

Neighbourhood Conversation Walk

Peterborough

A group of 23 people participated in a conversation walk around the 'Peterborough' neighbourhood on 28 November 2020. The walk was led by Dale, a resident on Kilmore Street. This neighbourhood is an established area in the heart of the Central City. Residents living in this area enjoy close proximity to shops, restaurants and green space.



A mix of current residents and people interested in Central City living participated in the walk. 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

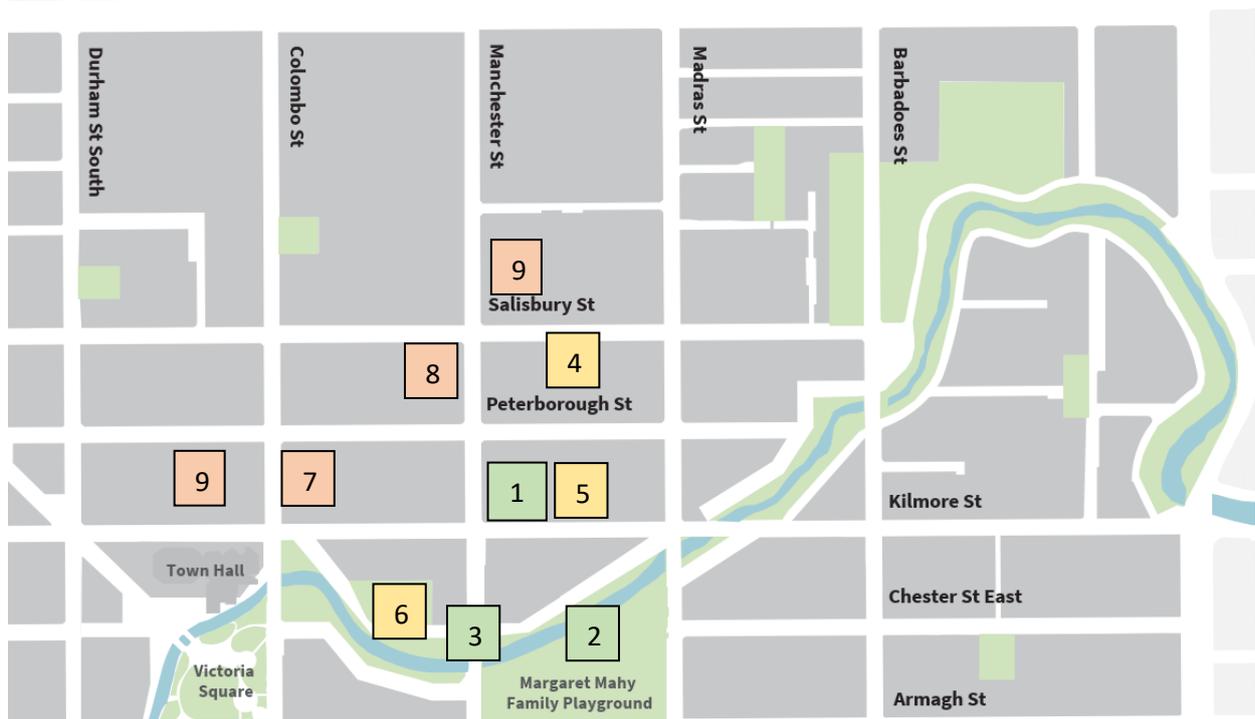
- There is a wide variety of housing types in this neighbourhood, including apartments, older standalone homes and townhouses. This attracts a diverse range of residents.
- Peterborough co-housing is a positive example of housing designed to build a community.
- Cultivate is operating an urban farm in this neighbourhood to service local residents and businesses with fresh produce and giving young, disadvantaged people employment and training opportunities .
- The former St Luke's site is listed as wāhi tapu by Heritage New Zealand, as the burial site of Tautahi, a Ngāi Tahu chief. The neighbourhood has a strong cultural identity.
- The neighbourhood has had a lot of recent commercial and residential development. Empty sites are in high demand.

Opportunities

- There are a number of opportunities for growth in this neighbourhood. A large site owned by DCL poses opportunity for development – for example of more housing, a school or services; another large site on the corner of Manchester and Salisbury could be an ideal site for a supermarket or smaller local businesses to meet the basic needs of local residents.
- Build a narrative of this neighbourhood's identity as family friendly by sharing the stories of current residents.
- The Ōtākaro Orchard provides opportunities for residents to be involved in a community garden.
- Work with residents on more events and resources to help establish new community connections/ a neighbourhood group.
- Continue community-led walks / community gatherings on a regular basis to help new residents learn about the neighbourhood.

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 Peterborough Neighbourhood.



Public Space

1

St Luke's

2

Margaret Mahy

3

Avon River

Community

4

Peterborough Co-housing

5

The Vicarage

6

Ōtākaro Orchard

Business

7

Colombo Street Shops

8

Cultivate Christchurch

9

Prominent Vacant Sites

Summarised comments from participants

Insights gained

- “In the past this area has been dominated by the issues of prostitutes. It is not as big of an issue anymore.”
- “The neighbourhoods all have a very different feel.”
- “I love that I got to see and meet people in my neighbourhood.”
- “The cultural narrative of the vicarage and how it’s now in private ownership.”

Likes

- “Child friendly compared to other neighbourhoods. Kids are able to use all the public spaces as their backyard.”
- “There is a great hub of community here.”
- “The mixture of homes is positive. There is a place for older homes to stay in this neighbourhood.”
- “Colombo Street shops has a dairy and wonderful restaurants we use often.”
- “The Peterborough co-housing has been designed to avoid social isolation with lots of bumping spaces and shared facilities.”

Dislikes

- “Low rates of owner occupiers. Lots of short term rentals.”
- “Large vacant site that should have been developed into services for residents.”
- “Residents living on Peterborough Street overlook the large carpark of Forte Health.”
- “Need improved maintenance of trees and new trees in old tree pits.”
- “There is a lot of new homes being built in this neighbourhood. However, residents aren’t currently engaged with established residents groups.”
- “We need a supermarket or hub of small shops.”

How should this area change?

- “A more connected community that is inclusive of new residents.”
- “More residents – would like to see more families.”
- “Diversity – small affordable homes that suit single people and young families.”
- “More owner occupiers and less short term rentals.”
- “People walking and cycling everywhere.”
- “People yelling out ‘hello’ to each other because everyone knows each other.”
- “We want better relationships between long term residents and owners of short stay dwellings particularly around issues of maintenance and noise. At the moment it is difficult to know who to contact”
- “More local events for people in the area.”
- “More spaces for small local businesses.”

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.