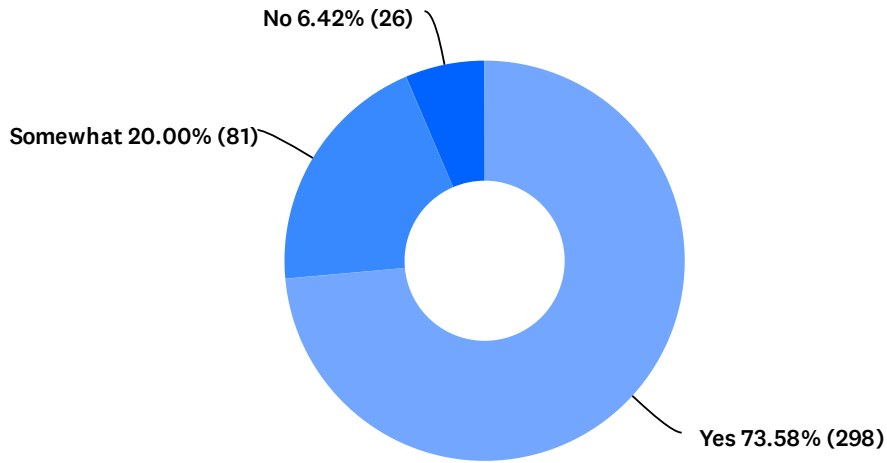


Q1 Are you familiar with the Swift House?

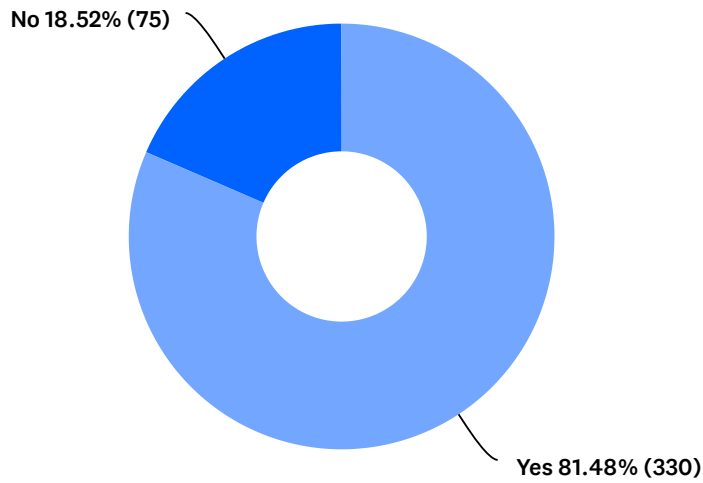
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	73.58%	298
Somewhat	20.00%	81
No	6.42%	26
TOTAL		405

Q2 Did you know the Town of Kent owns the building and land?

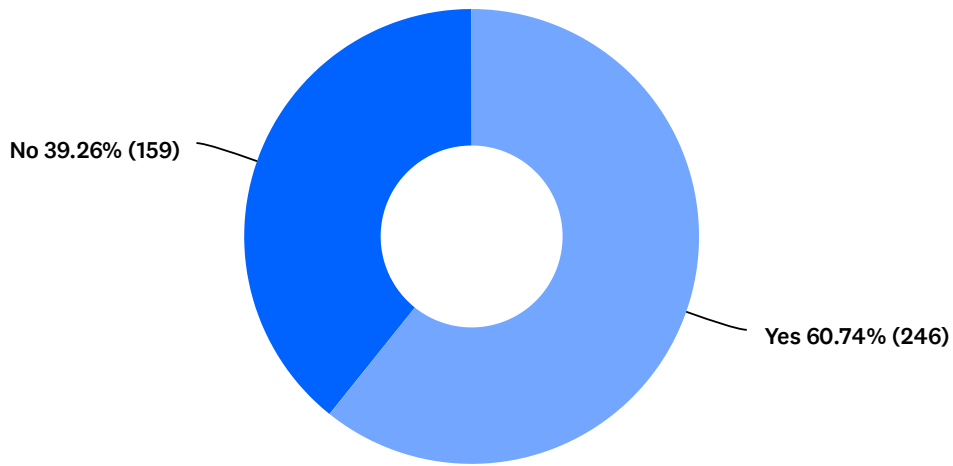
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	81.48%	330
No	18.52%	75
TOTAL		405

Q3 Have you ever been to a meeting or event at Swift House?

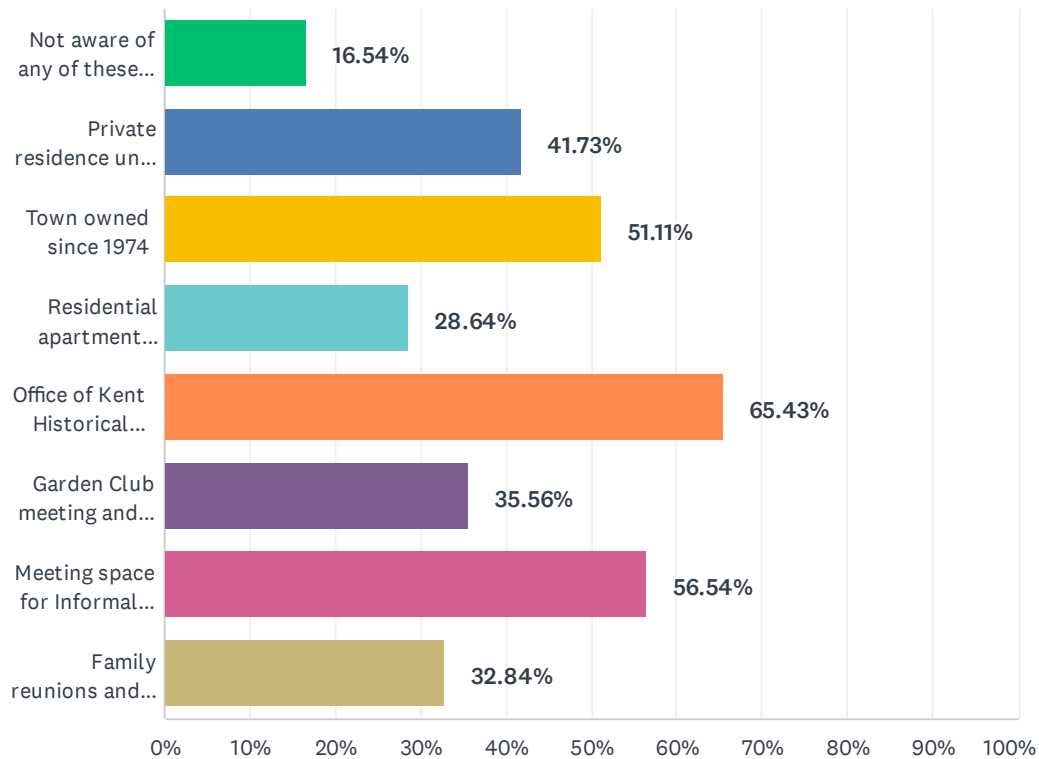
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.74%	246
No	39.26%	159
TOTAL		405

Q4 Are you aware of past uses of the Swift House? Select all that apply.

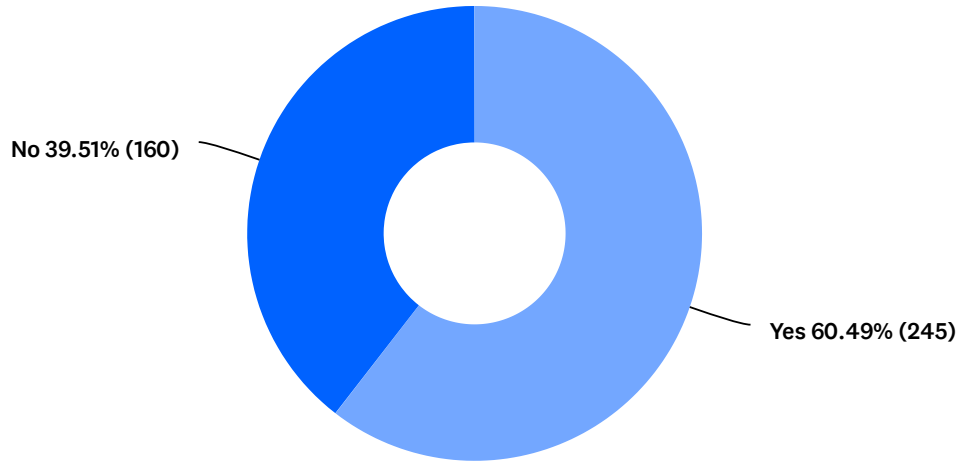
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not aware of any of these uses.	16.54%	67
Private residence until 1974	41.73%	169
Town owned since 1974	51.11%	207
Residential apartment upstairs	28.64%	116
Office of Kent Historical Society, then Chamber of Commerce	65.43%	265
Garden Club meeting and storage space	35.56%	144
Meeting space for Informal Club, Kent Quilters, Republican & Democratic Town Committees; Historical Society lectures, exhibitions & Christmas party; art classes; a meditation group and more.	56.54%	229
Family reunions and other private social gatherings	32.84%	133
Total Respondents: 405		

Q5 Did you know that significant repairs have taken place in the last few years, including repairs to the foundation & chimneys, and a new roof?

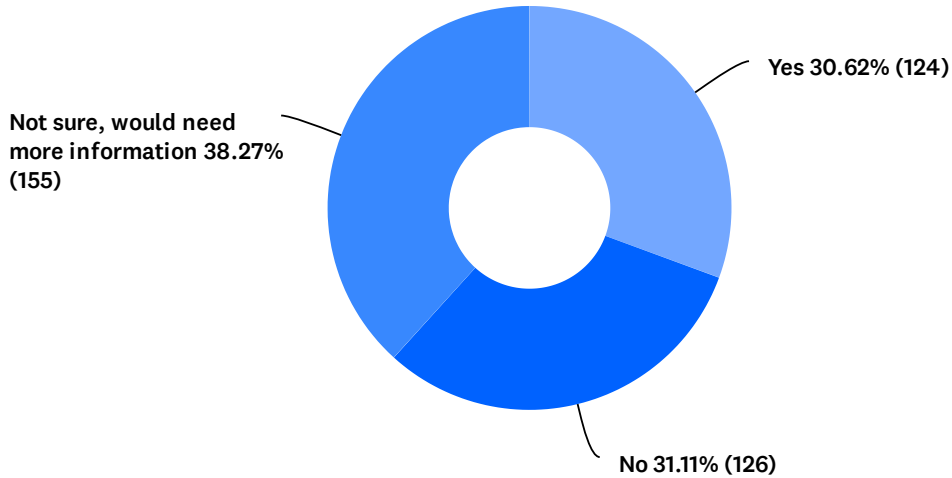
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.49%	245
No	39.51%	160
TOTAL		405

Q6 Do you think the town of Kent has adequate public and private facilities for small & mid-size meetings and events?

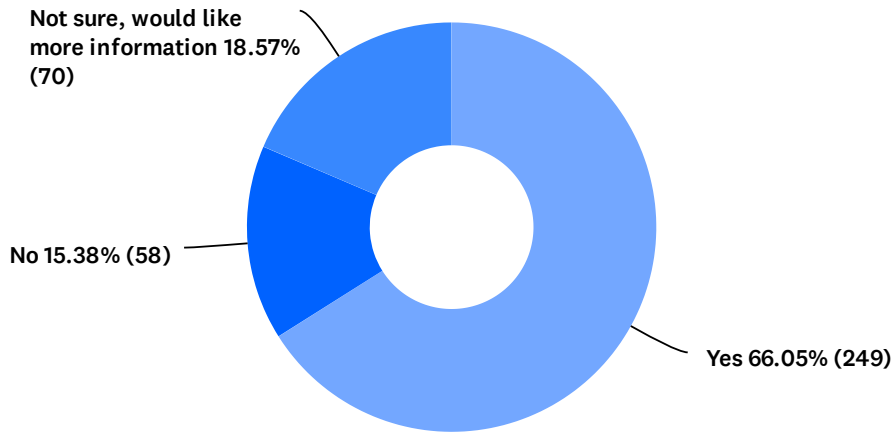
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	30.62%	124
No	31.11%	126
Not sure, would need more information	38.27%	155
TOTAL		405

Q7 Should the town continue to support necessary maintenance and repairs of this historic structure, including ADA accessibility?

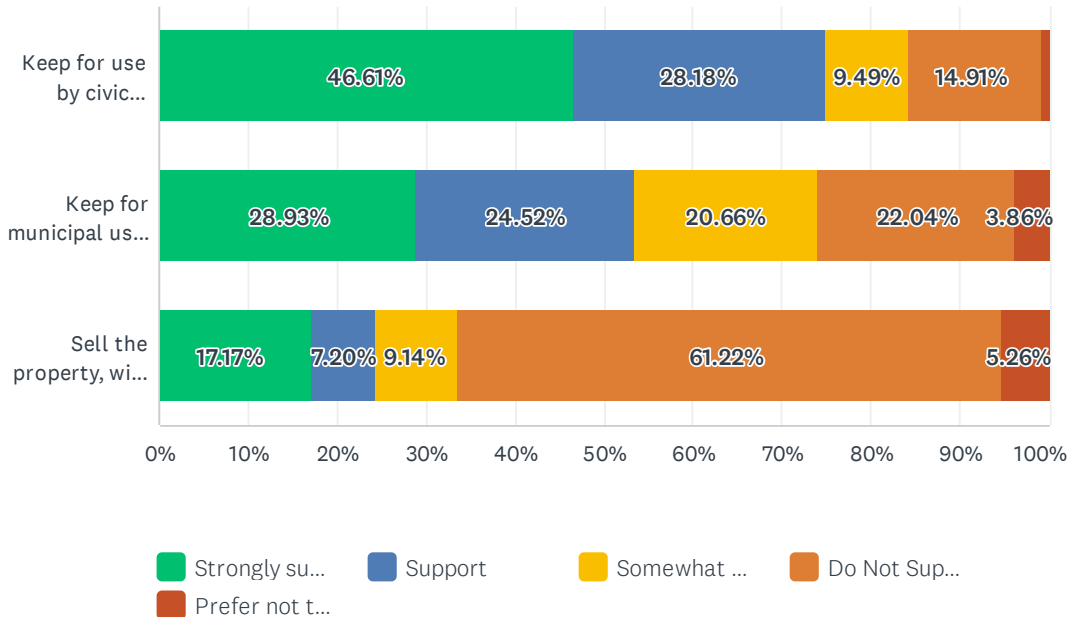
Answered: 377 Skipped: 28



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.05%	249
No	15.38%	58
Not sure, would like more information	18.57%	70
TOTAL		377

Q8 Thinking about possible future use of the Swift House, please rank the following:

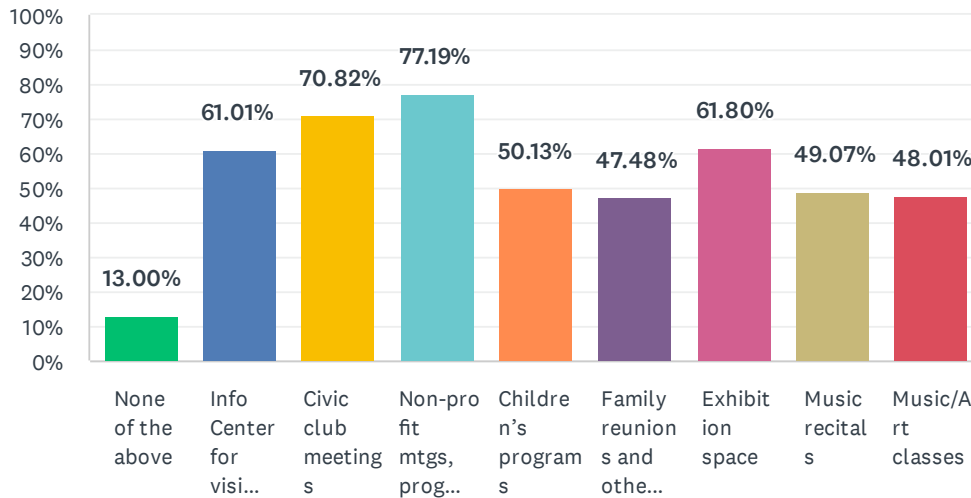
Answered: 377 Skipped: 28



	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	DO NOT SUPPORT	PREFER NOT TO ANSWER	TOTAL
Keep for use by civic organizations and public use.	46.61% 172	28.18% 104	9.49% 35	14.91% 55	0.81% 3	369
Keep for municipal use when needed instead of expanding Town Hall.	28.93% 105	24.52% 89	20.66% 75	22.04% 80	3.86% 14	363
Sell the property, with protective deed restrictions.	17.17% 62	7.20% 26	9.14% 33	61.22% 221	5.26% 19	361

Q9 If the Town decides to keep the building for civic use, what types of use you would like to see at Swift House? Select all that apply.

Answered: 377 Skipped: 28



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	13.00%	49
Info Center for visitors to Kent	61.01%	230
Civic club meetings	70.82%	267
Non-profit mtgs, programs, and fundraisers	77.19%	291
Children's programs	50.13%	189
Family reunions and other private gatherings	47.48%	179
Exhibition space	61.80%	233
Music recitals	49.07%	185
Music/Art classes	48.01%	181
Total Respondents: 377		

2022 SWIFT HOUSE FUTURE USE SURVEY RESULTS

OPEN COMMENT QUESTION RAW DATA

Did we miss anything? Please let us know by adding a comment here.
Possibly rent out the space for income to support the maintenance
The trouble with the previous question is that without really knowing what it will take, just having another meeting space in town may not be worth it.
The town does not need the additional rental space, nor does the town need to be a landlord. The Town should offer the building to affordable housing.
It is an important house to town of Kent. I hope we continue to care for it.
N/a
Donate to a affordable housing or the library.
It's going to cost a fortune to make it ADA compliant and there are far more important things for the Town to support.
Even if the Town spend a lot of money to bring the building up to ADA standards, there is no enough need for the Town to keep it. Sell it.
Top priority use would be to move Social Services to that space and also use for senior center activities. Second priority would be civic uses
The house should be sole. Affordable Housing - the town could use homes more than event space.
sell
Sell it
Live music
The building requires too much work to bring it up to municipal ADA standards to make it fiscally responsible to keep.
Thanks for asking.
In order to better the Town of Kent, use the Swift House!
This building is part of our history. To let it go is to break off part of what made the town.
The Swift house is a valuable town resource that should be utilized and maintained. We have a thriving community and therefore a mid-sized place to gather can and should be a place of community building and fellowship. It is unconscionable that it has not been made accessible to all.
Sell it. We have the Community House. We don't need both and should reduce taxes. Put it back on the tax rolls by selling to a profit making taxpaying entity.
The Town of Kent administration should be focusing on serving the community through services not preserving old buildings.
Not particularly; it's a fabulous community resource, well worth maintaining.

2022 SWIFT HOUSE FUTURE USE SURVEY RESULTS

OPEN COMMENT QUESTION RAW DATA

thanks
If civic groups have meetings or private parties hold events, they should pay a reasonable use and occupancy fee. This would help defray the carrying charges.
The Swift House has been a nice place to gather for Christmas, art shows, fund raising events. It's a comforting
The Swift House is a historical symbol of Kent's history and should be preserved and honored.
Swift House is an important visual element at the entrance to Kent. I wish it was not crowded by the presence of the war memorial and would love to see that moved elsewhere. The absence of a committed maintenance budget to keep this historic building in decent shape has been short-sighted. I am glad that an effort is now being made to change that. The possibility of selling the building with deed restrictions that would preserve Swift House as a museum or restaurant or craft center is not altogether bad, so long as the restrictions were unambiguous. Really Its neglect
no
No, most activities are covered . Are private and governmental historical grants available?
Swift House is an important asset for the Town
Is Kent Town Hall overcrowded?
Please keep it public. Don't sell. It's a town treasure.
It's a beautiful landmark of our town. I'm glad we are considering bringing it back to life.
Keep and maintain the historic buildings in town
Absolutely against the expansion of Town Hall, the space at Town Hall could be much better utilized. Swift House needs some TLC, currently it appears a bit neglected from the curb. If the town keeps it then it should always be active. With an expansion to the Library in the works perhaps Swift House could be sold, with specific deeds of use and absolutely remains a historical landmark. With a private commercial tenant it could become a nice extension of the commercial activity on Main St. Recently I zoomed with a colleague who a coworker who was working from a co-working space that was in a converted old house — maybe that is a promising way to adaptively reuse Swift House. The town could even do this themselves and rent the office spaces. It could become a mix of meeting rooms and offices, ppl from town could rent the meeting rooms.
Maybe let the building generate income for the town by renovating it into a town run space for all the visitors who'd like a place to stay? Not a crazy, fancy place. Just a clean, safe place to stay the night.
It's a wonderful old house with an interesting history. We should cherish it.
Towns that get rid of their history and historic landmarks tend to regret it. Once gone, always lost.
I've lived in town for 18 years and never knew the space could be used for events. It would be nice if the town made this well known public knowledge. Such a cool historic building for small gatherings. I had family that lived there back in the early 1900's. I would love to see it cared for and used.
Dollars amounts better spent on expanding and improving Town Hall.
An important community asset that should be preserved.
I think it should be a historical store run by the Kent Historical Society - selling old original things, soaps, candles, old photos, rugs, historical books, t-shirts, hats, handmade crafts etc. and also educate folks on the history of Kent. Many towns have this type of use for this building. It is a wonderful building and should be used to promote the historical significance of Kent, CT. People need to be educated about the history of Kent so they will hopefully appreciate it and want to preserve it for the future.
It should become affordable housing.
Need more info on cost to renovate. Ridiculous to compare repairing & maintaining against expansion of town hall. Apples to oranges. Town spent thousands on Community House, use that space.

2022 SWIFT HOUSE FUTURE USE SURVEY RESULTS

OPEN COMMENT QUESTION RAW DATA

We need more residential property downtown
Affordable Housing units?
Visitor Center with public bathrooms and vending machines
Why can't the lovely apartment upstairs be brought to code and the rental income be used to help support the building? Historical societies around the country have offered housing to young couples with restoration skills who maintain the building in exchange for reduced or no rent. The apartment could easily be for two people. Some have contracts such as no rent in exchange for 15 hours of labor per week. Perhaps this is too complex with municipal ownership and would be better arranged by a non-profit.
More information about the implications of using this for different purposes would have been helpful. For example, if we use it for additional town hall space in lieu of expanding the current town hall, would there be savings involved here? Also, there is a current community center/hall that seems to be in disrepair. More information on plans for that would be helpful when considering options for Swift House. Also: more information would be useful about the 'sell with deed restrictions' option. Might this be the highest and best use for Swift House if funds can be used for other public spaces while retaining some deed restrictions for the new purchaser?
What I thought was missing was information describing the disrepair and infestation that has been allowed to happen through failed disregard for the structure. I would love to see it restored but it will need a fairy godmother. This piece of information should have been included before tempting the emotional heartstrings.
Strongly support the use of The Swift House by The Chamber of Commerce.
It is time to take this building off the towns balance sheet. The money needed for its continued use could be much better spent in other areas of town- recreational facilities, community house upgrades, protecting our school with a resource officer, development of new facilities to house the above mentioned groups and clubs, and town hall expansion if needed.
Judging from the questions I receive at the book sale, new visitors to the town don't know all that is available to them. I think that Swift House, just as visitors arrive in the town, could provide information both about the background of the town and the current facilities we have, perhaps with a permanent exhibit that would not infringe upon the charming historic nature of the main room. This information center would involve a team to answer questions etc, but they would "be the face of Kent". The only difficulty I see is the lack of parking space directly around the building, and I would hate to have the yard around the house turned into a parking lot.
In lieu of selling the property, I would like to see it gifted to the Kent Historical Society, again with deed restrictions.
It is hard to answer the questions about maintaining v. selling without some probable cost information. It is also hard to say what uses would be appropriate without an understanding of the requirements and retrofit costs for the intended uses. I would not have been able to answer the history questions without first having read the provided history. Thanks to the Task Force for all of your efforts!
I worry that the town does not have the money to take care of the house and that it will fall farther into

2022 SWIFT HOUSE FUTURE USE SURVEY RESULTS

OPEN COMMENT QUESTION RAW DATA

<p>The town should improve the Swift House to make it more attractive for both public and private use. The current town hall does not need to be expanded! The swift house could become more offices for town hall staff if it was renovated carefully. No one uses the Town Hall at all it seems expect the staff . It s a shame The current first selectman and the previous selectman do not seem to think the Town Hall should be opened to the public who paid for it! For example in the recent heat wave the library was used as a "cooling center" This makes no sense at all. Our town has a very poor record of owning and acquiring property. We basically own nothing much and the town leaders do nothing to plan or appropriate funds for acquisitions. The perfect example is the parcel North of Town (12 acres) that was sold so cheap (\$360k) and the town could have used it for playing fields or a community barn not 12 houses that the developers hope to sell for nearly a million dollars each! The same goes for the land next to the town hall that is for sale. Why doesn't the town buy it? There needs to be a acquisition community formed to be watch dogs for future town investments because our leaders don't think it is a priority! This will soon bite us back. Keep the Swift house. Preserve it and use it sensibly!</p>
<p>The Task Force might consider recommending that Swift House be deeded to the Kent Memorial Library to program activities and manage, which they do well, since there's no one currently on the Town's staff that seems interested or capable of effectively promoting its use. It would also be better for the Library not to have to raise as much money for such a large proposed expansion, duplicating space that's already available at Swift House. KLM would probably also take better care of Swift House than the Town has done historically, which seems to be dependent on who's in office and whether private citizens at any given time are urging the Town to be more responsible about the building's needs .</p>
<p>I don't think keeping the building is worth the expense of upkeep. I think it should be sold.</p>
<p>This is an important historic house that should not fall into private hands. The Town of Kent has changed so much already and not for the better. I miss the hometown feel.</p>
<p>I personally feel that it is important to maintain our past.</p>
<p>I think it is VERY important that the town retain ownership of the Swift House. It is a valuable location that</p>
<p>A vital asset for our town.</p>
<p>Do not sell Swift House. The only person or group that will buy swift house with a gas station on one side, monument in front yard and fire department on side is a sober house and we have enough of them in our town as it is.</p>
<p>Are there times when the public is invited to tour the building, or is Swift House not set up for that?</p>
<p>Pop up shop of crafts during check in fir champagne stroll ect.</p>
<p>As long as the town owns the Swift House, it should be responsible for maintaining and repairing the structure. While accessibility is a wonderful goal, in order to be ADA compliant, nothing has to be done unless there is a change in use. If the town is planning to keep the building and use it as it has been used in the past, nothing has to change in order to reopen the building. Should the town make the building accessible? Absolutely. Does it have to happen before reopening the building to be used in the same way as it has been since the 1970s? No. Open the Swift House. Let residents have their meetings and parties there. This nonsense has gone on long enough. Question #7 is a problem because upkeep and ADA compliance are two separate issues. As for question 8, I can support the first two provided the town actually takes care of the Swift House; otherwise, sell it with restrictions</p>
<p>A mutual visitors center for all non-profits in Kent. A good way to learn about what Kent has to offer in one place that would be useful for tourists and prospective residence. For example, being central, people can learn about what the town has to offer, Kent Historical Society is out of Kent but a center could direct visitors. Same with Sloane Museum, State Parks and Antique Machinery Center.</p>

2022 SWIFT HOUSE FUTURE USE SURVEY RESULTS

OPEN COMMENT QUESTION RAW DATA

The survey does not mentioned that the Veterans Monuments are located at this location. As the Chairman of the Veteveterans committee & original member since 2007, we could not find a location on town property that was suitable suitable for the monuments. This location was our only choice.
Kent has already lost too many historic buildings, especially on North Main Street. To risk the loss of this historic house would be a travesty.
It is part of Kent History and deserves to be maintained and at the same time it will be very useful.
The Swift House is an essential piece of Kent history. Tourists love this "quaint" town and a facility such as the Swift House can add to this perception.
think you covered it all....it is an important part of Kent history that needs to be maintained
No. You didn't miss anything. I support maintaining a public building and making it as flexibly useful as possible. Why build more space (expand town hall?) when re-purposing existing space is an option? That's a gentle and sustainable solution.
n/a
Open for tours for residents and visitors to town, at least on special holiday weekends or on a monthly basis.
Why not use for town hall staff instead of considering expanding facilities for the town staff?
No. Sell the building.
Residents should have a game night there weekly like bingo and cribbage and chess.
No
The first house in Kent is Historically significant and should be used as a museum/ public use space.
Self help group meeting place. Book group meeting place. Art shows for local art. Craft shows. Birthday gathering.
No
Teenage programs, meetings, partys.
SeSell this building. It is past it's useful life in today's world. The last renovation was just an expensive band aid. It would be very costly to renovate to today's codes. Get KVFD to give up the ambulance barn next door(they don't need it) and sell both buildings.
It NEEDS to an AFFORDABLE rent for private use! Although it would not be a way for the tax payers to recoup the cost of owning the building other area towns have found a way for the residents to rent space at a reasonable rate. Kent is not made up of only people who are in a good financial situation to enjoy what our town offers.
Rent the apartment to a couple at a reasonable rate for 3 years..appoint one selectman as the housing commissioner.

2022 SWIFT HOUSE FUTURE USE SURVEY RESULTS

OPEN COMMENT QUESTION RAW DATA

More information about structural integrity of current building and cost involved for any repairs would be helpful prior to answering questions about future use. Another town in Litchfield County went through something similar only to find financially it was prohibitive to do the necessary updates which made the whole survey a mute issue.
Would need to know cost of renovations to answer properly and why we are talking about expanding Town Hall and why we renovated The Community House which is rarely used
Would be nice for residents to be able to access occasionally le have it open once per month for visitors.
Historical museum
Would like to see Kent Historical Society presence there to welcome visitors and tell them more about Kent.
Whatever the survey results reveal, something has to be done to restore this house of historical significance. In its current state it just looks neglected. If town is to sell, it could become a residential property in a time of serious housing shortage. If town is to keep, major investments become necessary. I suggest to talk to the Kent Barns for good advice on how to revive the place. (I'm unaffiliated)
There is no parking there and to make the building ADA compliant for public use would be a huge cost to the tax payers of Kent. Kent is mainly a geriatric town making the Swift House difficult to use for many residents. The changes the building would endure to make it ADA compliant or turned into a residence would certainly alter its historic significance.
How much does it cost the town to maintain the building? How much would it sell for (with restrictive covenants to keep most of the historic character)?
Swift House is important part of the history of Kent with unique character It is important to continue to preserve its buildings I think the building gets visually overwhelmed by being right next to the gas station so any additional natural buffer between the 2 lots should be encouraged
This will be a continuous money pit for the town to maintain unless an upstairs rental apartment could be included to offset upkeep costs. If restored and kept a rental fee should be implemented for usage.
Leave it along..stop trying to get rid of the towns history!
All good.
The building should be used and available to the town.
Restore it to perfection and keep a regimented maintenance program . You can never have another one . Ask for donations, get it up "working and earning" everyday Best Chuck Morgan Morganbuilt Warren Ct

2022 SWIFT HOUSE FUTURE USE SURVEY RESULTS

OPEN COMMENT QUESTION RAW DATA

I just feel that the town should treasure the "vintage" homes of Kent. History is so important and if we (the Town) let them go, our children will never know what came before them. That would be a mistake. I've lived here for over 50 years and my husband for over 77 years. It would be a shame if our past is forgotten.
I think the house should be sold with restrictions to keep as original as possible. The town does not need this building and has been a poor caretaker.
I don't think we have enough information in terms of how much it will cost the town to do upkeep. I would use it for as many purposes as possible, especially fundraisers, events, meetings, classes, etc.
Would love additional event space in Kent. It can be all and any of those things listed on previous page. Interested in visiting to identify other potential uses.
It should be a museum.
Specific \$\$ amounts necessary to achieve any stated goals!
Work/writing space for local artists, like a residency.
The Town desperately needs affordable housing, and at least two apartments could be created in Swift House, along with space for the small meetings described. That would also lead to public funding that could update the building much more effectively than the small budget the town can afford for "band aid" repairs--that would include good insulation, safe entry and stairs, efficient heating and cooling, energy saving appliances and solar panels. The building has long been underused, and patching it up for occasional meetings would not be the best use.
There are a lot of places that fill the niche for the uses proposed for the Swift House - the Kent Community House, the churches, the town hall. Selling it with some restrictions to preserve the exterior appearance would seem to make the most sense.
The Historical Society should be there! It's a great historic building.
No - it's all there
No
The Swift House has not proven to be needed by Kent organizations and should be sold. The Town should seek National Historical designation if necessary but should face the reality that the Swift House is no longer of use to the Town due to cost of repairs, upkeep, and lack of usage. If the Town needs to expand its government or civic facilities, the Kent Center School should be looked at for functions, especially Parks and Rec type offices/activities.
This is an important space for the town to own. It is close to the Veteran's monument, Templeton Farms, and the center of Kent. Once it is sold, it is lost forever. It is a cozy space, just right for small meetings and gatherings. It is part of the heritage of the town and needs to be preserved.

2022 SWIFT HOUSE FUTURE USE SURVEY RESULTS

OPEN COMMENT QUESTION RAW DATA

N/a
The building needs massive renovation, including the kitchen. I'm surprised the health department allows people into the building.
Is there a way to allow small / just-getting-started groups and committees to use SH as a home base? A place to have meetings + keep some files + share some office equipment and other capital items? I'd really like to see SH, given its prominent location, 'headline' Kent for visitors. I think town hall and the welcome center are a bit hard to find. Finally, SH's prominence and history are, I feel, both too important to allow it to be sold into private hands.
Get local private school or non-profit involved in the Swift House's destiny. Sell to group such as the Kent Land Trust for a token for them to administer. Usage: workshops, lectures, outdoor fund-raising events. Look for local philanthropic donor with deep pockets for rescue. Once a viable owner is found explore grant opportunities. Creative solutions need to be explored. I do not see the fate of the Swift House happening through a town rescue attempt nor something that garnishes it's time period. Although some preservation group might have an interest in it's architecture. I believe it the Georgian type. A few thoughts.
Space is precious. Keep it.
No
No
Pretty thorough, thanks
Would like to see this managed by the Kent Historical Society with support from the town. It's time we start to protect what is left of our historic buildings.
No
The town should take over the ambulance barn and create a true town/civic/welcome center. Any town civic group should have an office and use the space if they wish. Grounds could be perfect for events and barn could be used as well. Think big.
The town should definitely retain and improve this valuable asset. It is a long-neglected town treasure which is a direct connection to our distant past. It is an important asset which housed people who participated in Kent's beginning. We are lucky to have it still. We have an obligation to preserve it, and as a community, we can afford it. The town should bring the Swift House into compliance with ADA and fire safety codes so that it can once again serve all members of our community and its visitors. To let it slip away would be a crime. Restored, furnished and with proper stewardship, the Swift House will become a popular venue for public and private events.
No
I strongly support the continued ownership and use of the Swift house by the town and community. However, only if the house is restored and renovated. The musty, mildew smell must be eliminated, the kitchen and bathroom updated, fresh paint and the furniture freshened up. I love period furnishings and historic structures, but as a place to spend several hours in and eat in...the Swift House needs work. I hope my words have not upset anyone. Much thanks to all who work so hard to preserve this historical building.

2022 SWIFT HOUSE FUTURE USE SURVEY RESULTS

OPEN COMMENT QUESTION RAW DATA

it's a beautiful building and can be used for so many opportunities. I would love to use it for a music venue rental
If the town keeps it, I'd like to see the town spend significant money renovating/restoring/remediating. It would be wonderful to see the town use the building for all the purposes listed. If the town decides to sell, I'd consider feeding it to the historical society with an annual stipend from the town to help with upkeep.
What about including it as part of a historical society thereby maintaining its historical significance? My main concern is that it is properly maintained and doesn't become another downtown Kent eye sore.
The house is a burden with respect to maintenance and energy use. To me it makes sense to sell the property. If needed, the Town could expand Town Hall to make up for the lost space. This would keep Town events more centralized and would be more energy efficient and would reduce maintenance costs.
It needs more help than the town has resources
The town owns very little real estate. We should not sell what little we have. A teen center or teen night a couple times a month would be another idea for use.
When is Swyft House open? Is it possible to tour / understand what it is?
Keep up the good work.
Why does the town want to maintain and own an old building?
Coworking community space
I think it is important to preserve our history and to not become too "business-orientated".
We need a shelter space with kitchen and generator. Currently not aware of one space that has it all under one roof. Where is parks and Rec located currently? Perhaps it should be located/moved to swyft house. Bridge classes etc here vs senior center yes! Why not move concerts to that area where it's close to town and passers by will enjoy it! Local businesses will benefit by that too as folks will want to eat local etc
What's it cost? Who's interested in using it? Do we need the money from selling it? Totally not enough info here or in your History Of link to justify any opinions. Also, if your answer choices don't include my answer, I should be allowed to skip a question instead of lying, so your survey is just poor.
The funding needed to renovate and keep this building a town asset far out ways the use. It is time to dispose of it and allow a private entity to restore it to its former glory. There are far too many projects needing this funding in town.
No
Either renovate so it can be used or sell it.

2022 SWIFT HOUSE FUTURE USE SURVEY RESULTS

OPEN COMMENT QUESTION RAW DATA

The idea of vibrant community centers is v much on the agenda for towns that hope to support programs for growth, safety, and most of all - connection!if it's citizens. But it's not simply a building. It's a real commitment to developing insight about how a community might best share resources, space, direction, knowledge and comfort. And - if I wasn't aware this marvelous building was available for events or gatherings - I'm sure I'm not alone.
I am not categorically opposed to private ownership of the building, but the town seems generally overbuilt when it comes to retail space (which seems like the most likely use, given its location) and short on community/public space, so I think it makes more sense to maintain its civic purpose. If offering it for private rentals would help defray maintenance costs, that strikes me as a good idea.
Please keep Swift House town owned. It's an integral part of the community and the insurance issues need to be worked out so that small groups can use it.
O
N/A
Make apartments out of the building