



# Halswell Community Project

Halswell Community Project Baseline  
Feb 2014



# Halswell

## A Community that cares.



This report for the Halswell Community Project will form a baseline report outlining our Community Outcomes for Halswell. It will be the first in a series of reports identifying the Projects' progress on the areas identified in the 2014 Strategic Plan.

The Halswell Community Project began as a small group of volunteers interested in promoting Halswell and Halswell clubs, groups, activities and businesses to Halswell Residents and residents of surrounding areas.

The Community Project aims to work with people living in the Halswell area to provide a wide range of activities and services focused on empowering and strengthening the community.

The vision is to develop a strong sense of community in Halswell and help residents, old and new to get to know each other better and to make Halswell a lively and interesting place to live, work and play.

HCP has its own projects but also works with other groups and organizations to benefit the community. It participates in various events and is represented at inter-agency meetings within (?Riccarton/Wigram and Spreydon/Heathcote wards)

As a group, we have identified three key areas of focus and under each further identified areas of outcome we can identify and measure within our community.

These three Key Areas are:

- Relationships.
- A great Physical Environment
- Health and Wellbeing

All of the outcomes have been significantly impacted by the rapid population growth in the region following the Earthquakes.

Community Outcomes will help us to:

- work together to agree what is important or special for Halswell, now and in the future
- say who and what could help us
- say what progress we are making
- agree to keep or change priorities.

## **Key Area 1 – Relationships.**

With 45.1% of the areas population aged between 35 and 64 years, there is a larger proportion of people this age than Christchurch City (38.7%)and New Zealand (39.2%). Additionally there is a slightly higher proportion of children aged under 15 (22%) than wider Christchurch (18.8%), although similar to New Zealand (21.5%). The proportion of population aged 65 and over (11%) is slightly lower when compared with that of Christchurch City (13.5%) and New Zealand (12.3%). (source: Christchurch City Council Community Profile)

Making Halswell a safe place to live, access to a wide range of recreational activities and having a strong sense of connection to the local community are important aspects of a strong community.

The population growth following the earthquakes provides both opportunities and threats to a connected community. People enjoy being around other people and even in big cities, the best neighbourhoods feel like villages. With no central hub Halswell lacks a central meeting place which means neighbourhoods are developing around new building and subdivisions rather than the traditional centre.

### **Community Outcomes:**

1. People have a sense of connection to and participate in their community
  - People have strong social networks
  - People have access to the information and skills to enable them to participate in their community
  - People are actively involved in their community/neighbourhood and local issues
  - People are aware of local businesses and organisations and make more use of them
  - Services are available locally
2. People participate in a wide range of recreational activities
  - People have access to parks, open spaces, recreation facilities and libraries
  - Increase in participation in local activities and events

### **What do we already do?**

Maintain and develop the Halswell community website and monthly e-newsletter to let people know what is going on around Halswell.

Run Swap-a events where people bring fruit, veges, plants, baking, clothes or anything else to swap with others in the local community.

Run a market – 4 over the summer of 2013/2014

Along with the Residents Association we are developing the idea of forming a local Business network or association

Support the Halswell Liaison group and meetings

**What would we like to do?**

Neighbourhood events and activities

Local film nights

Community arts events

Community garden

Community fix-it events

Multicultural events – Waitangi market/celebration

Improve youth facilities in the area

Run Holiday programmes/after school programmes for local children

Assist older adults – especially those with limited mobility and income

Support the Halswell Community Hall

Develop Welcome packs for new residents and encourage neighbours to distribute to people moving into their area.

**How will we measure these outcomes?**

Number of people attending local events

Number of volunteers participating in event/activities

Number of people using/visiting the website, facebook page,

Number of local businesses advertising on website and in directory

**Who we will work with:**

Our partners will include, but are not limited to,

Christchurch City Council, Local Churches, Schools, Local Community Groups and NGO's, The local community.

## **Key Area 2 – A great Physical Environment.**

The physical environment around Halswell has seen significant change since 2010 with major repairs to drainage and infrastructure followed by rapid expansion of housing areas following rezoning of land following the quakes.

The new motorway has been completed and opened, changing traffic flows, particularly around Dunbars Road.

This has led to an increasing pressure on the environment and facilities. Many areas of Halswell are beginning to look tired and a little shabby, needing improvement and there is a distinct lack of a central hub.

In addition to this pocket suburbs have reduced the green belt areas and the separation from Christchurch City so that Halswell virtually joins the city.

Halswell does benefit from a large number of recreational parks and reserves, including the Halswell Quarry, Domain and Westlake Park as well as smaller neighbourhood parks and reserves.

There are 2 main business hubs – Halswell Road, by the New World Supermarket and Halswell Junction Road intersection. There is also a smaller block of shops in the Westlake/Oaklands area.

### **Community Outcomes:**

1. Halswell is a safe place to live.
  - Residents feel safe
  - Streets are safe – from crime and traffic
  - Injuries and accidents are minimized
  - Transport safety is improved
  - Schools have clear signage and safe road crossings
2. All areas and facilities are accessible
  - Public spaces are well utilized
  - Facilities provide access for wheelchairs and pushchairs
3. The community values natural resources and uses them sustainably
  - A reduction in waste
  - Energy is used more efficiently
  - Water is used efficiently and sustainably
  - Public spaces are clean
  - Residents are involved in planting schemes, community gardens etc

### **What do we already do?**

Run a community Market which supports local businesses and encourages sustainability

Run Swap-a events where people bring fruit, veges, plants, baking, clothes or anything else to swap with others in the local community.

**What would we like to do?**

Run workshops/educational talks on sustainability and local environmental issues

Encourage people to car pool

Improve local transport facilities – making it easier and safer for people to walk and bike locally and cutting traffic congestion

Support a Community Garden

Community fix-it events encouraging people to recycle/fix old or broken items and share skills.

Encourage planting of verges, participation in planting the quarry.

Encourage recycling

**How will we measure these outcomes?**

Number of people involved in educational talks, recycling and planting initiatives

Amount of rubbish vs recycling in the area

Number of people using alternative means of transport.

**Who we will work with:**

Our partners will include, but are not limited to,

Christchurch City Council, Local Churches, Schools, Local Community Groups and NGO's, The local community.

### **Key Area 3 – Health and Wellbeing.**

**WHO definition of Health:** “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

Health is central to, but only one of the many factors that contribute to both individual and community wellbeing. Overall community wellbeing results from complex links between the natural and physical/built environment, the social, economic and cultural environment, individual behaviours and risk factors, and the health and disease status of the people in the community.

The Halswell Community project defines health and well-being as concerning physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual wellbeing.

Within the greater Halswell area 10 community organisations have been identified as providing services and activities that contribute to community well-being. The activities of these groups are wide-ranging, including community events, information networks and social support. Additionally, the six faith-based organizations run a variety of social, recreational and educational programmes and activities which also make a significant contribution to the well-being of residents, particularly families, in the area. The 36 sport, recreation and cultural groups identified provide a large choice of activities for residents. These groups are well patronised, with some sporting clubs being the largest in Christchurch. Collectively they all make a strong contribution to the social fabric of the community.

The six schools provide services to locals as well as young people from beyond the area. The library is well utilised, as is the summer pool. and there are additional facilities in the community provided by churches, sports and recreation clubs, schools and the Halswell Community Hall, all of which are well utilised by community groups

Each of these groups or organisations has its own community, the challenge is to use that to build networks and connections across the wider community which encourage health and wellbeing to all.

#### **Community Outcomes:**

1. Halswell is active and healthy
  - People understand, access and participate in healthy choices, activities and healthcare services.
  - Advocate for good health
2. Halswell is a vibrant, prosperous community
  - A vibrant and creative community that celebrates diversity, involves people, and has a sense of belonging
  - A community that welcomes and includes people of all ages and cultural backgrounds
  - A safe place to live, work, shop, learn, play and visit
3. Residents express a sense of wellbeing.
4. Education
  - Diverse life-long learning opportunities supported by quality educational facilities and programmes

**What do we already do?**

Website, newsletter and facebook page highlight local activities and connect people to healthy activities and exercise

Bring people together through the market

**What we would like to do:**

Develop and extend our website to include more sporting and educational opportunities

Advocate for alternative forms of transport – bike lanes, public transport etc

Advocate for multicultural and inclusive events, groups and activities

Develop annual events in conjunction with local groups

Educational links with schools

Educational talks and workshops

Welcome packs

**How will we measure these outcomes?**

Numbers of people involved in educational talks, local sports clubs and organizations

Number of sports clubs advertising on the website/newsletter

Survey responses and feedback through facebook, newsletter and website

**Who we will work with:**

Our partners will include, but are not limited to,

Christchurch City Council, Local Churches, Schools, Local Community Groups and NGO's, The local community.