

3. A PROFILE ON HALSWELL

Sue Dewe had been engaged by the Board to undertake a community strengths research project on the Halswell residential area.

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.

Ms Dewe gave a short presentation on her methodology, and the findings of the survey, which will now be discussed by a forum of key community organisations and leaders.

In **receiving** the report the Board acknowledged the work that Ms Dewe had done and agreed that the Halswell research would be an important document for ongoing partnership opportunities with that community.