

A group of 15 young people from across the Orakei Local Board area came together to have a focus group to discuss their feedback on the themes from the draft Orakei Local Board Plan. The following is a summary of this feedback for consideration in the draft Orakei Local Board Plan consultation process.

What do you like about the Orakei Local Board area?

“A great cultural mix and people of differing cultures are willing to enjoy community together.”

- public libraries
- bike lanes
- it's green, clean and supportive
- it's safe, peaceful and fun - *“an overall sense of friendliness and safety within the community”*
- outside spaces/parks, playgrounds, walking areas, churches, schools
- beautiful environment e.g. beaches and scenery
- central location, close to other parts of Auckland
- has access to many forms of public transport and public services
- community that's open to different ethnicities and languages
- friendly community services
- the willingness to involve and empower youth
- cultural events e.g. music, art

PARKS

What are your views on the parks in the Orakei Local Board area?

- Clean and tidy
- The best parks have walkways and tracks
- Calm and quiet
- Safe for children
- Popular (e.g. Selwyn Reserve/Mission Bay)
- Very nice

Which is your local park?

- Mission Bay
- Glendowie Park
- Churchill Park
- Orakei Domain
- Roberta Reserve
- Maddils Farm
- Little Rangitoto Reserve
- Crossfield Reserve

What would improve it for you?

- Churchill Park needs a public toilet and water fountain – this park is used for school cross country and not having a toilet or access to drinking water is a real hazard
- More seating
- Improving the safety at the Glendowie skate park
- More rubbish and recycling bins
- Toilet at each park
- Crossfield Reserve playground gets too muddy and needs a better ground surface
- Extra lighting (need to consider light pollution)
- Dog bag and bin stations
- Signage to show types of trees/birds

COMMUNITY

What facilities do you most like in your area, and why? E.g. beaches, parks, community centres.

- Parks
- Beaches
- Libraries
- Community centres
- Culture
- Events
- Sports clubs

“We have such beautiful beaches and parks, and are very lucky to live in such a central location close to the CBD. We also have some fantastic libraries. I do not know of many community spaces available, so [it] would be awesome if there was more advertising of these centres.”

What facilities do you least like in your area, and why?

- Public toilets (e.g. St Heliers male toilet)
- Not enough rubbish and recycling bins
- Traffic
- House prices
- Late transport
- Need more bike lanes

What makes you feel safe/unsafe in your community?

“It’s very safe and supportive.”

Unsafe

- Burglaries (Community Centres / Houses)
- Drunk people

Safe

- Friendly people
- Clean and quiet neighbourhoods

Ideas

- Brighter street lights
- More police patrol at night e.g. St Heliers Bay Road

Would you like to live in this area when you are older?

- Yes, if its affordable

TRANSPORT

“I use the trains, buses and I walk to school/to run errands. I love our train system, and think that they are largely reliable and come regularly. However the buses are very infrequently and rarely run on time. Seeing more frequent bus transportation would be beneficial. While I do not cycle, I think these [cycle-lanes] are very important.”

What public transport, including walking and cycling, do you use in the Orakei Local Board area?

- Bus
- Train
- Walking

- Cycling

Is there enough public transport in your area?

- Most say no, need:
 - more reliable buses (too often late)
 - more trains
 - more stations e.g. St Heliers

If you don't use public transport, why not? What would get you using it?

- More frequent
- Cheaper
- Reliable
- No/less cancelations
- 'Link transits'
- Make paid public transport easier for students, make the hop card setup easier and change the hop card concessions

Are cycle-lanes important for a city? Why/why not?

- Yes, we need to invest more in cycle-lanes
- Safer for cyclists / good for the environment – consider the impact of motorised transport e.g. pollution, greenhouse gases

ENVIRONMENT

“We do a great job of cleaning up our environment, but I think we could have more beach/park clean ups. Having social events attached to these clean ups could encourage people to get involved and look after our environment.”

Do we do enough for the environment?

- No, we could do more

What could we do better for the environment?

- Plant more trees
- Clean up the beaches of litter, “pollution on beach is dangerous for birds and other wildlife”
- Educate people e.g. about recycling
- Better promotion of public transport and more cycle-lanes
- Protect flora/fauna from diseases
- More rubbish and recycling bins

What would encourage more people to look after the environment?

- Education in schools and the community
- Littering fines
- Remind people e.g. signs
- Pay people to use rubbish bins
- Use the media e.g. adverts
- Eligibility criteria/test when move to the area
- Council run events e.g. tree planting (have posters)

What would encourage you to get involved in an environment volunteer group?

- Fun
- Awareness
- Social events e.g. BBQ
- Prizes
- Adverts – in the right places
- Food (at events)
- NCEA Credits
- School events
- Adopt a Park / Friends of the Park programmes for schools/communities

EMPLOYMENT

“It would be great if there were more retail opportunities for youth”

What are the opportunities in your local area for you to get a job?

- Baby sitting
- Paper runs/rounds
- Cafes
- Supermarkets
- Language teaching
- Tutoring
- Youth programmes
- Volunteering/work experience (e.g. library)
- Caregiver – some community programmes offer support for entrepreneurs, a certificate and opportunities to develop skills

What schemes/programmes are you aware of that could help you gain employable skills?

- Career advisor at school
- Student Jobs Search

- Seek
- LinkedIn
- Leadership training – St Heliers
- OSCAR
- Newspaper
- Neighbourly e.g. baby sitting and private tutoring

Do you support local businesses in Orakei? If not, why not? If yes, which ones?

Yes!

- Dairies
- Supermakets
- Kiwi Yo
- Fish Pot Cafe
- Hospice Shops
- Mayfair Barber Shop