

## Neighbourhood Conversation Walk

# Inner City West

A group of 18 people participated in a walk led by local resident Ekin around the 'Inner City West' neighbourhood on 18 October 2020. This neighbourhood is an established area in the heart of the Central City. Residents living in this area enjoy close proximity to shops, restaurants and green space. A mix of current residents and people interested in Central City living participated in the walk. The main purpose of the walk was for Council staff to hear people's thoughts and experiences of the neighbourhood and discuss opportunities to enhance neighbourhood elements and character. Informally the walk also served as an opportunity for people to discover new spaces, talk with each other about Central City living and to make connections with like-minded people. Key spaces and observations by residents are outlined below:



## Neighbourhood Strengths

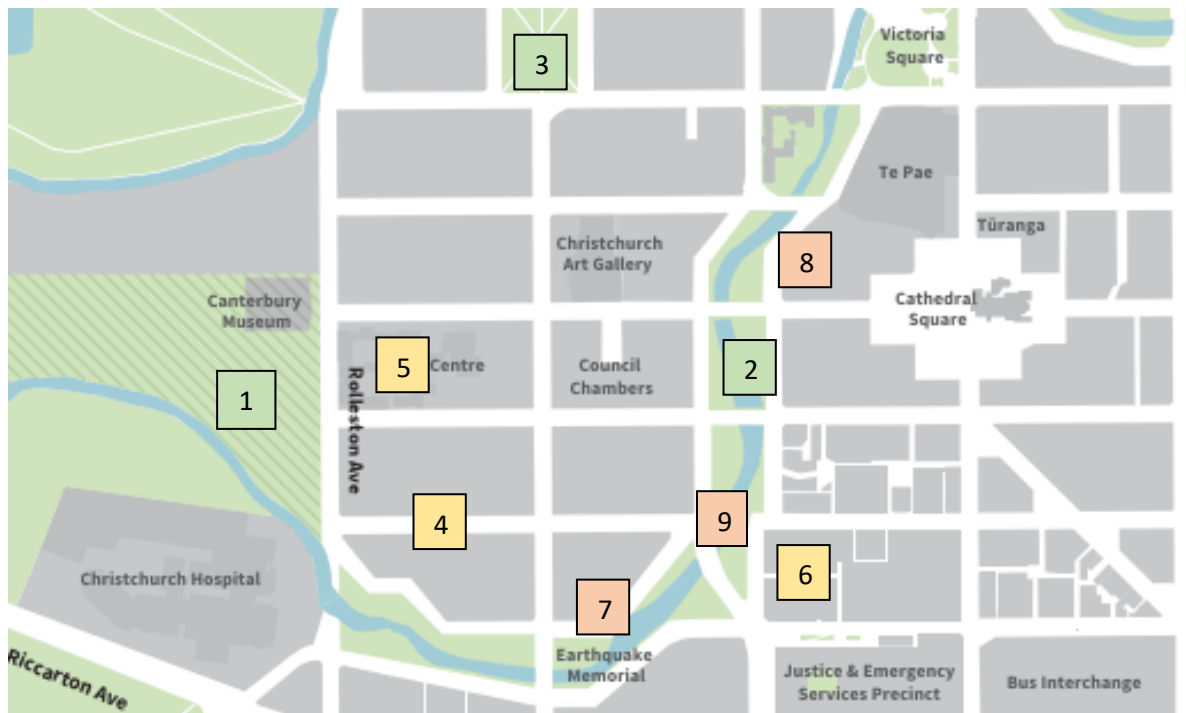
- The neighbourhood is well connected to a wide range of services, including health and wellbeing services, dining options, and retail.
- Residents boast a good quality of life in this area which is influenced by the surrounding natural environment and proximity to quality food sources (e.g. fresh produce from Riverside or vegetables from Cultivate Urban Farm).
- The community has a number of proactive neighbourhood champions within the Inner City West Neighbourhood Association.
- The Avon Ōtākaro River Promenade is a safe pedestrian route for residents to travel across the city.
- The neighbourhood has strong character with lots of well-loved heritage buildings and unique architecture.
- The tree lined streets of Cashel, Gloucester and Armagh make the neighbourhood very liveable.
- Public spaces (e.g. Hagley Park, Botanic Gardens and Cranmer Square) are well-used by residents for recreation and family events.

## Opportunities

- Explore opportunities to accommodate growth of residents in the Central City through electric car share schemes for residents, guest carparks, shared spaces in building design (for hosting family gatherings), laundromats and post-offices.
- A number of buildings still sit damaged and vacant after the earthquakes. Our City, Provincial Chambers and Rydges are holding back progress of this area.
- A number of vacant sites located in this area provide an opportunity for more housing.
- The current offering of homes does not cater for middle income earners or families needing 3-4 bedrooms. Long term rentals are also hard to find due to popularity and price in this neighbourhood.
- There is currently no green waste collection in the Central City for residents living in the areas indicated on this [map](#). Explore opportunities to improve service to our residents through a Council provided service (requires consideration around building design) or through partnership with Cultivate.

## Residents Points of Interest

The following spaces were some of the main points of interest on the walk led by a local resident of the Inner City West Neighbourhood.



### Public Space



Botanic Gardens/Hagley Park



Avon Ōtākaro River

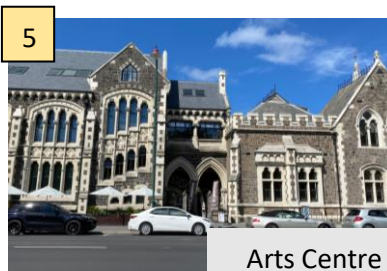


Cranmer Square

### Businesses and Community



Cashel Street



Arts Centre



Riverside Market

### Key Places



Earthquake Memorial



Miro and Stay Statue



Bridge of Remembrance

# Summarised comments from participants

## Insights gained

- “Cranmer Square isn’t a part of my neighbourhood. Feels like the residential environment is very different here”.
- “The neighbourhood has a number of long term tenants and medical staff. There is also a lot of housing for patients at the hospital and some student accommodation”.
- “Residents make use of the public spaces for their recreation”.
- “There are actually more residential spaces in the area and not just offices”.
- “The new retirement home on Park Terrace might encourage more retired people into seeing what the city has to offer”.



## Likes

- “The river is a main travel route for our family. Even if it is longer it is a safer more pleasant route”.
- “Living in the Central City is very social”.
- “Well established trees allow for higher density development”.
- “Miro is a favourite building. It has good height and it is nice to have a bit of colour in Christchurch”.
- “Our front yard is on the Avon Ōtākaro River and our backyard is the Botanic Gardens”.
- “Lots of services nearby that benefit residents – doctors, dentist, hairdresser and lots of cafes”.
- “Great living so close to all the events with having kids you can leisurely stroll into town and enjoy the event for an hour or so while others are looking for carparks”.
- “Good interaction with nature.”
- “Love the strip and the promenade along the river.”

## Dislikes

- “Body Corporate fees are a barrier for living in an apartment in the Central City”.
- “I would consider living in the Central City but how do you manage pets in the city. Is it safe to have a dog with busy roads nearby?”
- “The derelict buildings are a barrier for wanting to live in the Central City”.

## How should the city change with 20,000 residents?

- “Would be good to have car-share schemes for residents to enable people not to have a car”.
- “More small businesses like op-shops and second hand book stores”.
- “More affordable apartments”.
- “Laundry facilities”.
- “More local produce markets”.
- “If the city is going to grow there needs to be more public school options within the Central City.”

**How will the information be used?** Insights and experiences shared by participants on the Conversation Walk will help inform neighbourhood level planning. The walk was a great way to hear from people about the neighbourhood and build relationships. The list of strengths shows the Council what the advantages of this neighbourhood are, and the list of opportunities provides a good starting point to identify elements that could be enhanced. This information may also help shape Council webpages about Central City living.