

WHAT NOW?

The meta (or overarching) themes from this inaugural State of Our Communities 2017 project are below. These four areas illustrate and capture the major experiences and aspirations of these three complex and vibrant communities. This is a good point to ask what happens after this type of community survey project. We suggest three possible ways forward:



1. The Salvation Army will present these findings publically to appropriate local and central government bodies, particularly to relevant ministries and departments in these public bodies. We want to ensure the voices from these communities are reflected accurately in any policy and programme development that might affect these three communities.
2. The Salvation Army will present these findings to key organisations within these three communities of Linwood, Papakura and Porirua to deliver this record of the experiences and aspirations back to the people themselves. The Salvation Army will continue to work in these three communities and partner with others also working here. If other communities or groups from outside of Linwood, Papakura and Porirua are interested in these learnings, we will be happy to engage with them as well.
3. In 2018, we plan to undertake this community based research in more communities around Aotearoa New Zealand. Again, this will act as a partner document to our well-established State of the Nation report.

The full report is available for viewing or download from
www.salvationarmy.org.nz/OurCommunities2017

THANKS FOR TAKING PART!



WE APPRECIATE IT!



Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit
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Linwood | Papakura | Porirua

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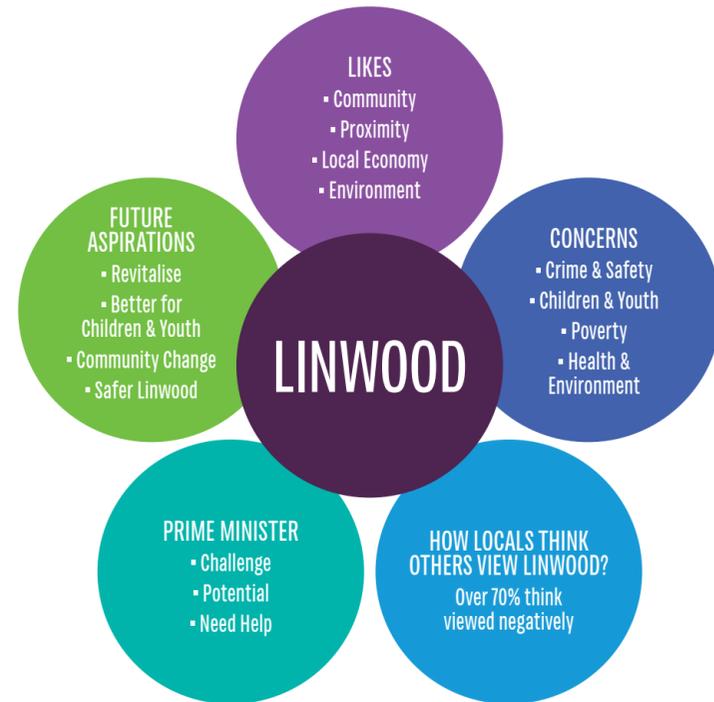
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LINWOOD

We completed 102 face-to-face interviews over two days in Linwood. Interviews were conducted at The Warehouse store, in Eastgate Mall, and at the local Salvation Army centre. We also did three individual key informant interviews with a local community advocate, a principal of a local primary school, and a local community worker.

Findings

The local community was very proud of the sense of community and resilience that Linwood has, especially during and since the 2011 Christchurch earthquake. They also loved the handy location of Linwood, the local businesses and economy, and the beautiful natural environment.



However, locals were concerned about crime and safety issues in their community. They felt many of the local children and young people were disengaged and did not have enough activities to do. Some talked about poverty-related issues, including locals not having the same opportunities as other people in the city, and that there were not enough jobs and local businesses in Linwood.

The majority of locals believed other people in Christchurch viewed Linwood in a negative light. But most felt these were only stereotypes and Linwood was still a strong community. Many locals felt Linwood was often forgotten and ignored by local and central government.

If they had an opportunity to speak back to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, locals said they would challenge the Prime Minister to remember their local community, and to invest with more youth activities and businesses in Linwood.

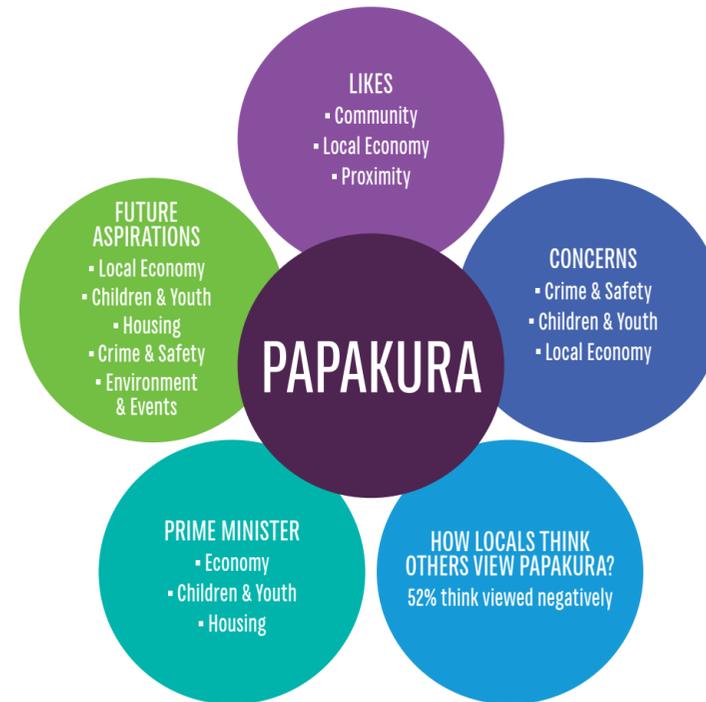
Locals had strong aspirations for their community, including revitalising and investing in local businesses, providing more local jobs, making Linwood a safer community and having more activities for their children and young people to engage with.

PAPAKURA

In Papakura, we completed 100 face-to-face interviews, and two individual key informant interviews. Interviews were conducted on the corner of Great South Road and Broadway, which is a busy shopping area for locals, and at the local Papakura Salvation Army Community Ministries centre.

Findings

The people of Papakura were very clear about their love for their local community. They mentioned that locals help each other out during hard times, and that their community is diverse and friendly.



Locals stated that they were very concerned about crime and safety in Papakura. They talked about drug use, gangs, and the large number of alcohol stores in their community. They were also concerned about children and young people in Papakura not having enough positive activities and spaces or centres to connect with. Residents wanted a strong and thriving local economy, and they were anxious that local businesses were being left behind because of the commercial developments in Manukau City and nearby Takanini.

Most locals think the rest of Auckland probably has a dim view of Papakura. Most acknowledged that there are definitely serious social issues in Papakura that have contributed to this negative image. But many felt that the majority of these stereotypes and negative views were largely untrue.

Residents said the main things that the Prime Minister and the Government needed to hear about their local community was around developing more local businesses and jobs in Papakura, organising more activities for their children and young people, and highlighting homelessness and other housing issues for locals.

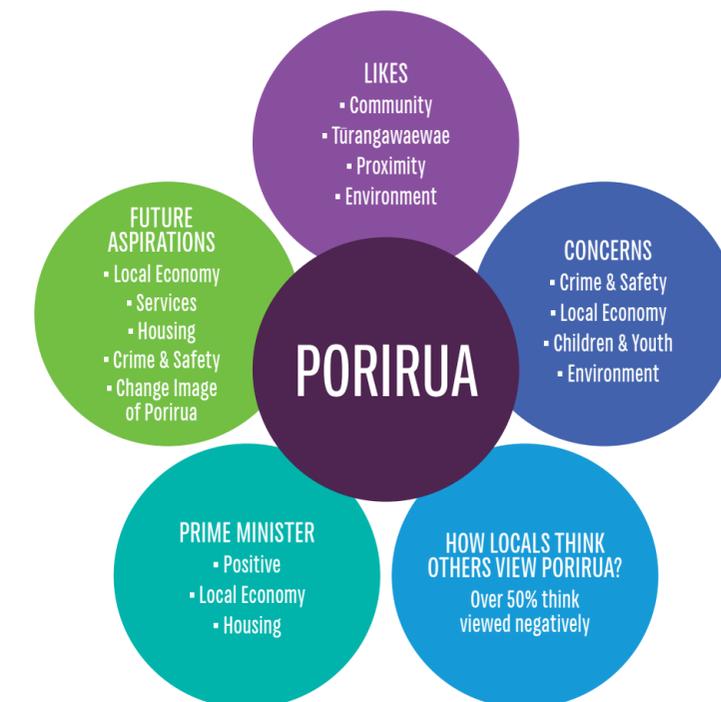
The people of Papakura want to address youth engagement in their community, particularly around suicide, jobs for young people, and youth-friendly spaces and facilities. In the future, they want all local homeless people to be housed and ensure homes are affordable for locals. Finally, they want a safer community with less alcohol outlets and fewer drugs and acts of violence.

PORIRUA

We completed 103 face-to-face interviews, and three individual key informant interviews. Interviews were conducted in Cobham Court, North City Shopping Centre, and the local Salvation Army Community Ministries centre in Cannons Creek.

Findings

Locals believed Porirua was a vibrant community with a real sense of community. It is a community that helps each other and is very diverse. People also talked about the concept of tūrangawaewae, and that this community gave them a real sense of identity, belonging and standing in their lives. Many also said the local environment and location of Porirua were things they really liked.



The residents had real concerns about gangs, drugs and anti-social behaviour in their community. They also felt that local businesses and shops were struggling in Porirua, resulting in vacant shops and buildings. Youth-related issues worried locals, particularly around suicide and being disengaged from positive activities.

The people of Porirua thought that most of Wellington City had a negative image of Porirua. They believed this image was a historical one and that Porirua was a different and stronger community today.

Locals wanted to say to the Prime Minister that Porirua was generally a very positive and thriving community. But they recommended more investment into local businesses and jobs in Porirua, and housing needed to be more affordable. Local homeless people also needed more help.

In the future, locals aspired for a community that was growing strong local businesses and jobs. They wanted better public services for residents from local government, more affordable homes and more social housing, and a safer community without drugs and gangs.