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## Community Conversations Identify Key Issues in County

*Johnson County Residents Share Their Aspirations for their Communities*

**FRANKLIN, Ind. – JUNE 17, 2021** Starting late 2019 and continuing through early 2021, Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance and the Johnson County Public Library conducted nearly 20 community conversations with a variety of Johnson County residents. The just-released final report shows that county residents share common aspirations and a fairly consistent view of the challenges their communities face.

The conversation, utilizing [the Harwood approach](#), began by asking people what kind of community they want to live in. People were guided through a series of questions that helped them share how the issues affect them personally and what actions they believe would help their communities achieve their aspirations.

All comments were captured and reviewed to create a report revealing how residents view their communities. Three important issues facing most Johnson County residents were mentioned repeatedly: housing, transportation and communication with elected leaders.

Davin Kolderup, JCPL Clark Pleasant Branch Manager and one of the coordinators of the conversations stated, "Over the course of the meetings with 160 people, many issues came up, but it was apparent that three specific issues were repeated over and over. Regardless of locale, occupation or community involvement, everyone we talked with had aspirations to make their communities a better place."

The report, [available here](#), provides more details on the findings, quotes from participants and the ten questions asked at each conversation. Amanda Rubadue, Vice President of Economic Development for Aspire said, "We are excited to share the results of 30+ hours of conversations and hope that you find the results inspiring."

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**About the Johnson County Public Library:** JCPL operates four branches in the county. The branches include White River Branch, in western Greenwood, IN, Clark Pleasant Branch, in New Whiteland, IN, Franklin Branch in Franklin, IN and Trafalgar Branch in Trafalgar, IN.

**About Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance:** Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance drives economic development and business success in Johnson County, Indiana and southern Indianapolis. We lead the area's business community by leveraging community development opportunities and providing comprehensive member services for entrepreneurs, small businesses and large corporations.