



Halswell
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (inc)

The Chairman:
448 Wigram Road,
CHRISTCHURCH, 8025

Delegation to Halswell – Hornby – Riccarton Community Board, 8 November 2016

NB: it would be helpful if Board members have watched the 3 min video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9sImnOIS3M> and the 1 min video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsyvrkEjoXI>

Background to our Association (for the benefit of new Board members)

1. Halswell Residents Association is an incorporated society that exists to represent the interests of Halswell. By “interests”, we mean that we try to enhance Halswell as a community in everything we do.
2. We have been active since 1994. We consist of a committee of 6-8 members (including our officers) from across Halswell, and we hold monthly meetings open to the public. It is at these meetings that our business takes place.
3. We see ourselves as complementary to Halswell Community Project. HCP also aims to enhance Halswell as a community, but they work more within the community whereas we have more of an advocacy and political role.

Why we are here tonight – Vision Zero

4. Much of our work is reactive. Council comes up with a plan or a proposal to build something, or a developer lodges a resource consent application, and we respond to that proposal. We have done this sort of thing for a long time now.
5. We want to be more pro-active in what we do. Historically, we have actually done this a lot. Examples include the process by which Halswell Domain was extended, and our work around establishing the ANZAC Day commemoration in Halswell.
6. Over the last 5 or so years, we have presented many times to this Board on transport issues. Much of our transport-related advocacy has been quite ad hoc – a speed limit review here, a pedestrian refuge there. We are seeking to put our activity into a much more organised and strategic framework. We think that City Council is also quite ad hoc in the way it goes about things too, notwithstanding various strategies, plans etc. At least that’s the way it looks in Halswell.

7. Transport is fundamental to the liveability of a community. This is especially important in a rapidly-growing community like Halswell, where provision of “liveability aspects” tends to follow well behind the putting up of houses etc.
8. Our interest in transport issues is because “transport” is at the core of how a community functions. There is also some really interesting work done by Simon Kingham from UC. He showed that interactions between neighbours (whether along or across the street) depend strongly on motor vehicle traffic density.
9. Interestingly, the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) has a strong focus on sustainability, in its broadest sense. And sustainability links to community. If we look at the key barriers to increased participation in active transport, it is perceptions of safety. Will I get hit by a car if I bike to the supermarket? Can my children scooter safely to school, given that they cross an intersection where people routinely run red lights? Can over-60s safely cross the road when the speed limit is 60 km/h?
10. This brings me to Vision Zero.

What is “Vision Zero”?

11. Just thinking for a moment about people in our social circle or even in our own family who have been killed or seriously injured on the road. We’re not talking about fault here – just death and injury. By our reckoning, pretty much everyone will know at least one such person. In our committee, we know from our own experience that such events cast a very long shadow among those of us who are left.
12. Vision Zero is a road safety concept that came originally from Sweden. Vision Zero aims to achieve a highway system with no fatalities or serious injuries in road traffic. A core principle of the vision is that 'Life and health can never be exchanged for other benefits within the society' rather than the more conventional comparison between costs and benefits, where a monetary value is placed on life and health, and then that value is used to decide how much money to spend on a road network towards the benefit of decreasing how much risk.
13. Since approval in Sweden in 1997, Vision Zero has been approved in multiple jurisdictions around the world. Have a look at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9sImnOIS3M> This is a clip from Rhode Island, in the USA.
14. It is really important to emphasise that Vision Zero is multi-faceted. It includes education and enforcement, just as much as it includes design of safe roading infrastructure.

How we see Vision Zero being implemented in Halswell – Hornby – Riccarton

15. Vision Zero, to us, is a philosophy that enables one to assess any kind of development that has anything to do with transport or has a transport component.
16. Halswell Residents Association will, in future, be looking at all developments in our community through the lens of 'Vision Zero. This will include everything from speed limits to cycleways to subdivisions. Interestingly, the People's Choice ticket here in Christchurch publicly decided to back Vision Zero just as we were working through the decision to pursue Vision Zero.
17. We think that such an approach will help this Community Board too. As a Board, you see a huge range of issues, from speed limits to whether a particular tree should stay or go. Many of these issues do have transport implications, one way or another. Having Vision Zero as a fundamental philosophy will, we think, help the Board ask the right questions of both council officers and regular citizens who come to the Board on various matters.
18. The questions that come before you to do with transport are most often to do with infrastructure. However, Vision Zero will help you ask questions relating to how people will interface with particular projects, and how this interface can be managed to keep people safe.
19. Aspects such as education and enforcement are typically the job of central government. We can't do much about the enforcement question, but Council can do an awful lot about education without in any way minimising the role of NZTA or the Police (or itself spending up large). Simply thinking through and explaining to people how they should behave in particular situations to do with new projects could make an enormous contribution, without costing the earth.

The decisions we are seeking from the Board

20. To endorse the concept of Vision Zero, for the three Wards represented on this Community Board.
21. To take your endorsement to the Council's Infrastructure, Transport & Environment Committee for city-wide endorsement and implementation.