

Neighbourhood Conversation Walk

Hagley

A group of 19 people participated in a facilitated conversation walk around the 'Hagley' neighbourhood on 21 November 2020. The walk was led by Justine from Grow Active preschool. This neighbourhood is an emerging area that is bounded by Hagley Park and Moorhouse Avenue. Key facilities in the neighbourhood include Metro Sports, the Hospital and Hagley College. Around 200 residents live in this area. A small number of participants on the walk live in the Central City; others joined out of interest. The main purpose of the walk was for Council staff to hear people's thoughts and experiences of the neighbourhood and discuss

opportunities to enhance neighbourhood elements and character. Informally the walk also served as an opportunity for people to discover new spaces, talk with each other about Central City living and to make connections with like-minded people. Key spaces and observations by residents are outlined below:



Neighbourhood Strengths

- The neighbourhood has a wide range of services nearby, including the hospital, Hagley College, and some hospitality offerings.
- Residents living on Hagley Avenue overlook the expansive Hagley Park and well established trees.
- A major bus stop on Tuam Street connects the neighbourhood with the rest of the city. There is also good pedestrian and cycle access along the promenade and along Hagley Avenue.
- The Metro Sports Facility is a major anchor for the neighbourhood and will attract a wide range of people.
- A large number of people work in this neighbourhood.

Opportunities

- A planned multi-cultural centre in the former netball centre would be a valuable opportunity for the wider community.
- Hagley College has plans to grow to accommodate more students. The college provides opportunity to attract more residents to live nearby.
- In order to accommodate more residents the area would benefit from improved transport options i.e. car share, shuttle, bus stops at Metro Sports.
- The Metro Sports Facility will increase the greenery and open space in this neighbourhood.
- Improve the pedestrian experience and amenity on streets surrounding Metro Sports to make them more welcoming. Discuss with business owners about the beautification of the commercial areas.
- With an estimated 40,000 people a week expected to visit Metro Sports there is an opportunity for an increase in businesses for visitors and short term accommodation.
- There is opportunity for residential growth in this neighbourhood due to a number of large underdeveloped sites (e.g. car yards)
- The neighbourhood requires a strong identity and vision for its future in order to attract new residents.

Residents Points of Interest

The following spaces were some of the main points of interest on the walk led by a local resident of the Hagley Neighbourhood.



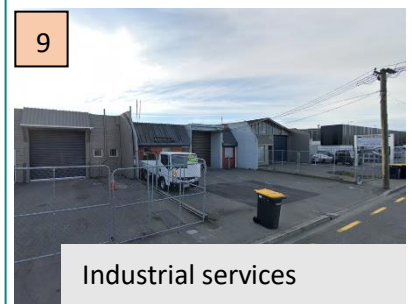
Public Space



Businesses and Community



Key Places



Summarised comments from participants

Insights gained

- “This is a very industrial area”.
- “A lot of construction underway”.
- “Fragmented neighbourhood – nice place to live overlooking the park but then you turn the corner and it is a completely different vibe. Wouldn’t know you were near the park. Loud traffic and industrial uses.
- “A surprising amount of residential in the neighbourhood.”

Likes

- “Good to see housing options suitable for hospital staff and young professionals.”
- “Would be nice living near to the park.”
- “Metro Sports will attract lots of visitors.”
- “Hagley College is a real community asset, it is a community meeting place.”
- “Surprising density of homes in a small area.”
- “Most of the townhouses look to be larger and have garages.”
- “Plans for patient housing on Selwyn Street. Will be good to have more people in the area.”
- “More affordable than the homes near Hagley Park north of the river.”
- “The children at Grow Active enjoy watching the progress of Metro Sports. The kids are also taken to Hagley Park for field trips.”

Dislikes

- “It is hard to work in this area with no parking, amenity or cafes. How do we expect people to want to live here?”
- “The neighbourhood has no vision for its future.”
- “Pathways and roads are not pedestrian friendly”.
- “Living next to Moorhouse Avenue is not appealing”.
- “Stewart and Waller Streets are not well maintained and not very nice to walk down as a pedestrian”.

What would have to change to make you want to live in this area?

- “Business area is very untidy”
- “More greenery, we would need more than just the park.”
- “Better pedestrian access and public transport connections.”
- “A strong identity.”
- “A central hub.”
- “Green places to sit, trees and plantings, attractive buildings, café.”
- “Housing with garages.”

How will the information be used? Insights and experiences shared by participants on the Conversation Walk will help inform neighbourhood level planning. The walk was a great way to hear from people about the neighbourhood and build relationships. The list of strengths shows the Council what the advantages of this neighbourhood are, and the list of opportunities provides a good starting point to identify elements that could be enhanced. This information may also help shape Council webpages about Central City living.