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Communities urged to get involved in greater Thetford growth

A new group set up to make sure residents have their say on future plans for greater Thetford's growth held its first meeting this week.

Made up of representatives from local town and parish councils and the community – The Greater Thetford Development Partnership (GTDP) Community Sub-Group will support the main GTDP Board with community initiatives, consultation and engagement.

Meetings of the Sub-Group, which came together for the first time on Monday 12 September at the Charles Burrell Centre in Thetford, are all open to the public – who are welcome to contribute their views and ask questions.

At the meeting, the Sub-Group approved its Terms of Reference, with the overall aim:

'To ensure that the forthcoming development in and around Thetford is carried out in a sympathetic manner, and in the best possible way for the current and future residents, businesses, and visitors; and also to ensure full transparency and community engagement as the plans are developed and implemented.'

Robert Whittaker was elected Chair of the Sub-Group, with Corinne Fulford as Vice-Chair. Andy Cruse was elected as the Sub-Group's representative on the GTDP Projects & Planning Sub-Group.

Most of the meeting was then spent discussing communication and public engagement, which the Sub-Group recognises as being very important. Highlights from the discussion include:

- Members of the Sub-Group will meet with Breckland Council's web team to discuss improvements to the web presence of the GTDP Board and its three Sub-Groups.
- In response to feedback, the Sub-Group will try to hold its meetings in the evening (rather than during the day) in order that more members of the public might be able to attend.



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- The Sub-Group will ask the GTDP Board to ensure that its papers and minutes are published in timely manner to allow better public scrutiny, and that non-confidential summaries are made available to the public for any confidential items.

The next meeting of the Sub-Group is yet to be arranged, but it is expected to take place shortly before the next full GTDP Board meeting on 21st October. Further information about the meeting and how members of the public can get involved will be released in due course.

- ENDS -

Editors' notes:

1. The Greater Thetford Development Partnership (GTDP) is an advisory body comprising representatives from local government, local businesses, housing organisations and other partners. The GTDP Board's key aim is to work together to coordinate plans for the growth of the greater Thetford area. Further information can be found online at <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/gtdp>
2. The GTDP Community Sub-Group comprises one representative each from the parish and town councils, and four independent community representatives selected through an open application process. The current council representatives are: Roy Brame (Thetford Town Council), Christine Carr (Croxtan Parish Council), and Rae Herries (Brettenham & Kilverstone Parish Council). The four community representatives are Andy Cruse, Corinne Fulford, Diana Goucher, and Robert Whittaker.
3. The GTDP also has two other Sub-Groups: 'Projects & Planning', and 'Inward Investment'. The Chairman of each Sub-Group sits on the main GTDP Board at their bi-monthly meetings.
4. The GTDP and its Sub-Groups are independent bodies, but administrative support is provided by Breckland District Council.

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