

# WELLBEING SUMMIT

## WORKSHOP GROUPS - NOTES

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### Workshop 2 : There is a Strong Sense of Community And People Feel Connected and Valued in Waitakere, Turangawaewae, Hapu and Iwitanga

#### Success – What We Would See

- Reduced crime
- Know neighbours
- Laughter on street
- More people walking – not scared to walk, feel safe
- Community activities well attended
- Large local community events = builds connection
- Access
  - Lifestyle
  - Environment
  - Information (language isn't a barrier)
- Community pride
- Strong local schools
- More participation, eg local body elections
- Places where people can congregate without being moved on:
  - Happening places
  - Town square vibe
  - Safe, alive, food
- Language of bureaucracy “translated”
- Enabling people to learn English
- Rely on family and neighbours for help and support
- Deliberately create new neighbourhood communities
  - Village feel
  - Like eco housing at Ranui in a way that development works
- Local places for youth to hang out and have something to do
- Local places for both youth and older people to have something to do – model in Hamilton based on kaupapa but inclusive for migrant and Pacific communities too
- Elimination of P and other drugs
- Elimination of stereotypes → acceptance
- Less graffiti
- No gates, no closed communities
- Awareness of cultures and values
  - More welcoming of other cultures
  - People feel accepted
- Spend leisure time in local community
- TEC funded
- More local job opportunities
- More community projects that can be funded locally

### **Where we are currently?**

- Maori/Pacific Island/ethnic statistics higher a positive but could be a negative if it's about the need to stick within their own ethnic group
- Sense of communities important
  - Not just one
  - How do communities differ both geographically and by interest etc
- Unbundle what community is/ Get benchmark definitions
- Do we focus on 80% or 20%
- What does youth community look like in Waitakere
  - U-tube/My space - online rather than place based

### **Causes/Connections**

- Communication → people not able to be involved because of information gaps, eg language, literacy, deaf etc. Means people are missing from “community”
- Funding → no whānau/ aiga funding for adult and community literacy. Funding for 16+ only. No family learning opportunities
- Hours worked – no time anymore to be part of community
  - Some people have ‘opted out’ and prefer to let a few others make decisions for them
  - Hard to get people active and to meet, eg neighbourhood support, can't get people to indicate when will be home or not. About ‘mistrust’.
- Housing turnover a large impact
  - Work opportunity and changes
  - Costs of living in Auckland so high, places huge stress
  - Low incomes for many
    - Parents doing 2 jobs
    - Kids on the loose, no attention for them
- Range of approaches needed to address issues
  - Some city wide
  - Some more local
  - Need to better understand different communities to know what would work
- Regulations of Councils a barrier to local/community events and projects –makes it too hard
- Getting people to say ‘yes’ rather than to say ‘no’ to Council – easier to mobilise people around stopping things than positive moving forward
- Human capital (asset and people building)
  - wealth creation (local employment, entrepreneurship)
  - developing community leaders
  - positive hope to move towards, need belief that people/communities can go somewhere
  - Once don't commit, don't care
  - People able to be brave, have a go

### **What works?**

- Local Xmas parades
- Ask local people for stories at grassroots about what works
- Coupons for basis food needs
- Best garden on street – best street – bringing people together
- Street parties- bring people out of houses, see who each other is
- Look at community vegetable gardens
- Hospitality what brings people together, need to have dollars for food
- Street events
- Adopt a bit of bush/park

- Resource people to work with communities – help makes projects happen – community boards working with local communities more, helping local projects happen. Delegations make it hard – could have more discretionary funding to help but more visibility of community boards in the community – make it less formal, people know who to contact

### **Who are partners?**

- Schools an important local hub
- Churches, community organisations and clubs
- The crown
- Council
- Tangata whenua

### **A Difference**

- Massey Matters as an example
- Pull a community together, take ownership
- Rallying communities interest in something

### **Actions**

- Positive coverage on a regular basis highlighting benefits of new settlers
  - Employment
  - Community initiatives/involvement
- Reframing race relations – positive and local way
  - Statement “you are valued in Waitakere”
  - Leadership programme involving new migrants
- Increased use of community amenities by ethnic community groups
- Local listings on events, where, how to engage
- Induction sessions – info on local community (currently Chinese community runs “lectures” that are well attended)
- Access to ethnic community representatives (Councillors)
- Regular newspaper column
  - Articles )
  - Listings ) for migrants
  - News ) by migrants
  - Updates )

## **SUMMARY**

### **What would success look like?**

- Know your neighbours
- Happy communities
- Fun for your communities
- Strong local schools
- Places where people can congregate and not be moved on
- Access to communities
- Accepting diversity
- Local jobs

### **How are we doing (indicators)?**

- Transience in Waitakere is high
- Are these reaching people with disabilities
- Inclusive survey
- Admission of how you “feel” in a survey

### **What other information do we need?**

- Structure of questions

### **Stories/Underlying causes**

- Language, literacy, deaf, disabilities
- Hours, people, work, distance
- Split families/split connections of different households
- Identity? Different? Powerlessness.
- High suicide

### **What other information do we need?**

- Overcrowding understand the level of overcrowding
- Influence of church leadership
- High food bank usage

### **What would it take to make a difference – what works?**

- Local events/festivals (Xmas/street drawing) garden
- People with passion
- Pride

### **Low cost/no cost idea**

- Street parties/singers/interpreting/charity events
- Know your neighbourhood project
- Artistic celebration of diversity – public art/performance
- More bilingual Council officers
- Relevant neighbourhood watch programme to include new migrants/discuss security issues clean up local areas
- Voluntary police/wardens guided tours through the Council

### **Off the wall idea**

- Food and coupons
- Working with local business for sponsorship
- Migrants day match
- New settlers from one direction, permanent residents from the other meeting in the middle
- Literature and film festival of migrant work

### **Partners with a role to play**

Government, community, leaders

### **Priorities**

- Reviving neighbourhood watch (safety)
- Creating safe places to meet
  - Street get togethers – nominate your street; friendliest street; why?

## **Sub-Group (Ngaroimata/Monica)**

### **What makes it feel connected? Valued?**

- Community activities very important
- Exchange between young/old/ethnic people
- WCC should put more focus on community development activities
  - Funding for local community activities
  - Setup necessary equipment, eg sports equipment, mahjong table
  - Regularly check/oversee how activities being held
  - New Lynn Community Centre – hope will become important place for all ethnic groups and a place for multiple activities – sports, culture, education
    - Open and welcome for all people
    - Advantage – all feel well connected and valued

### **Summary**

- Spaces at shopping centres where people can interact, talk, meet, engage
- Proportional representation on WCC
- Already have strong sense of community – need to build on that
- Social responsibility – look at what a family unit needs to be nurtured – take a village, marae approach to wider community
- Resource credible community organisations, eg Maori wardens can be resourced to train pacific and migrant wardens. No separatism, work together as part of one self sustaining sector in Waitakere
- Education resources
- Embrace culture of diversity as ongoing thing, not just at events

## **Sub Group (Ngaroimata/Monica)**

### **Reality of Being Connected**

- Have lot of activities at New Lynn Centre
- Want to be connected/organise activities with other ethnic groups – exchange our skills, culture, experience
- At the moment no exchange, all separated, no connecting between Council and different ethnic groups
- Happy to discuss today, feel like member of one family but these chances are very few – need more
- Older Chinese – language and health problems – barriers
  - Need funding for English courses for older people
  - GPs who can speak Chinese
- Stats understate reality – real lack of facilities and services that are appealing, eg for young people. Need to take a transformative approach
- Don't know neighbours – shift work, people working – need street get-togethers
- Night time activities/places are missing for lonely & isolated
- Want diverse representation around council table – help people to become positively actively involved
- Fear in older generation of migrant influx – haven't prepared wider community for immigration
- We've got to learn to chatter
- Need to embrace change, learn to look at things in a different way
- Mana whenua – 2 key custodians – need to work with them to embrace change