

**James Tapper, Joshua Harrison, Jock Barns-Graham,
Constance Chua, and Rebecca Robinson**

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1.4 Key Findings

Both pre- and post-

Pre-earthquake residents were more involved locally than post-earthquake movers to Halswell, with post-earthquake residents having a higher level of non-local involvement

From our chi-square test the only significant factor found to affect level of community participation was age those who were over 65 were associated with having a lower level of involvement within the Halswell community

A third of our sample found out what was going on in Halswell through the emailed community newsletter, with very few respondents making use of the online Halswell community directory

1.5 Limitations

Our research was primarily limited by our small sample size and the short time-frame we had to carry out our project

Both our data collection methods also had limitations:

- The self-completion format of our questionnaires meant we could only ask relatively straight-forward questions, were unable to detect patterned or insincere replies, and had no control over who answered the survey
- The questionnaires were also biased against those poor at reading and writing, and the online version of our survey was clearly biased against those without access to the internet

1.6 Suggestions for Future Research

Since we took an entirely quantitative approach, there is an opportunity for focus groups and/or interviews to be conducted within Halswell to explore some of the findings within this research further

There is also an opportunity to investigate whether the findings of this report could be applied to other satellite towns around Christchurch

Though this research compares pre- and post-earthquake movers to Halswell, similar research could be carried out comparing those who were pulled (moved out of choice) and pushed (felt forced) to move to Halswell

Figure 2. Expansion of Halswell residential areas.

3. Literature Review

significant in informing our research. Prior to carrying out her research, Wylie noted that a common theme running through previous qualitative studies was the view that Halswell

way that longer-

identify any difference between newcomers and longer-term Halswell residents with regards to their willingness to participate in the community (2010, p. 38).

Wylie instead

was whether the individual had an interest in joining community activities, and whether or is similarly supported by Dewe

resident planned on staying in the community, were important in determining community creation and participation (2006, p. 110).

4. Methodology

Once we had determined the focus of our research project, we developed four sub-questions

Halswell; two and three focussed on community participation; and the fourth, which was requested by our community partner, looked at methods of communication within Halswell.

When refining our research focus and sub-questions one of the articles we studied was Sarah

use of interviews and focus groups, and based on a small sample (2010), we decided to take a more quantitative approach, use questionnaires, and gather a larger (and, therefore, hopefully more representative) sample.

and pick-

300 questionnaires in randomly-chosen streets throughout the nine census areas of Halswell.

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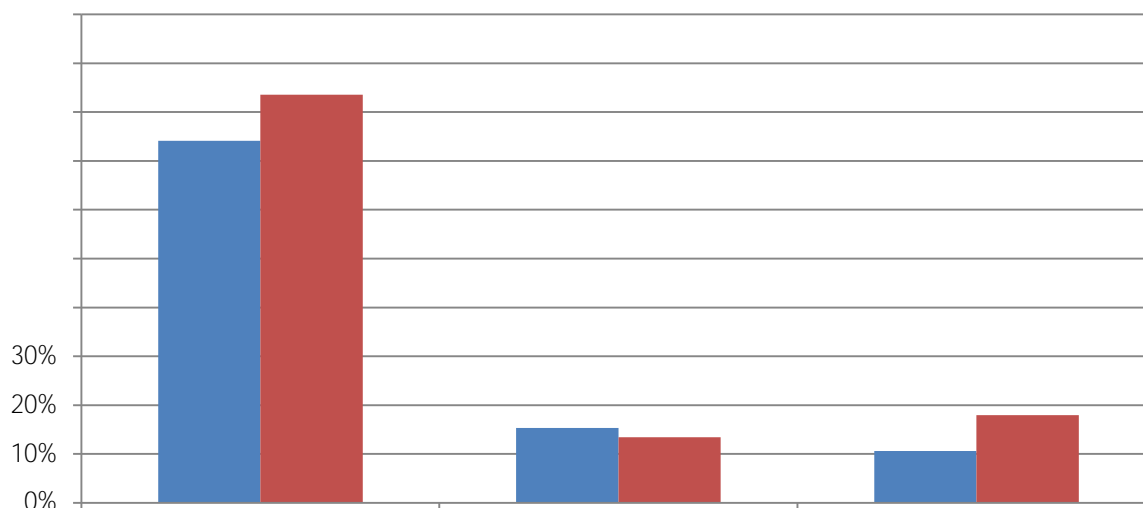


Figure 3. Pre- and post-earthquake movers within the two samples

The majority of our data we analysed using Excel, but to investigate our third sub-question, the factors important in explaining levels of community participation in Halswell, we made use of the chi-square test between two categorical variables

on the number of times over a four-week period the respondent was involved in the Halswell community

Association meeting or community event, and so on). Those coded as having a high level of participation were those who were involved in the community four or more times over the four-week period and were thus active in the Halswell community at least once a week.

5. Results and Discussion

5.1 Why was Halswell chosen as a place to live and do differences exist in the factors influencing residential choice of pre- and post-earthquake residents?

Figure 4. Reason for moving to Halswell, combined sample

Figure 4

with the next most frequently chosen reason being that the area contained houses within their price range. Unsurprisingly, seeing as only 22 people in our 165-strong sample moved to Halswell after the September the 4th earthquake, the reason for moving to Halswell with the lowest frequency was that of having to move due to earthquake damage and/or being re-zoned.

When asked to explain their reasons for moving to Halswell further, the majority of

33)

-rural quali

wrote that they moved to Halswell to be in the school zones. One parent noted Oaklands
nine
had a good reputation for looking after children with disabilities. A further frequently cited
reason was that of moving for work-related reasons: one respondent wrote that he/she moved

Comparing reasons for moving to Halswell between pre- and post-earthquake residents did not yield many differences: the two groups were very similar. However, *Figure 5* shows that pre-earthquake residents were more likely to move to Halswell due to having friends and/or family in the area. The only other significant difference between the two groups is that post-earthquake residents were more likely to move to Halswell due to earthquake damage and/or being red-zoned. This is not a surprising result; however, what is surprising is that a small, less than one, percentage of pre-earthquake movers noted their reason for moving to Halswell as having to move due to earthquake damage. The assumption is that these respondents made a mistake in filling out the questionnaire.

5.2 Do pre- and post-earthquake movers differ in their levels of local and non-local community involvement?

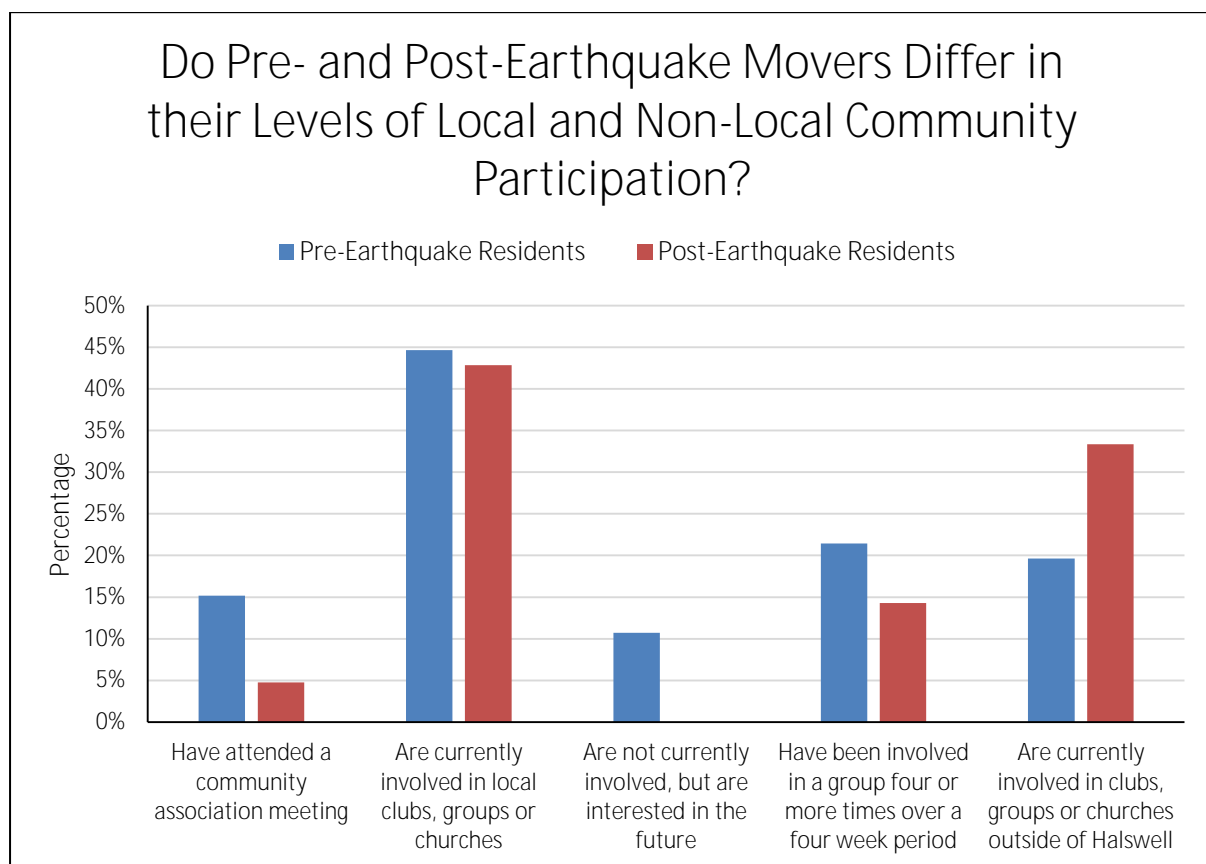


Figure 6. Comparison of pre- and post-earthquake movers' levels of local and non-local community involvement

Figure 7. Length of Halswell residency of attendees of the Halswell Residents' Association

As part of our investigation into whether pre- and post-earthquake movers differ in their

Figure 6 compares pre

5.3 What factors are important in explaining different levels of community participation in Halswell?

Table 1. Chi-

From *Table 1* it can be seen that there was only one significant result from the test: in the p -value ($p = 0.01 < 0.05$) to suggest that we

On closer investigation we found that those over 65 are likely to be less involved in the Halswell community. Indeed, when respondents with a low level of participation in the community were invited to comment on reasons for their lack of involvement within Halswell, many wrote that they -square test shows that age is an important factor in explaining level of community participation.

factor that led to a significant result, two others were very close to being significant (at $\alpha = 0.05$)

we found that those respondents who had lived a long time in Halswell were associated with having a high level of participation in the community. The other was

found it difficult to access information on what was available locally and that this in turn inhibited their involvement in community events and/or utilisation of community facilities. Thus, we asked respondents how they found out what Halswell has to offer. *Figure 8* shows that most respondents, over 30%, find out about Halswell groups and events through the emailed community newsletter, with gathering information via word of mouth a close second at roughly 28%.

Halswell directory (2010, p. 35), an online directory has been created, less than 1% of respondents said that this was what they used to find out what Halswell has to offer. Seeing as the online directory was only created in August 2011 (Christchurch City Council, 2011) it is likely that, little more than two years after this date, most residents are not yet aware of its existence.

Figure 9. Comparing Sample One and Sample Two with regards to methods of gathering community information

Figure 9 compares our two samples in terms of how they find out what Halswell has to offer. In Sample One, the two most frequently cited sources of information were: the Halswell Community Newsletter (32%) and people in the community (34%). Similarly, in Sample

former and 23% the latter. Unsurprisingly, seeing as the respondents in Sample Two completed our questionnaire online, a higher percentage of these respondents visit the Halswell Community Website and Facebook Page than Sample One. Though a similar percentage of Sample One and Sample Two receive the Halswell Community Newsletter, respondents from Sample One (the drop-and-pick-up questionnaires) were more likely to get information on community activities and events through word of mouth than Sample Two.

6. Limitations

6.1 Sample Size

roughly 14,000 (Wylie, 2010, p. 3), our sample of 165 Halswell residents comprises little

7. Conclusions

The aim of this study was to investigate community participation in Halswell, with a

8. Acknowledgements

Our appreciation goes to a number of people involved in this project for the time and guidance they have given us. We would especially like to thank our community partner Chrys Horn at the Halswell Community Project and our tutor Ross Barnett.

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