

# **Update on the Bell Acres Borough IMPLEMENTABLE Comprehensive Plan**

Allegheny County strongly encourages every borough and township to develop a Comprehensive Plan in order to create a vision for itself and its residents that will provide guidance for future municipal decisions.

In many instances, these Plans – which are updated every ten years or so - end up sitting on shelves after expensive and extensive preparation. Stuffed full of charts, graphs, and maps, they are also loaded with well-intentioned goals and objectives that look good on paper but are often never realized.

The County is now encouraging the use of IMPLEMENTABLE Comprehensive Plans that focus more on the process of identifying just a few relevant community issues through resident input and then finding innovative, sustainable solutions for these issues. No more long lists of worthy goals that are rarely met, but rather 2-4 goals of the highest priority that are actually implemented!

Pashek+MTR, a consulting firm with a great deal of experience with this new “implementable” approach, has been working with the Bell Acres Planning Commission on the current update of its Comprehensive Plan.

The first step in the update process was to learn the needs, concerns, and wishes of residents through a resident survey, interviews with residents and stakeholders, and a public meeting.

The resident survey closed on March 31<sup>st</sup>, and the survey results are now posted on the Borough website. The summary gives a general sense of what the survey showed about quality of life in Bell Acres today as well as what residents value the most for the future.

The Planning Commission is now in the process of doing interviews with Borough residents and stakeholders. If you are interested in being interviewed, please call the Borough Secretary, Lisa Fleming, at 412-741-5448, or email her at [secretary@bellacresborough.org](mailto:secretary@bellacresborough.org).

We will keep you posted on the date of the upcoming public meeting.

It is the Borough’s hope that by working with the residents and other Borough stakeholders to really understand the community concerns of highest priority, Bell Acres can create a Plan that will better meet the current and future needs of its residents and will better prepare the Borough for potential problems as we move forward.