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CAMPTON HILLS

Residents set some priorities

Water quality, housing density among concerns

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CAMPTON HILLS - Peace. Quiet. And darkness.

They're just three things some residents of Campton Hills ask as their new village decides how it will grow.

About 80 residents got together Tuesday night at Bell-Graham Elementary School, where they set some priorities for growth, alongside staff at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, or CMAP.

Many residents named housing and development density as a chief concern. Also near the top of the list was quality and quantity of water.

The room was divided into several smaller tables and discussions, and CMAP employees guided each table through creating and listing priorities. At the end of the evening, ideas were gathered from across the room and all participants voted, via remote control, for the priorities they felt most strongly about.

Besides housing development and water quality, residents listed retail development; preservation of open space; maintaining the village's rural charm; and preventing "big box" development as priorities.

Campton Hills Plan Commission Chairman Stan Walczynski said he hopes the data gathered from this meeting and others planned with CMAP will help lay the foundation for the village's planning philosophy.

Village trustee Laura Andersen said she came out Tuesday night to listen and to be part of the process. She said the evening confirmed some hunches she had about how residents want Campton Hills to look years from now.

She also noted that being "pro-village" or "anti-village" wasn't part of the discussion. Campton Hills residents have been publicly divided about the very existence of the village since it was incorporated about a year ago.

"That's gratifying to know the healing will happen," said Andersen, who sat at a table, hashing out ideas with six others. "And hopefully, through these conversations, we'll realize we're on the same side of the fence."

CMAP is a publicly funded agency that explores land-use and transportation planning in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties. Before 2005, it was known as two agencies - the Chicago Area Transportation Study and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

Staff at CMAP will organize the data collected in Campton Hills, and they are expected to return to the village in the fall for another meeting. That meeting will further hone the discussion started on Tuesday night.

Residents will have plenty of opportunity to provide feedback, even if they couldn't be at the meeting Tuesday, Walczynski said.