

Sydenham Business & Community Association

Community meeting dated 18 August 2011 - Feedback

1. What community facilities do you want to see in Sydenham?

Help the 20% of our population to read, write, spell etc. (Facility for this in the area)

Free reading and learning exchange.

Markets. – Indoor and outdoor. Exhibitions throughout the streets.

Outdoor place to meet on sunny days away from traffic.

Parks for all ages.

Running water, trees and walkways.

Skate Park – best in New Zealand.

More meet and greet areas for people, families to go to.

An art centre would be great with exhibitions & workshops.

Facilities for the elderly.

Love the Colombo.

Performing Arts Centre.

Have sitting, playing, learning, music and art areas.

Work & Income presence – relocatable.

Pictures, to celebrate local history, to accompany info on new development.

Places for music, reading, learning, relaxing.

A public swimming pool.

Free one to one & group learning (at informal library/learning centre) Tutors.

Overall theme is for community facilities for people to meet, have fun, learn and shop.

An area similar to the Art Centre that offers all these opportunities, with green space perhaps.

2. What is your vision for the gateways into Sydenham?

The cat nine lives or similar used to be gasworks one

Some large scale murals and sculptures would give our community an attractive look and feel. They would be great attractions, like there are in places like Spain and Brazil.

Bring back the bacon.

Gateway from Brougham –day/night markets

Archways! Sculptures Art exhibitions

Eye catching Kiwi

Common themed whether it is building fronts or lamp posts.

Big sculptures from old stuff brick

Something sculptural which links Ngai Tahu symbolism with pakeha. Challis like fern/ incorporating old stones as well.

3. How would you describe Sydenham's current character?

Interesting place to poke around in! History! Crafty! Lacking a centre.

Missing, sad, lacking, struggling, vacant, confused

Muted! But ready to pick itself up.

Mixed. Old and new.

Light industrial. Small retail.

Sad. Lacking shops, markets, cafes.

Post earthquakes. Hopeful. Empty looking. Thriving. Heart. Resilient.

A place of pure potential!

Gone. Rubble and landfill.

Heritage. Fantastic potential!

I feel Sydenham has and did have a very cold, slow feel. It did not have any bright vibrant happening shops and events. Galleries etc.

One of the oldest suburbs. But it has lost its mojo. Time to be reborn. Green up the area. Food. Markets. Live music.

Phoenix rising from the ashes.

4. Ideally what would like to see as the unique future character of Sydenham

Small scale, character, street orientated, diverse

Boutique! Designer! Op-shop galore!

Iconic, classic but modern. Boutique feel so the area feels similar. Art, sculpture, timelessness.

Love courtyard with cafe! Old! Interesting! Crafty! Need more green.

Bars/shops

Changing – maybe shops that people can rent space in. E.G. Craft Hall. Therefore, every time you visit the area has changed

Happy, peaceful, safe. Deep breaths. Relaxing. A place that has everything. A place that the character makes you go back.

Vibrant and boutique sized shops (Antiques, Jewellery, Artisans, Cobbler, Medical Centre, Library, Post Office)

Not a narrow corridor. Buildings terraced back to create balconies to make the street more open.

An art enclave. Specialist food shops. International cafes. Bookshops – new/secondhand.

If we had some galleries and art exhibitions alongside the cafes and stores this would raise the profile of Sydenham as a COMMUNITY. Give a great vibe and feel.

Mixture of heritage and new buildings. Family areas. Learning opportunities.

Trades, retail and life.

Destination retail, hospitality, residential and (hopefully) market suburb.

Green the corridor.

Better utilise the green spaces. More seating. Public areas.

Art galleries, Music – shops and performance area

Include a permanent covered fresh produce/art & craft market

Hopefully include all people in Sydenham not just the 'business heart'.

Mixed – old and new.

5. What would you like to see happen at the old school site?

Dave Henderson plans were good.

A park with a combination of shops and apartments surrounding it.

Think of English houses surrounding a park. The shops outside, houses inside.

Shopping area with housing above units.

7 day market – permanent stalls.

Community/farmers market with display stalls (\$10 per day)

Residential is an absolute must for Sydenham to thrive. It is cut off at present.

Music school – practice and teaching only. Performances in the community centre on church site opposite.

Residential, including all ages with sound proofing between apartments.

A plan like Dave Henderson put forward about 10 years ago.

Music education facility.

A market place for a vibrant residential/business area with artistic vibe, with murals and sculptures would appeal.

Can we show in art, etc the character and history of Sydenham.

A covered market.

Day/night markets.

A green square with a community centre surrounded by residential/business.
Creative.

A music, art & food market. Permanent and temporary stalls.

Better children's play area.

Pools, seats and shady trees.

6. If there was a heart in Sydenham, where would it be, and how would it look?

I'm originally from Shirley and always thought bridge-brougham was Sydenham. Now I live with my fiancé who is born and bred Sydenham and our house is on King St I still feel brougham to the bridge is the shopping "district" and brougham to Beckenham are the local amenities. Would build on how others perceive.

At each of the street of Colombo St I love Sydenham gateways.

Centre area like a park that small events/markets/performances can take place.

Somewhere to shop and have lunch, central to everywhere (main shops) that can pull the surrounding community together. Maybe a mall. Only foot traffic like Cashel mall but more character themed homely.

"Heart" nearer Sydenham Park, with community centre on church site.

Like the council's plan linking old school site to Buchan Park.

Old post office Colombo St to over bridge

The old school site has great potential for the Heart. It could be made very appealing with some murals, art and beautiful buildings.

Archways at both ends of Colombo St Blue Jeans Cuisine Moorhouse Ave

Similar to New Regent Street.

Colombo Wordsworth Corner.

In the middle part of Colombo St –a type of square/market/exhibition learning area

Covered markets

Bridge to Brougham St

The old school site. A park and crafty/creative/funky/historical feel and focus.

7. Which of the 4 options for vehicle access down Colombo Street do you prefer? - with or without buses?

There were 19 responses and this dominated the discussions, 7 favoured option B – bus/car/cycle share, 4 favoured option C Slow street no buses two option B were for slow traffic one was for buses north on Buchan so probably a C, one was for Pedestrian & Cycles one was for no cycles, one commented don't stop traffic so either a B or C one indicated some set back of shops to provide street facing seating close to shops and on that had gone for option C after discussion suggested big buses at peak times with smaller ones in between.

It was clear from the discussions that the Majority wanted Colombo to be a traffic friendly St but slow enough so it is not a major thoroughfare. The issue of diesel fumes being a negative to outside sitting was recognised but opinion divided on the benefit of having a bus service to make Colombo St Sydenham accessible to our increasingly ageing population, against the noise and pollution issues. There were some suggestions the green shuttle bus be extended to a circular route through Sydenham whilst providing a link to the bus depot – unless of course it is sited in Cass St.

8. What is your solution for pedestrian access across Brougham Street?

There were 14 post it notes of which 8 suggested an over bridge, 2 suggested a traffic flyover as Moorhouse/Colombo but with no access from Brougham onto Colombo. 2 Mentions of existing arrangements with traffic lights that stopped all traffic so pedestrians could cross in any direction including diagonally, 1 suggestions of a central island and 1 for a tunnel. Looking at the majority suggestion there were 2 mentions that an over bridge should include coloured lighting as a feature also stalls/displays/Café etc.

It may be worth suggesting that CCC discuss the general idea of allowing traffic to move along Brougham and past Colombo unhindered by a junction with Transit NZ which if achieved using a pedestrian over bridge would provide multiple benefits and some lighting and provision for other stuff either on the bridge or possibly at the Sydenham Park exit would provide the link which is currently missing.

As an afterthought and with the tacit approval of Dorothy I pondered if such over bridge could start at the side of the rebuilt Church building, which would provide a first floor entrance.

9. How can we create a safer environment?

Slow traffic.

Have lots of walking and sitting areas.

Many green areas.

Extensive CTV.

Community watch.

Willingness to use CTV to solve petty crimes. (my car was stolen opposite Rob Roys, pre-quake where CTV was looking directly at it. Council and cops referred me back and forth.)

Walkways.

Bike parking.

Bars near shops.

More people around. Make the area busier – a destination.