

## Context of the Urban Area

# ¡Welcome to DecisionHood!



You have been invited to the annual urban planning meeting at Decisionhood! the neighbourhood where community participation as well as their successful decision-making method has been crucial for the urban development of the place.

Decisionhood stands out for its magnificent landscape value due to its proximity to the mountains. On the other hand, the presence of various public parks that hold an important range of biodiversity have become an important element not only for the ecological value of the urban area but for the social dynamics of the residents. However, these green areas are disconnected among each other, risking ecological continuity and consequently, impacting the adaptation capacity of species and affecting the resilience of the ecosystem. The environmental authorities believe this should be the main focus of the local government in order to guarantee the protection of the ecological value as well as the access to all residents to a high quality natural environment.

Lately, the residents have expressed their concern due to the rising temperatures, specially during summertime, exposing the area to critical heatwaves. Therefore, the energy consumption during this season increases considerably due to the high use of air conditioning. The existing energy infrastructure is not enough to cover efficiently the energy demand during this season resulting in blackouts that can last for several hours.

On the other hand, rainfall has been distributed unevenly throughout the year arriving unexpectedly with great intensity and for indeterminate periods, causing occasional overflows of the river that crosses the urban area and exceeding the capacity of the area's drainage infrastructure.

Moreover, immigrant families have recently arrived to the neighborhood. While they settle up in the area, some of them have been struggling to find a stable job that allows them to access to quality housing even though investors have been developing new housing projects in the neighbourhood.

Residents have also complained about traffic not only because of the high noise it generates in the residential areas during peak hours affecting the quality of life, but also because of the difficulty of leaving and entering the urban area in their private car. When trying to use other means of transportation to avoid traffic jams, they have realized that in the neighborhood there is no safe infrastructure to use other alternative mobility methods such as bicycles. Moreover, even though the transportation authorities have expressed their interest in providing public transport services for the area, there still is not service in the neighbourhood. On the other hand, developers have seen the lack of mobility alternatives as an opportunity to introduce private sharing mobility companies, however, the local government is not very supportive as they would like to develop their own sharing services.

Finally, some the locals and businesses in the area have complained that the solid waste collection points are not easy to reach as there are not enough collection stations in the neighbourhood forcing them to travel uncomfortable distances to dispose of waste. The environmental authorities have also stressed this issue as the existing collection points do not comply with recycling standards.

*Come be a part of their annual meeting where the outcome will be an action plan that takes into account not only the opinion of all parties involved but the economic viability and efficiency of the solutions proposed in order to work towards the sustainable development of Decisionhood!*