

## 5. HALSWELL COMMUNITY PROFILE

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The purpose of this report is to provide the Community Board with information relevant to the presentation by Sue Dewe on the Halswell area. A copy of the completed report has been circulated separately from the Order Paper.

### BACKGROUND

In June 2003 the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board allocated \$9,000 towards a research project on the Halswell area. This was the result of key groups in Halswell (Halswell Residents' Association and the Halswell Baptist Church) approaching Council staff regarding the need for information about their local community.

After discussions it was decided that it was timely to address these requests with approval from the Community Board. An independent researcher, Sue Dewe, was contracted to carry out the project.

The research was to focus on community strengths and assets rather than being a needs analysis and covered the two census units of Halswell South and Oaklands (which includes Westlake). A reference group of three residents with strong networks and leadership roles in the community was established to support the researcher and act as a sounding board.

The aims of the community profile were as follows:

- "To provide a 'snapshot' of the Halswell area identified through the use of current demographic data as well as the perception of Halswell residents themselves.
- To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Halswell area (social, recreational and economic).
- To identify ways that the strengths of the community can be developed to address the issues (weaknesses)."

The research methodology included both qualitative and quantitative information and was completed in January 2004.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

As a result of this research document the reference group would like to recommend that a community forum be organised so that representatives of the key organisations and leaders in Halswell can come together to hear a comprehensive presentation of the report, as well as discuss appropriate responses.

This would involve a whole day, set aside for this purpose, organised and facilitated by Council staff. The Halswell Baptist Church have offered a venue for the forum.

It is proposed that costs related to the running of the forum be met by the Community Board through its Community Initiatives Project Funds. The amount should not exceed \$500 and will be based on the number of those attending, and catering costs.

### CONCLUSION

The Halswell Community Profile is a comprehensive report on the strengths and weaknesses of the Halswell area. It provides community organisations with relevant information from which to build and develop the strengths of the community. A community forum would provide an opportunity for the groups to collaboratively plan responses to the issues and develop their own future direction.

**Staff**

- Recommendation:**
- 1 That the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board receives the information from the Halswell Community Profile
  - 2 That the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board support the suggestion of a forum for key organisations and leaders in the Halswell community and cover related costs to the total sum of \$500, to be funded from the Board's Community Initiatives Fund.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the Officer's recommendations be adopted.