

Child and Youth Consultation Summary

Summary

The results of the consultation were very consistent over all the groups spoken to. The key issues of concerns were the need for more youth facilities and places for children to play, youth events and safety.

Hard to Reach youth

Over the period of three nights Te Roopu Rangatahi and Youth Council attended 2 Hip Hop Nation events (organised by Council) and the Battle of the Bands finals (organised by Tear Fund). They took along video cameras and interviewed approximately 90 youths on their views on what Waitakere City needed for youth and what was good and bad about Waitakere City. Three clear issues emerged; the need for youth events, a place for youth to hang out and safety concerns. The last issue was a result of specific questions from the interviewers on their perceived safety in Waitakere City. The need for more youth events was strongly supported in the interviews. Many comments noted that it was a key way to get youth off the streets and keep them out of trouble. Following on from this was a need for a centre or place for youth to be able to hang out and do what they like to do.

Link to detailed results and comment

Youth Council

Generally the Youth Councillors were very positive about life in Waitakere. Their issues and concerns were consistent with issues identified in other youth consultation.

Link to detailed results and comment

Henderson High School Focus Group

The results from this focus group were very similar to other consultation undertaken with youth. The need for more hangout areas and leisure facilities clearly ranked as the number one priority for this group with the associated need for cheaper entertainment. The next most important priority was that of safety, with safer roads being specifically mentioned. Of note was the high priority for places for the elderly. Although in the initial brainstorming session many issues were raised around transport this failed to rank in the list of priorities.

Link to detailed results and comment

Primary Schools

Students from 3 Primary Schools in Waitakere City were invited to write to Mayor Bob on what was important to them in the City. Thirty-seven letters were received from Primary School students. The issue of most concern was the need for more places for children to play like playgrounds, swimming pools, rocknasiums, theme parks, and skate parks. There was a specific need mentioned for playgrounds targeted at older children e.g. 10 – 15 years

old. Also mentioned was the desire to have clean streams, in particular the need to clean up Millbrook Road Stream, and a wish to see more bush walks, particularly ones where bikes were allowed.

Link to detailed results and comment

How are the key issues allowed for in the Council's draft Strategic Plan?

➤ *Youth events*

This is not specifically allowed for in the Strategic Platforms though it was identified in the consultation as equally important as a youth centre. Currently no staff are specifically mandated to undertake this activity, so is undertaken based on individual staff interests. The development of youth events could be a means of providing a temporary solution to the needs of youth while a youth centre is being developed. By holding youth events at existing facilities it is possible to provide more localised and accessible events, which was also noted as important. A possible option would be to allocate part of the new events coordinator's time specifically towards youth events.

➤ *Youth centre/places for youth and children*

Included in the Strong Communities Strategic Platform. Strong support was shown for the development of a youth facility, particular one that was focused towards a space for teenagers to hangout and do what they want.

➤ *Safety*

This was linked specifically to safety on the streets and the lack of places and things to do. By addressing the issues above, this will go some way towards addressing this issue. Safety is specifically addressed in Urban and Rural Villages and Transport and Communication Strategic Platforms.