



**Jenkins Listening & Design Session
Jenkins Independent High School
Thursday, June 28, 2012
7:00 p.m.**

What are the strengths of the community?

- Historic
- The Lake
- The People
- Family-oriented
- Civic/Community Organizations
- Post Office
- Own School
- Local Store
- Churches
- No Stop Lights
- Beautiful location
- Golf course
- Good location –right off of US 23
- Close to Route 66 in the future
- Industrial park
- Amphitheatre
- Close to Airport – Wise and Kingsport
- Medi-Vac Helicopter
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Lots of volunteers
- Recycling
- City park
- Clinic
- Recreation facilities – outdoor activities
- Festivals

- Homecoming festival – 26 years
- Heritage festival
- Arts & Crafts Festival
- Public library
- Railroad museum
- Old high school – housing for seniors
- City government
- Civil War Re-enactment – annual event
- 2 banks
- Lake
- Golf course
- Raven Rock
- Scenery
- US 23
- Industrial park
- Close-knit community
- Mission of charities
- Beautiful location – US 23 & 119
- Good leadership
- Excellent softball/Little League Field
- Old high school

What are the weaknesses?

- Loss of jobs
- Lack of medical services – hearing/vision
- Poverty mindset
- Lack of lodging
- More eligible bachelors
- Lack of restaurants
- Lack of housing choices
- No animal control/shelter
- Need a restaurant
- No large restaurants
- No hotels or motels
- No retail
- No large grocery store
- Employment base
- Drugs
- Lack of jobs
- Lack of tourist development
- Lack of historic preservation
- No creative outlets

- No entertainment outlets
- No flat land
- Lack of pride in property
- School tax
- Water & utility rates
- No hospital
- Workforce
- Lack of pride – city & homeowners
- No flat land
- No creative outlets
- No jobs
- Main Street – No charm or reason to stop
- No recreation
- Loss of jobs
- Retirement community
- Lack of some medical (eye and dental)
- Housing (minimal)
- Lack of restaurants
- High taxes
- Lack of housing
- Lack of emergency room facilities
- No recreational facilities – weight room or recreation center
- Jobs available and lost
- Teen recreation
- No movie theater in Letcher County
- Fitness facility
- Pool
- Meeting place for proms/reunions
- Shops
- Food places
- Poverty mindset
- Lodging
- No Little league
- Animal control
- Low tax base
- High taxes
- Limited population
- Apathy
- Assisted living
- Blighted and deteriorated property
- No railroad for industry
- No college or technical facilities for higher learning

- Not a lot of young people
- No activities for young people
- Too many disabled people
- Declining population
- No animal shelter
- Need a package store
- No Wi-Fi
- No dentist

What are the opportunities?

- Lake walking trail
- Swimming pool
- Housing at golf course
- Tourism
- Utilizing the lake
- Softball field/recreation – utilization
- Nice structure – trailer park
- Zoning
- Location
- Industrial park
- YMCA
- Country Club
- Outdoor concert series
- Golf course
- Mine shops – retail
- Bike trail (Virginia Creeper Trail System)
- Restaurants
- Outdoor activities – hiking, ATV, camping, bike, zip lines
- YMCA – Country Club
- Improve parks
- Tennis Courts
- Movies
- Soccer fields
- Art installations – think Lexington’s horses – use coal miner statues
- Develop jobs – green products
- Bowling
- Flea market
- Large grocery store
- Distribution center (Wal-Mart/Amazon)
- Technical school
- Daycare
- Wellness center

- Bring in jobs
- Ask for dental & vision care – from colleges
- Bring in ATV trails and hiking opportunities
- Open Raven Rock
- Hotels and businesses
- Property to Highway 23/Virginia border
- Farmers market
- Chair lift from Raven Rock Park to mid-town
- Utilizing churches
- Emergency room
- Scenic overlook
- Promote amphitheater
- Develop tunnel with Virginia for tourism
- Clear water lily pads from lake
- Welcome center for state line
- Bed & Breakfast at the old nursing home
- More signage on Highway 23 – at least “Welcome to Jenkins” signs
- RV Park
- We have the opportunity to make a difference in our town
- Living a good life
- Space for expansion – Former MTR sites
- Improving services through tax increase
- Revenue from alcohol sales and prepared foods
- Strip mall along US 23
- Trailer parks
- No action
- Housing
- Ordinances not enforced
- Blighted properties
- Closing of businesses that we have
- No new businesses coming in
- Collapse of the coal industry
- Collapse of the gas industry
- Lack of state and federal funding
- Vegetation in lake could destroy water source
- Economy
- Drugs
- Poverty mindset
- Loss of independent school system
- People want to “Bundle” – shop/eat in one trip
- Local shops/businesses not patronized
- Lack of vision

- Lack of leadership
- Lack of team work
- Jealousy
- Not on Fiscal Court agenda
- Younger generations desire to service
- Lack of health care
- Lack of community support of churches
- Welfare
- High school dropouts
- Nowhere for graduating students to train or be educated/nor to find work
- TECO won't let us grow
- Lack of participation
- No young people
- Property taxes
- Population not growing
- Failing economy
- High unemployment
- Increase in crime due to job loss
- Water resources
- Abandoned houses

What might cause the community to fail?

- Drugs
- Declining population
- Property tax
- Lack of young people
- Chickens/animal control – not enforced
- Loss of independent school system
- No action on the conceived plan
- Lack of vision
- Lack of community support for the churches
- Local people don't support local programs/opportunities/businesses
- Fear of change

Other comments:

Infrastructure

Small things:

- Sidewalks
- Roadways mowed
- Trees trimmed
- Landscaping maintained
- Ditches/culverts cleared
- Street signs straightened
- Litter
- Garbage cans

Big things:

- Downtown streetscape
- Welcome signage
- Lake – welcome sign
- Water/sewer
- Dam stability
- Lakeside traffic
- New festival venue
- Utilities buried
- In-town shuttle
- Gas lines
- Housing
- Condemn blighted properties
- Communication – website
- Uphold ordinances
- Ambulance service
- Zoning

Recreation

- Bike trails (like VA Creeper Trail) spin-off businesses – bike rentals, cafes
- ATV trails
- Restaurants, sports bars, movies
- YMCA – old country club
- Spa – retreat – resort – Raven Rock
- Outdoor concert series
- Dance studio

- Tennis courts
- Improve parks
- Develop lake park – walk, gazebos, landscaping, benches, picnic tables
- Soccer fields
- 4th of July Celebration
- Cultural center – arts, music, workshops
- Zip lines
- Bowling Alley
- Summer camp programs
- Skate park
- Campground

Economic/Jobs

- Large grocery store
- Super Center
- Auto repair
- Lowe's
- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Spa retreat
- Distribution Centers (Wal-Mart, Amazon)
- Green products manufacturing
- Technical school
- Antique district
- Daycare
- Convert mine shop to boutiques (Blowing Rock)
- Bakery
- Prison

Aging Population

- Wellness center
- Housing
- Community center
- Meals on Wheels
- Daycare
- Ambulance Service