

SENIOR SERVICES SURVEY SUMMARY

From 165 responses

Report to the Ashfield Selectboard, May 28, 2021

Question 1

1. After reviewing the attached list of services provided by the Shelburne Senior Center and the Ashfield Council on Aging, do you feel that Ashfield's seniors' needs are being met?

Yes: 108 This represents 72% of the Yes or No answers

No: 42

Maybe/Not sure/Don't know: 10

Distance is an issue/Too far away 9

Mostly or It Depends: 4

Never used: 3

Partially 1

Other comments:

- Need place for seniors to gather
- Need services here in A'fld
- Frail elders unlikely to go to SF

Question 2

2. Were you aware of the services available through the Shelburne Senior Center?

Yes: 110 55% of Yes or No answers

No: 88

Some: 13

Question 3

3. If you have not utilized services of the Shelburne Senior Center in the past, do you see yourself using these services in the future?

Yes: 133 70% of Yes or No

No: 59

Don't know/Maybe/Probably: 17

It depends/Depends what is offered: 15

Question 4

4. Would you like to see more of the Shelburne Senior Center services provided here in Ashfield?

Yes: 167 70% of Yes or No

No: 71

It depends on what is offered/Maybe/Probably/Don't know: 13

"Shelburne falls works fine for me" was one reply

Questions 5 & 6 combined (Answers were often similar and/or overlapped)

5. Which services would you like to see provided in Ashfield? Please list 3 services which you feel are most valuable to you.

6. In general, what could the Town of Ashfield do to help us all age more comfortably in our apartments and homes?

- Transportation 59
- Health issues/BP clinic/Foot clinic/Flu clinic/Town nurse/Visiting nurse/Social worker/Reflexology 51
- Handyman referrals/Snow shoveling/Yard work/Fix-it services/Community resource referrals/Helper services 47
- Exercise/Walking/Hiking/Yoga/Tai Chi 35
- Educational programs/Book studies/Speakers/Educational programs/Webinars/Music programs/At-home learning 24
- Regular Check-in's/Home visits for Seniors, TRIAD, like Gretchen is doing 20
- Social interaction with people/Social events 19
- Meals/Food program/Monthly lunches 16
- Shine (Health insurance counseling) 11
- Computer help 10
- More outreach to seniors 9
- Senior housing 9
- Tax break for Seniors 7
- In-home assistance 6
- Physical assessment of home for hazards/Home hazards 5
- Keep Main Street sidewalks snow free & sanded 6
- Intergenerational gatherings 3
- Remedies for mud season issues (can't get out) 2
- Support for Aging-in-Place 2
- Fuel assistance and Tax assistance 2 for each
- Freeze any water and sewer charge increases 2
- Regular A'fld to SF bus 1
- Shopping 1
- Bus trips 1
- Health care counseling 1
- Volunteers to help seniors
- Porta potties around town.
- The Sunday afternoon stroll. It's an English tradition where at a certain time on Sunday afternoons everyone is invited to come to main street to socialize and maybe have ice cream.
- Provide a designated place for socializing and smoking pot. This is a legal thing for towns to do now.

Question 7

7. Would you rather take care of your needs by yourself and/or with help from friends and family rather than relying on the Town of Ashfield and/or Shelburne Senior Center?

Yes: 137 78% of Yes or No

No: 39

- Comments: Most people said "Yes, as long as possible" or "As long as I'm able"
- Some of each/Both 38
- Family is close 4
- OK for now 1
- Yes, in town 2
- Yes, but . . . (different conditions were suggested) 3

Question 8

8. Would you be comfortable with the Senior Center costs to the town of Ashfield potentially doubling or tripling?

(Double increase)

Yes: 95 55% of Yes or No

No: 83

(Triple increase)

Yes: 25 16% of Yes or No

No: 132 84%

Other comments:

- It depends on what is offered 6
- No way, taxes too high already, too much 2
- Small increase OK 2
- 25% increase OK, 50% increase OK (1 each)
- Probably not
- Yes for either double or triple for many reasons, mostly based on what is offered and if it's worth the increase

Question 9

9. Should Ashfield consider hiring a person to be a Senior Services Coordinator to operate only in town and specifically for Ashfield residents? This would be a part time, paid position for a period of time to determine if Ashfield seniors would make good use of the service.

Would senior services coordinated by an Ashfield based person be useful to you?

Yes: 124 62% of Yes or No

No: 75

Possibly/Maybe/I don't know/Unsure/Worth trying 18

Not yet 2

Question 10

10. Do you feel you would take more advantage of senior services if they were offered here in town as compared to being offered only in Shelburne?

Yes: 124 62% of Yes or No

No: 76

Maybe/Probably/Not at this time/When I'm older 19

It depends 1

Demographics of respondents by quantity and percentage of total

Age	Number of respondents*	Percent of total**
< Age 40	3	3%
40-49	6	5%
50-59	13	10%
60-69	42	30%
70-79	50	38%
80-89	16	12%
90+	4	3%

* Not all respondents provided their age or sex

** Due to rounding off, the percentage numbers don't add up to exactly 100% but close

In summary: 78% of respondents are between age 50 & 80.

68% of respondents are between age 60 & 80.

64% of respondents are women, 36% men

- Of note: One of our committee suggested that the following ten surveys offered comments especially worth reading. 10, 18, 25, 50, 68, 71, 114, 116, 127 & 156.