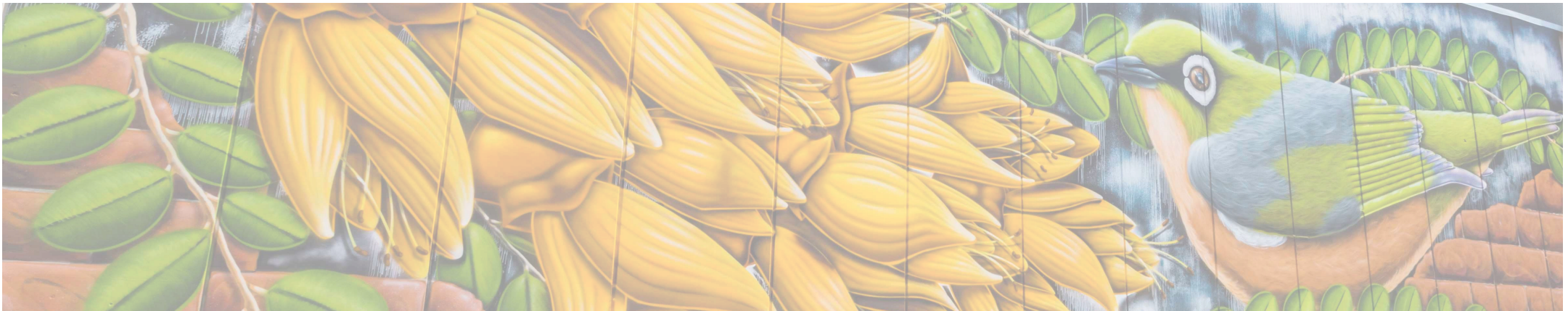


Life in Christchurch 2018

Central City Results

Produced by Monitoring and Research, May 2018



Executive summary

The 2018 Life in Christchurch survey series was commissioned by Christchurch City Council to gauge people's views about aspects of life in Christchurch. The survey is made up of a series of targeted surveys aimed at providing the Council with in-depth information on how residents feel about various aspects of life in Christchurch .

The first Life in Christchurch survey was undertaken as a single comprehensive survey in 2016 and provided a comprehensive picture of resident perceptions on a number of issues. In 2017 the decision was made to split the survey into a number of smaller topic based surveys – Central City, Transport, and Communities and Neighbourhoods were all completed in 2017.

The first survey undertaken in 2018 was Central City, and around 3100 responses were collected from a range of people and communities throughout the city. It is intended that the Central City survey will be repeated annually so results can be compared over time and any emerging trends or changes identified.

The following is a summary of the results from the Life in Christchurch Central City 2018 survey. The summary outlines the results for each of the themes in the survey, as well as providing some context around what the results mean for the city, and where the Council is already working to make improvements.

The results indicate that although there is still work to be done to improve issues in the Central City, residents perceptions of the central city are starting to improve. Across all modes of transport there has been an increase in the number of people that find it easy to travel in the central city. Increasingly respondents are reporting they are enjoying spending time in the central city, especially eating out and going to bars, as well as visiting the shops. Perceptions around the range of affordable, well-designed housing in the central city remains an issue, however is likely to improve as developments are completed and become available.

Introduction

The Life in Christchurch survey was first undertaken in 2016 as a comprehensive survey of resident perceptions of various aspects of life in Christchurch. The survey covered a range of areas, including:

- Community and culture
- The central city and local neighbourhoods
- Moving around the city
- Leadership and decision making
- Our natural environment

From 2017 onward, the Life in Christchurch survey series been split into series of shorter targeted surveys. Some surveys will be repeated annually, while others will be biannual. The topics covered will be reviewed each year. The 2018 survey topics are:

- The Central City (Annual)
- Transport (Annual)
- The Natural Environment (Biannual)
- Arts, Culture and Heritage (Biannual)

Life in Christchurch is a web based survey that uses a snowball method to reach respondents, using a ‘word of mouth’ approach rather than a traditional random sample selection methodology. The advantages of this is that it enables targeting of specific groups of interest, such as people with disabilities, smaller ethnic groups or people who might not respond to traditional survey methods or forms of formal consultation—for example, young people. The disadvantage is that it does not provide results that are necessarily representative of the wider community; rather they are indicative. Because this approach is not limited to a particular size, this form of sampling can potentially result in much higher numbers of respondents participating in the survey.

This Life in Christchurch Central City survey was undertaken in February 2018, and received around 3100 responses. Respondents were asked to give feedback on a range of topics and issues, including: living in the central city, housing, things to do, services and facilities, transport and safety.

The results have been processed and summarised into high level monitoring data broken down into five key topic areas. These results feed into the Council’s Community Outcomes monitoring programme and will be available to help inform Council decisions.

Living in the central city

- 6% (n=193) of the respondents lived in the central city at the time of completing the survey (unchanged from 2017). Of those, 34% (n=62) have lived there 1-3 years, while 30% (n=55) have lived there more than 10 years.
- Respondents who were living in the central city at the time of the survey, were most commonly couples with no children (31%, n=57), or single person households (20%, n=37).
- 55% (n=34) of respondents who have lived in the central city for 1-3 years were aged between 25-34 years old.
- 28% (n=782) of all respondents said they would consider moving to the central city, and 16% (n=445) would consider moving once the rebuild is complete. In 2017 30% of respondents reported that they would consider moving to the central city.
- Of the respondents who would not move to the central city under any circumstances (40%, n=1135), 73% (n=834) said this was due to lifestyle factors.
- 48% (n=92) of respondents who lived in the central city, also worked in the central city at the time of the survey.

What people said...

“Privacy and quiet are important, and having a little garden. I also like my friends being able to find a park when they visit.”

“As a family with 2 children living in the central city doesn't appeal as I feel we could not get the same type of home & section we currently have now.”

“I fully appreciate the advantages of living in the city and find it appealing. However, living on the Port Hills offers recreation and exercise and I ultimately prefer this.”

“...If I was single and had one car, I'd consider an apartment for one. But it's really not practical for us. If we had kids then it would be even harder to live in the CBD.”

“I would consider moving into the city once we retire in 25 years time when we have no children at home.”

“Small neighbourhood associations hugely enhance one's living experience, but the formation of them depends on the initiative of those living there.”

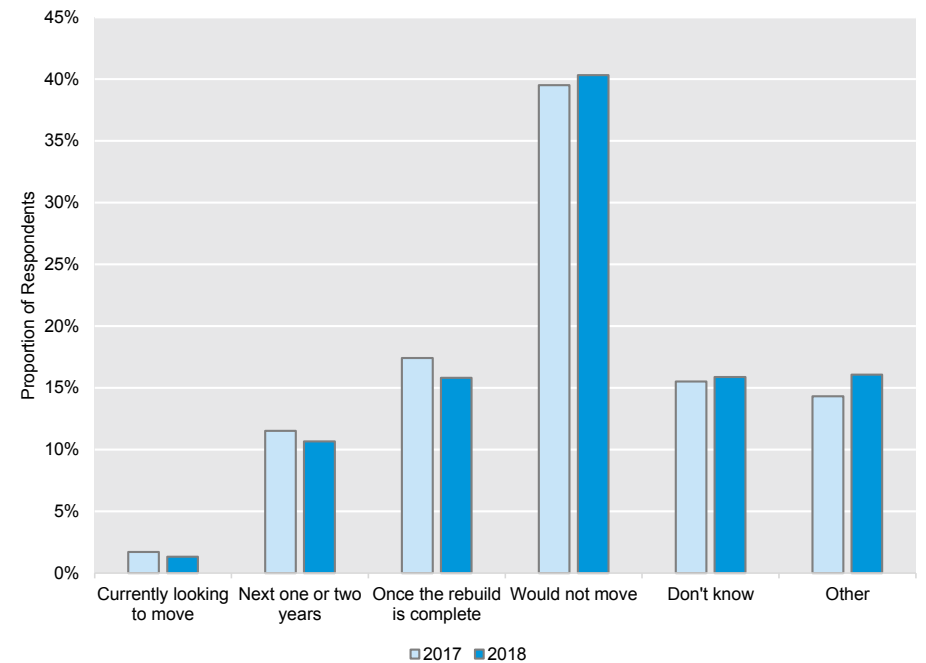


Figure 1: Would you consider moving to the central city?

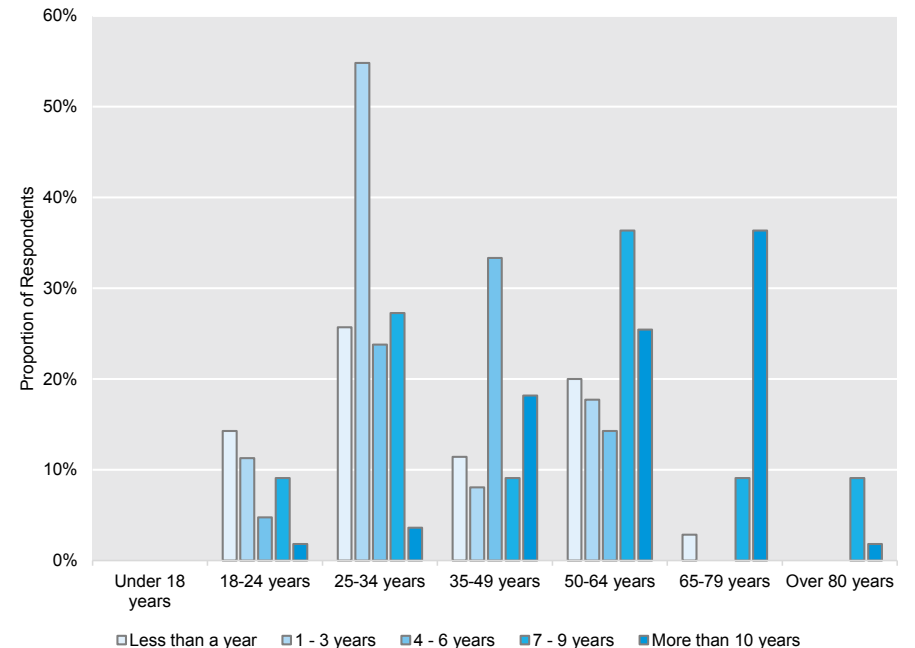


Figure 2: How long have you lived in the central city?

What does this mean?

In order to support business growth and development in the central city, and create a high level of activity it is essential that people want to live in there. The Christchurch Central Recovery Plan (written after the 2011 earthquakes) vision is for Christchurch to be the thriving heart of an international city.

The Christchurch Central Recovery Plan identified that in order for a city to thrive, it should have 3-6% of the city's population, which is approximately 20,000 in Christchurch. To service 20,000 people, there would need to be around 10,000 homes in the central city. In 2017, the central city population was approximately 5,860. It is estimated that it will take 20 years to reach the 20,000 people or 10,000 household target based on current growth information and trends.

Lifestyle factors played a large role in the reasoning respondents gave for not considering a move to the central city. Many respondents prefer living by the hills or beach, and value the space and recreation opportunities offered by those locations.

Promoting the unique characteristics and opportunities of the central city will help to encourage people back into the city and increase the number of people who would consider living there. The Margaret Mahy Family Playground, the shopping, hospitality and open spaces offer a diverse range of opportunities that create a unique environment which will allow residents to thrive.

Community Outcome: Strong sense of community

What the Council is doing about this

A fully functioning and vibrant central city is key to Christchurch's long-term success. The Christchurch Central City Recovery Plan (CCRP) continues to guide private and public sector regeneration. Supported by the Christchurch District Plan, the CCRP seeks to consolidate commercial activities, create and support high quality public environments and expand the resident population of the central city. In June 2018, Regenerate Christchurch undertook a review of current rebuild progress to see the extent to which the vision and the objectives of CCRP were being met. The results of this work were not yet available at time of writing, but are expected in the second half of 2018.

A strategic priority for the Council is to maximise the opportunities to develop a vibrant, prosperous and sustainable 21st century city. It is widely recognised that affordable and well-designed central city housing has a key role in achieving this. As a result, a 10 year central city residential programme is being developed and delivered by the Council, in partnership with other rebuild and development agencies, to increase both the demand for and supply of housing through a range of incentives, investment and supporting stronger communities and neighbourhoods.

As the rebuild of the central city continues, and more facilities and businesses open, it will increasingly become a more attractive place for people to want to live and spend time in. In July 2018 the vision for Cathedral Square and Surrounds was released by Regenerate Christchurch, giving residents an idea of what Cathedral Square could be in the future.

The vision focused on creating a gathering place for local people and visitors that will stimulate investment and showcase the best of Christchurch. Several key facilities are set to open in 2018/19 and will bring vibrancy and activity to Cathedral Square and surrounding area. Tūranga/Christchurch Central Library is scheduled to open in 2018 and the restored Town Hall in early 2019.

Crown-led Anchor Projects being delivered by Ōtākaro Limited include Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct, the refresh of Victoria Square, Te Paea/Christchurch Convention Centre, the East and South Frames and, transport and public realm improvements – in partnership with the Council. These projects, some of which have already been delivered, make living in the central city more appealing, and will also encourage people to choose to work or do business in the central city, and visit for social and cultural activities.

Projects like these will help create a Central City that is a thriving place for people to live.

Housing

- Respondents were asked whether the central city provided:
 - A range of housing options; 35% (n=995) agreed, while 37% (n=1045) disagreed. In 2017 32% agreed, while 40% disagreed.
 - Affordable housing; around 50% (n=1402) disagreed
 - Well-designed housing; 27% (n=752) agreed, 31% (n=861) disagreed, while 30% (n=854) neither agreed nor disagreed
- Respondents were asked whether they would consider living in the following types of housing:
 - Terraced housing or attached townhouses; 58% (n=955) would consider living in this type of home
 - Low-rise apartment buildings or blocks of flats; 46% (n=818) would consider living in this type of home
 - Medium-rise apartment buildings or blocks of flats; 58% (n=1010) **would not** consider living in this type of home

What people said...

“All the new builds seem to be apartments and many of these are purchased as investments. Those living in the them are often there only short term, and disinclined to become involved in the community.”

“Housing is expensive, poorly insulated, and poorly heated. Build new, quality low-middle income housing for regular people to live in!”

“There needs to be less shoe boxes built and multi-dwelling apartments built. I’d love shops on the ground floor like cafes etc and then be living on the upper floors like wellington apartments.”

“I would live in an apartment block if it was well connected to public transport and had good shared utilities areas like a communal laundry, good storage for bikes and sports equipment, and was surrounded by green space...”

“I would only consider it if it was minimum 90 sqm with some kind of storage option, e.g. a storage unit in the basement. Apartments being built are too small with no storage.”

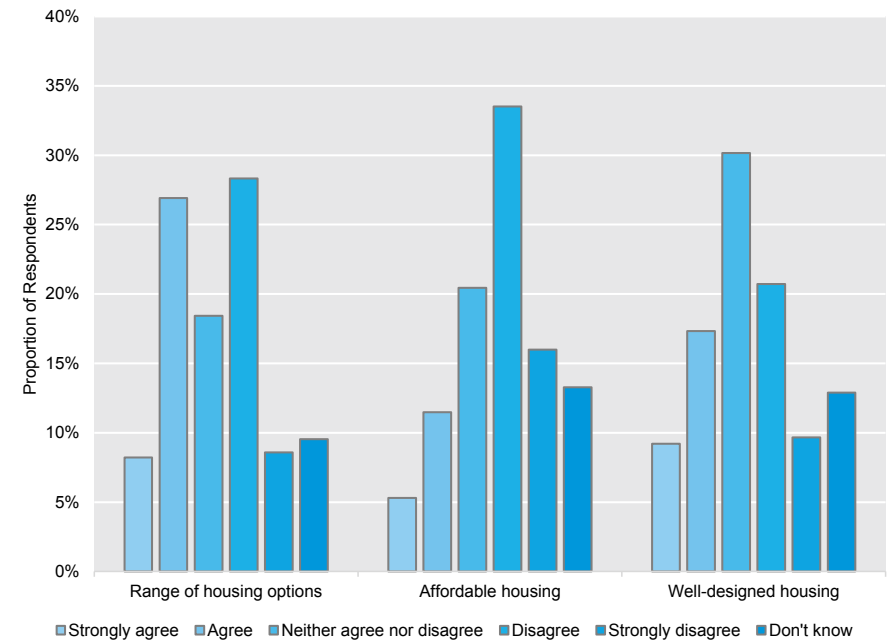


Figure 3: Overall, how much do you agree or disagree that...

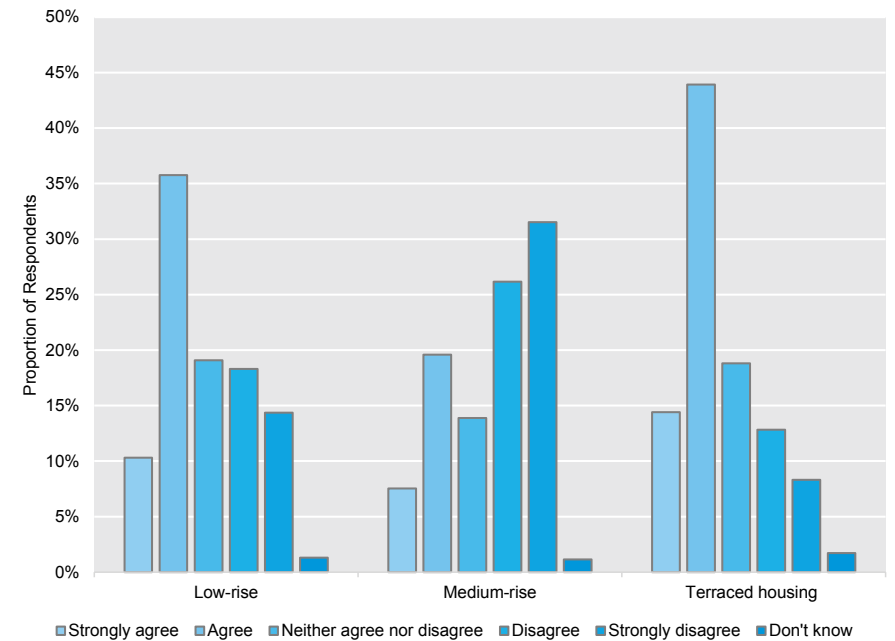


Figure 4: I would definitely consider living in this type of home in the central city...

What does this mean?

Having a variety of housing options available in the central city to suit a diverse range of lifestyles is a crucial part in attracting people to live in the central city.

To ensure the central city has suitable accommodation for an increasingly diverse population, there needs to be an increase in the variety and number of homes that are available in the Central City.

Overall, respondents indicated the central city needs to have a greater range of homes which are affordable and well-designed, in order for them to consider living there. Many respondents currently perceive housing in the central city to be unaffordable, poorly designed and compact. They said this kind of living is generally not suitable for a family lifestyle.

Although many respondents said they would not consider moving to the central city, some said they would consider living in terraced housing in the central city, however many would not consider living in medium rise apartments or flats. This provides a clear indication that the types of housing available in the central city is going to play a large role in attracting more permanent residents into the central city. It is likely that terraced housing may appeal to families as it offers more privacy than homes that share a common area. This is an important consideration when developing homes for the future population of the central city.

Community Outcome: Sufficient supply of, and access to, a range of housing

What the Council is doing about this

More people living in the central city will support the significant investment already made by the public and private sectors. Quality housing is essential to achieving health, equity, prosperity and a zero carbon future.

In 2017, 122 net new residential dwellings had been consented within the Four Avenues, the most since 2007 when there were 125 net new residential dwellings consented.

To help raise design quality, the Council offers a design review service for larger residential developments and independently through the Christchurch Urban Design Panel. In addition, a free Eco Design service is offered to improve building sustainability. Formerly the Build Back Smarter service, now Healthier Homes, provides advice and support to existing homes to make them warmer, drier and healthier.

The Christchurch Housing Accord, supported by the Council's Housing Policy, was set up to support housing development in Christchurch. Within the central city the Accord provides the opportunity to utilise former Council land for housing developments. The Atlas Quarter is one such site, delivering over 100 residential units, both apartments and townhouses, to market in 2018.

The construction of One Central (the residential development contained within the East Frame) has begun in the central city. This will see around 2000 people living between Manchester and Madras streets in a variety of townhouses and apartments built over the next 10 years around Latimer Square and along the newly completed Rauora Park. The first 20 townhouses in the East Frame are due to be completed in late 2018.

These developments and other smaller developments being constructed within the central city, will offer a variety of medium density housing to attract a diversity of people, and levels of housing affordability, within walking distance of a wide range of amenities. By increasing central city residential densities a more compact city form can be achieved, with less pressure for urban sprawl into rural areas.

Range of Services and Facilities in the Central City

- 77% (n=2016) of respondents had visited the central city at least once a month for recreation, shopping, eating out, or other services.
- 54% (n=1804) agreed that there is a range of things for all people to do in the Central City (60% in 2017), and 65% (n=1825) agreed that there is a range of things for families and children to do in the central city (unchanged since 2017).
- Around 90% (n=2475) of respondents thought the central city provides a range of restaurants, cafes and bars (around 80% in 2017).
- 75% (n=2076) believed the central city provides a range of shops, services and entertainment (around 60% in 2017).
- Over half (56%, n=1544) of respondents believed the central city provides a range of recreation opportunities (50% in 2017).
- Respondents most frequently visited the central city to:
 - Eat out or go to bars (50%, n=1559)
 - Go shopping (43%, n=1352)
 - Visit attractions (34%, n=1053)

What people said...

“Accessible Activities for elderly, pet owners and disabled people are missing currently.”

“Aside from the playground there's not actually a lot for kids in the cbd...indoor play areas would be good - Timezone, rock climbing etc”

“Margaret Mahy playground is fantastic and people are always playing basketball at the basketball hoop which my husband said would never be used - he was wrong and knows it!”

“I go into the city to explore the different types of shops from the Malls and love going to the different types of eating places. Little High a firm favorite.”

“The central city is on track to provide a good range of recreation opportunities, shops, entertainment and cafes. I look forward to seeing further growth in all of these areas.”

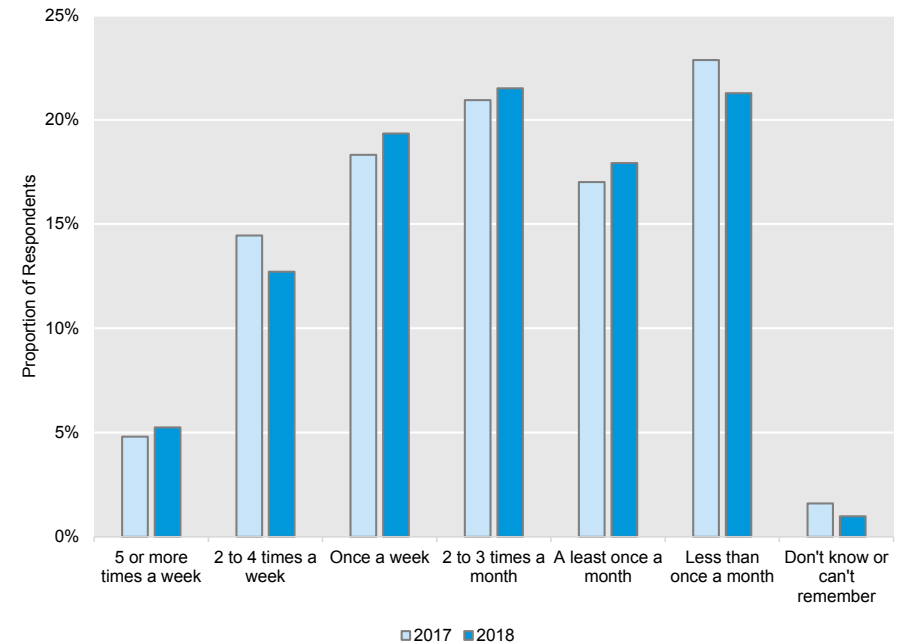


Figure 5: How often have you visited the central city on non-work or education related trips in the past 12 months?

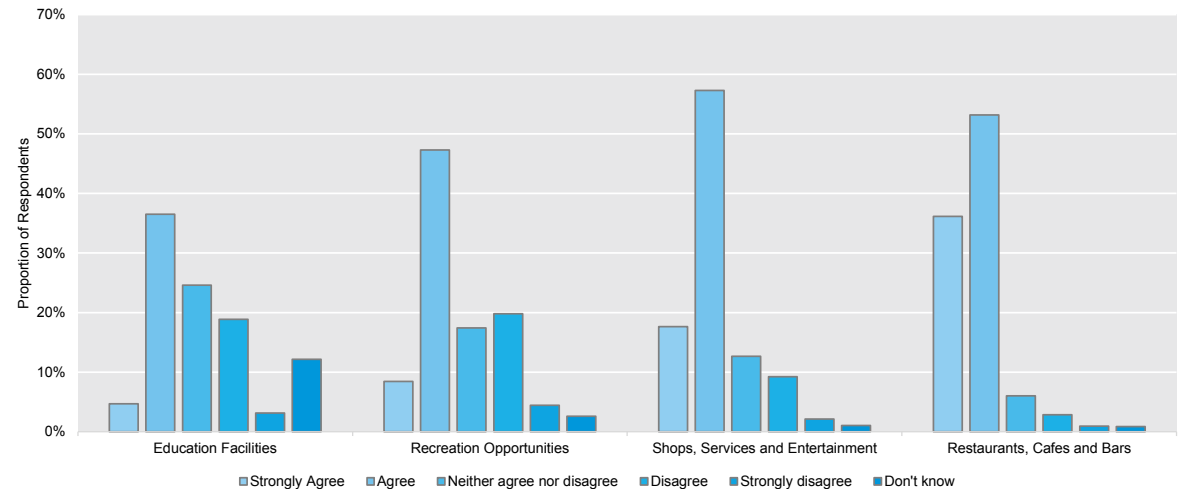


Figure 6: Overall, how much do you agree or disagree that the central city provides a range of...

What does this mean?

A liveable city has a range of facilities and attractions for all visitors and residents to access, both during the day and at night.

77% of respondents reported visiting the central city at least once a month for non-work and non-education purposes, a slight increase from the previous years result of 76%. This suggests that the central city is an increasingly attractive place for people to spend their discretionary time.

As the rebuild of the central city continues, respondents are recognising that the range of services, businesses and facilities are increasing – especially when it comes to shops and places to eat out. This is a positive result, which is likely to be a reflection of the businesses and developments that have opened in the central city.

Several key facilities are set to open in 2018/19 and will bring vibrancy and activity to the central city. Tūranga/Christchurch Central Library, located on the north side of Cathedral Square, is scheduled to open in 2018 and the restored Town Hall in early 2019 – returning a premiere performance venue to the central city and complementing The Piano and Isaac Theatre Royal.

It is important for the central city to continue to provide a broad range of services, facilities, shops and things to do to make it an attractive destination for residents and visitors.

Community Outcome: Vibrant and thriving Central City, suburban and rural centres.

What the Council is doing about this

As the regeneration of the central city continues, the variety of facilities, attractions and opportunities available to residents and visitors continues to grow.

Crown and Council-led Anchor Projects remain important ‘activators’ for the redevelopment of the central city. Development agencies, Development Christchurch Ltd and Ōtākaro Ltd, will drive forward major public projects. The completion of key council projects, including Tūranga/Christchurch Central Library and the restored Town Hall will represent significant milestones in the redevelopment of the Central City.

The opening of the Justice and Emergency Services Precinct has brought approximately 2000 workers back to the central city.

The Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Isaac Theatre Royal, The Piano and the staged Arts Centre reopening are welcomed additions to the cultural recovery of the central city. The entire western-end of the Arts Centre is due to open by November 2018, with spaces for a boutique cinema, apartments and co-working spaces, providing another element of uniqueness to the city.

New public spaces along the Avon River are helping to create interest for families, particularly the Margaret Mahy Family Playground. It remains a popular destination for families visiting the central city.

The opening of the new \$50 million HOYTS cinema complex in September 2018, will provide another central city entertainment venue for people of all ages. The HOYTS cinema will be part of the EntX: Entertainment Central, with a unique dining precinct on the ground floor and the cinema upstairs.

The upcoming Riverside Farmers Market, bordered by Cashel and Lichfield streets and Oxford Terrace, is set to become a major attraction for the central city upon completion in 2019. More than 10,000 visitors per day are expected. It will offer an indoor farmers market with restaurants, boutique retail, cafes and bars.

The Crossing – a modern central city retail development – opened in September 2017. The Crossing offers a wider range of shopping facilities, including international retailers that are new to the South Island. This will continue to attract people to visit the central city.

The Central City Environment and Identity

- More than half (n=1618) of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the look and feel of central city streetscapes and open spaces. This remains unchanged from 2017.
- More than 60% (n=1737) of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the look and feel of new buildings in the central city. This remains unchanged from 2017.
- 65% (n=1775) of respondents believe the current level of trees and garden plantings in the streets and open spaces enhance the look and feel of the central city.
- 61% (n=1666) of respondents agree that the central city is safe for pedestrians, while 37% (n=1016) think the central city is safe for cyclists; both an improvement from 2017 of 52% and 30% respectively.
- 29% (n=809) of respondents reported that the city centre is clean or free of litter and vandalism. This remains around the same as 2017.
- The top THREE features that respondents thought made the central city distinctive and unique, were:
 - Botanic Gardens (36%, n=1125)
 - Hagley Park (26%, n=824)
 - Rivers and streams (25%, n=784)

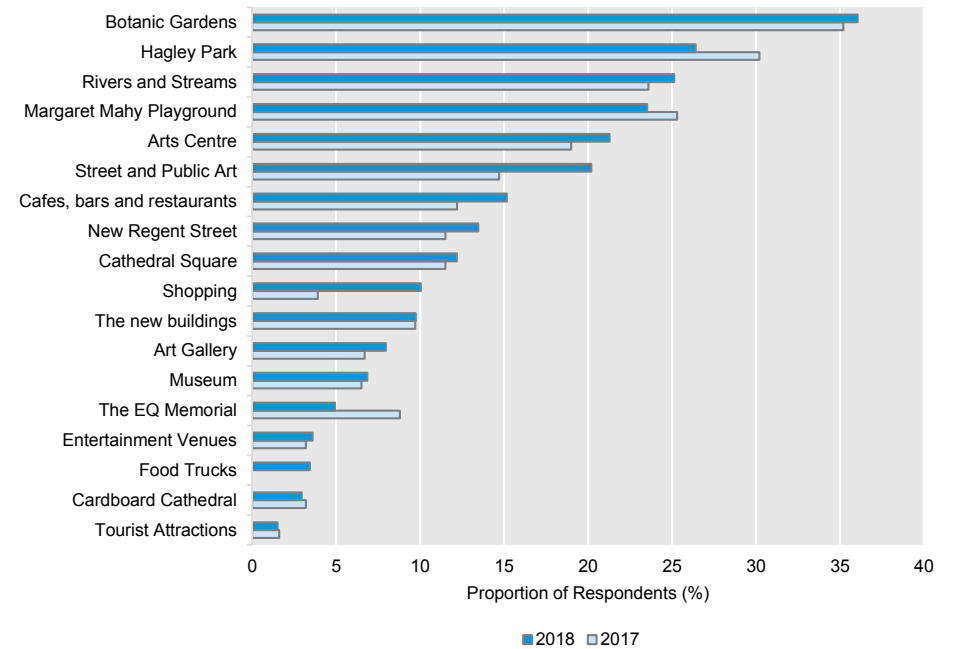


Figure 7: Which THREE features contribute the most to making the central city distinctive and unique?

What people said...

“New buildings seem safe to be in and around during an earthquake, but I feel less confident around the shells and facades around old or abandoned buildings.”

“Need more graffiti (tags) removed sooner rather than later. More bins and more litter pickers out n about rather than parking attendants.”

“A lot of the new buildings have little beauty or character. Hopefully the street trees will soften as time progresses. Some are visually appealing and enhance the city. More shelter from the easterly needed in design/layout of streetscapes.”

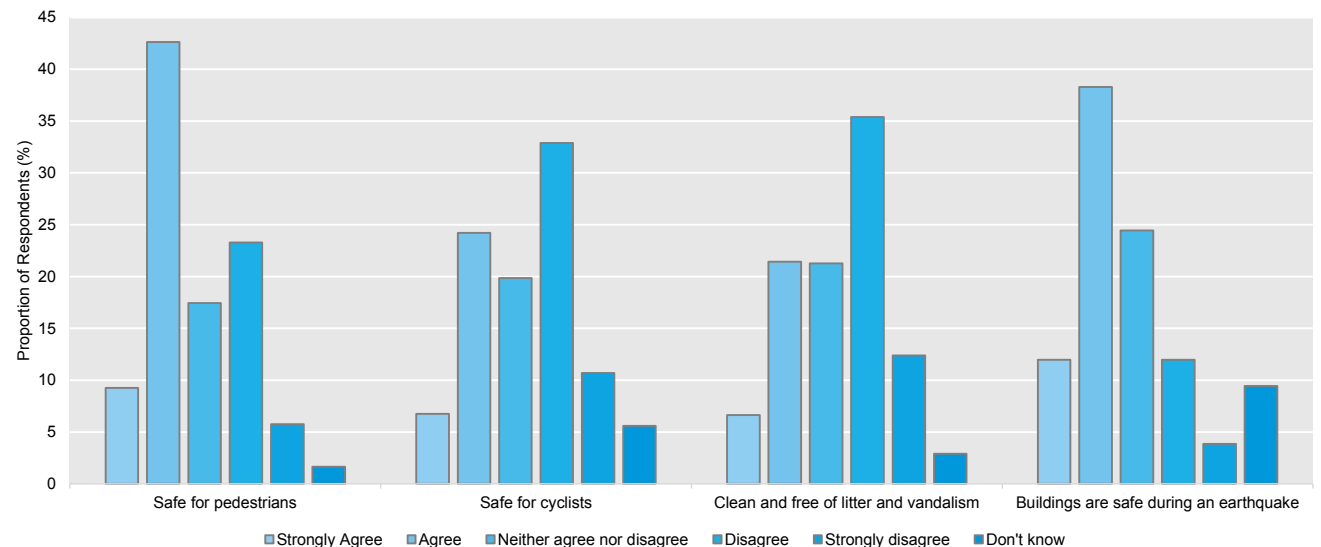


Figure 8: Overall, how much do you agree or disagree that...

What does this mean?

The look and feel of the central city is an important aspect of encourage people to linger and spend time in there. More than half of respondents liked the look and feel of new buildings, open spaces and streetscapes.

Respondents identified a range of things that contribute to the unique identity of the central city. The top three (Botanic Gardens, Hagley Park and rivers and streams) relate to aspects of the natural environment, highlighting its importance and value in our central city.

The Christchurch Central Recovery Plan recognised that effective urban design creates attractive, safe and functional places. The look and feel of buildings and their surroundings, including streets and public spaces, is an important component in creating a distinctive city that is attractive to everyone.

The central city is designed to be well-connected and walkable — encouraging people to spend time, shop and enjoy. Our central city has laneways and pocket parks to explore by foot or by bike. Central city streets have increased safety measures at crossings and wide footpaths to make space for walking and outdoor dining.

The presence of vandalism and litter can have an impact on peoples' perception of the central city and whether they feel safe, and there is work to be done to address this. Ensuring the central city remains clean and free of vandalism will have a positive impact on how people feel in the central city, viewing it as an attractive and safe place to be.

Community Outcome: 21st century garden city we are proud to live in

What the Council is doing about this

Urban regeneration is a key aspect of the changes happening in the central city—making spaces that people want to spend time in and linger. These spaces are green, tree-lined, pedestrian- and cycle-friendly, with traffic that moves at a slower pace. The current level of construction and roadworks happening in the central city can influence how people feel about the look and feel of the streetscape. However, as the central city's rebuild continues to progress, the way people feel about streetscapes and open space should improve.

To improve the central city environment and people's impressions of it, Council-led initiatives such as the Barrier Sites programme are underway. The programme provides support to owners of 30 buildings that are deemed to be barriers to the central city's progress. Eight of these sites now have work underway and a further nine sites have clear plans, with development expected to begin shortly.

Other Council-led initiatives include working with construction companies and developers to ensure construction is less intrusive within the central city streets. The Council is also providing a series of free hoardings designs to enhance street appeal of construction sites.

The Council monitors the service needs of the central city and can adjust the frequency of maintenance such as litter collection and/or road sweeping. Monitoring has been made simpler since the creation of the app Snap, Send, Solve, allowing the public to quickly let the Council know if something needs addressing; overflowing bins or vandalism for example.

Transport

- The main mode of transport across all activities in the central city continues to be the car.
- Cycling is most commonly used by respondents to get to social and recreational activities (19%, n=582) and to work (18%, n= 552).
- 19% (n=598) of respondents use the bus to get to social and recreational activities in the Central City.
- Across **all modes** of transport, there was an **improvement in** perceptions around the ease of travelling within the central city when compared to 2017. Travelling by:
 - Car was easy, 2018: 30% (n=780), 2017: 22% (n=526)
 - Bicycle was easy, 2018: 36% (n=950), 2017: 29% (n=706)
 - Foot (walking) was easy, 2018: 70% (n=1860) , 2017: 64% (n=1539)
- The majority of respondents said the one hour free parking has made parking more affordable (65%, n=1704) and more accessible (53%, n=1390).
- Respondents were divided on whether the one hour free parking encouraged them to visit the central city, with 33% (n=854) reporting that it had encouraged them, and 38% (n=981) reporting that it had not.

What people said...

“An hour's free parking isn't valuable to us as we go to the city for about a half day at a time and the price after an hour is prohibitive.”

“Despite driving into the central city on a weekly basis, I was completely unaware that there were six council sites with free parking for the first hour. It would have been a great encouragement for me to come into the city.”

“At the moment there is too many road works and therefore narrowing of streets making biking through town a bit dangerous. In time, I can see that it is going to be magical.”

“If there was a free shuttle service that circulated around the central city then that would encourage me to park and ride instead of bringing my vehicle in the city.”

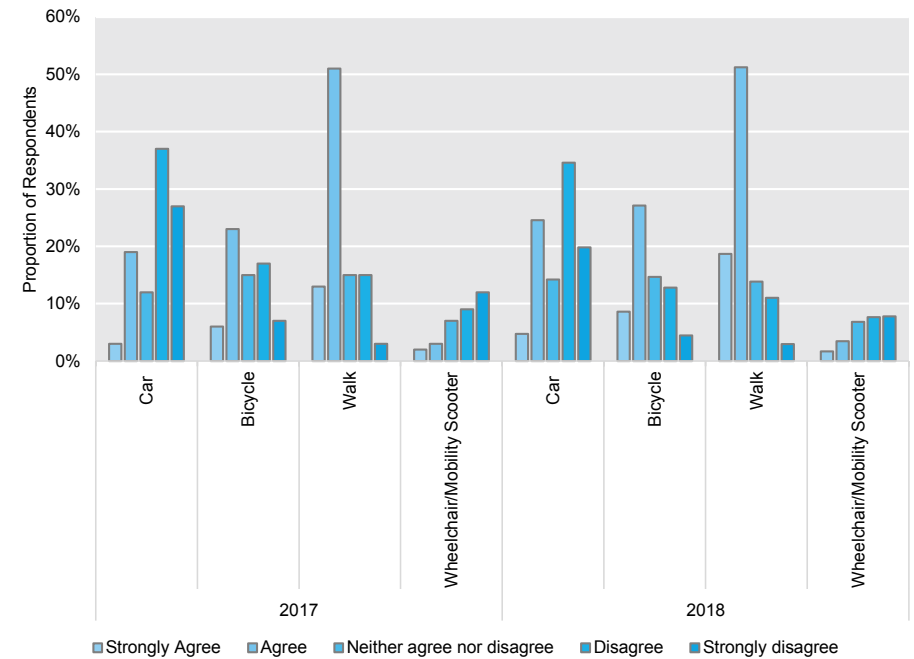


Figure 9: Overall, how much do you agree or disagree that it is easy to travel within the central city by...

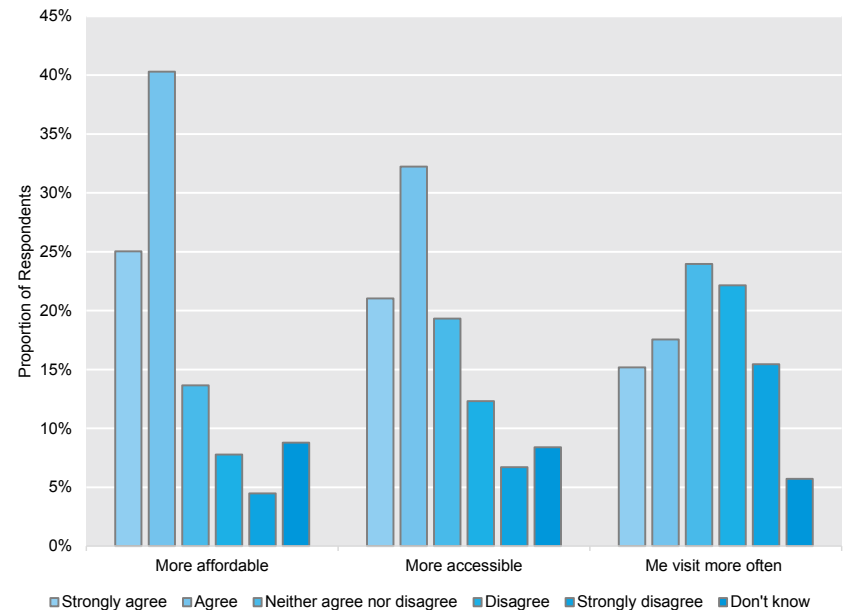


Figure 10: Thinking about the one hour free car parking, how much do you agree or disagree that it has made...

What does this mean?

The new central city is compact, people- and cycle-friendly and buzzing with activity. The Council and Ōtakaro are working on transport projects to make it easier, safer, more efficient and enjoyable to get around for all modes of travel – by car, bike, walking or by bus.

Central city streets are designed for particular modes of transport – this is to maximise the efficiency of transport, and allow safe travel to destinations.

Although the ongoing roadworks and road closures have impacted respondents ease of travel in the central city, fewer respondents are identifying it as an issue compared to 2017. This trend is expected to improve as the rebuild progresses.

The one hour free parking was well-received by respondents who had heard about and used it, however many did not know about this initiative.

One of the main reasons respondents said they found it difficult to travel within the central city was due to the availability of parking. This is likely perception based only, as there are now more car parks available in the city centre compared to pre-earthquake car parks levels. It is important to make people aware of where off-street car park buildings are located so they can be easily accessed.

Improvements have already been made across modes of travel, as there has been a marked increase in the percentage of respondents who report finding it easy to travel in the central city, when compared to 2017.

As the residential development in the central city and surrounding suburbs continues, and businesses return to the central city, traffic is likely to increase as more people commute. This is important to consider as the development of traffic management strategies continues.

Community Outcome: A well connected and accessible city

What the Council is doing about this

As we create new places to live, work and visit in the central city, we need a modern travel network that makes it easy, safe and enjoyable for everyone to move around.

The *An Accessible City* transport projects aim to balance the needs of all users of the central city travel network. These take into account the needs of cyclists and pedestrians to be able to travel safely and easily. They also consider accessibility, parking and vehicle access requirements. More travel options for people whether by car, public transport, cycle or walking means improved traffic flow.

As we rebuild our new central city, roadworks and road closures are an ongoing reality. The impact and inconvenience of roadworks is expected to lessen as the work on the major routes is completed.

The central city currently has more public car parking than was available pre-earthquake. However, people have the perception that there is a lack of parking. Providing people with clear informational about parking availability, its cost and how to get in and around the central city will help. To help encourage people to use the public parking, the Council has introduced one hour of free public car parking in two of its off-street car parking buildings. Central city parking is commercial in nature and the cost of parking is largely driven by private sector parking providers. The Council will continue to monitor the cost of its parking facilities.

A number of new parking facilities has recently opened in the central city, including the new Lichfield Street Car Park building which offers 805 car parks. A recent report found occupancy for this car park is around 50 per cent on any given day, indicating more could be done to raise awareness about the availability of parking in the central city.

Safety

- 90% (n=2367) of respondents feel safe during the day in the central city, compared to 46% (n=1201) at night. These remain unchanged when compared to the 2017 results.
- The top THREE reasons respondents feel unsafe during the **day** are:
 - People under the influence of drugs or alcohol (58%, n=144)
 - Begging (55%, n=137)
 - Homeless people (53%, n=131)
- The top THREE reasons respondents feel unsafe at **night** are:
 - People under the influence of drugs or alcohol (57%, n=733)
 - Anti-social behaviour (52%, n=673)
 - Isolated areas (47%, n=599)
- The reasons for people feeling unsafe in the central city both during the day and at night remain unchanged from the 2017 results.
- A much greater percentage of females feel unsafe at night because of isolated areas (28%, n=419) and poor lighting (21%, n=317), compared to males.

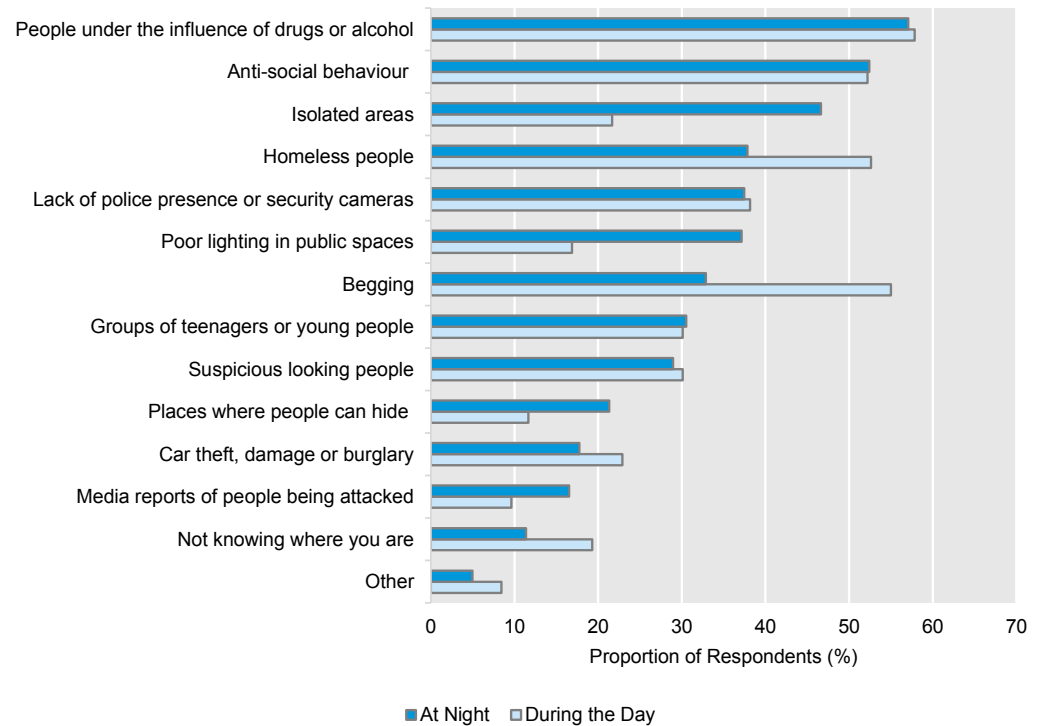


Figure 11: Why did you feel unsafe in the central city during the day/at night?

What people said...

“Alcohol abuse and mayhem in the city are regularly reported in the newspaper and I don't want to be vulnerable in the city at night.”

“I felt 100% safe in Tokyo at night with millions of people but in Christchurch when there are not many people around it feels less safe. Generally I've not had problems with begging nor homeless people although there are an increasing number which gives the city a poor image to those visiting the city.”

“Camera's - lots of them. Police presence - a kiosk like we used to manned by a couple of police people. Like a community constable.”

“Please take measures to remove the increase in beggars on the streets. Have never seen so many as in recent years. It is intimidating having to pass these people when walking on the street.”

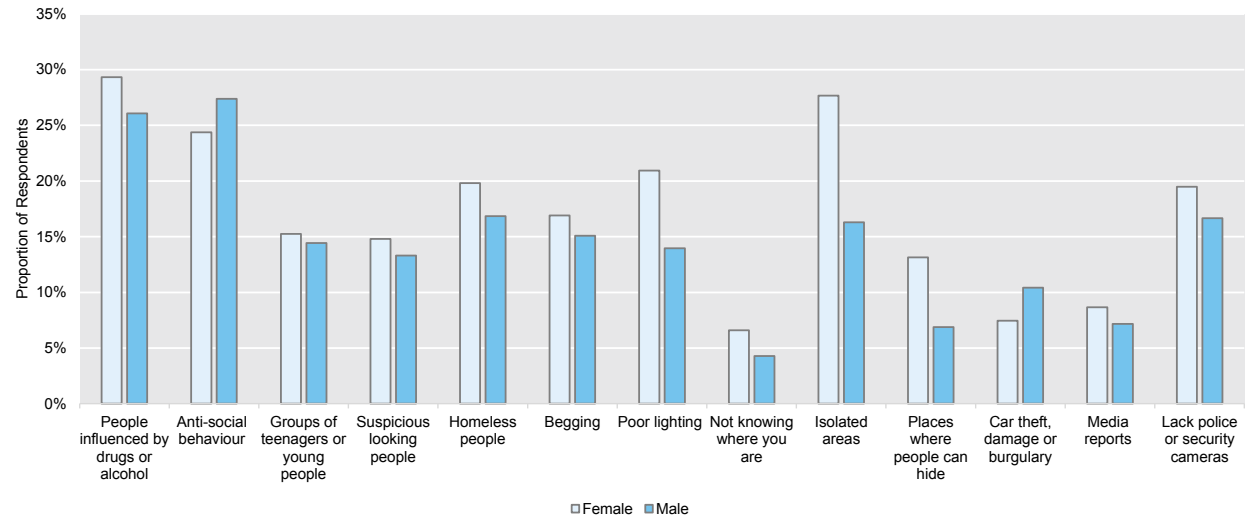


Figure 12: Why did you feel unsafe in the central city at night? X Gender

What does this mean?

It is important the central city is perceived as a place where residents and visitors feel safe. Negative perceptions of safety can be a significant barrier to both residents and visitors returning to and engaging with the central city.

The Safer Christchurch Alliance demonstrates the commitment of a range of agencies to the creation of a city that is a safe place to work, play, live and visit. Last refreshed in 2016, the Safer Christchurch Strategy outlines the key priorities for developing a safe city. These include reducing and preventing the incidence and effects of crime, and including safety measures in buildings to achieve a safe and vibrant city.

Most respondents reported feeling safe in the central city during the day, however many did not feel safe at night. The main reason respondents felt unsafe during the day and at night was due to people under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Reasons given for feeling unsafe during the day included begging and homeless people. At night reasons given for feeling unsafe were due to anti-social behaviour and isolated areas.

Perceptions of safety play a large role in the decisions people make around where to spend their time. Promotions of events and opportunities that give people reason to safely visit the central city at night would likely lead to improved perceptions of night time safety in the central city.

As more businesses open and return, and developments are completed in the central city, isolated areas will likely become less of a safety issue as the city becomes more populated.

Community Outcome: Safe and healthy communities

What the Council is doing about this

The revitalisation of the central city is well underway, however there are still pockets of undeveloped or vacant land which can be intimidating for people, especially at night. To address this, a core network of pedestrian routes is being developed to connect people to core destinations safely. This will also concentrate foot traffic along the network so people will feel safer travelling in populated areas.

Improving lighting, and fencing off vacant areas or activating vacant sites will also help to improve the perception of safety in the central city. Additionally, as businesses return to the city and developments are completed, the level of activity across the city will increase allowing people to feel safer.

To address homelessness, the Council has recently agreed to commit its support to the Housing First pilot programme which aims to end chronic homelessness by 2020. This involves moving homeless people into housing and providing them with the support needed to remain in a stable living condition.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) aims to incorporate safety measures through the design of buildings and public spaces, reviewing design plans and identifying opportunities to create safer spaces. This includes the placement of lighting, vegetation and having a clear line-of-sight.

Open comments

“Congratulations to the Mayor and team for their leadership and service to our city. Ignore the naysayers and focus on the vision of a vibrant, people, pedestrian and bike friendly, central city. Plant trees and fill the city with street art and music.”

“cycle ways are great, but not at the expense of road usability. Use footpath on one side for cycles and use grass area where necessary.”

“Enjoying the placement of laneways around the central city”

“Everytime I go into the city I see progress, its going to be a very exciting time when it is finished, a great city for my grandchildren to grow up in”

“Festival and events such as the buskers, are our showcase to the rest of NZ and the world. Other cities worldwide promote their festivals as tourist attractions, we need to keep as many as possible to ensure our city is a vibrant inclusive place to visit.”

“fix it up, tidy the river banks, sort out the litter problem, tidy up the empty sites, get rid of Wilson parking.”

“Follow the dream, make it the best, most modern city center in the world. Technology, people, activities and places must fit seamlessly together.”

“Get the roads fixed and keep them wide. Keep the price of parking down and do not reduce car parking more. That will bring people into the CBD.”

“Great start on cycleways, but the unsafe places tend to be the intersections. Please prioritise pedestrians city wide”

“Had a very enjoyable recent visit to the city during the Buskers festival. We rode on the tram with our yearly pass (great value) very pleasant, informative driver/conductor. The Gondola staff were also very pleasant & well informed. These people are real assets to our city for locals & tourists.”

“Hurry up and demolish all the damaged buildings. Empty spaces are better than damaged buildings and it has been nearly seven years since the big earthquake”

“I am loving the growth and change in the city centre. I am not loving the increase of homeless people on the street, in particular them harassing people. I have a friend who works in the city centre who is visually impaired. She is harassed most days by them as she walks to work, either verbally or physically. They even purposely get in the way of her cane and trip her up. This needs to change”

“Be nice when the Cathedral rebuild begins. Right now road works make getting around difficult, particularly when footpaths are blocked off with no notification which leads to having to majorly retrace steps.”

“I love the new city so much. My husband works around the centre in construction, so knows his way around really well. We regularly take friends in for 'tours' and to show them the new places, because so many refuse to come in to see because its so inaccessible. Please can we have a park and ride system - 2 car parks on opposite sides of the city near the motorways, with buses to run people in and out. Once people get there, they LOVE walking around exploring, but so many dont even get out of their cars because they are lost, scared, and bewildered by the roads and parking. We need alternatives. Show that you care about local people coming back. They really want to come back, but feel shut out.”

“I love the street art. Keep doing more of that!”

“I really would like the Council to take care of the 'tagging' on high rise buildings in the centre because it makes everything look tatty and deprived. Other than that I see the city getting better and better every week.”

“Its a shame that Wilson Parking has the monopoly, It would be great if they had more competition as they are sucking the lifeblood out of central business.”

“Keep up the great work, cant wait to walk through the city when its all finished!”

“Make it more appealing and give us knowledge of what is going on in the city without having to go in there and get all confused”

“The greener the better”