



Spotswood and South Kingsville

Neighbourhood Profile



Hobsons Bay
CITY COUNCIL



Spotswood and South Kingsville Consultations

A. Introduction

The Spotswood and South Kingsville Profile is intended to provide an overview of the history and development of the area, some data about the characteristics of residents and information about the types of services and facilities available in the neighbourhood.

However, none of this information can describe how people feel about Spotswood and South Kingsville as a place to live, visit or work. In order to gain a better understanding of these perspectives, a number of consultations took place in late 2010.

During the consultations, several long term residents also shared their memories of living and working in Spotswood and South Kingsville and some of their comments are included towards the end of this consultation section.

B. Methodology

The consultations methods used to develop this section included a mixture of focus groups and individual interviews.

In order to ensure a variety of views were heard, participants were drawn from a range of age groups. Each session lasted for approximately one hour.

Face to face interviews were conducted with two parents and a business owner. In addition, three focus groups were conducted involving:

- Two separate sessions with participants in activity groups at the South Kingsville Community Centre
- One session with Grades 5 and 6 students from Spotswood Primary School.

The questions used in the consultations are included in Appendix 1.

C. Summary

The following notes are a summary of the comments of the participants in the consultation and are framed around the questions that were asked.

How would you describe Spotswood and South Kingsville?

Overwhelmingly, the participants in the consultations spoke in positive terms about their neighbourhood. It became clear, particularly among the adults who were interviewed, that they see Spotswood and South Kingsville as two distinct and separate areas to which they have strong allegiances.

(The decision to combine Spotswood and South Kingsville into one neighbourhood profile was primarily taken because the populations in each suburb are relatively small.)

One participant talked about the history of the neighbourhood with its mix of housing and industrial areas and said, “It has got an old soul. It’s a bit of a funny little suburb. It’s not very big. It’s kind of just there. It’s a bit tucked away and no one really knows where it is.” This description of the neighbourhood as feeling undiscovered was also raised by another person who commented, “It feels like a little hidden gem I guess”.



Source: Spotswood Primary School Student
Chimney stack in Spotswood

The neighbourhood’s central location was commonly mentioned when people were asked to describe the area. “It’s kind of like living in suburbia but close to the city. You don’t feel constrained by the things about a city. It’s still really leafy and green, yet you’re still really close to everything.”

Spotswood and South Kingsville was described as an affordable place by several groups of people. A business owner, who had initially looked for premises in Yarraville, was forced to look further afield due to the high rents. “We chose this area because it was cheap. Despite the fact that the location wasn’t great our gut feeling and the timing felt right. We knew the street would time to get to where Yarraville was but you could see that it would happen because Yarraville had priced itself out of the market. There were great houses here with big blocks and so the whole demographic was changing.”

Affordability was also the term residents used when talking about why they had chosen to buy in the neighbourhood. “Price was a big factor. We started looking and, you know, you think you want to live in Williamstown but you can’t afford it so you come back a few suburbs.” However, people noted that recent rises in house prices were starting to have an effect on what had traditionally been a working class neighbourhood. “Because we keep our eye on the property market we’ve been to a few of auctions and you see people from the eastern suburbs and they’re selling a small two bedroom house and buying a four or three bedroom house in Spotswood. They realise it’s not bad here and they’re saving money.”

What makes it a good place to live and work?

A positive characteristic of Spotswood and South Kingsville that was regularly noted by participants in the consultation was the friendliness of the people. Knowing their neighbours gave people a sense of being welcomed and of belonging, something that newer residents said had been missing in places they had previously lived. One relative newcomer commented, “I love that I know my neighbours - that I can pop over and chat to them if I want to. I’ve never had that in the city before... [Being a new parent] I am around a lot more than I’ve ever been. I’m also at a bit of a different stage in my life because I’m not going out as much. So there’s more opportunity to meet the neighbours. There are other kids in the street which is also nice.” Long term residents appreciated the enduring friendships that began

when their now adult children attended Spotswood Primary School, many of which they had maintained.

The importance of being part of a community was also raised as something older people enjoyed about living in Spotswood and South Kingsville. As one resident put it, “The area is still a community even though the demographics have changed. Even now when anyone gets into trouble there is always someone there to help you.” This view was supported by a local business owner who laughingly said, “Everybody knows everybody here. There is no way that I could walk to the health centre without getting waylaid and having a ten minute conversation with someone. It’s not six degrees of separation – it’s three degrees”.

Perhaps not surprisingly, school was often central to how students at the Spotswood Primary School felt about the neighbourhood. The fact that they liked school had a big influence on how they felt about the area. The children liked the close proximity of home to school and that their friendships spilled across the two. “Everybody goes here, so you know everyone and school is fun”. Another benefit of living close to the school for one student was being able to stay in bed till the last minute! According to one student, “It’s good because the school is small so we get more opportunities, more events and the Western Bulldogs [football players] players come to our school”.

Living in a well located area was an important feature for adults. Some valued that they lived near the freeway and that it was “easy to get everywhere”. Others enjoyed that “it’s a quiet little area but still close to lots of exciting things – it has a lot to offer...it’s just a quick stroll to the main street where you have access to things like a grocery store. There’s everything that you could ever want in an emergency.” This view was confirmed by another resident who appreciated that “we’re close to the city, we’re close to the bay and we can get everywhere easily. Friends and family come from interstate and we’re close to the airport.”

In terms of the local character of Spotswood and South Kingsville, people talked positively about the history of the area and the “new cafes, new shops – it’s changing for the good. There’s lots of new young families. And I like the old industrial heritage that Spotswood and those surrounding suburbs bring. It’s got a working class history and I like that.”

Others enjoyed the their character of their immediate vicinity. In the words of one relatively new resident, “this house came up and one of the biggest appeals was that it’s across the road from a dog park and we have a dog... The streets are nice – there’s lots of trees. The houses are individual – they’re all different and there’s no estates. And that it’s quiet. With a baby, having a quiet street is important. There’s no way that I’d want to live close to a main street with kids.”



Source: Spotswood Primary School Student,
The Spotswood Tree

An older resident’s was very forthright in what she enjoyed about living in the neighbourhood. ‘It’s bloody brilliant, beautiful. I wouldn’t live anywhere else. I have trees planted all around [my house] and I just bought another one at the Spotswood Primary School fete. It’s like an English country garden and it was all planted by me. It’s all drought resistant. We don’t need Toorak ...I wouldn’t go anywhere else.’

What things do you do locally and what facilities do you use

When asked about the types of local services and facilities they use, it was very common for people to mention that they were lucky to be able to access most of what they needed locally. That said, 'local' sometimes extended a little beyond the neighbourhood into other parts of the municipality or in nearby Yarraville.

Almost all people who participated in the consultations mentioned using the Health Cooperative in South Kingsville. A new resident spoke about her experience when she first moved to the neighbourhood. "A friend told me there was a great health co-op here and that's how I got into it and it is fantastic the way the health co-op works. I had no difficulties getting an appointment when I was pregnant and my partner also goes there. Occasionally, I've had to wait to get a general appointment but in emergencies they are very accommodating." Older residents also acknowledged the good service they received. "If I'm not well and my daughter isn't available to take me, the doctor will visit me at home." However, a long term resident noted that the number of doctors in the area had declined and that "the doctors here are booked or have closed their books off".

Another health service used by a new parent was the Maternal and Child Health Centre in South Kingsville. "It's really nice being so close. The service is friendly and very professional staff. The MCH advised about a new playgroup starting and asked if I would like to come along. We still meet weekly – it's been a really good support actually." A number of people also mentioned that they have a local dentist, although for specialist services they tended to go to Williamstown.

In terms of shopping, most residents tended to go to other areas to do their larger weekly shopping and to buy clothing. Some people used the grocery shops in the neighbourhood but generally "only if I needed something, because it's a bit more expensive". Nevertheless, a local business owner observed that "about 75% [of customers] are local and lots of our business comes by word of mouth. That's another thing about being part of a real local community".



Source: Spotswood Primary School Student
Hudson Road shopping precinct

People also patronised enjoyed the local cafes and liked the fact that more were opening. "Having all the new cafes popping up is quite good for us – in Yarraville, Williamstown and even now Spotswood." Children also mentioned the cafes with their parents.



Along with using the services of local hair dresser, one resident talked enthusiastically about doing sewing classes in South Kingsville which provided the opportunity to socialise. “In the class ... I learnt so much about the history of the street and who the neighbours are – it was really nice.”

Older residents valued having the community centre and spoke about the enjoyment of the opportunity it provided for them to have regular catch-ups. “I look forward to coming here every week. There’s people around my age and it’s company. I’m out of the house and have people to talk to. If the family says to me ‘what day do you want to go somewhere?’ I say any day but Wednesday - Wednesday’s booked. I just love it. I’ve been coming here for 20 years.” In addition, the Council library service has weekly visits the centre and which greatly assisted older residents, especially those that weren’t mobile.

Open spaces and parks, in the local area or nearby suburbs, were also widely used. One resident who lived opposite a large park said that it had been a factor in the decision to buy their house. “We’re big dog walkers and we use a lot of the outdoor facilities more than anything – the park across the road, Newport Lakes, the Williamstown dog beach, just walking the dog down to the cafe. We know all the dogs’ names in the neighbourhood although we might not know the owners’ names.”

McLean Reserve is the largest sportsground in the neighbourhood and is well used by children who play sports in cricket and football teams. They also use the reserve for informal play, to practice soccer. Some spoke about using the skate ramp, although they commented that it was in need of repair.

Adults who often worked full-time or were caring for young children spoke about having limited time to play sport. “We’ve been big in sporting clubs [in the past] but since moving to Melbourne it just hasn’t been a priority. My husband likes to play golf so he’s talking about joining a club. We are planning to join some clubs so we so we can actually start to connect with a wider network of people.”

As mentioned earlier, the consultations for this profile revealed people’s strong affiliations and loyalties and their sense of Spotswood and South Kingsville being two quite distinct areas. This was particularly evident among the adult participants when they were asked about local services and shops they used. If they lived in South Kingsville, the main reasons for visiting Spotswood centred on the cafes or socialising and the reverse applied if they lived in Spotswood. According to a South Kingsville resident “I don’t ever go shopping there [in Spotswood] so I wouldn’t say it’s a place I go. I catch the train there occasionally but it’s more likely if I’ve got someone to see there or we want to go to a cafe.”

What things do you regularly do outside the neighbourhood?

Involvement in sport and exercise were among the most common activities taking people outside the Spotswood and South Kingsville neighbourhood. The swimming pool in nearby Altona North was used by a cross section of children and adults. Quite a few used the municipal pool in Altona North, although said its popularity meant that it was very busy. “I use the pool a lot, at least once a week, mostly to take the baby. He does a swimming lesson there but I also use pool for own personal fitness. Normally it’s not too busy when the baby goes to classes but recently I went on a Saturday morning and I don’t think I’d ever do it again. It was chaotic but I guess it’s good that it’s so popular.” A similar view was expressed by another resident. “It already needs to be expanded; it’s already full. I mean it’s great that it gets used but by the time the kids have their swimming classes...it’s like they need another



pool out the back for lap swimming.” Several young children also used pools in Maribyrnong including the municipal pool at Highpoint and the pool at Victoria University.

There were only a couple of people who mentioned going to the beach and other bayside activities which was somewhat surprising given the proximity of the bay. “We use the beach but we tend to stay at the Newport end because the main beach gets so busy and we usually have the dog with us.” Others enjoyed the paths that skirt the bay. “We use a lot of the bike paths, especially around the warmies area. There’s a good bike trail and we use that a lot especially in summer, mostly just to ride rather than riding somewhere.”

Quite a few of the school children talked about the formal sports they are involved in outside the neighbourhood. Soccer was popular with both boys and girls, but particularly the girls who play for a Yarraville club. Other sports they participated in included hockey, also in Yarraville, athletics at the Newport Track and gymnastics in Footscray. One boy lamented the closure of squash courts in Altona North and of having to go to courts outside of Hobsons Bay.

Libraries were another service that people use in areas outside of Spotswood and South Kingsville, mainly Newport and Altona North. “I use the library heaps. I probably use Newport mostly to drop things off, but to choose things I use the new one at Altona North. But I’ve been to all of them.” One new parent who had previously worked full time said that although she and her partner had not used the local libraries “I value having them. It’s just that at this time in my life it’s not a priority [to use them] but I like the idea of being able to do things that are free”.

In some instances, people travelled to health services such as dentists that were close to work or in areas where they used to live. Older residents said that they used a number of the specialist services in Williamstown, especially the podiatrist. This was a service that was especially important among this age group and one that they said was in short supply.

In relation to shopping, people mostly went to Altona Gate and also Williamstown, Yarraville and the Circle in Altona North. One long time resident said about the Circle, “It’s got everything. It’s how here [South Kingsville] used to be. The only thing not there is a dress shop. Altona Gate has a bit more variety and clothing.” Older residents spoke about being picked up by their adult children and taken to shop, often at Altona Gate. “My daughter takes me there on a Friday – not only to shop but to chat to the old fogies!” Young people said they preferred to shop at Highpoint because it had a better range of goods, particularly clothing.

Entertainment was an activity that took children to other areas. They commonly went to see films at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville and a few went further afield to theatres at Highpoint and Sunshine, in order to see a film.

How do you get about the neighbourhood?

A broad range of transport options were used by Spotswood and South Kingsville residents, often depending on their life stage.

One older resident who was still very independent spoke about the different modes of transport she used. “I’ve got a little green mini and that takes me everywhere” although she had used the bus service. “I only used the local bus service when I had hip and knee surgery. The gentleman on the bus used to help me up and down”. Many older residents are car dependant, transported by their children or friends and sometimes taxis. Some discussed



their concern about the parking problems at places like Altona Gate, complaining that there are only three disability parking spaces. A separate but related parking concern was that “there’s no drop off points for the bus [Altona Gate] there so the senior citz bus can’t go there.”

A number of older residents who were generally intermittent users of public transport felt it did not cater to their needs. Some residents were no longer able to drive and they talked about problems when getting on and off the buses, especially those with mobility problems. Others had issues with the type of service on offer. “We have a huge bus and we don’t need it. I’d prefer a smaller bus that can come up and down the streets. They [streets] are too narrow and made worse by cars parked on the street.” They mentioned bus routes being indirect and taking too long. “The Altona Gate bus takes you on the scenic route. Also the connections are poor so people tend to walk”.

Older residents also walked regularly, to go shopping or just to get out and about. Despite having extremely limited eyesight, a very elderly woman said “I go for a walk every day. I’ve got my white stick...If you can get out it’s better than sitting home and feeling sorry for yourself.” But walking was not without its hazards and one person was concerned about the footpaths at the Spotswood shopping centre. “They put the pavers down and they’re dangerous. They’re not even and I fell on them.” Others said that in some streets the footpaths were only on one side which made it difficult for them, but that the standard of paths was generally okay.

The transport options used by younger adults varied. Speaking about a preference for car travel, one resident said, “I’m not really a big public transport user. I like the convenience of driving. Not sure if it’s because I grew up interstate and public transport wasn’t great there so using it is not a habit. But I value the fact that I live near the train and I have that option...If I worked in the city I’d use the train.” On the flip side, another person preferred to walk or ride where possible.” We walk to lots of places and it will be good when the new shopping centre (in Melbourne Road, Spotswood) opens so I can walk there rather than drive. We also have bikes so we often do the ride along Newport and into Willie.” The impact of having children had changed the travel patterns of one new parent who needed greater flexibility than public transport could provide. “I used to catch the train every single day [to work] but now that the baby gets dropped to childcare it’s too hard.”

When asked how they got to school and around the local area, children mostly walked and rode scooters and bikes. Only one student in a fairly large focus group said they came to school by car, “but only on wet days”. Despite the school being located on busy Melbourne Road, they were confident about navigating their way and crossed at the supervised traffic lights. However, they also indicated that they preferred to ride their bikes and scooters on the footpath when they were on busy roads.

Proximity to public transport was extremely important for people in the hospitality business. A South Kingsville owner commented that “if the Council said ‘you can have whatever you want’, I’d have a train station. Everyone [customers] rings us and asks ‘where’s the closest station?’ and it’s Spottie [railway station] and that’s quite a hike. The bus route has just been changed because Vernon St is a nightmare for parking – so public transport would be fabulous.”

What would make it a better place to live and work?

Some residents were keen for an increased number and range of shops in the neighbourhood. They did however note that things were starting to improve. “A local shopping strip would be nice in Spotswood and I think that’s starting to develop. I always complain that buying an onion on the way home from work is really difficult, although South Kingsville now has a little grocery shop in Vernon St which is really good...There’s an IGA around the corner but it doesn’t open till 8.30am so for people that work.... so we tend to shop in surrounding suburbs.”

While there are now a number of cafes spread across the neighbourhood’s two shopping precincts, some residents mentioned that they weren’t open at night. “There’s lots of cheap and cheerful places and lots of really good breakfast places and cafes. But the area lets itself down... So when people come to visit we don’t go out for dinner. I think that will start to improve, some of the local cafes will probably push that stuff to start happening. It would be nice to have a couple of local places that aren’t in Yarraville but Vernon Street is starting to become alive.”

On one hand people said they enjoyed the changes that were happening but were conscious of the impact of gentrification and the potential to lose what attracted people to live in the neighbourhood. “I guess it’s kind of a tricky one because I’d love to see the area bloom but I don’t want to lose the diversity and the nice kind of community feel that it has. So how you can do that? It’s a mystery to me. It’s still a bit undiscovered and very close to Melbourne so it won’t be undiscovered forever. It’s kind of what happened to Williamstown, it feels so different now and not as nice as it used to be.”

From a business perspective, one owner spoke about the challenges of running a business in an area that was off the beaten track. “It’s still hard work. We’d be doing three times as well if we were in Yarraville. There is no passing traffic here. You come here for a reason – you wouldn’t just know we were here. The best thing that could happen is if someone opened a couple of retail shops and a post office. This street would just never look back.” The neighbourhood’s parking limits were also seen to be a barrier for businesses such as cafes. “Unrestricted parking would be good – 2 hour parking is ridiculous down here.”

Busy roads and the freight and passenger rail lines contributed to the noise and physical disruption for residents. Some people were unhappy about the rise in the level of road traffic, particularly trucks. Children also expressed a dislike for the road traffic saying there were “too many cars going down Melbourne Road” and “lots of noisy trucks”. In addition, older residents felt that a proposed retail development on Melbourne Road, whilst likely to improve shopping, would increase traffic on already busy main roads and surrounding streets.

In relation to road traffic management, people mentioned a state government proposal to change truck access off Westgate Freeway that may impact on users of McLean Reserve. A regular user of the park commented that “the whole redevelopment of the Westgate Freeway is important for us because it will affect the park. While it won’t impact on us staying in the suburb, I just hope it won’t impact on the way we use the park and the way others use it.”

People also about the affect of the rail lines that separate the neighbourhood. Both children and adults mentioned the noise from the freight line, especially at night. People also talked about the frustration of manoeuvring around the physical barrier of the lines. “With the rail, there’s just two crossing spots and sometimes it can just get too hard. You know, you just



want to get to there but you've got to go all the way around [if the gates are closed]. In the words of one young student "having to wait for the trains to cross is annoying."

As mentioned earlier, most people spoke positively about their access to services in the neighbourhood. However, podiatrists are a specialist service that older people said was in short supply. Those who were relatively housebound talked about the difficulty of finding a podiatrist who made home visits.

Finding a childcare has been a concern for parents of young children. "Childcare has been a nightmare...we've been on a wait list at our preferred centre for about 10 months. It's been hard and can be really stressful. I'd like a childcare attached to a kinder if possible to help with the logistics of working." Another new parent who is planning to return to work commented that "childcare will be an interesting one because I've just started putting my name down. But there isn't really any in Spotswood so I've put my name down in Altona, Williamstown and Newport".

Children felt there was room for improvement at the neighbourhoods recreational reserves. Those who skated at the half pipe in McLean Reserve wanted it to be upgraded and preferably would like a new skate park. There were a number of issues raised by children about the municipal pool in Altona North, as mentioned earlier this was mainly to do with overcrowding. One student said that, "Bayfit is always packed". Others wanted the pool to have "things [for kids] to do – a water slide and diving board".

Several housing issues emerged during the consultation. There was concern about the type of new housing development in the neighbourhood was not uncommon. There was a general dislike among older residents about higher density housing and for them, more housing meant more traffic and a lack of parking. Some also spoke of the loss of the original houses and their replacement with units and town houses that "all look the same".

While some residents had mentioned that housing affordability had attracted them to the neighbourhood, there was a general feeling that this was changing. One newer resident commented that "the cost of housing has definitely gone up since we moved in. I wouldn't want to be buying now". Older residents spoke about their children having to move to find housing. "Our kids? There's none left here. Who could afford to buy here? So many did a massive exodus to Hoppers Crossing and now they're going to Point Cook."

More generally, there was mention that the overall appearance of the neighbourhood needed 'a lift'. "It's been a bit forgotten. It could have a bit more beautification. It's still got the edges of the forgotten suburb. Vernon St could be much better than it is. The general standard is a bit run down...but things are starting to change."

Do you plan to stay in Spotswood and South Kingsville?

Throughout the consultation, people expressed a strong sense of connection with Spotswood and South Kingsville. This was confirmed when people were asked if they planned to continue living or working in the neighbourhood for the foreseeable future.

One lifelong resident put it succinctly, "I think South Kingsville is great. I'll be leaving here in a box." An older resident said it depended on her capacity to care for herself at home. "If it came to the push, I would have to go to a home but would like that to be in the area. If I get too much for the kids that's what I want to happen but I'm still pretty independent. I want to do that for as long as I can."

A newer resident, having recently started a family, said that they planned to stay in the area although that may mean moving to a bigger house in a few years. “We love living in the west and really like this area. You know when you’re somewhere and it just feels right? I feel like that – it just works for me. It’s not overly pretentious.”

Reflecting on the future of their business, an owner said that they were committed to staying for at least another three years. With the business now established and benefiting from the recent influx of new residents, the owner commented about the “change that has the potential to expand the number of customers. But we need some more businesses to open here. They’ll be sorry if they don’t come in now because they’ll miss out.”



Source: Spotswood Primary School Student
Industrial site in Spotswood

Children also offered some interesting observations about the future. A number of them mentioned that their homes were being renovated or had recently been renovated, giving them a sense that their parents were not planning to move soon.

Most children indicated they would be going to local secondary schools. Several thought that they would probably be moving as they would be enrolled in schools that were some distance away.

Traffic emerged as an issue that might cause people to move. Quite a few were worried about increased traffic, particularly in relation to the Westgate Freeway. “The freeway changes will make a difference. In terms of access for trucks it will make a difference – no doubt about it. And I guess where we live, I know it’s a semi industrial area and it’s likely to change, but if it got more industrial or noticeably more trucks then I would think about moving further out for health reasons.”

Residents’ memories

The contributions of older residents to this consultation highlight the physical and environmental changes that have occurred in the area, with many of them having grown up in Spotswood and South Kingsville.

The spoke about what the area was like before the Westgate Bridge was built and how “Stony Creek used to be the divider between South Kingsville and Yarraville...and we had the punt across Stony Creek.”

People remembered playing down along Stony Creek and seeing platypuses in the water. For some families who were struggling to make ends meet, Stony Creek was a source of food. “We were very poor because dad was a very sick man after the WWI and he used to



take us eeling [at the creek]. He'd lay his big trench coat out and wrap us three little kids. He had a bell [on the line] and every time he got a bite the bell would ring and we'd get the eels and that would feed us."

(It is interesting to note that older residents were the only participants in the consultation who mentioned Stony Creek and the role it played in their daily lives.)

People remembered the collapse of the Westgate Bridge and about the worry for people they knew who were working on the bridge. Unable to comprehend what had happened, one resident recalled "I was there when the bridge fell down. I was at the gully trap shaving my legs! We heard this big bang and there was just one big ball of dust. The postman said 'the bridge has fallen down' and I said 'don't be stupid'."

They reflected on how they felt safe when they were growing up in the neighbourhood and that as a result they roam about freely. "I can honestly say we grew up on the streets around here. We walked the streets and knew everyone. We didn't have cars. In the summer we'd sit out the front and sing songs or play 'I Spy' and other games – people wouldn't know that now."

It's easy to forget how much the neighbourhood has changed and the observation of these residents provides wonderful insights into how Spotswood and South Kingsville used to be.

Acknowledgment

Hobsons Bay City Council would like to thank the students from Spotswood Primary School and other community members for making time to participate in this consultation.

Focus Group Questions

What's your connection with Spotswood and South Kingsville?

Local resident HB resident Work here Visitor

Other _____

1. If you were describing Spotswood and South Kingsville what are some of the area's distinctive features? (what makes it different to other places)

2. What are the things that make it a good place to live / work / visit?

Prompts

- The facilities (eg parks, open space, leisure facilities)
- Access to shops; shops have what you need
- Access to services (doctors dentists etc, childcare/MCH, schools)
- Affordable housing
- Close to work
- Safe environment (walking about, after dark, in home)

3. What sort of activities do you do locally?

Prompts

- Member of club / group
- Play sport
- Socialise / meet with friends
- Volunteer
- Shop
- Work

4. What are some of the facilities you use in the local area?

Prompts

- Childcare/MCH/preschool/schools
- Sports/ recreation
- Neighbourhood
- Community centre/halls
- Seniors centre

5. What things do you regularly do outside the area eg in other parts of Hobsons Bay or beyond?

Prompts

- library
- shop
- go to school
- access services health
- Sport/leisure activities
- Catch up with friends / socialise



6. How do you normally get about the area?

Prompts

- public transport
- drive
- walk
- ride a bike)

Is it easy / safe to get about?

7. What would make it a better place to live / work / visit?

Prompts

- sport/leisure places
- meeting /socialising opportunities
- transport
- shops
- services
- safety
- work

8. Do you expect to still be living here in the next 5 years – if yes – how do you think your needs will change

- facilities
- services