

Meeting Summary
Chatham County Economic Development Community Meeting

Central Carolina Community College
Pittsboro, NC
6:30-8:00 pm
July 18, 2007

6:30 Introduction/ Greetings

6:40 Overview of ED Plan
(PowerPoint Presentation)

7:00 Public Input: What types of jobs or businesses would you most like to see in your community?
(Feedback was solicited from attendees and written on a flip chart at the front of the room. The attendee feedback is detailed in the table below.)

7:15 Rank Jobs and Businesses
(Attendees were asked to place blue stickers next to desirable businesses/ jobs, and red stickers next to businesses/ jobs they would not like in Chatham.)

Jobs/ Businesses	# of Blue Dots (priority)	# of Red Dots (do not want)
Restaurants and Entertainment	22	7
Ancillary businesses to RTP	17	1
Agriculturally based business/ sustainable and value-added	16	6
Locally owned retail	14	2
Recreational facility for kids (Celebration Station)	13	
Small farms to meet local needs	12	3
Performing Arts center	10	1
UNC Facilities	8	
Suppliers to existing regional businesses	7	
Arts based businesses	7	
High-tech	7	2
TV/ Film	6	
Culinary institute and businesses	6	
Small hotels/ B&Bs	6	1
Non-residential development	4	
Tourism & Recreation	3	
Publishing	2	
Think-tank	2	
Server Farms	2	
State and Federal Offices	2	5

Historic based business	1	
Training and education centers		
Business Assistance		

7:20 BREAK

7:25 Breakout sessions- Public Input

(The room was divided into 3 groups and each group was asked to answer the series of questions detailed below.)

Are there any additional jobs/ businesses you would like to see in Chatham?

- Businesses that would locate in RTP
- Solar/renewable energy
- R&D
- SAS satellite office
- More developments like Pittsboro Place
- Less developments like Pittsboro Place
- Home-based businesses
- Manufacturing that produces minimal pollution
- Recreation
- Alternative energy cluster

What changes need to happen related to Economic Development to create these jobs or businesses?

- Community College based job training
- Education and training for coming jobs
- Progressive Town government, countywide
- More outreach and citizen education about shopping locally
- Forward thinking infrastructure using the latest renewable energy technology
- More focus on Pittsboro: a link between town and 15-501; downtown preservation and infill development; focus on central business district
- Aesthetic quality to downtown street-front retail development.
- Need improved parking and walkability downtown
- Public transportation
- Greenways and bike trails
- Schools- more of them and improve the quality of existing ones
- Small business assistance
- Viable businesses in downtown- alternatives to big box stores, i.e., small bookstore, coffee shop, etc.
- Hold on to local development values to shape future development.
- Water and Sewer: Pittsboro and Chatham, allocate to residential development
- Better communication about existing resources

- Limit incentives- focus on promotion of existing services
- Diverse approach- don't just target 2 or 3 industries
- Build workforce and education skills
- Affordable/ Workforce Housing
- Discourage industries that rely on undocumented workers
- Increase desirability with improved convenience to services, restaurants, and schools
- Self-sustaining bedroom communities
- Broadband throughout county
- More sustainable agriculture
- Support for agriculture, post-training high cost of land
- Zoning throughout county- use Land Use Plan
- Support local businesses
- Incubators for arts/ performing arts
- Spruce up image of downtown Pittsboro
- Cultural Center
- Fewer large, high water consumption industries
- Entrepreneurship support, including money
- Need industrial jobs
- More money for recreation- eco-tourism (low-impact, such as hiking trails, etc.)

What do you most like, or want to preserve in your community?

- Maintain small town feel and charm
- Community interaction
- Walkability
- Character around rural sustainable agriculture
- Avoid pricing out of locals
- Open space
- Lack of landfills/dumps
- Small businesses
- Farming, Music and Art community
- Preserve the town center, as well as connectivity and accessibility
- Reasonable scales of development
- Landscape
- Quality of life
- Horseback riding
- Low Crime
- No traffic jams
- Counter-cultural feel
- Agricultural land for farming
- Transfer Development Rights/Purchase Development Rights

7:45 Breakout Reporting and Discussion

8:00 Closing

NOTE: Approximately 80 people in attendance.