

# *Residents' Groups*

## **Residents' Groups**

### **What is a Residents' Group?**

There are many types of groups in our neighbourhoods. Groups are set up to provide support and help to their members, for example neighbourhood support groups and friendship clubs. Some groups are established to provide recreation activities such as playgroups, small theatre groups and sports clubs. In other cases it is because people share a common vision of how their community can be enhanced. Others begin in response to a perceived threat to the stability or character of a neighbourhood, for example those attempting to save an historic building or prevent a motorway designation. All are examples of people choosing to group together for a common purpose and to achieve a common goal.

The Christchurch City Council has established a policy to encourage communities to group together and look constructively at the needs and aspirations of their residents. The Council intends to support and recognise groups of residents who are prepared to promote and advocate for the interests of their neighbourhood.

Maps showing the areas covered by existing residents' groups are shown on pages 23 to 29.

### **Residents' Groups Formation and Recognition**

- The Christchurch City Council encourages the formation of local residents' groups.
- Local residents' groups are able to apply to the Community Board for recognition as an 'official' residents' group for the area. The group is required to show that it is truly representative of their area and prepared to represent the views of its residents to the Council and/or other relevant organisations.
- When officially recognising the group, the relevant Community Board ensures that the boundaries for residents' groups within each community are appropriate.
- Such groups, upon recognition, receive the right to be consulted by the Council on work planned within their boundaries.
- Typing and photocopying services for official residents' groups are provided, within limits approved by the Community Advocate.