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As a teenager, I look for two things in a town center: activity and accessibility.

Teens are looking for a place where they can spend the day with their friends. Currently, our town center provides a plethora of restaurants but lacks the activities that make a one hour stay into a three or four hour visit. For example, Blue Back Square contains a variety of restaurants as well as a movie theater and a bookstore. This combination is why Blue Back is so popular among teens. However, many teenagers do not want to travel that far for a full town center experience. I believe that we can bring the draw of Blue Back Square to Glastonbury's town center while maintaining its small town charm. There is much construction activity in the town center but most of the new buildings put up are small and narrow due to available space. This is why I think a two-lane bowling alley or a one-theater movie theater would greatly benefit Glastonbury's town center. Businesses that provide activities should be encouraged to move into the newly developed lots.

I feel that increasing accessibility to the services of the town center will also increase the number of teens who visit. First and foremost, as new drivers, teenagers are constantly concerned with the difficulty of driving places and the availability of parking. Currently, I find our town center to be alarming to drive through because of the traffic and lack of larger parking lots. The tight, separated lots near each plaza are a source of anxiety for new drivers like me. This is why teenagers do not mind parking a bit farther away if it means a less stressful parking lot. I know there has been talk of making the town center "more walkable" to encourage people to park their cars and walk around for the rest of the evening. I believe this idea will benefit teenagers as well. For those that do drive, parking in a safe, large parking lot will decrease stress and for those who cannot drive, a more walkable town center will be more enjoyable.

To make Glastonbury's center more walkable, more footpaths and greenspace should be added. If the majority of parking spaces was moved outside the center, the parking lots could be turned into a small grassy park. Currently, the one small park, known to teens as "the fountain" is very popular but often times is too small. More greenspace will increase the appeal of the center. Even if this large change is not possible, the disconnected parking lots should at least be connected by paths to allow easier flow from restaurants to shops and vice versa.

I recognize that some of these ideas may not be feasible considering budget and town zoning limitations but I feel that increasing the activity and accessibility of the center would attract more teenagers to Glastonbury's town center.