

PC50 Residential Focus Group Meeting Notes – Meeting 1

17 OCT 2019, 7-9PM – ROTARY LOUNGE, UPPER HUTT LIBRARY

Meeting introductions / welcome

First group task: where did you come from & where do you value most in Upper Hutt?

- Members came from a variety of areas across the District. Most people said that they valued recreational areas throughout the District (e.g. Kaitoke Regional Park, Maidstone Park), while also stating that they valued the CBD most.

Second group task: pair up, introduce yourself and describe your motivations and expectations for the group.

- Common themes amongst members were:
 - Creating a place whereby business opportunities can be realised in the community, in a manner where there is still a high degree of accessibility with an ease of transport.
 - The value of employment within the District should be highlighted. The shutdowns of the likes of Dunlops and General Motors had big impacts on the community, severely reducing the amount of community activity. There is a desire to create an urban environment that fosters strong connections across the community.
 - Recent subdivisions have produced a style of living that is more ‘inwards focused’ – focusing more on private space. It would be better if urban areas could cater for communal semi-public spaces, as well as multigenerational living, and avoid homogenous communities.
 - Inclusion of other members of the community in PC 50’s development: younger people; cultural communities; and iwi.

The PC50 Project Plan was discussed by Council Officers (as per attached slides).

Terms of reference was discussed, as well as meeting times and administration.

- Members were satisfied with running meetings approximately every six weeks, from 7pm to 9pm.
- Members raised concerns about the use of images upon the signing of image release forms.
 - Council officers would discuss this with the communication team to see if there was a way where use of imagery could be more specific, rather than open for use on any Council communication.

The scope of the project was discussed, which seeks to capture the next 50 years in Upper Hutt. The vision is therefore what Upper Hutt should aspire to be in 2070? Questions put forward to help conceptualise this were:

- What positive essence of Upper Hutt stands out to you over the last year?
 - Themes from members:

- Small town feel: everyone knows each other; it has everything in one place; still a village; people are committed to the city; people care about the city; community events in the main street (creates a sense of stability, community, and connection); all walks of life come together.
 - Great facilities: all amenities are close by; good sporting facilities and parks; parks are very well maintained (creates sense of pride).
 - Highly accessible: you don't get lost; easy to get around via car or public transport; you can always find a parking spot; flat sections are available (standout for the region).
- How would Upper Hutt look in 2070 if it still maintained this essence?
 - Themes from members:
 - Maintain green spaces, while shared spaces for the likes of community gardens.
 - Establish/promote ecological corridors; bring bird song to the CBD.
 - In high density developments, create the need to establish 'micro parks' for people to easily use.
 - Ensure there is adequate community facilities available for people to use.
 - Maintain the way it looks and feels right now.
 - Create/provide for housing that caters for a diversity of cultural needs.
- What has influenced your housing choices to date?
 - Themes from members:
 - You get what you can afford – first house likely smaller and lower cost.
 - Chose Totara Park because of the lifestyle it provided for kids.
 - Chose Whitemans Valley because of the serenity it provided for when kids moved out – family demands have a big influence on housing choices.

Things to think about for next meeting:

- How do you feel about the image release approval?
- Do you have anything to change or add to the Terms of Reference?