

Central city rebuild

Transitional city

- open areas of the city as they are developed to give a sense of continuity during the rebuild process

Green city

- A significant theme in both the focus groups and survey: green spaces and greenery in the inner city
- Some participants said that the old centre city did not reflect our 'garden city' image as there was too much masonry

"We are called the green city."

A Distinctive City

A low rise city:

focus groups –

- a six story height limit on buildings so that the city centre feels safe and spacious
- a few acknowledged that this may not be economically viable

Strong, safe and resilient buildings:

focus groups - assurance that both old and new buildings are structurally sound

“But absolutely make sure that they’re (the buildings) safe.”

The city’s heritage:

focus groups and survey comments –

- a significant theme
- keep the heritage of Christchurch in some form in the rebuild
- substantial support for keeping the Anglican Cathedral

‘Because that’s (our heritage) who we are... that’s Christchurch.’

Modern buildings:

Focus groups -

- have interesting architectural features and design
- not too many tilt slab structures - they are 'boring'
- The colour and vibrancy of the pop up mall - an example of the type of buildings and environment that they would like to see developed
- keep the pop up mall in the rebuild

"Yeah cos that's (tilt slab) really ugly and Christchurch used to be quite grey like in the centre, so I think it's really nice that they (bring in some colour)."

An eco-friendly city:

- Survey comments – some talked about creating an eco-friendly city in the survey
- Focus groups – a passionate few who supported this said it was 'the way of the future'

City life

Colour, artwork and interesting design features:

Focus groups and survey comments -

- have artwork, interesting design features and lots of colour
- making the city a more fun and dynamic place to visit

“I think the idea of colour is really cool... I think it is like bringing life back into the centre city which has been so desolate for so long.”

A vibrant city:

Focus groups and survey comments -

- a place where a diverse group of people can work, socialise, shop and play
- valued the energy created by this

A welcoming city:

Focus groups and survey comments –

- a very significant theme
- create a welcoming city that caters for everyone's needs
- but accommodates the needs of young people as part of this

“... accommodate everyone. It’s not just what this person wants or what these people would like.”

Making the city youth friendly:

focus groups and survey comments –

- make public spaces/ facilities youth friendly

Good seating, lighting and footpaths:

Focus groups -

- seating creates places where young people can 'hang out'
- wider foot paths and lighting – safer and creates open feel in city centre

A clean city:

A few focus group participants talked about –

- a cleaner city with plenty of rubbish bins
- more regular removal of rubbish and graffiti

A Smoke free city:

Some focus group and survey comments about -

- opportunity to make the central city a smoke free area
- with small designated outdoor smoking areas

Free WIFI in the city: focus groups and survey – universal support for this

Entertainment and recreation:

Focus group and survey comments –

- a very significant theme
- central city a key social space for young people
- having affordable things to do essential
- design not just about the commercial aspects of the city
- but also interesting activities and spaces for them to ‘hangout’
- swimming pools are important social spaces for young people

Focus groups –

- many wanted
 - gaming venues and pool halls
 - cinemas and a youth centre
- a few wanted
 - another outdoor skate park and/or an indoor skate park
 - food festivals
 - a community centre
 - a theme park

Youth-specific events and facilities:

- some supported youth-only venues/events
- prefaced with need to have events and activities for all age groups

A youth centre:

focus groups and survey comments –

- significant support for a youth centre but concern it would be ‘taken over’

“One with like studios in them cos like lots of people play music like young people like music and...lots of stuff like art and dance.”

Safety though design:

focus groups –

- significant issue violence, crime and intimidation pre earthquakes
- lighting, widen foot paths, reducing the number of small dark places such as alley ways

Community events:

focus groups –

- events like festivals and markets valuable they bring the community together
- design for them in the rebuild

Transport choice

Buses:

focus groups –

- young people as significant users buses
- improve timetables and routes, reduce fares, have free buses into the inner city, hop on hop off
- significant theme - bus exchange unsafe re its many enclosed, low visibility spaces

Trams:

focus groups and survey comments -

- significant support for retaining the tram service in the central city
- expand in the central city and suburbs

Walkways:

focus groups –

- a few people - adequate and safe walkways into and around the inner city

Cycle ways:

focus groups and survey -

- many want cycle ways in central city this is very important for them
- safety such as widening lanes and dedicated cycle lanes vital

'People bike to work it's just something we need.'

Cars and roadways:

focus groups –

- many favoured having no cars in main CBD shopping precincts
- in combination with an effective public transport
- and roadway and parking system to ensure access to the inner city

Eco-efficient transport:

- focus groups – a few saw eco-friendly public transport as essential
- in the survey half saw this as important

Market city

Open and Spacious CBD:

Focus groups –

- many want new CBD to feel open and spacious
- mix of indoor/ outdoor spaces that can be used for multiple events/purposes
- seen as places that can accommodate different groups of people
- but welcoming for young people too
- ‘big enough’ so can socialise away from the gaze of adults / can spend time moving between different parts of the city

“an inviting open planned sort of town.”

“also places where teens can go and be out of the way of adults who sort of watch over them.”

“there needs to be both a cool outdoor and indoor spaces for people...”

Markets:

Focus groups-

- lots enthusiasm for previous and new markets
- rated previous markets very highly for affordable and interesting products, food stalls, live entertainment

Shops:

Focus groups –

- significant support for boutique shops in the inner city
- shopping experience not available in the more generic malls
- affordable food outlets - important draw card for young people

Implementation- Youth Participation in the Rebuild

Focus groups

- youth participation seen as very important
- may be the city they work, live, raise own families - in the future
- young people will be less likely to leave Christchurch if it has an attractive, functional and vibrant city centre
- will give young people a stake in the rebuild
- will increase young people's understanding of what is happening

“Yeah cos it's like our future and our city.”

Suburban Redevelopment

Focus groups

- not a significant issue for young people from the western side of the city

Those whose areas *were* being redeveloped said they wanted local shopping areas to:

- be attractive, modern and colourful
- have a relaxed and friendly community feel
- have a village/market feel
- have interesting shops

Wellbeing

Focus groups

- only limited discussion about the well-being in focus groups
- but participants raised a number of significant concerns

➤ **Effects on Education:**

- one of the most significant well-being concerns
- particularly, disruption of schoolwork, the effects of sharing school sites, and decreased motivation to study

➤ **Effects on Relationships:**

- some discussed a low tolerance for conflict with others now
- also the negative impact of friends and family moving away from the Christchurch

➤ **Effects on emotional wellbeing:**

- discussion about the emotional impact of the earthquakes centred on young people feeling stressed, anxious and tired

➤ **Effects on recreation and entertainment:**

- an important issue - loss of recreational and entertainment facilities such as swimming pools, local shopping areas and the central city
- a number said that they felt 'bored' because there was now 'nowhere to go'

➤ **Feeling closer to their community:**

- a few young people talked about feeling more connected to their community since the earthquakes
- seen as a positive outcome

➤ **The effect of media coverage on wellbeing:**

- some said that the intensive media coverage of the earthquakes had had a negative impact on them and their families
- this included feeling that they 'could not move on'
- others said that the media had kept them well informed

Conclusion

Young people's interest in the rebuild emerged clearly:

1. A significant number of young people took part in the online survey
2. In the focus groups we were struck by young peoples enthusiasm for being involved and their commitment to helping create a city that is:
 - ✓ dynamic, safe, well designed and modern but also respectful of its heritage
 - ✓ youth friendly - recognised they have specific needs now, and looking ahead, they will be the ones who may work, study, live and raise their own families here in the future
 - ✓ but importantly also wanted a city that is well designed for everybody in the community, not just for youth
 - ✓ became clear that young people valued the wellbeing of the community as a whole in the rebuild and were able to recognise their place within this
3. There seems to be some significant issues to do with wellbeing that need to be examined further