for walking and biking can be found along Route 36 between Patchogue and Bellport, and along the South shore

Station #4. The Places We Gather



Station #5. Serving the Generations

This station included an opportunity for participants to identify their specific generational needs, including services, housing, shopping, healthcare, etc.

Common themes from generational needs station included:

- For the younger generations there is a need for more indoor recreational facilities during the winter months
- Affordability is a concern among Generation z and Millennial, in trying to lead similar lives to their parents
- Generation X desires additional activities outside of bars and restaurants

Generational needs identified by participants include (written as presented, in no order):

- Traditionalists/Silent Generation
 - If you are going to use buses make sure they are not smoke stacks
- Baby Boomers
 - The need to escape noise, crime, litter, traffic and other elements that destroy the quality of life
- Generation X
 - The libraries are amazing for some fun activities, but need more nature trails and things to do besides drink
 - More places to gather that aren't just food and drink but activities places like axe-throwing, pool halls more pickle ball
 - Generational needs: I don't need much but id like a more livable town + it doesn't feel livable anymore. LI sells a lifestyle not many of us can obtain. The wealth gap is ever

Station #5. Serving the Generations

widening + you actually cant build your way out of this housing crisis. Dense development is an option, but it is one option. Keep fighting for those of us that don't have generational wealth

- Millennials/Generation Y
 - Third places that are low to no cost and accessible
 - Th town could help serve the needs of my generation and children with the following: Better recreation and parks for children, sidewalks connecting parks and villages, ferry to local beaches as cap surge parking lot is not sufficient
- Generation Z
 - Community balls, recreation and services, mental health centers, dancing, places to exercise, free indoor soccer baseball field centers, free danceroom
 - More activity places for the youths indoors like indoor basketball, soccer etc for winter months
 - I want my children to be able to afford the home we live in. passing it down

Station #6. Idea Center

This station promotes participants to share their insights about various topics including energy and sustainability, housing options, infrastructure, transportation, community services and recreation for the Town of Brookhaven.

Common themes from the energy and sustainability station included:

- Participants have a split opinion on the expansion of solar farms, but the consensus is that it must be thoughtfully conducted without harm to existing communities
- Increased access and a more diverse set of options to resident on the type of energy they consume

Energy and sustainability ideas identified by participants include (written as presented, in no order):

- Better access to natural gas for homeowner to reduce oil use
- More options
- Energy is a complex issue. Solar and wind are two green energy options, but not the only ones + shouldn't be sited in areas for solar that would require cutting woodlands. Sustainability is not sure you can sustainable – there a long way to go. Preservation is paramount to true sustainability solar panels placed in open space for communities not just government buildings
- Zero-waste policy. Encourage wind and solar energy
- A public video of braking this down for people who are uneducated about this topic so people can give a proper opinion
- We absolutely do not want or need farcical and destructive clean energy hoaxes such as solar "farms"
- Next generation battery storage facilities are needed along with more solar

Common themes related to housing options included:

- Participants have vastly differing opinions on the construction of multifamily v. single family housing, but overall, there is a desire for affordability

Station #6. Idea Center

- Vacant and underutilized properties should be converted to increase housing availability

Housing options ideas identified by participants include (written as presented, in no order):

- All kinds of housing options including cheaper rentals
- No condos, no apartments
- 1-4 family or non age restricted condos
- Make it easier for ADU. Even granny pads
- Affordable housing, single family homes, 1 bedroom apartments that cost less than 2,000 a month
- Single family homes
- Single family, no multifamily
- Single family homes, multifamily affordable apartments, condo's for downsizers
- No multi-family housing
- Not enough cheap apartments
- Zero "affordable housing" we not need any more traffic/ apartments in the Moriches area
- Single family housing for long-term quality of life
- Apartment development concerns
- No more than 5% apartments this is an Island
- Affordable housing for younger folks
- Limit square footage of single family homes
- Actual multi-generational homes with adequate parking, repurposed zombie homes, ADU's that are taxable + legal, decrease the amount of "single family homes: that are apartments buildings, tiny homes. Stop overdevelopment of apartments that people can't afford

Common infrastructure themes included:

- Expand sewer infrastructure to protect the natural environment, specifically water quality
- Diverse opinions exist for cell towers, but overall, they should be more efficient in providing service

Infrastructure ideas identified by participants include (written as presented, in no order):

- Stop monopolies, 21st century septic, nitrogen input into our waterbodies. Protect our natural resources
- No more cell towers
- Make the cell towers more efficient
- Increase of cell towers
- More sewers to replace cesspools
- Sewers and sidewalks to connect neighborhoods to Main Street

Common transportation themes included:

- Foster a safe and interconnected transit system that connect pedestrian infrastructure to public transportation systems
- Additional bus route to service areas like Mastic Beach to improve ridership
- Expand transportation infrastructure for walkers and bikes through designated lanes and protective measures

Station #6. Idea Center

Transportation ideas identified by participants include (written as presented, in no order):

- No e bikes, they don't wear helmets most of the time
- Better connection between rail, roads, sidewalks and bike trails
- Move bus stops away from corner of Railroad and Main st. CMO in front of Church Dangerous!
- Nothing
- Safe place to bike, less traffic
- Safer lanes and designated lanes for walkers and e-bikes, e-scooters and bicycles
- Public transit to local beaches, the mall and the outlets bright that back
- Buses mainly travel Montauk Highway outside of Mastic Beach. A bus line should be Frowein Road. Many people would use also, run bus along N. Service Rd. Manor Park
- Sidewalks
- Less traffic – walkability
- A trail on Rte 51
- * Light Rail * faster trains to NYC – most towns are not walkable and were designed that way. If I felt like I wasn't going to be mowed down by a speeding, distracted driver, maybe id bike more. Sidewalks

Common recreation and open space themes included:

- An overarching desire for well managed open spaces that are protected and preserved despite growing development pressures
- Additional spaces for recreation in the winter months including indoor facilities
- Expanding public access to ocean beaches by improving transit accessibility and frequency

Recreation and open space ideas identified by participants include (written as presented, in no order):

- More open space
- More public access to water
- Community centers like Mt. Sinai has with trails, food, park all in one Patriot's preserve and more of them. Also indoor spaces for winter months
- Open spaces – leave as is (no more apartments)
- More small parks/playgrounds for walking and playing
- Keep agriculture
- More dog parks
- Keep open space. Rebuild old worn down, dilapidated, rather than using open space for new construction
- We need to preserve open space for the next generation.
- More parks and playgrounds, ferry access to ocean beaches, sidewalks to parks for child safety
- We as Town has lost 1,000's of acres to industrial mega warehouses + homesites are clear cut. There has to be a greater emphasis on 1 acre + small scale preservation with research driven mitigation practices. A lot of people don't go in the woods in summer because of ticks. If we manage invasive species and improve overall health of ecosystems we'd be able to use more of the open spaces

Station #6. Idea Center

Common community services themes included:

- Elevating efforts to maintain clean spaces free from trash next to busy roadways
- Expanding and improving existing playgrounds and parks with additional play equipment

Community services ideas identified by participants include (written as presented, in no order):

- What community services?
- Bigger playground with more equipment to play with the kids, free recreation spaces, dance room, studio a lot of kids are into creating music these days, community galas everyone dresses nice bring out community
- Can cameras be put on off ramps. So much litter more on the the on ramps

Station #7. Future Land Use Mapping Station

This facilitated, interactive mapping experience for participants to identify on a District #6 map where they would like to stay the same or areas that need change. The following

Common themes included:

- Slow harmful development to protect resident interests
- Additional sidewalks to connect activity centers to surrounding neighborhoods including Main Street and East Moriches Boulevard

Comments by participants include (written as presented, in no order):

- Protect the CGA on + along North Street + Moriches Middle Island Road
- No new development please
- Sidewalks to connect to Main St from neighborhoods
- Sidewalks to new preserved land on East Moriches Blvd
- Park and Playground for Eastport Village similar to Quogue East Quogue

Station #7. Future Land Use Mapping Station



Station #8. Kids Table

This was a place for kids to be creative and share their ideas.

Station #9. Take the Survey

This station included a station board with a QR code enabling participants to take the online community survey.

Station #10. Other Thoughts

This station included an opportunity for any additional thoughts and ideas. The comments were as follows (in no particular order):

- Provide more historical monuments and offer historic education
- The Moriches community does not want our land over developed – we would like our land preserved and allocated for Lana Preservation – Protected land we do not want overdeveloped land out east
- Close the landfill – zero-waste policy
- Lest be clear on LI we cant “bike” or “walk” to work. To ask us on the present board to be “encouraged” to walk or bike is a radical perspective of who LI is – be real. We are not biking or waking to work we commute!

This meeting summary conveys our understanding of the items discussed and agreements reached at this meeting. Please forward any additions, corrections and/or questions to my attention.

Submitted by:

Kerry Gibson, MJ Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Land Surveying, P.C.

cc: Project file, NYSDOS, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

DRAFT



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IDEA CENTER

Share your ideas about infrastructure (electric, water, sewer, etc.) in the Town of Brookhaven..

What would encourage you to walk, bike, or take transit more within and around the Town of Brookhaven.?



Need more
cell towers
to support
more people
using their
cell phones
around the
town.

No more
cell towers!

Walk to
cell towers
Make
efficient

Increase
of
cell towers

More
sewers
for
extra
costs

Post-It Notes Here

Build a
sidewalk
to connect
neighborhood
to school

More
sidewalks
to connect
neighborhood
to school

Make
the
sidewalk
more
comfortable
with
benches
& water
fountains

More
sidewalks
to connect
neighborhood
to school

Nothing

One
sidewalk
to connect
neighborhood
to school

Post-It Notes Here

Make
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benches
& water
fountains

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Make
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10

OTHER THOUGHTS

Share any additional thoughts and ideas you have for the Town of Brookhaven, your hamlet, or Council District!

330-444-4444
Contact the
Council District
for more
information
on the
Town of
Brookhaven.

Start
the
process
of
creating
a
new
hamlet
in
the
Town
of
Brookhaven.
This
will
allow
the
Town
to
better
serve
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community
and
provide
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more
efficient
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service.
The
Town
of
Brookhaven
is
committed
to
providing
the
best
possible
service
to
its
residents.

Work
with
the
Council
District
to
create
a
new
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Post-It Notes Here

Close
the
Land
Fill
Zero
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2015

Let's
close
the
Land
Fill
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waste
2015

The
Mayor
Council
does
not
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service
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our
residents.

Let's
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Land
Fill
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2015

Post-It Notes Here