

Notes from 11/19/2025 community conversation, held at the library at 6:30 PM
20 (or so) in attendance

Question 1

What contributes to an informed, resilient, and connected community? In what ways does Tamworth address these qualities?

Connected = Intergenerational interactions. Events where people interact. Collaborations between trusted entities. Good interplay of organizations and nonprofits with the public ("constructive engagement").

Resilient = crisis shelter or refuge? Road closure alerts?

Informed = Tamworth Exchange (who CAN'T participate in the Exchange?) A common bank of knowledge (and educated citizenry) and a common source of information or frame of reference. Multiple viewpoints. Opening meetings to the public; holding open houses.

Question 2

In what ways is Tamworth meeting the community's needs? Not meeting needs?

Informed = Tamworth Exchange and Tamworth taxpayers' Facebook page. Economic Development Commission's booklet. Amy Berrier's Tamworth Today. Fewer current local news sources. Literacy is a concern.

Resilient = when the town is made aware of a crisis, it responds (is harder to know when someone is struggling without a crisis). Town has public assistance and a welfare officer. TCNA is a good point of connection and information about needs. Tamworth Caregivers arranged rides for people but had left a gap in transportation. Tamworth is a special place; has reputation as a "cool" town.

Connected = the town is strong in "third spaces". People WANT to get involved (corollary is burnout). Town has a rich history and really celebrates it. Connections made at storytime. Teenagers need a space to gather. Communication, how to let townspeople know what's going on?

Question 3

How could our library resources - facility, programs, and collections - address these needs in the next five years?

Enhancing the library's use as an emergency gathering space (backup power, kitchenette etc)

Coordinating navigators, connecting people to resources

Coordinating civic news, a single form of communication, who to talk to, what's going on, town-specific news

Coordinating with nonprofits to prevent duplication of efforts

Supporting literacy

More big spaces for gathering

Resources for unhoused people, affordable housing, income support

Offering neighbor-to-neighbor programming

Guidance on AI and its effects/impact

Connected, informed, resilient (Librarians)

- intergenerational interaction
- events where people interact
- place of refuge/shelter
- signing up for alerts, Exchange
- educated citizenry
- Common frame of reference
- Organizations connect to whole community - collaborations
- multiple viewpoints
- opening meetings to public - open houses
- outreach -
- fostering culture of engagement

Qualities - Assets - meeting

- Tamworth Exchange
- Tamworth Taxpayers FB page
- EDC Directory - wealth of info!
- Town responds well to crisis
- TCNA
- Third spaces - community gathering
- people want to be involved
esp. people new to town -

Not meeting needs

- not aware of struggles of neighbors
- teenagers need a place to gather
- transportation
- News - local - same info
- volunteer burnout
- duplication of efforts

needs met

- connecting thru storytime

- "Cool" town - special place -
positive things happening!

- celebrates Tamworth history

- community events

Needs not met

- communication - how org's
let townspeople know what's
going on - how to help, appreci-
ation

- literacy

- teens ↗

most pressing

— transportation

— crime local news

— AI and transformative impact

— bigger meeting spaces

— emergency planning
infrastructure - i.e. generator

— ^{supporting} unhoused residents

— connecting people to resources
space for navigators

— income support

— affordable housing