

In 5-10 years, I would like Berkeley Heights to... (let us know your vision/wishes/etc)

Be a model for other towns: affordable, inclusive, vibrant
have a walkable, attractive and bustling downtown area
be more walkable and gave green stormwater control
Remain a "Best Place to Live" top choice
Not have to re-create another Master Plan
BH should still be a great place to raise a family while being a financially stable. Also the town that has stopped condo and apartment developments. We need to set an example for other small towns.
have a thriving downtown. Expand train station parking space, becoming more sustainable
Have a walkable downtown
Have a nicer downtown
Build a dog park
More restaurants in the downtown and a more walkable downtown
get back on track with schools, and stop over development while still modernizing infrastructure (i.e. parks and downtown)
Have an established downtown to attract businesses that will be here for a while
Have a walkable downtown with public parking similar to Westfield's downtown.
Have a better downtown
To improve the functioning and appearance of downtown, Help make accessibility to train better (shuttle buses to train or more parking for the train). BH also needs to help Seniors stay in BH by either property tax relief so people can stay in their homes or building Sr. Housing in town.
Settle in with building new town hall, library, senior center & just relax. Just make sure kids are getting quality education. That remains paramount.
Top 10 ranked school district in NJ
Have a plan in place to maintain repair roads, curbs and storm sewers on a regular basis long before they are falling apart
Have a real downtown like Summit, Madison, or Westfield
Retain that small town atmosphere, have excellent schools and library facilities, and maintain affordable taxes.
Retain its rural suburban vibe
To be known as a forward thinking town with taxes Held flat every 3third year! All residents are aware of tough choices and accept tradeoffs for the flat tax rate every third year. The town would be run like a business, prioritizing spending and setting and adhering to. Spending limit. Willing to wait one year for certain items, so to reap flat tax reward. Berkeley Heights would become the model for savvy financials, solid performing schools and a sound democracy.
see less traffic congestion and more walking/bike riding safe routes in town, especially since new YMCA will not be central downtown and the library in a building not easily to youth walking.
Affordable for families with school age children
Not to be overpopulated
be less crowded. Too many condo / apartment projects.
be greener

Share more services with other towns. Have the township council be less divisive. Have a downtown that looks nice and people want to shop in and can walk to. Be designated as an age-friendly community
Improve the "downtown" area.
Be more sustainable.
continue having a strong school system
Continue to improve the schools
Kept her well-known town for living for security, best Environmental performance, diversity, successful local business.
Have garbage collection by the town, have sidewalks cleared of obstruction by bushes and other things, more street lights in some streets to walk at night.
Update downtown, similar to a Cranford or Westfield, which would attract more business, and increase the business tax income.
Have a more walkable and vibrant downtown.
Improved road drainage along Washington and Passaic ave
have a contiguous walking trail, safe and affordable opportunities for residents to exercise
Not be completely overrun by condominiums. In addition, more retail space is being built yet we can't fill the current spaces.
have a walkable, cohesive downtown with attractions for all ages.
Have a downtown where people can walk around and congregate. Maybe businesses can thrive with more foot traffic instead of going out of business in a shot time. I would also like to see the end of condo/townhouse building it's ruining this beautiful town.
Force the buildings downtown to make them more uniform. Maybe buy out the old houses in the center of town that no other town seems to have. Charge a tax surcharge to landlords who have vacant storefronts for X number of months due to high rent.
Keep small town feel and maintain safe environment
Provide for an attractive downtown with suitable parking. Enough already with individuals personal profitable agendas and creation of ugly downtown housing,
Expand downtown attractions and create an inviting downtown similar to Westfield/Summit and neighboring towns.
better train station parking
Remain a safe community with access to good town services
reduce homeowners taxes, improve school conditions and review/replace age-old laws which prevent many new businesses form coming to our town. We have created such an unnecessarily high barrier to entry, combined with high rents and taxes - which in combination makes it for a very unattractive prospect.
Continue to grow in a controlled way
Continue to appeal to broad demographic of residents; have a more active and vibrant town center; improve access for and accommodation of biking and walking throughout the town; add a cultural center for arts and performances; improve the accessibility and usability of Passaic river area for hiking and walking; leverage smart cities technologies to move traffic more efficiently; leverage technology everywhere
Stop letting volunteer committees run amok with stupid ideas that really aren't for the better of Berkeley Heights.
have lower taxes, eliminate wasteful spending
Have a downtown that has social activities like music and cultural venues

Have a more attractive downtown and more diverse retail offerings and restaurants
Address parking at schools and make have a walkable appealing downtown.
I would like the downtown to be similar to New Providence or Madison. Can we have a consistent building look, belgian block curbs, attract Starbucks or other businesses, and have the Christmas Tree in an area where it is the center of the town. The homes are nice, there are generations of family, but our downtown look horrible. Also, the plans have taken forever. Let's get this done already.
Enjoy a bustling downtown that features easy walking paths to restaurants and shops. The current focus of Springfield Ave doesn't encourage foot traffic for families/children. More work is needed to shift storefronts toward Sherman Ave., Lone Pine Dr. etc.
Develop a downtown community of businesses.
Be a forward-thinking, sustainable and inclusive community that is a model small town, with enlightened leadership and an active and engaged public of all ages and ethnicities.
Have better housing alternatives and services for seniors
Develop a quaint, walkable downtown area, improve sports fields
Enjoy a bustling downtown that features easy walking paths to restaurants and shops. The current focus of Springfield Ave doesn't encourage foot traffic for families/children. More work is needed to shift storefronts toward Sherman Ave., Lone Pine Dr. etc.
Be more diverse economically, and ethnically, with a continued commitment to excellence in our Public Schools.
A bustling downtown with a diverse community and a school system that serves the community. Preservation and conservation of the environment including addressing issues with water run off. Improving traffic patterns/congestion and making the town more walk able
have a downtown that you can walk around and not need to get in your car.
Have lower taxes, attract new "'staple' businesses to the downtown, lower to cost of rent in town so we have less vacant storefronts... make the town a walking town.
continue to be a great pace to live with a slower growth in property taxes.
Continue to be a desired community to live in in New Jersey
have more train parking, get ahead of schools getting worse, have a viable downtown to shop, stop raising taxes, full time kindergarten, free ½ day preschool.
Not to continue the urbanization trend
Have more high quality bars & restaurants available in the downtown area, along with more places to go / things to see. Would like downtown to have character & a bit of buzz...an area that's fun to go to
Be considered in the top five school districts in the state at ALL levels including high school
Have a leaf pickup that doesn't include bags.
Reimagine the area around the intersection of Plainfield/Springfield/Park Ave. including the train station. Improve walkability and safety in this area in anticipation of increased comuters due to new apartment developemnts.
Truly develop. Adding buildings which become banks and other corporate business do not provide the residents anything of value.
Reduce taxes
Avoid overdevelopment
be a thriving community with a vibrant downtown, excellent schools - a town that attracts families.
smart with the new development and to make sure it fits the character of the town
Have sufficient parking at the train station to satisfy demand.
Have a real downtown with real working for commuting

Less empty store fronts, improved road conditions, better school rankings (their not awful but we should strive to be top 10).
Vibrant walking town, higher standard of redevelopment. Improvements to police patrols to reduce a recent increase in crime, faster repairs to crumbling streets
Become a destination town for new businesses and residents
Downtown development, up grade sidewalks and bike lanes
Thriving but not overcrowded
Remain the same as it is today!
Have a downtown that people think highly of. Movie theatre, cafes, specialty shops, etc
To remain affordable it taxwise
Have a great downtown with coffee shops and restaurants like summit has. I would also like to see Berkeley heights from being over developed with condos and sticking mic mansions everywhere. That needs to stop.
I vital downtown and a cap on rising taxes
I would love to see housing affordable for our twenty/thirty somethings. Our young adults, as much as they love their town, cannot afford to live here and be part of it, BHFD,EMS etc. Stay and raise families here.
Reduce taxes.
Attract more businesses to down town
Still have that hometown feeling with a large sense of community
Be as similar as it is today
Have a better school system, develop downtown to attract families.
Address the high cost of property taxes and modernize our schools
to have a walkable downtown and thriving businesses and restaurants, community for the kids and adults, bike paths, upgraded train station parking lot
Have a real walkable downtown
Grow and become like Summit
Stay the same.
Have a charming downtown with better architecture and walkable sidewalks throughout the entire town, including neighborhoods. Hold building and homeowners accountable for products used""no more asphalt for sidewalks!
Have a vibrant downtown and more community buildings
Continue being a community for young families who are bridging the "first home" stage to the "this is our community through retirement" stage.
maintain its suburban flavor and lower school taxes - student population is shrinking!!
Have more dining and shopping options downtown. And have more parking at the train station.
Be more attractive to senior citizens. More facilities and reasonable costs (property taxes)
Be a destination for community activities and restaurants with personality - similar to Somerville. Our town could use an arcade, brewery, grocery store (Wegmans/ Trader Joe's), Starbucks downtown, cooking / crafting center.
Continue to have a "small town" feel with reasonable class sizes for students and attractive natural areas.
Continue to have a great school district and be somewhere that i am confident raising a family
Have a proper downtown not owned and run by a few families.
Stay small town community.

Avoid over crowding (affordable housing bullshit), build up the downtown, and maintain a good school system
Finish paving roads! Our streets are in terrible condition and that reflects poorly on the quality of our town
Continue to have the small town feel but with a more interesting downtown scene.
Preserving some natural space, devoting some land to playing fields, parks, tennis courts rather than simply turning all available land into million dollar homes and/ or high-density housing real estate
Create a larger downtown with more specialty shops like summit, not have taxes so high I have to move out,
Fix parking situations with downtown and stop over development of spaces. Designs and plans consistly have horrible parking designs with the new downtowns. Cut costs to keep taxes down.
Secede from Union County
I will not be here if the overdevelopment continues
I would like to see more stores and restaurants in the downtown area and better parking for the train station.
Safe, vibrant community for families of ages
Have a place to go for teenage kids to hang out. Have mature plants and trees near Springfield Ave. so it looks like a green corridor. Have the Post Office strip mall torn down or updated.
address climate change, redesign the town center.
Become more walker friendly by expanding and maintaining walking paths and sidewalks. Also have a downtown that is more attractive to the community for shopping and dinning. I would also like to see less development as I dont believe our current road infrastructure can support a big population increase.
Have a vibrant downtown with more shops and restaurants attracting both local residents and visitors from other towns.
Have a top 20 school
District , a thriving downtown and ample recreation activities for its residents
grow a nicer more functional downtown
Develop more of the Connell property.
Sustaining the charm while adding more businesses that everyone, of all ages, can benefit . For example, why not permit a Starbucks entering downtown? Maybe perhaps granting more liquor licenses? Personally, I am tired of Delicious Heights. Give someone else an opportunity to open a restaurant. Better street and roads; my taxes are exorbitant for the poor conditions. More transparency around Joe Graziano's arrangement with the DPW. What is he paid? Is he collecting a pension? The Mayor has a strange, obsequious loyalty to him.
Have a more interesting downtown. It's never been a town to take a walk in.. full of banks.. one needs to drive everywhere.
more vibrant downtown
Improve the drainage issues..
Keep overall taxes in check.
Have a regionally-recognized downtown that draws patrons from surrounding communities.
Be affordable with competitive schools
Somewhere for teens to hang out. Entertainment venues, cafes etc
Have a better school system with a fresh group of teachers leading the way remain safe a nice downtown and flat taxes
Retain the small town feel and not become strangled with traffic and over population

Be more affordable for the new generation of parents!
Bring in more businesses that are realistic. Things such as a Trader Joes. Activity type places for teenagers such as roller skating or other affordable snack style restaurants. Making the downtown area, especially close to the Middle School, accessible and safe for the kids to enjoy independently.
To have the best schools in the area, stop over development, and do it's best to keep the small town feel which it seems we are losing by the day.
Continue on the current path without raising property taxes /:
have a skatepark! and to create incentives for residents to open their local businesses
Be a well known highly sought after community with excellent schools and a thriving downtown that draws individuals to want to be part of our community
More affordable taxes, even better schools, safe neighborhood
more solar panels, having recycling center in our town, more small business
Have even better schools and have a better downtown.
be a more walkable and bikeable town with a thriving downtown that people want to shop at with continued good schools and continued open space
An organized, well run town with sound infrastructure, an appealing, downtown and attractive neighborhoods
Have a more attractive and functional downtown with less vacancies, have full day kindergarten for all, have a town engineer who understands the job AND has the power and will to enforce town regulations for the good of the neighborhood, has better maintained roads and drainage
stay the same
Have a visually appealing downtown with a place for teens and young adults to have something to do!
Reduce taxes so that people will actually want to buy a house here. Get rid of the deer problem.
To have more parks and turf fields for the kids to play. Lights on the high school field
Be the same cohesive community that at the same time is a progressive 21st century town
-Lower taxes and keep home values competitive. -Not become too overcrowded -Remain a great place to raise your kids -Remain a small tight-knit community where "everybody knows everybody"
Have a vibrant downtown with a more diverse population
Move universal full day kindergarten to MKM, and move 1st grade to respective elementary schools. Offer full day preschool options, especially for those with an IEP. Offer universal preschool. MKM should only house the preschool and kindergarteners.
more on needed train station parking
Become more distinguishable from other western Union County and Morris County suburbs
Have more of a small town feel. To stop building these oversized condos/townhouses.
be geener
Have a place where tweens and teens can go. Attract businesses who can serve this age group. So tired of Dunkin Donuts, CVS, etc. for after school activity
See some of our aging roads repaired! Revitalize downtown by making it more walkable.
Get rid of the train station & remove the train tracks. It would make our town more affordable for all of us.
appreciate its real estate values closer to its neighboring towns
Have better athletic fields for the children in town to play on

develop more green space/parks and not build on every potential lot. Also, I would like to revitalize the downtown.
Have more options for activities in the area ex: Bowling, Movie, Outdoor golf, more diverse dining options and a reason to attract people from other towns to our town.
Be known for a good place to live.
Fix the downtown! Just awful. Congested, ugly, lose businesses we loved to gain ones we do not need. Does not show our sense of community and honestly just looks like highest pay off wins. For over 49 years I have seen it deteriorate. So sad!
have lower taxes, still have excellent schools, has an improved downtown and is still a family-oriented community
be more like New Providence!
Pave our roads so they are safe for vehicular, pedestrian, and bike traffic; manage out of control taxes so that families can stay in town; improve the feel of community interconnectedness
have a more diversified down town. Attract different types of businesses for a walkable downtown. Expand the library to have movies, activities, and passes to museums
Improve the schools and improve the downtown both aesthetically and better options
Stay affordable for middle-class families and continue to focus on strengthening our great schools
The roads within the Town Paved, not those the county or state are responsible for.
Be an affordable community with residents engaged with each other's wellbeing.
Be more like Westfield or Summit and be more diverse
Have a downtown that people want to come to and not feel like I have to go to summit or Westfield for a night out.
lower taxes, traffic control on Plainfield ave. (speeding), unnecessary spending.
Not add any more rental or condo developments. We already have too many planned.
reduce taxes
continue to develop recreational facilities and complete the park that is supposed to be built on Vito's property.
Remain a town of predominantly single family homes with a strong sense of family and community.
Focus on school quality, curb speeding on local streets, have a more responsible DPW, pay teachers more and police and public workers less
Continue to invest in education and maintain its own identity
retain it's small town feel. The town feels like it's being overdeveloped and it's losing it's small town charm.
Develop downtown area and limit overdevelopment
stay basically the same
Less crowded and more small town feel
Be completely finished with our affordable housing obligation and ensure every developer contributes greatly to the community in other ways to offset the mandated new buildings in town.
Have more store fronts occupied in town
Be a thriving revitalized community
Preserve green spaces. Modernize schools.
Improve school rating
Slow down the overdevelopment.
Not have an increase in population
walk the walk of having truly great quality schools

Pay teachers a decent wage
Elect me as mayor and we'll let the citizens have an opportunity to proactively participate in decisions affecting them instead of receiving notification of changes.
Lower property tax and better municipal services
A downtown kids can actually enjoy with families
Have affordable housing for seniors so they can stay in the area they lived and cherished for years
Lower property taxes
Having students more engaged; knowing about differences, understanding government, not being afraid, having a downtown area that is geared to their needs - ie: movie theater, rec center and more - similar to Morristown.
Have more affluent and cultured residents
To stay the same as it is right now.....
Be more attractive to business and aesthetically.
Be a small town where we all patronize the local stores, enjoy updated and functional public buildings and benefit from exceptional schools.
Financially responsible. Not to beat a dead horse, I agree that we needed a new Town Hall, but the price tag is way too much.
Demolish the shopping centers on both sides of Springfield between Plainfield and Snyder and completely start over with a better use of space with strong businesses (not decrepit convenience stores and sad, empty chains), invites interest from those in BH and surrounding areas, and is an aesthetically pleasing place to be. When my husband and I are deciding where to go out for dinner, where to take the kids, etc. we only consider New Providence, Summit, even downtown Scotch Plains. There are only a few places of quality to go in Berkeley Heights and the appearance is so depressing that it's a tough sell. We are in our 30s and know that we are in the minority of people our age who want to live in such a sad town, especially when there are more enjoyable options nearby. Berkeley Heights residents and leadership need to get over themselves with the political messiness and be more strategic about planning for the future of the town, or there won't be one.
Continue to improve communication, continue to have events that bring the community together, address aging infrastructure and have good roads, a rocking library and community center and keep this a safe community
develop uniform master plan, stop letting business buy there way in and do as they please with building appearance nomad boxes or banks. stop high density development. more open space. take a hard look at what we are paying to county, schools, PD and DPW. its to late for us we've been taxed out
Have more of a downtown that encourages walking and mingling.
Be walkable, address the environmental realities ahead, be a community where everyone is considered and cared for.
remain basically as it is
To have a more vibrant and walkable downtown
have a plan for increased population of schools; prioritize protecting the green areas of BH from development; open an amazing library that is on par with those in the surrounding towns (e.g. long Hill)
Have a sustainable level of property taxes.
Have a more vibrant and walkable downtown
Revitalize and create a walkable downtown

Create a better downtown with shops and restaurants for all ages. Create a cozy downtown feel where all kids feel welcomed and can have a place to hang with their friends. A movie town theater? A diner?
Do whatever is possible to stop any additional townhomes/condos from going up. The town is now bursting at its seams . Parking at Stop & Shop will be a nightmare in the foreseeable future. I grew up in BH's and I've raised my children here. It's a wonderful place to live, it's just ashamed that so many condos & townhouses are going up. If our town was larger and had more open space it would be fine but that's not the case. I know some of it is state mandated but if it's not I hope there is a way to stop it from happening. I've been thinking about moving out of town in the next few years because the taxes are so high but to be honest I haven't found anywhere that feels quite like BH's. If you go further out you 78 most towns really don't have a downtown which I like, you are further from NYC and even the Parkway for a quick ride to the shore. I hope to stay in BH's but hope the building stops and I hope the taxes don't continue to rise to the point that I'll have to leave.
Have a more unified, scenic downtown with businesses/services the residents want and need.
Better downtown attractions for kids and adults. Better park/fields
have successfully integrated all the incoming residents and have a vibrant downtown that is walkable.
Cut my taxes or I have to move to PA.
Continue community events, continue commitment to quality schools and public services (library, rescue etc), have a better downtown area (more walkable)
Have a more viable downtown with thoughtfully planned, aesthetically pleasing buildings with thriving small businesses.
Build more downtown (restaurants, shops, etc).
Have a walkable downtown with stores that people would actually want to patronize.
Maintain our plan, no over development everyone contributes and pays property taxes
Be less divided. Inclusive and accepting of new neighbors, especially non-white neighbors.
Adopt an aesthetic requirement for new businesses so downtown more closely resembles New providence. The Enrite gas station and the Chase bank are eye sores that belong on rte 22, not in a charming hamlet.
improve the downtown area
Have a more inviting downtown area
have thriving downtown with places to walk/enjoy for all residents without becoming over developed
Address aging schools, Slow overdevelopment (McMansions), Give Teachers a contract without them having to strike every 3 years
Add another train track so we can have a true decent commute to NYC. One track for both incoming/outgoing limits the options
Have lower taxes, continuation of low crime and strong college acceptance rates
Stop building condominiums, it changes the town character
Have all the same continuous light poles downtown (not 4 similar ones, at the location of the property owners desire)
Have a walkable, connected downtown area. Have joined services at a lower rate (garbage). Have more sense of community within neighborhoods Have regular meeting and greets for local political offices.
(1) Have a high school that has established good relationships with Ivy League and other top-tier colleges and universities, so that the children at the top of our Governor Livingston High School class have the same opportunities to get into these schools as do children who attend Summit High School or Millburn High School. Currently, Governor Livingston High School aims to elevate students at the

<p>bottom and middle of the high school class and fails to adequately assist students at the top of their high school class with their next huge step in their academic career. As a result, students at the top of their class are encouraged to apply to schools that are "safe" or below their academic potential.</p> <p>(2) Have a decent walking/running path along Mountain Avenue that is adequately lit. Currently, the "trail" is uneven, has broken pavement, possesses non-flat and unevenly-leveled areas, and is not well-lit. Anyone who walks, jogs, or runs on this area at dusk or at night risks twisting an ankle or other more serious harm.</p> <p>(3) Have more running trails.</p> <p>(4) Have more green building requirements mandated for new commercial construction.</p> <p>(5) Improve the downtown area so that it is safe for children, in light of all of the new commercial construction proposed for downtown.</p>
Limit condo building and keep downtown more unified/looking like a downtown.
have a plan to be more like New Providence or Summit
Lower taxes especially for seniors!
Have a thriving downtown. Be the place to move to in Union County
Have a bike path/sidewalk on Mountain Ave in front of Nokia. Have a more unified/tied together Main Street. To be less political in governing and more purely civic minded. There is no need for partisanship in local government. It would be great if it could be more bike and pedestrian friendly throughout the town on the main streets, at least. I would like to see more investment in LEED and energy saving construction and renovating.
Retain local services and not give services to Union County.
Have a better downtown. More restaurants, things to do.
Look more like New Providence. Stores filled. High end
Be affordable to live in town. Tax rate is out of control for what we get from the town...
Not be overdeveloped/still have lots of "green" space. Also not be all "McMansions" so middle class families can still afford to afford a home here.
Have more nightlife as well as more functional and diverse downtown; not the same types of businesses over and over. Also ensuring that the volunteer spirit engrained in our town is maintained and fostered as the town rapidly develops
Free of the need to develop every square inch of land, have more green spaces,
Have a downtown with continuity in appearance and occupied stores and restaurants, as well as schools that can accommodate the residential growth.
Bring in better restaurants/stores/retail
Have a downtown that is thriving.
Be more affordable and robust with businesses.
Have a thriving downtown like Cranford. Which will ultimately help the tax issues
Be affordable and maintain its affluent status
Be affordable and maintain its affluent status
Have permanent full time kindergarten with after school program
Minimize overdevelopment
a downtown filled with businesses that the community can enjoy.
Consolidate with neighboring towns to reduce taxes.
Have a great downtown area where kids can safely walk/bike with friends; top school system; increased property value

Improved infrastructure/roads, upgraded w/ additional turf fields for recreation and permanent lighted Pickleball Courts
Keep small town characteristics
Inviting walkable downtown, less development. mor parking for train. more direct trains to ny.
Continue to have top quality education from K-HS. Provide features for all residents including seniors b
Develop a vibrant and cohesive downtown area. One seat train ride to NYC to boost property values.
Adapt smartly: design a walkable downtown; have a well utilized, program-rich municipal center; and welcome a more diverse population.
Our downtown is a hodge podge of buildings!
Continue to grow while maintaining small town atmosphere
still be a quaint small town that's not over-developed.
have a better looking downtown, it's gross
NOT BE OVERPOPULATED! STOP DEVELOPMENT!!!!!! Downtown should look more like Cranford or Millburn. If you put all that stuff down at Connell, you are destroying our downtown feel.
Fix more of the roads. As a new resident, I find several of the roads unsafe. In particular, there are no reflectors on Mountain Ave as you go past Summit Medical Group toward Murray Hill / Summit. The road from SMG to the Murray Hill train station is congested, the lanes are tight and people drive too quickly. It could use reflectors so people can see the lines in the road. We also could use better street lighting on main roads like Mountain Ave, and Snyder Ave.
Coming from NYC, although we have great Italian and Chinese in town, we're lacking in a lot of other food areas. I would also love to see more stores like they have in New Providence. A nice salad shop like Sweet Green or organic/fresh to go food from a place like Dig Inn or soups from Hale and Hearty. A good Mexican restaurant and sushi place would be nice too. Also, a gourmet grocer, cheese shop or bakery would make it special.
I'd also love to see our downtown feel more walkable and have a few more specialized shops.
to not be over populated and for commitments to rebuilding infrastructure
Have a downtown. There is no downtown right now.
Attract interesting business to grow downtown and community events. Build school districts to stay competitive.
Look at what New Providence has done! We have a far better layout in terms of potential walkability but they have become a destination with shops and restaurants. Don't strive to be Summit or Montclair but our downtown is a complete joke and something that my age group looks for when getting out of the city.
Modernize
Be attractive to me so I want to stay and be attractive to my son & daughter-in-law so they stay to raise their family.
Be a functioning community that actually addresses the needs of its most vulnerable people.
Not build as many apartments and affordable housing as they're planning to. That's why we bought a house in the suburbs to get away from that. Improve downtown.
Have a thriving downtown and more efficient use of taxes so as to minimize property tax hike.
Full day kindergarten

Lower taxes or at least stop raising them constantly. Manage money better. Stop trying to change things just to have something to do. Don't give developers huge tax breaks then raise existing tax base taxes.
Have more businesses and a real downtown
Complete downtown development and work with NJT in opening more direct NY direct trains
have retained at least some of the natural, woodsy, bucolic atmosphere that convinced us to buy here almost 30 years ago, and which is disappearing at an alarming rate.
Move from pension to 401K for all pension receiving public employees without generous taxpayer contributions.
Finally pave Rutgers Ave
have comparable real estate to tax as Virginia (10% of current)
Have more diverse businesses in downtown and stop building so many condos/ townhouses.
Become a real town

What are some keywords/phrases/etc you would use to describe the character of Berkeley Heights?

Old-school; full of groups that are resistant to change
community focused, safe
quiet
Family, Community, Neighborly, Activities, Historic, Recreation, Fireworks
antiquated
Hometown feel
Small town
small town feeling, friendly,
Comfortable
Community
Friendly and tight knit community.
Tree-lined, bucolic, small town
woody, homey, country-like
Quaint, family orientated, great schools, great place to live and raise a family
friendly, safe, sleepy
nice town, easy commute into NYC, good people
Comfortable
Small and quiet community
Suburban, Residential, lack of cohesive downtown
Confused
In need of a downtown that has a common look and feel and thriving small businesses and retail outlets for food, coffee, gifts.
People that care about each other and the community
Fun, friendly, academic, caring
Quite
Ageing; green, but slowly losing its trees & green space to development.
Not diverse; Bickering Heights
Suburban - trees - Good school system- Quiet!
Comfortable, friendly, great town
School Education
Quiet, Beautiful
Hard working
Beautiful small town
Residential, uncrowded, wooded.
community,
trapped in the middle of the twentieth century - 1960
Quaint, small town, friendly
Fractured. Falling behind the neighboring towns.
Cute, friendly
Community, small town
A suburban community

haphazard
evolving, traditional, historic, affordable, diverse, increasingly youthful
elected officials believe in spending tax dollars to provide entertainment
Bedroom community if NYC
Small town, friendly, old fashioned
Committed to quality education.
Retro
Hometown/suburban/small town charm
Suburban, bedroom community, safe, child-focussed, reputable schools, near Newark airport, well connected to several major highways, one hour from city, beach, mountains, highly regarded healthcare institution near by, home of historic Bell Labs
Hometown/suburban/small town charm
Family Oriented
Friendly, safe
Community feel
Community, neighborhood, great schools
family oriented, suburban busy (this is a compliment to the activity in the town i.e sports, community events (winter walk) etc.
diverse, quiet, disconnected in relation to seniors
Not much character
Quiet
Small town feel, family oriented, civic minded
Confused
Regulations not enforced. Zoning not enforced. Officials look the other way for friends. Back room dealing.
Calm, comfortable, safe
looking tired
Suburban, community focus, great schools
Small town with a wonderful community feel. Great schools
Convenient, diverse, safe,
Great town, great services, well maintained infrastructure, strong sense of community with top schools that improve year over year.
Community, spirit,
Community, peace and respect
Uncrowded
Suburban
Great community, private, upkept, fun
A strong sense of community
A family town.
Excessive power outages, expensive government, collapsing infrastructure
Suburban small town feel
Quaint
Community that comes together

Quiet, quaint, and charming
Poorly developed downtown.
Small town with good people
Small town vibe
Not too small like new providence, not too big like Summit
Tough but inclusive
Small town feel in a commuting community
rustic suburban
Friendly. Neighborhood. Small town. Community.
Unpretentious
commuting town, family-focused
Great schools, great community, great place to raise a family
Partisan.
Charming,friendly community minded residents.
Nice place to live
Quarrelsome, judgmental, not diverse, strip mall, nice trees
Nice housing developments. Good people. But downtown disorganized, not cohesive, ugly 1970s/80s strip malls
Small-town feel
Small town, people have yards- not all house,
Small town
A place to raise you kids
Homey
charming, small town feel, friendly, safe
Intellectual, safe, happy
Too car-centric. Impossible to safely navigate on foot or bicycle. Terrible, under-maintained or missing sidewalks. No bike paths. No place to sit. We need park benches along major routes, snyder, plainfield, springfield. No place for teens to hang out.
You need a car to get around. It is a pretty town outside of the town center.
Close community
Stuck in its ways, reluctant to change
Small town with a big heart ; Highlander ;
quiet, quaint, community
Family Friends Relaxed
Downtown is a bit nondescript, bland. Peaceful..Trying to become more multicultural and progressive..
relatively unknown
Family Oriented..
Family friendly.
Suburban
welcoming
Community nice safe good
Comfortable, homey, safe

Solid schools, good community that looks out for each other.
Safe, convenient, the best place to raise a family
Strong sense of community
Safe town to raise a family
friendly
disorganized, political, reactive
Warm, friendly, community activities for kids
bucolic
Great people..unappealing downtown, Boring downtown.
Warm, friendly, down to earth
Small, community-driven, great schools, great neighbors
Amazing sense of community
Charming, Personalable
welcoming, attractive housing, well-maintained, good traffic pattern
Small town, specialty shops, walkable downtown.
bland, becoming overbuilt, downtown planning stalemate
Strong community vibe, good recreation choices, good people. However tired looking downtown, mish mosh of architecture for businesses on Springfield, limited shopping
Great place to live with friendly people.
friendly, upbeat, sleepy
Small town, neighborly, friendly
A nice place to live
Great schools, caring humble people, accepting of thy neighbor whomever they are
Charming family friendly good schools
suburban
Expensive, has potential, good schools (except for CMS, an outlier), good people
Not encompassing the residents.
mismatched not cohesive - lacking charm
Down-to-earth, hard-working, wonderful neighbors, genuine community
Pleasant
Hodgepodge, lack of identity
Nice people, good schools, not crazy expensive, but not cheap, just right.
quiet suburban community
nice and comfortable place to live
well-spaced houses; lots of trees and wooded areas; strong sense of community
I like the tag line "" where tradition meets tomorrow
Strong sense of community and excellent school system
nice neighborhoods and houses
Being over developed
Friendly, generational, great sense of community
Great sense of community
Overdevelopment

Family Oriented
Small community
Community-minded, friendly
Country, wooded
rural, traditional
Safe, family, home
In regards to future land use: -Risky -Secretive -Changing to a more Urban, densely populated town despite the current taxpayers didn't invest here for that, and we have no power or voice in the issue.
Friendly, comfortable community
Charming, great downtown events, friendly small businesses
Quaint
Cosy safe community
Friendly
Tries...
Bickering Heights, Unwelcoming, Townie, Corrupt
Hometown feel. No overcrowding. Safe. Beautiful.
Disjointed, abandoned, ugly, family friendly, pleasant
Traditional, community oriented
Safe
Family-friendly, Safe
old, cranky, behind the times
Friendly People, Unfriendly Social Media!
nuevo
Safe, quiet, nonsense small town politics, up and coming
Passionate, old and new residents and cultures looking for the way forward, sense of community, commuters, nesting community,
welcoming, educated, intelligently guided
A kind and caring community
Small town feel. Relaxed.
Needs a general facelift and infusion of commercial/retail/general infrastructure
Community
Family Oriented
Family oriented ; great schools
Hmm..small, safe suburban town with great people. The downtown is improving.. At 1 point all different types of buildings were going up downtown and nothing seemed to match. It was pretty unattractive however, I can tell that there are now guidelines in place to prevent this going forward. I'm happy about that! When the digital sign went up for the gas station downtown went up I thought the look of the downtown was a lost cause but other than that it's looking much better.

The schools and the people are great but the town lacks aesthetic appeal - too many empty businesses and a mix of buildings , styles some of which are very unsightly. Lacks important businesses like a movie theater, diner, etc
Safe, beautiful, community
Old
family focused; diverse economically
Kind
Small town community feeling sometimes like a cute hallmark movie
Small town feel. Wonderful community of people. Good schools with teachers who care.
Sleepy suburb. Lots of green space. Increasingly diverse.
Small town, good schools
suburban
Mom and Pop old school which is nice, old fashion sense of community
Suburb embedded in nature; wooded
Quiet, strong community, great schools
Bickering, confused, expensive, crumbling
Quiet residential town
Quainy
Safe, affordable,
Friendly, beautiful, great place to live, community-driven
Wonderful family community, great schools, caring residents.
confused, political,
Small town, good town to raise a family. Caring
Old vs New
Supportive community; caring; nice town
Family-oriented, rustic
Former small town atmosphere, friendly,
"Them vs Us" mentality
Inclusive, friendly
Caring community
Unique, community,
Excellent schools, caring people, affluent community, easy commute to NYC, expensive, high taxes, water issues for flooding properties, lack of restaurants and bars for adult entertainment. Non walking downtown.
Excellent schools, caring people, affluent community, easy commute to NYC, expensive, high taxes, water issues for flooding properties, lack of restaurants and bars for adult entertainment. Non walking downtown.
Peaceful, friendly
Quiet, close-knit, convenient to NYC
Community, pride, welcome, family
Great place to live... Above average schools ...Family Friendly.... Very Convenient
Location
Community; safe

Uninviting,overdeveloped, average,no identity.
Suburban, quiet, safe
small town suburban
Little town with no attraction to the downtown
Downtown in character-less. Otherwise, small town, homey.
Quaint, homey, small, quiet.
Nice people, good community, downtown is brutal
Quiet
Homey, treeland, small town near big city, in the forest, in the heights, filled with nature, tall trees
neighborhood, friendly
Friendly, communal, active
Beautiful, rural, community
Sterile
Small town feel
Upper middle class suburban
Caring community, residents looking out for each other
Stagnant, peaked, unorganized, uncentralized, white
Small town. Community. Expensive
Good neighbors; Good schools
Charming small town community oriented
Family, solid academics, up and coming
overdeveloped
dysfunctional/ municipal waste/ old ideals
Small town feel
Small town, family friendly, diverse, safe, serene

Comments/additional suggestions for future land development in Berkeley Heights

Make it close to transit please
Build mindfully and in harmony to a neighbors properties to avoid creating negative impact and declining value.
high end condos to attract young professional commuters
With all the new developments traffic has slowly increased and will only get worse. We need to stop overdevelopment.
focus on parks and natural beauty of the Watchung mountains
Keep it as a small community
First work to find occupants for all the empty storefronts
Berkeley Heights needs to stop overdevelopment
Fix downtown and add businesses first !
Stop building & taking down the trees- Use the vacant building sites & lots!!!!
Do not needed
no more condo or apartment projects.
Part of the attraction of Berkeley Heights is that it feels spacious, with moderate-to-large lot sizes & green space. We are gradually losing that feel through continued development. The master plan needs to address that issue strategically, and address whether we need to cap development & population at some point.
See above - Home owners that pay taxes - not renters with no interest in this town!
Better accessibility in the Glenside area
Minimize residential development and instead focus on bringing more stores, restaurants, etc. to downtown.
we should have a vertical farming co-op to source our own fresh food
Part of the desirability of Berkeley Heights is the exclusivity of the town and its demographics. I wouldn't want to see additional low income housing, over what's already state mandated, added to the town as I'm concerned that could impact my property value and the overall makeup of the town.
It strikes me that if you go to other towns businesses such as CVS and Walgreens are built with character to fit into a downtown. Besides having the CVS eyesore, it is disturbing to think that so condominiums are being built in and all around us.
Land development should be carefully considered. Infrastructure needs and future traffic condition should be considered when reviewing new developments.
Build a downtown with shops and restaurants like some of our neighboring towns
We're full. We've built on almost every buildable area possible. The current placement of new houses and townhomes (not even including those that are still not built) is making BH look more like Union or Clarke and less like Chatham or Basking Ridge.
Take the deceitful individuals out of making decisions for our community!
Do not overdevelop this town. To do so increases need for taxation to improve services. Try providing incentives to small business to improve downtown. Make downtown more easily accessible to walking.
More and better sidewalks; bike lanes. Need to solve for storm water. Need to integrate Town better with its surrounding natural resources (Passaic River Park, Watchung Reservation) and connect disparate parts of Town (Connell, HS) with downtown with alternatives to automobile transport
No further land development.

Dog park
Housing should be designed to be harmonious with existing housing - not a hodge -podge
The old Kings supermarket is killing us.
Recreational
We need to repurpose old buildings and make the town more vibrant and foot-friendly.
I think that we should keep wild places wild, and focus on in-fill and increasing density. I love the mixed use buildings that we have on Springfield Ave., and hope that we can have more housing development that also elevates our downtown.
Improve the look of the town parking lot and buildings on the Springfield avenue side of the train station
Improve lighting ordinance
There is no benefit to land development. Under development will bring a value to our town that will be shown when other towns over develop.
Coffee shop and more bars/restaurants
Multi unit rentals are being tolerated in single family zoned property and taxed as only single family.
No further land development
There is a shortage of fields/recreation space for youth sports.
Better recreational facilities. Better pedestrian and bicycle facilities
Given a chance to alter the composition of business we should limit and reduce the number of banks, gas stations and nail salons.
Encourage commercial and retail development downtown with more housing starts for town-house type housing
Develop in areas where flow of traffic will not be an issue. Multilevel parking to accommodate increased resident population and daily visitors
Lowest density possible
More and more land is being developed but the drainage problem being caused because of it has been neglected and is getting worse.
Limiting population grow to not overburden our infrastructure
The amount of condos going up in town is ridiculous
Stop it unless single family homes.
Please clean up the ny marts building or force owner to build. Eyesore""
do not over develop - developers do not care - new structures have insufficient parking
We need more fun! Arcade, brewery, bar, exciting food store (Wegmans / Whole Foods)!
Green spaces are crucial for a town to look attractive and feel spacious and not crowded. No development of green spaces please. Additionally, increasing density by replacing single family homes with condos is not desirable as our town will be more crowded and congested.
Stop over crowding! No new developments, people move here for the single family housing life. If I wanted a condo or apartment I would move to Hoboken
Berkeley Heights is a green suburb. It would be nice to keep it that way
Work towards making Springfield have a more Main Street feel.
Please consider the costs of having to increase infrastructure, and consequences of overwhelming our school systems if you add more residential housing. Our classroom sizes are large as it is, and there isn't enough physical space for more students/classes, teachers are not compensated fairly and will be burnt out if we raise the student/teacher ratio. I do not work in the school system but have 2 young children.

Stop over development of lands . Its wrong how ever wooded area continues to have new housing built! This town has already outgrown its space with residents. Look at the traffic everywhere and traffic lights all over.
Enforce current zoning laws
In recent years I've witnessed a change. Many more kids on bikes. More groups of kids walking to/from school. These types of transportation should be promoted, even at the expense of car access. We need bike parking options, safe bike paths. Solve dumb situations like the dangerous pedestrian crossing at Delicious Heights towards CVS.
The drop off/pick-up situations at schools need to be re-imagined. Every morning we witness the mess at TPH (cars on Snyder) and CMS. Steal some land for a safe drop-off zone along Snyder and stop cars from turning into TPH property altogether. Let the kids walk a few feet to get to the door.
We need to 'greenify' the downtown with more trees, e.g. along Springfield, in the Stop & Shop / CVS area which was ruined when beautiful healthy trees were cut down.
We need to embrace the new multi-cultural demographic.
Use green infrastructure (retention basins, not detention basins; expand rain gardens). Require green building standards. Encourage bicycling and walking, especially downtown. Take the Community Forestry Management Plan goals into account.
We need the Stratton house project , the 55 and over project and the toll brothers project completed to provide the additional housing choices to residents "" and we need to clean up our sidewalks and parks and make our town walkable with recreational options for all
Becoming overdeveloped, which increases traffic.
Lights at the athletic fields at Governor Livingston high school.
improve commercial area downtown
If there is another COAH round, it is essential that the town own some of its own land specifically to counter the pressure of builders' remedy lawsuits.
The township should have an open space fund, taxpayer funded, to reallocate housing and businesses into downtown, and demolish low-functioning "sprawl" elements on the fringes of town, replacing them with open space.
Entertainment venues, bistros/cafes, parks,
Perhaps more bike trails
Too much building. There is plenty of supply with more than enough to come from estimates.
The more green/open space, the better.
Developers should fund/partially fund expansion of schools if building housing that will attract families with kids
no need to over develop
BH needs to attract different types of businesses. There isn't much to do besides go out to eat, and get your nails done. We need something for our kids and young adults to do. (Ex:arcade, bowling alley, indoor play facility)
JCC or other after school care options besides the YMCA.
small shopping malls with continuity
What is the status of Vito's former property on Plainfield Ave.?
Open space, entertainment
Downtown development is too piecemeal and fragmented

Would love more discount shopping opportunities
Leave the town like it is. No more development is needed. It's a great place to live.
Revisitalization of downtown. Not necessarily housing but different types of real estate for different businesses for its residents. Things to incentivize people to want to walk downtown so as to foster a greater sense of town and community.
Parks, walking trails, gardens, stay away from more brick, mortar and black top. Conserve our natural land to beautify the town that has turned ugly and over developed
Please consider the impact on our school system, school facilities, and related funding
After the recent storms that hit this area many trees that fell during these storms on town property should be removed to enhance there value. The should be an audience to have fallen trees on private property removed within a prescribe time period. As an incentive the property own should be able to deduct a portion of the cost from their Town Taxes.
More planning on character/architecture.
No more housing developments are needed. With the planned units,the town will already be overdeveloped.
The town is already sufficiently built-up. We do not need more housing.
Already to much development scheduled with lack of infrastructure to sustain
More businesses that attract nightlife to bring people into town, coffee house, bookshops. Walking trails, dog parks
Build housing downtown.
Stop development! Leave areas natural/undeveloped. This is a suburb - if we wanted to live in a city, we would have moved to a city.
Better fields and indoor recreational facilities. Not enough gym space today.
concentrate on more multi-use green spaces (not just more sports fields), walking trail rehabilitation
Lower our taxes! There is no need for further development.
More businesses in the downtown
There's nothing to do in town if you have teenagers, an ice skating or roller blade rink, maybe a movie theater would be nice. Not more homes.
Please consider your seniors, one level stand alone affordable homes are needed. Condo living is not for everyone
Do not overdevelop
Make them attractive to businesses that will develop, sustain and maintain, along with be a nice place for our kids to congregate, as well.
We don't need any more development. There is already many development projects.
It's a shame that there aren't any walkable trails in Berkeley Heights. When I was on maternity leave I had to drive to Summit (Briant Park), Madison (Giralda Farms/Loantaka Brook), or the Great Swamp to go for a nice walk in nature with the stroller. Watchung Reservation doesn't have paved paths that are appropriate for strollers and I think building something like Briant Park, with a decent trail, fields and even a playground would be a real asset to the community and way to attract young families.
Address infrastructure prior to building new houses
open space
Development should encourage walking and not be hidden behind the parking lot (ie Dunkin' Donuts)
Over all green infrastructure, sustainable building practices, flood water management and environmentally responsible development regulations need to be codified in the master plan.
Don't do it.

We have condos for all types of families, we have single family homes and we have housing for seniors with more going up. If we had more land I'd say build a few more homes but really at this point we are bursting at the seams. If you want to ruin the town keep going, if not stop now.
We desperately need places for entertainment such as a movie theater, bowling alley, etc. Would also be great to have another food store option like Trader Joe's.
Keep up the parks and utilize existing outdoor resources like ponds, river and wooded areas for trails etc.
Build only state required number of affordable units not the additional 85% builders want. First choice to people who work in town (mount laurel) preferably 55+ homes only.
leave as much green acres as possible
preserve as much land as possible please!
There is way too much development in town. Homes are being torn down and new homes are filling the property. Restrictions should be put in place for minimal variances between housing and enforced.
No open space should be converted to commercial, industrial, or residential use. The downtown needs to get rid of all of its old buildings and put new, renovated buildings with a consistent theme and design in place. Currently, the downtown area is a mix of random buildings, including stand-alone homes, that does not make the area conducive to attracting people to that area. Also, there are numerous trails through wooded areas in Berkeley Heights. Invest in converting some or all of these trails into walking or running paths, so that people can take advantage of these trails and the green space in which they area located.
Just don't let it get too crowded.
Address many of the blighted properties that are eyesores
Stop condos in what should be a walkable shopping area
Stop since we are over growing for a town that is already established and now over growing
Connect paper streets to create some space. Require vacant structure (residential and commercial) to be occupied or replaced. Maximize downtown space with residential over commercial to also attract young people without kids to the town and help revitalize downtown
Stop the madness. How about preserving some land? Other towns do. Our record of preservation is abysmal.
The Township should bond costs or share costs with BOE and Union County to install lighting at Frey football Field at GLHS to allow for High School activities and Township sponsored recreation activities such as BHPAL games, need to push through ordinances to allow light towers at field 80' and high foot candle allowances.
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Before developing new space, need to fill in current empty retail space
Berkeley Heights is a Great Place to live, but taxes in NJ will prevent retirees from staying
Small parks scattered around the town where there are no sidewalks ,places to walk with or without kids or dogs. Dog park. Entertainment/recreation.
Downtown area needs application of consistent guidelines for architectural & appearance to attract both shoppers and tenant/businesses
If we have to meet a low income housing quota (which goes against everything I believe in) then do it by providing housing options for the elderly. Be it senior housing or a 55+ community, there are a lot

of elderly people looking to downsize but local to be near their families. They remain in BH, sell their homes to young families who in turn renovate and upgrade the property, and raise everyone's property values. Don't bring in established low income residents, all they ever do is bring property values down.
Too many large homes in small neighborhoods, allowing people to build McMansions and no control over projects.
stop building unless you address the train parking, nobody will buy the single family homes if they can't get into the city - it's insane how many people are driving to NY
STOP OVERDEVELOPMENT. It does not help because the families that move cost more in educating/services than you take in from property taxes.
the town is essentially built out with plans currently on table
The over-restrictive zoning laws artificially inflate home values, making BH unaffordable for both the young and the elderly (whose taxes rise with their home values, but have limited cash flow)
No more strip malls and banks. Make Sherman Avenue the absolute perfect downtown street.
If apartments need to be added, near the train station. But there's not enough trains or commuting options for a lot more people and the town's roads can't handle more traffic.
More park space / open space/ playground
If new Multifamily housing and retail must be built it should be focused around transport hubs like the train station only. Also parking will have to be accounted for for the other existing residents.
Downtown!
Seriously? There is way too much development now - why can't the builders be restricted to a less advantageous (for them) ratio of affordable housing to market rate housing? If there is such a demand to build here, the Council should be able to restrict the size of their developments. Everyone I know moved here because Berkeley Heights offered more wooded, unpaved areas than other nearby towns. Most of that is gone now, and I've only been here for 29 years. It's a shame that this town no longer has the character that people moved here to enjoy.
No need to expand if you rein in expenses. Since that is a fantasy, build townhouses in the Emerson district - not million dollar single family homes. The property adjacent to Rt78 that borders Warren would also be prime for a cluster of low income homes.
Take a look at thriving New Providence downtown
Land should be used wisely I don't care about parks when I am late to work just because there is no parking space, and the car I just bought is bumped all over as the parking space is so tight I can barely open car door to get to the car. Please consider working people who need to commute to make money to pay the taxes. Please improve commute (parking, shuttles etc) and attract businesses to lower taxes. Also, fix walking paths I love jogging but it is dangerous to do that in Berkeley Heights, the walking paths are like after World War II.
Don't touch what forests and undeveloped land are left in the township.

Comments/additional suggestions about Downtown Berkeley Heights

Please slow down traffic and make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists!
You are on the right path but it will take years to change as current owners are not mandated to update their properties. It is a long term evolution.
Need some something like New Providence has. Starbucks, chipotle, Jersey mikes. Places to grab a quick bit to eat
Do something with the former supermarket by Strega/delicious heights. It's an eye sore and can be a valuable spot
model after new providence, but with our much better train station location
It needs more parking so people can walk the downtown.
we might need more liquor licenses to attract more restaurants
We don't need big box stores.
Trees
There is ZERO continuity in the downtown theme! If you could knock it all down and start again that would be a great start - NO MORE BANKS - NO MORE DRUG STORES!
I am not an architect, but I know ugly when I see it. Downtown incorporates some of the worst planning features of the last century - a hodgepodge of the worst examples of architecture - even the new additions, those built in the last ten years - lack imagination. I am not advocating a cookie-cutter look or a shopping center, but a walk down main street in Madison or Chatham could provide some inspiration. I understand we can't emulate Summit,(but even they've taken small steps to improve pedestrian flow.)
At this point there is no distinct downtown. The majority of the stores are banks. And two chain drugstores? Whose idea was that?
Buy out those houses that are eyesores using open space funds. Let County help us out for once. Get rid of traffic light at Lone Pine. Make cut through from Sherman to Stop & Shop wider since most cars cut through there from Plainfield Ave to avoid Springfield Ave and it gets too narrow by Delicious Heights. Less cars would cut through Sherman if you could make a right on red from Plainfield onto Springfield to avoid that super long light.
I never go there
Not much of a downtown. Only one parking lot after another. Whatever happened to finding a business to replace the Foodtown/Kings supermarket area. Been vacant for a long time. That parking lot is only next to another big parking lot which holds Stop N Shop/CVS. Then there's another "parking lot" opposite Benham that has a floral shop, physical therapy and deli. Not appealing.
a modern movie theater, perhaps with a game room combo would be a huge hit.
wider, cleaner (brick or paver) and more walkable (less obstructions) sidewalks; more controlled crossings
What is the f***** goal of all this?
Abandoned buildings are depressing. We need to figured out how to deal with old Kings and have a little theater, maybe museum to go to and a good bakery.
That we feature a surplus of nail salons and Italian restaurants is a known thing to community members. I'd really love more ethnic food options, maybe a small theater or performance space and boutiques specializing in unique gifts and goods.

That we feature a surplus of nail salons and Italian restaurants is a known thing to community members. I'd really love more ethnic food options, maybe a small theater or performance space and boutiques specializing in unique gifts and goods.
New Providence is working so hard on their downtown, and it is working- they have managed to feel less like a strip mall town. I think that we need to be mindful of development strategies that would help BH feel more like a little city and less like suburban sprawl.
No need to generate new businesses that ultimately close down. Learn from the past.
Police do not enforce parking on yellow curbs resulting in obstructed views at Summit Ave. Snow removal from downtown sidewalks is not enforced resulting in obstructed sidewalks long after snow has stopped.
get the sidewalks fixed and the light fixtures fixed. Broken for over a year
There are several disconnected shopping areas. It would be great if they could somehow be connected.
The downtown could have more on-street walk-able shopping, easy walking to/from down-town more stores in traditional downtown setting.
Balance development and congestion
These results are largely invalid and not scientific in any way.
It is not very appealing
Get more profitable businesses like restaurant chains and get shop right.
In need of businesses for tween/teens
do not over develop - keep the developers out of town
Talk to Somerville about their development plan and journey!
I think the biggest deterrent to my going "downtown" is the fact that it is not at all pedestrian friendly. I used to live in Cranford, and the thing that makes BH dramatically different is that it is nearly impossible to safely walk anywhere... whether that be my kids walking to school, my husband walking to the train, or any of us walking downtown. Terrible sidewalks (or no sidewalks) and poor lighting are a major deterrent. And we used to be a family that walked everywhere- to the park, daily to the train station, and to school.
I would like to see a vegan restaurant or vegetarian both for quick bites and higher end. A few more diverse dining choices, an organic market / health food store, wellness ,
Would love a ShakeShack
A place for kids to hang out and want to go
These questions about what we want are all nice and dandy, but the real problem in town is that a few "old name" families are still exacting high rents on ill-maintained inventory.
I've come to the conclusion "they" don't really care about BH, only their wallets, and they are given extraordinary leeway whilst anyone interested in putting up a shed on their property has to hire a lawyer. "They" should be made to care, e.g. via strict code enforcement, standards on signage, NO MORE EXCEPTIONS IN DOWNTOWN. People who vote on variances should recuse themselves if they are personal friends or family.
Why do we have that atrocious car wash in the middle of town, why is there a horrible yellow apartment building above the deli near the train station, who approved the garish C&L auto-body sign and allows storage of visible car wrecks, etc etc etc. We've all heard the stories. We all know the names.

All staff staying 8 hours a day at town hall and the police department should be assigned parking spots far away from the main entrances.
Work with county to plant appropriate vegetation, especially near power lines.
Without a growing and vibrant downtown with quality stores and restaurants, BH will continue to lose revenue opportunities, as well as new residents as people will continue to flock to neighboring towns, as we do when seeking shops and restaurants.
Berkeley heights has a good selection of restaurants and service businesses for its size - we need to work to support these businesses and to help them thrive
Personally, I think it is very distasteful to have BBQ at the train station, particularly, because it is the image of our town. I'd rather see it used as a historical society. If a revenue generation type business needs to be located there, put in a Starbucks so at least the upkeep can be there. It is very dumpy in the current state.
No fast food restaurants or big box stores!
A good example for what Berkeley Heights should be is downtown Bethesda, Maryland.
We were using downtown until all the restaurants recently closed what is going on and how did this happen?
Hurry up and put in the traffic light at the intersection of Snyder Avenue and Locust Avenue
Bring in Whole foods or Trader Joe's...this will draw individuals from surrounding towns to our community, BH is severely lacking "why people would want to come here." If you poll how many of our residents go to Shoprite in Stirling, it's scary. Stop and Shop isn't run well it's too bad it could be amazing but they are lacking...our residents need more options and options that will draw others to our town.
It does not flow well
beautification of sidewalks
Plant more trees!
Better planning and more restrictions for building heights.
The rents are too high for small businesses. I would love to support small businesses, but the only companies that can afford the rents are chains. It's an unfortunate reality.
Trader Joe's should be here and/or Whole Foods Market
Keep up the good work
Thank you for sending this survey
I appreciate you asking for input and making it easy to participate
New Providence did a wonderful job on their downtown. Berkeley Heights needs to do the same. More consistent signs and lamps with charm.
The problem with the Downtown area is that it is never defined. Are you speaking of the area around the Municipal Building and Train Station, the area along Springfield Avenue between Snyder and Plainfield. To truly fix the problem will require some very creative thinking. The real-estate lobby should be not allow to influence the Planners. If the Town Plan is to have a similar appearance to our neighboring towns of New providence, Madison and Summit, based on the Towns road configuration, I think it is nearly impossible.
beautifacation conformity of store fronts
Downtown has come along way over the past few years. The issue here seems to be that most of our downtown real estate is owned by a handful of people who are not willing to invest. Local government can work around the edges to solve a problem, but I don't believe it has the muscle to really make big changes
Don't destroy the small town feel we've had forever and overdevelop the downtown area.

Refurbishing is fine, but no new development!
Don't build more housing. I will avoid the area if there is more congestion.
No additional suggestions
Westfield has a great downtown, great restaurant's etc
Would love a true "downtown" feel.
See earlier comments about demolishing existing structures and starting over. Downtown is a current embarrassment and a long-term liability for the town. Also, what is the deal with Peppertown Park? Why are you raising money for a park that no one will use when there is a park literally across the street that is always empty? And whatever that Vito memorial thing is, it's a complete eyesore. If you really feel like we need another empty park, by all means please just move forward with the Vito thing and raze Peppertown Park for more train parking.
More and wider sidewalks that offer garden/gathering space along with shops and cafes that encourage interaction.
Just want to mention that I love the diversity of restaurants in our town - Thai, Korean, Indian, etc!
I think the teenage population in New Peovidence enjoy Starbucks, Smashburger and Chipotle. Of course all ages enjoy them as well but it gives the teenagers somewhere to go. I think 1 of these would be nice downtown but I'm not sure we have room for it unless it went where the old nursing home is on Sprinfuehd Ave but I think you'd have to tie it into the reat of the downtown, make it a walkable destination from the center of town. I don't think it would do well as a stand alone property.
It would be great if the township was able to put some pressure on landlords that have had buildings sitting vacant and in disrepair for many years. Not sure if the town has any control over that but it's a disgrace.
Hate the neon signs. They should be banned. We can't approach "charming" being an adjective applied to town with all the bright neon/plastic lights. It makes downtown look cheap. When people looking to move to BH, they're comparing us to other towns (Maplewood, Madison, Westfield, Basking Ridge) that have nice traditional downtowns. We need to step it up and look more polished.
Downtown lacks charm and character, look at peer towns with successful walkable towns and aim for better. Current retailers are unappealing. Restaurants are poor options.
Let supply and demand control space
We're not Summit, Westfield, or new Providence, we should stop trying to be them..
Have specialty stores that support the population as well as people from other towns, such as JackRabbit (a running shoes and attire store)
I love this town and have made many wonderful friendships here. The only problem I've ever had is the lack of cohesiveness of the downtown. It's all jumbled up. It does not resemble a downtown like Scotch Plains, Summit, Chatham, Madison.
Whoever planned out the current downtown had a sense of humor. After the corner of the old Berkeley Hardware it all goes downhill.
Since BH is within 30 minutes of three malls and all the online shopping I don't see a need to bring in additional retail stores. This has been tried before with no success.
Only allow one business of each type. One deli. One drugstore. Putting each other out of business
Master plan has always been worthless and needs to build upon what is there
The way our town is laid out we have a long strip of medical /offices nobody needs on the main strip which takes up space of what should be stores and restaurants on street level.thete is no cohesiveness. There is no reason to go downtown except for restaurants,nails and train. Movie theater gone, no retail,no where to park to take the train.and our town has great household income but does not sustain expensive or trendy shops.i think we need to aim for family related places.

<p>Unlike New Providence and Summit, we are somewhat handicapped by the fact that downtown is strung out along Springfield Ave, with no meaningful cross street to act as the focal point, such as the other two towns each have. As a result, we should find an inventive way to include a safe and visually interesting pedestrian walkway on Springfield Ave that makes downtown interesting and accessible to pedestrians-- and makes it a more cohesive, defined area.</p>
<p>There is no attraction to stores, cafes, or anything to walk to, Stop and Shop??</p>
<p>It's embarrassing that we refer to our town as having a downtown. A CVS and a strip mall do not make a downtown.</p>
<p>The lack of effort to change anything over the years is disheartening.</p>
<p>Downtown needs to become more cohesive</p>
<p>Facilities need to be attractive to wide range of ages.</p>
<p>Would love more restaurants and shops. Recreation facilities would be great, but don't think that needs to be downtown and could be in other parts of town.</p>
<p>Don't go crazy!</p>
<p>Downtown Berkeley Heights is just plain awful</p>
<p>There is no really downtown currently all businesses seems disconnected and not attractive to walk around.</p>

Comments/additional suggestions regarding transportation in the Township

Need to design our streets for people, not cars! Too much speeding in Twp
Remain open to new ideas and input. I have no specific input at this time.
NA
More commuter spaces
Thanks for wonderful efforts and always continuing to improve. Please do SOMETHING about the old Berkeley Meadows.
It would be nice to have a bike path along Passaic River where the current walkway is. It would take the bike off Springfield Ave for a bit.
There should be no waiting list for a resident to obtain parking for the train. When the Y moves, why not put in parking where the existing Y facility is. Consider a multilevel parking structure for the rest of the train station... Yes there's a cost, but this is really important to all commuters, and you will sell more passes which can be used to pay back a bond for the construction.
Enforcing texting when driving would be great. Radar speed traps are not a solution.
If a light is not installed at Locust and Snyder, then the township was not really asking for feedback and ignored the feedback.
The congestion is not as bad as New Providence; don't make it worse!
There is no mass transportation in town - Just NJT
Do not ignore far flung areas e.g. Glenside. There is no way for kids to walk to GL from Roland/Beattie in Murray Hill, crossing Glenside on foot is dangerous.
Rebuilding of Roosevelt ave
Road and sidewalk conditions are generally poor throughout town.
would love it to be more friendly for children to walk/bike to school.
The signal timing and pedestrian facilities should be evaluated at the existing traffic signals in town. I noticed recently that the pedestrian signal heads are not working at the signals in downtown, and I saw a person cross when she should not have because the pedestrian signal head was black. The signal timing at Diamond Hill and Mountain Avenue
Could use more parking for train commuting.
Need better train service
This is an easy town to get around in. We should not become urban-centric. Even walking in the downtown area is not hard to do.
Again school parking. It's ridiculous.
Create a central location for the tree like Madison
Traffic calming and walkability would improve our health and quality of life in BH.
Pave the train parking lot
Don't overbuild - learn from the past how businesses have closed.
Train station parking is going to become more of an issue when all of the new apartment projects are completed.
Eastbound train or bus service like in New Providence is needed to get to New York in the evening when there is more than a three hour gap.
need parking or jitney
Add a right turn on red going westbound on Mountain Ave at Snyder with restrictions during school hours. Restripe NB Diamond Hill Rd to only have one through lane when the WB Ramp from I-78 enters.

Improved train station may encourage usage (more trains ie two tracks - but that is NJ Transit)
Feel like drivers/people don't see/feel BH as a walking downtown so aren't aware/courteous to pedestrians.
Adding condos and town homes is only going to make an already horrible congestion area even worse. Poor decisions on adding all these residential elements that don't belong in a single family residential area.
Should have a bus to and fro from train station
make the entire town speed limit 25 mph on all streets and avenues!!!!
Sidewalks are desperately needed on Mountain between Union and Snyder. The sidewalks are eye sores in a visible area and unsafe.
THIS IS NOT A BIKING TOWN! If you want to bike, move to Hoboken or jersey city!
Murray Hill section needs repaving desperately. Also this neighborhood is too far removed from town train station parking and it is hurting real estate values. We should negotiate with New Providence for a share in the Murray Hill parking lot since they have 2 train station lots.
Please make this town more walkable!
There is no bus to nyc
Bike lanes are a hazzard in BH
Winter walk and summer fair show how walkable this town could be, if parts of it would be closed off for traffic, either for good, or during certain hours of the day (e.g. Sherman Ave). Sherman Ave S and Lone Pine should be connected (one-way or perhaps only for pedestrian/bike traffic).
Coordinate traffic lights downtown so traffic can flow.
We need to enforce the homeowners to maintain the sidewalks in town so that people can walk safely
The shortage of train station parking has been ignored by township mayors for 20 years.
Do not let traffic on Springfield become congested like Westfield and Summit
Maybe explore the option of building a parking deck at the train station? Is that a possibility?
Na
Fantastic work by the DPW and police. Snow removal is fantastic. Building/permits department could be more friendly.
Thank you for putting this survey out! Hope you also publish the results. Way to go!
Express train to NYC
lower speed limit on all streets to 25 MPH
N/A
I'm not an artchitect
Can't put my finger on cause but downtown is just not attractive for walking.
It's fine.
would be nice to have more trains to midtown
Possibly better signage.
You should add more parking spots at the train station.
Enforce speed limits and overnight parking ordinances
Shuttles to train station, bike lanes and lockers
drivers on mountain Ave going West should be able to turn right on red onto Snyder
Off-time daily train station parking is very confusing, better signage/system would improve things.
Write tickets to households who park overnight on the street every night.

Local bus to and from Summit would make sense especially on weekends
None
Residential streets are in horrific condition.
Nothing needed
I think Berkeley Heights in general is an embarrassment compared to other towns in the surrounding areas and should worry first about how to attract young families. You have good schools and affordable housing which is a great start but when I am talking to friends in the city/Hoboken about where they want to move, it is all Summit, New Providence, Chatham, Madison. You've got a shrinking tax base and the best you can offer families is more house for your money, because there isn't a premium to live in a town which lacks a great downtown or community spirit. I don't have any major gripes about transportation in BH but I will tell you that I can't wait to move out of this town and into one with a more positive, constructive spirit in the town Facebook forum and a nice walkable downtown. And I'll happily pay a premium to do so.
Is there some agreement /trade off that the township could negotiate with the downtown land owners to entice them to lower rents, update buildings, and get vacancies filled?
Get valet parking at train to expand the number of passes that can be used. See summit
Just could use more trains to NY
thanks for the changes made to Locust/Snyder intersection. Hope they'll make a difference until the traffic light is installed.
Please stop trucks from McMane.
Busing all children would greatly alleviate traffic at CMS.
Leave it alone
Parking at station is a disaster
Tie up with New Providence to share Murray Hill station parking
There should be more options available for people who travel to the Summit Train Station from all areas of town, who don't have a parking permit at the Berkeley Heights Train Station.
The town, administration is doing a great job!!
Is NJT ever going to restore weekend service? Has anyone lobbied for this?
Unless you improve train station parking consider a "Jitney" type service for a fee to take residents to and from the train service during peak times.
Shuttle Or busses to train.
None
Improve connectivity to NYC
1 seat to NYC
there is only the train
need better parking at snyder
improve lighting; include reflectors; work with NP to improve traffic on Mt. Ave.
Lack of uber/lyft area so they always are coming from summit or chatham
Do not install speed humps or reduce speed limits in Springfield Ave or other major arteries.
More direct NJT lines to NY
I feel the town should perform a traffic study of all streets in town to identify the flow of traffic and the impact to tax paying homeowners. Start with Timber!!!!
Pave the roads. It is a disgrace. Cornell Ave was miraculously paved immediately. Quite telling how Berkeley Heights leadership really works!

Again improve parking situation, more parking space not increase in price, town shuttles in case of cancellations of Gladstone trains that can take commuters to station where they can connect to working trains.

create a light rail down springfield ave