



Halswell
Community
Project

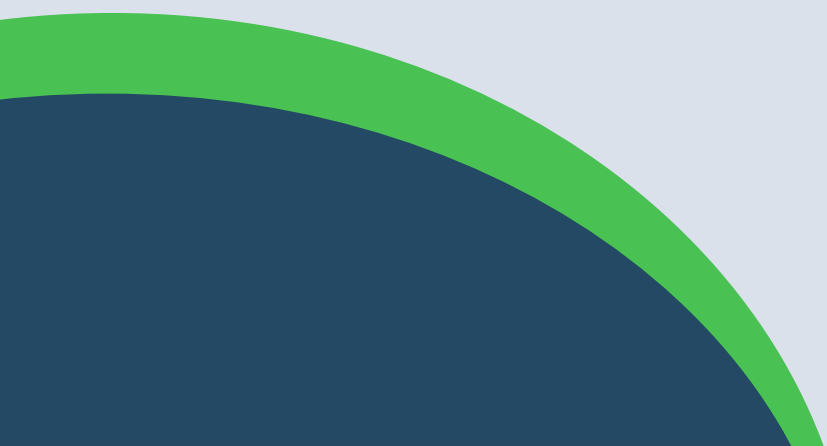


HALSWELL

YOUTH PILOT PROJECT

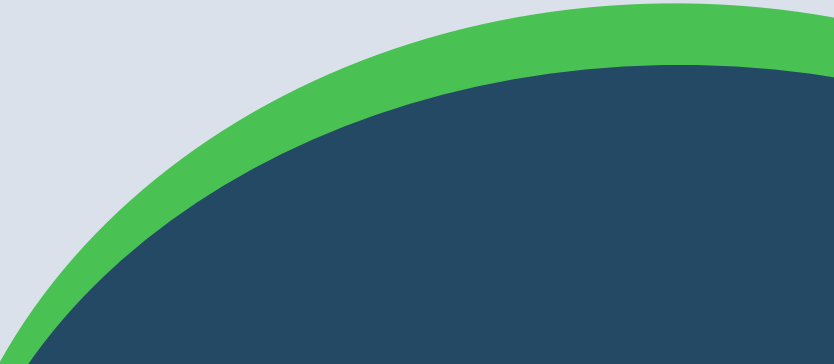
REPORT

DECEMBER 2023



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INTRODUCTION

For many years, organisations in Halswell have been aware of a gap in the provision of facilities and services for young people in the community. Despite having many parks and green spaces, and clubs such as Scouts, Football, Rugby etc, rangatahi who are not engaged in those organised clubs or sports often tell us that they find it hard to connect or find things to do.

Youth workers support young people in their personal, social and educational development to help them reach their full potential in society. This involves planning and delivering programmes, often in partnership with other organisations who engage with young people, in a wide range of areas from health and wellbeing to potentially criminal activity.

Halswell as a community has 5 primary schools but no high school. Intermediate age children tend to travel to schools outside of the area and High school students travel to either Hillmorton, which is the closest High School, or further afield. Hillmorton has 24/7 youth workers active within the school but the local primary schools do not. As a result, there is a gap in services for the intermediate age group and this creates a disconnect once students hit their intermediate/high school years. This results in teenagers losing a sense of connection with each other and the community they grew up in.

In 2020 Halswell Community Project, with the support of the Halswell Hornby Riccarton Community Board, put together a Youth Pilot Project to support and grow youth engagement across Halswell, aimed at connecting with the young people in our community, to identify their needs and to build the networks and relationships needed to lay the foundations for future youth work in the area.

As a community, we want to see:

- Young people connecting and engaging with each other across the community.
- Great young people growing into great adults with a sense of pride and belonging.
- Young people actively involved in the wider community.
- Young people involved in projects and decision-making for young people, and for the wider community.
- Young people supporting other young people through social connection, activities, events and programmes

The pilot project is the first step to identify the need for youth work in Halswell and to creating a cohesive approach to working with young people across Halswell involving the schools, churches, clubs, sports and other organisations.

YOUTH WORKERS IN SCHOOLS

Youth work contributes to young people's learning and development. The key purpose of youth work is to:

“Enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal, social and educational development, to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential.”

National Occupational Standards for Youth Work 2008

Halswell Community Project partnered with three local primary schools - Oaklands, Halswell and Knights Stream, and the staff at Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre for the Pilot Project.

Recruiting youth workers was more problematic than first expected but initially, the project started with one youth worker in the three schools and attending the Youth night - Thursday Takeover - at Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre. This time was spent building connections with those attending the Thursday Takeover and with the students in years 7 and 8 at school, attending school events and working with the staff in those year groups.

During this time the youth worker connected with approximately 20 students each week at Knights Stream School, 10 at Halswell and only a handful at Oaklands due to limited time and curriculum constraints. Attending Thursday Takeover proved valuable as the youth worker connected with students from other schools in the area and from Hillmorton High School.

Splitting time evenly between the schools proved difficult due to the timing of school days, sports, activities, timetabling and the availability of the youth worker. As a result, the decision was made to reduce the youth worker to two schools to allow for time in both schools each week and some time researching organisations and groups working with young people in Halswell. The project trialled half days, alternating days at the different schools and attending only lunchtime activities, however, the best day for a youth worker to connect with rangatahi in all the schools was a Friday, which meant that it was not possible to split the youth workers time evenly due to different school days and timetabling.

Over the second part of the project, the youth worker spent the majority of their time in Knights Stream School due to other commitments and internal timetabling / break times. This time was valuable in building relationships with the students and developing a connection with the school itself. Attendance at school events and assemblies strengthened the relationships and the youth worker reported close connections with many students in years 7 and 8. This time reinforced the need for a youth worker dedicated to each school rather than split between too many and was evident at community events such as Celebrate Halswell where rangatahi from Knights Stream School recognised and connected with the youth worker during the event.

Towards the end of the pilot, Halswell Community Church connected with Halswell Community Project with the intention of recruiting two youth workers. These youth workers connected in to Oaklands School on a Friday and are developing relationships with the school and the students there.

Key findings:

- Young people value the role and presence of youth workers in their schools.
- Kaiako and local kura value the role youth workers could have in their schools and recognise the difference this could make in supporting rangatahi.
- Schools need one or two dedicated youth workers - not one split between schools
- Two youth workers per school is ideal.
- Fridays are the best days to spend in school connecting with students without disrupting curriculum and teaching activities.
- Halswell Community Project is not well set up to employ youth workers, this should be done through a collaboration between schools and 24-7 Youthwork.

YOUTH SURVEY

A short survey was developed to find out what the children and rangatahi of Halswell enjoy about living in this community and what they think would make it better in the future.

The survey was sent to all local schools asking students in Year 7 and above the following questions:

- What clubs / organisations are you part of outside of school?
- What do you do in your spare time?
- What is good about living in Halswell?
- What would make it better for young people?
- What activities/events would you like to see?
- If we were organising an event or activity, how would we let you know?
- Would you like to see youth workers in your school? Why / Why not?

Demographics



280 individuals responded ranging in age from School Year 6 to 8

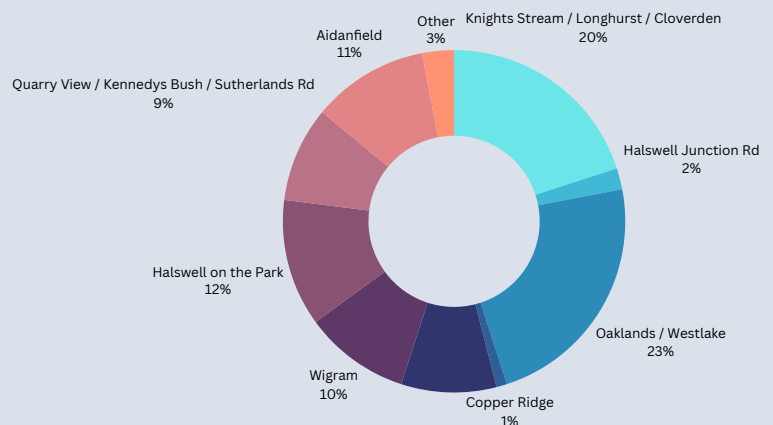
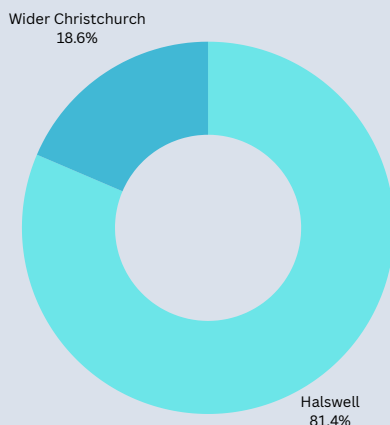


Knights Stream School	15%
Halswell School	41%
Aidanfield Christian School	9%
Oaklands School	35%



Year 6	6%
Year 7	50%
Year 8	44%

Where people lived



228 individuals live in Halswell with 52 living in outside of Halswell but attending school in Halswell.

Communication

When asked how they would prefer to be informed about upcoming events,



- 26% said they would prefer to be contacted by email
- 22% said signs and posters at school and around the community
- 15% suggested using social media - Facebook, Instagram and Ticktok, particularly the Halswell Community Facebook page
- 11% said through school
- 11% by flyers or notices in the mailbox
- 6% preferred to be told in person
- 4% suggested using websites like the Halswell Community Website and Eventfinda

The remaining 5% preferred a combination of phone call/text or adverts in the paper or on TV

Youth workers



Only 10% of responses said no they did not want to see youth workers in the school but 68% of responses said Yes, they would like to see youth workers in their school.

This response reflects the relationships built by the youth worker in the schools and demonstrates what could be achieved with greater contact time. Although some respondents were confused between the role of a youth worker and an after school program, the reasons given reflected a positive experience with the youth worker and ranged from having someone younger to talk to, share jokes with and have fun with to sharing experiences with someone who wasn't a teacher, and being able to be more honest with a young person than an adult.

"I think I would love to see them in the school so we can talk about what's happening around us and the school and have a friend who we could share things without hesitation."

"Yes, because they will understand younger people/kids about problems or stuff that is going on in their life"

"Yes because they're fun and I like having them around!"

"It's fun talking to them"

"They make everyone feel welcome"

"I would like to learn some other stuff from them - not just school stuff"

"I would because they are getting involed in helping everyone."

"Yes because it will help us connect with others."

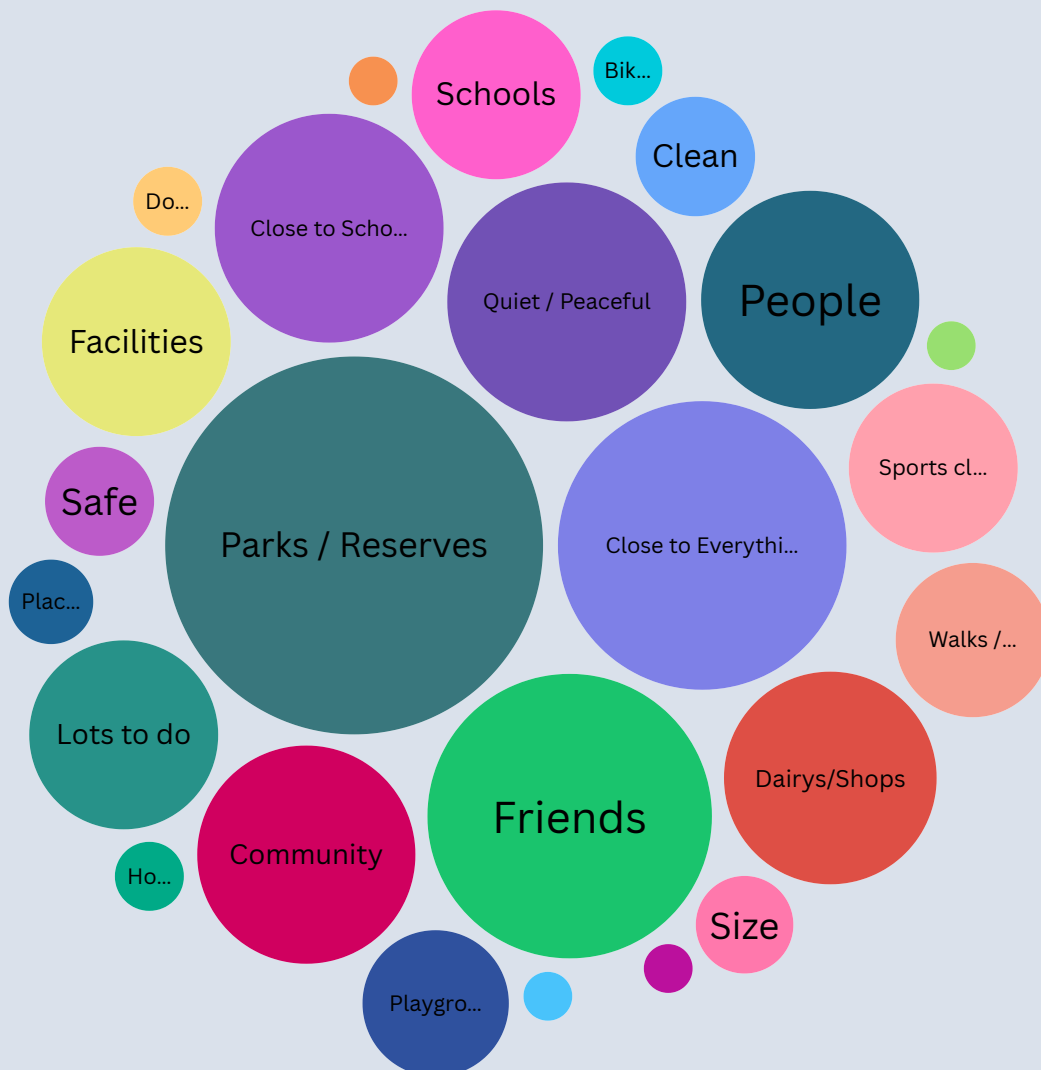
What clubs and organisations are you part of outside of school? What do you do in your spare time?

The majority of the responses indicated that the students participate primarily in sports clubs and activities outside of school with Football, Netball and Swimming the highest represented sports, followed by Martial Arts, Basketball, Hockey, Rugby and Badminton. A wide range of sports were represented with some Halswell clubs identified - notably Halswell United Football Club, Halswell Hornets Rugby League Club, Halswell Rugby League Netball Club and Halswell Cricket Club - however students participate in sports across Christchurch City.

Youth Organisations were represented by Scouts, Junior Neighbourhood support and Hato Hone St John Youth. A number of dance schools were identified, however, as with the sports these were spread across the city. A number of students participate in music lessons or activities but did not specify whether this was locally based or elsewhere.

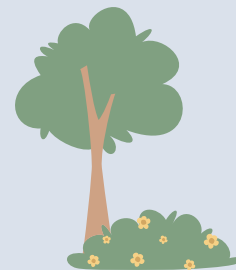
What is good about living in Halswell?

Responses to this question identified the various parks and reserves, being close to everything and the sense of community as being most valuable to our young people in years 6 - 8.



Parks and Reserves

The key parks or reserves identified were Westlake Park, Halswell Domain, Halswell Quarry Park and the Wetlands areas with a number of respondents mentioning the natural beauty and natural spaces as being benefits to living in Halswell.



Sense of Community

A sense of community is clearly evident in the responses with 21% of young people identifying Halswell as having a nice community, being clean, quiet and peaceful, friendly and a safe place to live. Friends were also noted as important.

20% of respondents enjoyed being close to everything and mentioned facilities, school and shops or dairys.

Facilities

Under facilities, Te Hāpua - the Halswell Library was a significant space for many young people.

Things to do

55 young people identified Halswell as having lots to do, with 14% placing the emphasis on Sports clubs, walking tracks and playgrounds.

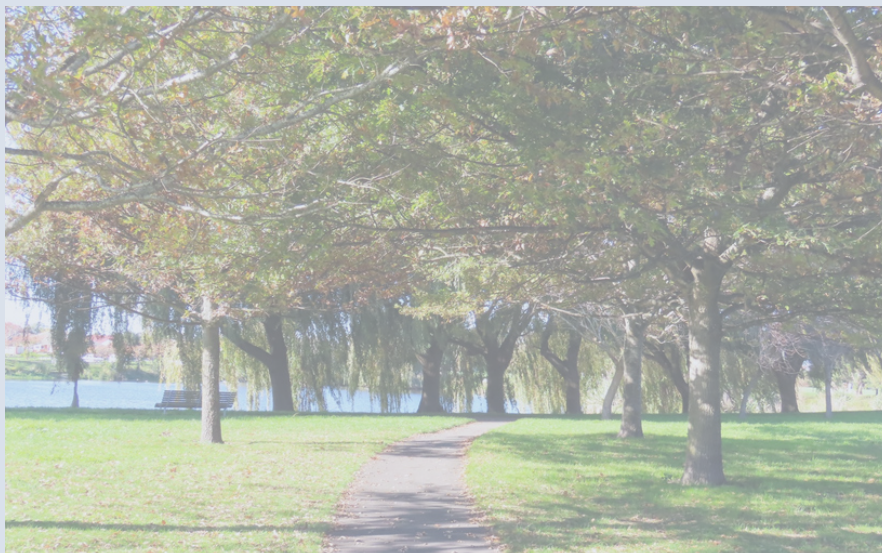
“It's a great community not too far away from everything”

“I like that I live close to school and I live near my friends”

“It's a friendly community!”

“Everyone around the neighbourhood are so nice and friendly. There are many parks/walks you can go to.”

“It is a kinda good community. And there are lots of good places to hangout with my mates.”



What would make it better for young people?

60 respondents did not know what might make Halswell better or answered nothing, Halswell was great as it is. However, the other responses identified more parks and playgrounds (18%), sport / recreation opportunities (17%) and more activities and events (13%) as the main priorities with the emphasis on opportunities aimed at older children and teens rather than younger children.



Sport and Recreation

Within the opportunities for sport / recreation, respondents were keen to see more sports facilities with suggestions ranging from upgrading existing facilities such as the football courts to artificial turf to upgrading the pool with more water slides and activities. The desire for more indoor facilities and more social courts for basketball and netball was clear, as was the desire for more alternative sports options like disc golf and ultimate. Bigger skate parks, walking tracks and a bike park were mentioned by a few people.

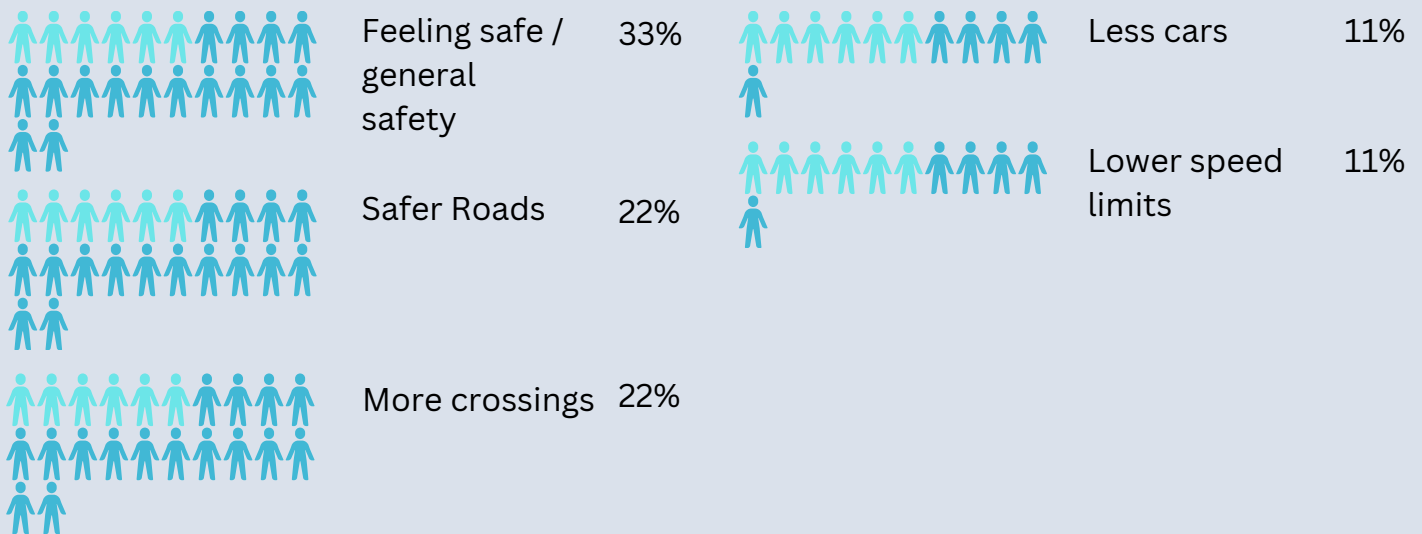
Of those who identified the need for more activities or events, only a few gave specific examples such as after school activities, sports events or tournaments such as community basketball tournaments, fairs, concerts or arts festivals.

The next group of responses identified shopping, community safety and entertainment options as important.

More shops/malls, again catering for older children, teens and young people was the biggest request among those who identified shopping as an area that would make Halswell better for young people.

Safety

Road safety is clearly a priority amongst the young people of Halswell with a number identifying the need for less cars, safer roads, lower speed limits and more crossings.



Entertainment options

The theme in identifying more options for entertainment again emphasised the need for more options for older children and teenagers. Suggestions included escape rooms, paintball, laser tag, arcade, trampoline parks and an ice rink. Another theme that came up in different comments was the need for hang out spaces for older children and teens.

Five young people identified a desire for a high school in Halswell, and another 4 the need for cycle lanes that connected and made it easy to get to and from school.

Other ideas that would make Halswell better for young people included:

- Clean community spaces
- A smokefree community
- Community Art/Murals
- More job opportunities for young people trying to get their first job
- Diversity
- No graffiti
- Less houses
- Neighbourhoods
- No alcohol and
- A welcoming feel to the community

“More options for sports such as disc golf, ultimate sports and basketball and netball.”

“Can we stop adding new houses??”

“Entertainment guided at slightly older kids (not playgrounds)”

“A hall where kids come and learn about NZ and celebrate events.”

“Hangout spots for older kids 11 and up”

“ Art competitions/ festivals”

“More skate parks and things that we can go and see without adults”

“more events we could attend out of school”

“Lots of places to hang out, youth centres?”

What activities/events would you like to see?

A number of young people put forward ideas of the kind of activities and events they would like to see more of, ranging from art exhibitions to fun fairs and colour fun runs.



Community sports days and tournaments were the favourite response with 24% of responses and a focus on friendly competitions and days rather than organised sports competitions. Fun days introducing a variety of sports and basketball events were highlighted along with swimming fun days, airsoft events and fun days with old-fashioned events such as sack racing and egg and spoon races.

General community events and fun days including movie nights, pool parties, water fights, colour runs, community picnics, planting days, organised trips, scavenger hunts and live music during the summer months were the next most popular suggestion with 23% of the responses, followed closely by fun fairs and carnival type events with rides and activities. (11%).

11% of responses also indicated the desire for more cultural events and celebrations such as Christmas, New Year, Easter, Nagar Kirtan and Diwali.

A regular market or fair was a popular suggestion, as was an annual fireworks event. A smaller number suggested that young people in Halswell would benefit from more concerts (5%), shows (4%) and neighbourhood parties (3%)

Other suggestions for the sorts of activities/events young people would like to see included art exhibitions and events (3%), fashion shows or related events (2%), gaming or tech expos and events (3%), and pop up seasonal events such as winter sports and an ice rink (3%).

Some of these ideas, such as train days or pool parties already occur throughout the year in Halswell, however some ideas that could be developed include:

- Friendly Basketball tournaments
- Outdoor movie nights at Halswell Quarry
- Sports days to try out different sports
- Fun fairs
- Colour / Mud fun runs
- Live music and concerts

“a festival in Halswell so like on a field around the new houses near the quarry and we could have a colour run and rides and music and a pool!”

“Movie Nights, Pool parties and hangout times.”

“Nothing, Everything is good.”

“Like some cultural food and markets to express different cultures”

“Nagar Kirtan, a Sikh event that happens in special events.”

“weekly organised events. like bowling, food, group trips.”

Key findings:

- Young people in Halswell value and appreciate the parks and green spaces, however, they would like to see more playgrounds / spaces designed for older children / teens / young people.
- Young people value the sense of community identifying Halswell as having a nice community, being clean, quiet and peaceful, friendly and a safe place to live. Friends were also noted as important.
- Young people enjoy being close to everything and mentioned facilities, school and shops or dairies.
- Te Hāpua - the Halswell Library was a significant space for many young people.
- Although there are many different activities available for young people in the area, many young people travel out of the area to participate in activities/sports.
- Young people would like to see more entertainment options aimed at older children and teens, such as Paintball, tech stores, laser tag, arcades, escape rooms.
- Some sports facilities, such as the football fields need upgrading.
- Young people would like to see more options for sports in the area with more social courts, indoor facilities, a bigger pool with water slides/activities, and alternative sports such as disc golf and ultimate.
- Feeling safe, particularly when travelling around Halswell is important to young people - they would like to see lower speed limits, more crossings and less cars on the roads.
- Young people would like to see more events and activities throughout the year celebrating their cultural diversity and marking key events such as Christmas, Easter, New Year, Nagar Kirtan and Diwali.
- Rangatahi would like to engage in community sporting events with an emphasis on social connection and learning new sports rather than competition.
- Regular community events and fun days, fairs and markets would make Halswell a better place for young people.

GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE HALSWELL AREA

Schools

Aidanfield Christian School
Halswell Primary School
Oaklands Primary School
Knights Stream School
Seven Oaks School
Wigram Primary School

Hillmorton High School

Churches

Grace Vineyard Church - Wigram
St Mary's Anglican Church
Halswell Community Church
Bible Baptist Church Christchurch
South West Baptist Church
Living Waters Christian Centre

Other organisations

Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre

Sports Clubs

Knockout Fitness
Halswell Taekwondo
Awatea Athletics
Halswell Cricket Club
Halswell Netball Club
Halswell Rugby Football Club
Halswell Hornets Rugby League Football Club
Halswell United Football Club
Halswell Softball Club
Halswell Tennis Club
Halswell Rugby League Netball Club
Halswell Wigram Rugby Club

Youth Organisations

Halswell Scouts
Halswell Girl Guides
18 (Avon) Squadron, Air Training Corps
St John Youth
24-7 YouthWork
Youthtown

CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the pilot project, Halswell Community Project

- Engaged and built relationships with students and staff in local primary schools
- Identified that there is both a need and a desire for youth workers in local schools
- Completed a youth survey which identified what young people like about living in Halswell and what they would like to see in the future
- Identified possible events and future projects that young people would engage with
- Identified groups and organisations working with young people in the Halswell area.
- Identified organisations who could be involved in developing youth work in Halswell

Young people generally enjoy living in Halswell due to the number of parks and green spaces and the proximity to schools, facilities and other areas. They value the community feel and identify Halswell as generally being a quiet and peaceful place to live.

A variety of clubs and activities already exist, but there are gaps for those who do not engage with sports clubs or activities and many facilities cater mainly for younger children rather than preteens and young people. In particular rangatahi would like to see more playgrounds and entertainment options for older children and young people. Some of the options suggested in the survey are now available or becoming available so Halswell Community Project can promote these to young people (e.g. The Hangar in Wigram)

Despite generally reporting feeling safe living in Halswell, road safety is an area of concern and young people would like to see more done to make roads safer and different areas of Halswell more accessible through lower speed limits and more crossings.

The survey indicated that young people do take part in community events and activities but would like to see more options such as community fun days, fairs, markets and concerts or shows. In addition, the survey indicated that young people would like to see more events and activities throughout the year celebrating key calendar and cultural events such as Christmas, New Year, Matariki, Diwali and Nagar Kirtan. Some of these events are celebrated in neighbourhoods, schools or other groups so it would be good to collate a list of events and develop a calendar of activities and events from around the area throughout the year.

Across the youth pilot project, Halswell Community Project engaged with local schools and rangatahi in school years 7 and 8 to determine that there is a need for youth workers, greater youth engagement and events and activities aimed at young people in the Halswell area.

However, Halswell Community Project as an organisation, is not best suited to employ youth workers in the schools. Other organisations, like 24-7 youthwork who are already working in this space would be better overseeing a team of youth workers in the local schools. Halswell Community Project would work better in the space of networking and advocacy for young people, potentially working with young people and other organisations on specific projects (as we did with the skate parks), setting up a youth council and running or promoting events and activities throughout the year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Engage with schools and 24-7 Youthwork to develop a model to engage youth workers in the local schools in years 7 and 8.
- Repeat the survey with older age groups through high schools and organisations working with students aged 13 - 18.
- Develop a network of organisations working with youth in Halswell.
- Work with young people, Council staff and the Community Board to develop a youth council - building on the Huritini student council model to teach civics, and boost the engagement of young people in community planning and decision-making.

- Develop a calendar of activities aimed at young people in Halswell - both existing and potential events. Identify the gaps and develop events and initiatives to fill them
- Work with rangatahi, Council staff and Community Board to put on a series of events aimed at young people:
 - Basketball Competitions - Halswell Hoops
 - Outdoor Movie at the Quarry
 - Sports day to try new sports
 - Concert/Live Music
 - Art displays / festival
- Promote events and activities aimed at young people through social media, the Halswell Community Website, the Halswell Newsletter and schools.
- Identify entertainment options and promote them through social media, the Halswell Community Website, the Halswell Newsletter and schools.
- Connect with local cultural groups to identify possibilities for community celebrations of key dates and events throughout the year - promote existing celebrations and raise awareness of cultural identity and celebrations.

- Identify/promote facilities around Halswell that could be used for youth activities and hangouts.
- Work with young people, Council, Community Board and the Residents Association to identify suitable locations for road crossings.
- Work with rangatahi, Council staff, Community Board and local groups to identify spaces that could be developed to meet the needs of rangatahi. (e.g. upgraded playgrounds with bigger equipment for older youth)



Halswell
Community
Project

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