

Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote

Community Board Plan 2026–28



Contents

From the Chair.....	3
About Community Boards and our plans.....	3
Strengthening Communities Together Strategy.....	4
Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Board area.....	5
Key statistics.....	6
Our vision.....	7
Our priorities.....	8
Community Board funding.....	14
Your Community Board members.....	15

From the Chair



On behalf of the Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board, I am proud to present our 2026-2028 Community Board Plan.

This Plan sets out our Board's goals for the next three years. It builds on the 2023-25 Board Plan, and I am pleased to acknowledge the progress secured over the past three years.

We've seen the Council commit to the rebuild of Ōmokihi, begin work on the Port Hills Plan, fund the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network to deliver pest plant control along the river, upgrade the Hoon Hay Community Centre, deliver ablution blocks in local parks, and more.

Each of these were priorities set out in the previous Board plan, and we're proud to have seen them delivered or still progressing steadily.

In this plan, we set out our priorities for the next three years. The priorities chosen are anchored in the context of this Community Board Area and naturally overlap and reinforce each other.

Our growing neighbourhoods make safe transport choices more important. By delivering ecological restoration from the Port Hills to the Ihutai Estuary, we'll tackle fire and flood risks. Our community facilities are the bones of this Board area, and by investing in our parks we can make our growing neighbourhoods great places to live.

We are committed to being an open, inclusive, and transparent Board that works hard for our community. We're also collaborative, and we look forward to working with you in this amazing part of the city to deliver the priorities detailed in this plan.

In this document you'll also find Stats NZ information about the Board area, Community Funding options and the Council's Strengthening Communities Together Strategy. These are key information pillars that have guided us in this process.

Keir Leslie, Chairperson

About Community Boards and our plans

Community Boards carry out functions and exercise powers delegated to them by their Councils.

There are six Community Boards within the Christchurch City Council area.

Elections for Community Board members and councillors are held every three years.

The Community Board's main role is to:

- Represent and advocate for the interests of its community.
- Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the Council, or any matter of interest to the Board.
- Maintain an overview of Council services in the community.

- Prepare an annual submission to the Council for expenditure within the community.
- Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community.

Community Board Plans

Community Board plans are developed every three years and outline the Board's key priorities for their elected term. They also indicate how the Board will work in partnership with the local community to achieve key outcomes that sit under these priorities.

A key part of the development of this plan is engagement with the local community and stakeholders to ensure that the Board's priorities reflect the needs and desires of local residents, community groups and businesses in the Board area.

Te Haumako Te Whitingia

Strengthening Communities Together Strategy

In 2022, the Council updated its Strengthening Communities Strategy, with a renewed focus on community diversity, collaboration, being connected and building capability for the future.

While the Board may not be able to address the many complex social issues that Christchurch faces alone, there is a key role in helping to develop and nurture networks, and to bring resources and people together to collectively achieve more.

Council understands that communities want a greater focus on direct impact and outcomes, with a continued emphasis on collaboration and partnership. They want transparency and accountability as well as measurable goals and actions, to know what's working and what isn't.

We believe the refreshed strategy delivers on this.

The strategy is written around four key pillars that set out Council's commitment to working alongside the community over the next ten years.

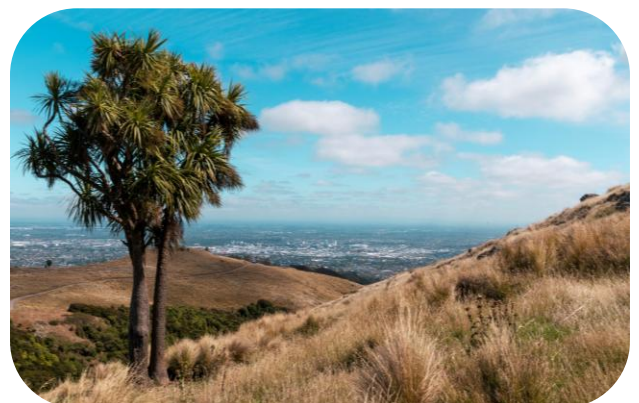
Strategy Pillars



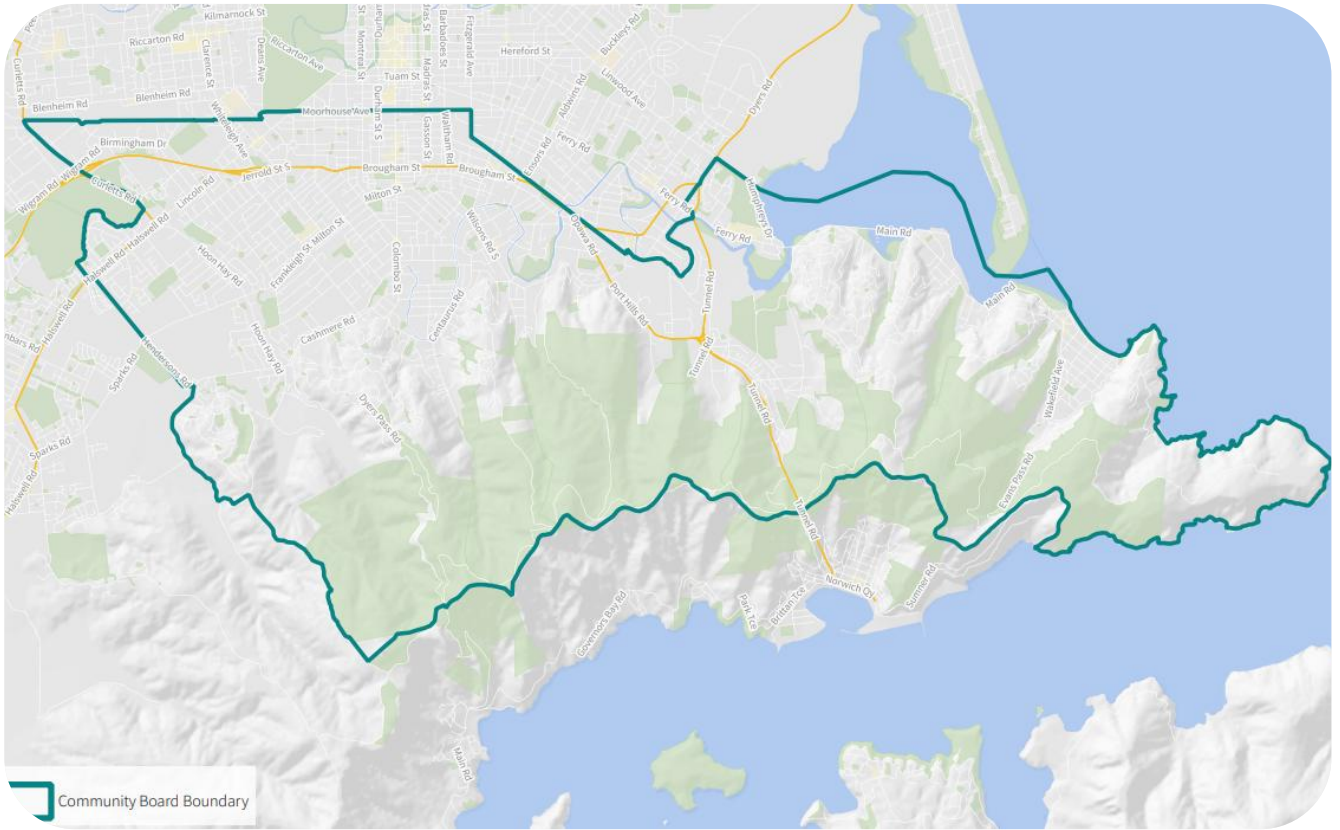
The Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board is committed to working alongside local communities to achieve the goals of the strategy. The four pillars listed above help to guide elected members and staff alike in decision-making and advocacy on behalf of residents.

You can view a copy of the Strengthening Communities Together Strategy on the Council's website [here](#).

(ccc.govt.nz/the-council/plans-strategies-policies-and-bylaws/strategies/strengthening-communities-together-strategy)



Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board area



Key statistics

This section provides an overview of key statistics for the Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board area. Please note all figures are sourced from the 2023 Census of Population and Dwellings.



Population:
77,895

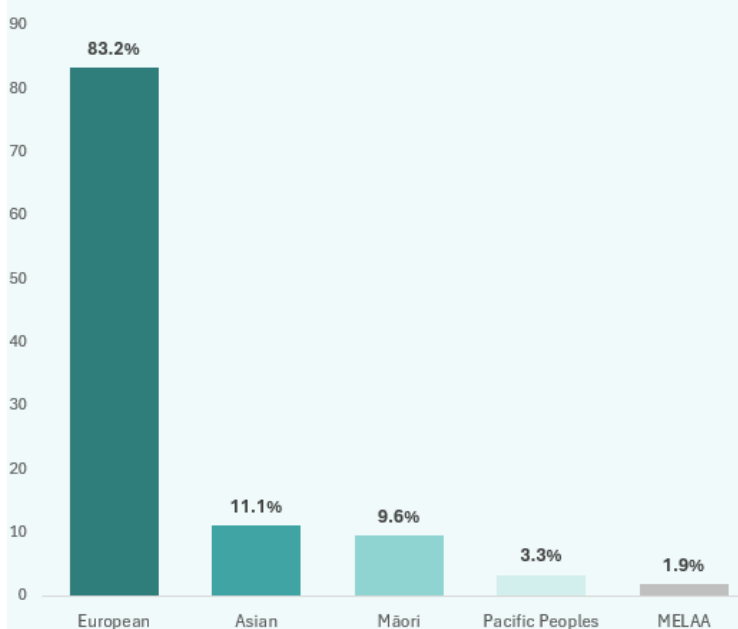


Median age:
40.5 years



Median personal income:
\$46,000

Ethnicity



Occupied private dwellings:

31,242



Unoccupied private dwellings:

2,514



Household access to internet:

91.4%



Rented dwellings:

32.2%



Born overseas:

26.5%

Key Facilities and Amenities

- 3 Council libraries: Matuku Takotako: Sumner, South Christchurch (under construction), Spreydon
- 1 Council service centre: Beckenham
- 249 Council parks (1,950 hectares)
- 31 schools: 22 primary, 1 intermediate, 2 secondary, 4 composite (year 1-13), 2 special
- 1 public hospital: Hillmorton
- Approximately 10,422 businesses employing 47,461 people (2024)
- Multiple major sport and recreation amenities: Pioneer Recreation and Sport Centre, Addington Raceway, Apollo Projects Stadium, Victoria Park, The Gondola, Christchurch Adventure Park, Washington Way Skate Park, Waltham Summer Pool, Godley Head.
- Main shopping centres and precincts: Addington, Barrington, Beckenham, Hillmorton, St Martins, Moorhouse Avenue, Sydenham and The Colombo, Sydenham South, Thorrrington, Centaurus, Ferrymead, Sumner, Redcliffs.

Our vision



To be effective advocates for the local community and environment, working to create a vibrant and inclusive Board area that is a great place to live, work and play.



Vision statements

- The Board will continue to support active and public transport initiatives that impact our areas so that local communities have options in how they travel.
- The Board will take an integrated approach to intensification, seeking to ensure that existing and emerging communities are supported to be liveable, sustainable and accessible.
- The Board will continue to showcase Waihorō's stunning natural environment, providing access for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy our recreational areas, particularly play spaces.
- Opportunities to participate in decision-making will be supported through the active development of relationships with local community organisations and residents/ratepayers associations.
- A range of social and recreational activities will be provided, to strengthen community wellbeing and connectedness.
- Waihorō will continue to be an easy and enjoyable part of the city to live in, with an innovative and prosperous business community and lively cultural environment.



1. Ki uta ki tai – From the Hills to the Sea

Why this matters

The urban city of Christchurch sits on a ‘green foundation’, created by the geography of the Port Hills (*Te Poho o Tamatea*), and its two major rivers. Significant natural features in Waihoru include parts of the Port Hills, the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River, the Ihutai Estuary and coastal bays.

It is important to the Board that there is a holistic approach taken to the environmental protection and enhancement of these valuable taonga (treasures) under the concept of Te Mana o te Wai. We know that what happens in one part of the catchment has an impact downstream.

Erosion on the Port Hills causes sediment to be transported to tributary streams and into the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River. This is exacerbated by urban development and more frequent and intensive rain events. Sediment is a significant contaminant in the river. Steps taken in this area will seek to provide mitigation for unforeseen consequences and to support the health of the wider environment.

What the Board will do:

- Drive the development of the Port Hills Plan
 - Ensure the inclusion of the revegetation of reserves
 - Feed this vision into management plans for reserves that are Council owned or managed
- Actively support sediment management of the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River to improve overall water quality, river health, flood risk and general amenity of the waterway
 - Address historic stormwater discharge in hillside suburbs
 - Include consideration for upstream areas that affect the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River
- Continue to support environmental weed and pest management (*including trapping*) along the Heathcote River and Port Hills
 - Investigate strategic options to reduce the workload of busy volunteers
- Support the implementation of the Ōpāwaho Lower Heathcote Guidance Plan
- Support the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network and the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Planting Plan
- Continue to support planting in Red Zone areas

We will measure our success by:

- Implementation plans are budgeted for in the Long Term Plan (LTP)
- The completion of the Port Hills Plan vision document
- New restoration zones are adopted by community groups, ensuring they are planted and maintained
- Pest management initiatives are effective, and increase native biodiversity and bird populations
- Volunteer hours supported through Board funding, annually



2. Response to Intensification

Why this matters

Waihoru is experiencing significant residential intensification, alongside increased traffic from growth in the western suburbs. It also has the largest resident population and the highest concentration of social housing of any Board area. As growth of the city continues, careful planning and infrastructure management are essential to ensure the area remains safe, connected, and liveable for current and future residents.

The Board recognises that a diversity of transport choices including quality public transport, cycle lanes and multi-modal transport options are important for the management of intensifying suburbs. These aspects are covered in more detail under Priority 3 - Safe Transport Choices.

What the Board will do:

- Lead conversations for the SoMo (South of Moorhouse) and Sydenham communities around intensification and the future of this mixed-use commercial-residential area
 - Partner with businesses and community groups to reactivate the area with events, placemaking and streetscape improvements
- Advocate for plan changes and zoning that support high-quality and affordable housing options
- Improve Waltham community connections – specifically around the pool, park and playground
 - Advocate to open Waltham Pool earlier on Summer mornings
 - Advocate for funding in the LTP for a community co-design of a Waltham village centre
- Develop a ‘living street’ in Spreydon
- Advocate for the retention and expansion of public greenspaces in existing parks and within new and developing neighbourhoods
- Advocate for more trees to be appropriately planted on Council land, including along streets
- Advocate for long-term high school provision in South-East Christchurch

We will measure our success by:

- Feedback in the Christchurch Survey
- Transport mode-shift data in intensifying suburbs
- Business occupancy rates in Sydenham/SoMo
- Number of affordable housing units consented annually
- Percentage of new developments meeting high urban design standards
- Increased community input on relevant engagements and decision reports
- Canopy cover retention or increase in intensifying suburbs



3. Safe Transport Choices

Why this matters

Well-designed walking, cycling, and public transport networks improve safety, reduce congestion, and encourage active lifestyles for all ages; including children traveling to and from school. Strong connections between routes are essential for a well-connected and resilient transport network.

What the Board will do:

- Continue to link nearby existing cycleways within the transport network and deliver planned Major Cycleway Route (MCR) projects
 - Advocate for a cycle connection street renewal along Edinburgh Street, with safe crossings at Lyttelton Street
 - Advocate for a cycle connection linking Westmorland to the Nor-West Arc Major Cycleway
 - Advocate for a direct crossing point for cyclists between Milton Street and Simeon Street
 - Advocate for a cycle connection between the Rapanui Shag Rock Cycleway and the Heathcote Express cycleway
- Increase and improve cycle parking and end-of-trip facilities, particularly at sporting grounds, outside businesses and at the bottom of the hills
- Improve overall safety of transport on the hills through smart design choices and improvements
- Advocate for improved bus infrastructure such as priority lanes and improved shelters
- Implement traffic solutions to promote adherence to the speed limit in 30kp/h speed areas
- Support school safety with crossing points, sight lines, and pedestrian access changes
- Advocate for improved lighting and street safety improvements, including on Grange Street in Council's Long Term Plan
- Advocate for the Selwyn Street Masterplan to be delivered
- Advocate for the Sydenham Masterplan to be delivered

We will measure our success by:

- Progression of key advocacy projects (e.g. Selwyn Street and Sydenham Masterplans, Edinburgh Street connection) into delivery stages
- Number of new or upgraded cycle parking and end-of-trip facilities installed
- Positive community feedback on transport safety and accessibility initiatives in identified areas
- Number of local safety improvements delivered (e.g. crossings, traffic calming, intersection upgrades)



4. Parks and Recreational Amenities

Why this matters

From the Port Hills to the coastline and along the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River, Waihoru has a diverse and highly valued network of parks and open spaces that are enjoyed by local communities and people from across the city. These spaces support physical wellbeing, connection to nature, social interaction, and are central to the liveability and identity of the area.

The Board are eager to see local parks utilised for unstructured play and informal recreation; to be places where people of all ages can move, play, gather and relax.

What the Board will do:

- Advocate for nature, recreation and non-structured play elements in parks
- Improve tracks, walkways and natural features of the Board area
- Prioritise improvements of high-use assets, such as:
 - *Vernon Terrace public toilets*
 - *The pathway at Barrington Park*
 - *Access and facilities at the base of the Rapaki Track*
 - *Somerfield Park toilets*
 - *Barrington Park toilets*
- Work with families and survivors to acknowledge the unmarked graves at Sydenham Cemetery
- Support the development of the Addington Park Community Garden and adjacent facility
- Advocate for the successful upgrade to the Hoon Hay Pavillion
- Support the development of a basketball court at Ti Rakau Reserve

We will measure our success by:

- Plans budgeted for in the Long Term Plan (LTP)
- Parks being visibly well-used for informal, unstructured recreation by people of all ages
- Priority park assets being upgraded and fit for purpose
- Increase in natural play features (logs, boulders, planting, water elements)
- Feedback in the Life in Christchurch Survey shows improved satisfaction with local parks facilities



5. Community Resilience

Why this matters

Rain, drought and wildfire risk is expected to increase in many places around New Zealand, and rising sea levels will make coastal communities and infrastructure more vulnerable to extreme weather events. The natural geography of the Waihoru Board area places risk on local communities for some or all of the above, and the Board are keen to support neighbourhoods to be prepared.

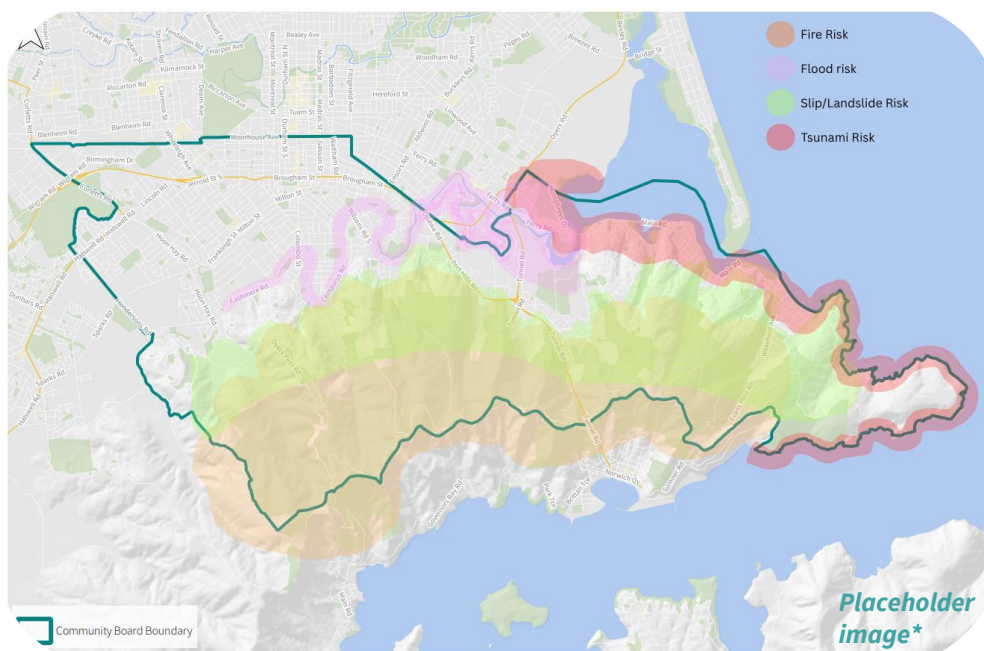
The particular risk of wildfire on the Port Hills has increased with climate change. Having a cohesive and agreed approach to mitigating this risk through appropriate planting and land management is important for the resilience of both the community and the environment.

What the Board will do:

- Undertake community planning for flooding, fires, extreme weather events and the possibility of other coastal / natural hazards
- Support Civil Defence Emergency Management planning, particularly related towards potential future management of displaced persons
- Partner with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) to deliver community information sessions
- Improve relationships with local communities for knowledge-sharing about preparedness
- Support the resourcing and preparedness of local community hubs
- Advocate for investment in rooftop solar and battery storage across Council and community-owned facilities to build energy resilience and support emergency response capability

We will measure our success by:

- Increase in the number of households with a personal emergency plan and supplies
- Number of facilities with activation plans identified as potential emergency hubs
- Community participation in coastal adaptation planning processes



6. Activation of Ōmōkihi and Surrounds

Why this matters

Ōmōkihi will be Christchurch's newest facility, opening in late 2026. It will serve as a vibrant, active hub of culture and community for the south of the city.

The old South Library was the most utilised library facility for book returns of the whole Christchurch network. The Board want to ensure that the new facility is delivered to a high standard and that it engages well with the community and surrounding environment.

What the Board will do:

- Complete the delivery of a pump track and basketball court at Hunter Terrace
- Continue to support the successful delivery of the popular South Christchurch Farmers Market
- Promote events and activities both in the facility and its' surrounds
- Progress the Ōmōkihi Shared Pathway and Landscape Plan
- Advocate for the development of the adjacent pipe-yards into a useable community space
- Support a review of the of the Mid-Heathcote Master Plan and its' implementation
- Support Ōmōkihi to be established as a community-based solar hub and emergency centre
 - Install solar panels and a battery for long-term power cost reduction, supporting local demand management and electricity back-up in emergencies

We will measure our success by:

- Ōmōkihi opened on time and within budget
- Number of community groups regularly using the space
- Library book issue/return volumes
- Aesthetic landscaping, and green-space reclamation around the Ōpāwaho river boundary (m²)



Community Board funding

In Christchurch, The Council allocates funding to Community Boards each year based on a formula of 60% population and 40% equity. The NZ Deprivation Index is the tool used to measure the equity portion of the allocation.

The Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board has three key funds available for allocation each year:

Strengthening Communities Fund

An annual contestable round - opening in May.

The purpose of this fund is to support community-focused organisations whose projects contribute to the strengthening of community wellbeing.

Successful organisations will be those who demonstrate they are sustainable, strategic, community-focused groups who have a significant presence within their community of benefit. Successful projects will also clearly demonstrate their contribution to the Council funding outcomes and priorities.

Discretionary Response Fund

Open for applications all year - 1 July to 30 June (or until the fund is fully expended).

The purpose of this fund is to assist community groups where the project and funding request falls outside other funding criteria and/or closing dates. This fund is also for emergency funding for unforeseen situations.

Community Board projects (Events and Awards) are also supported by this fund.

Youth Development Fund

The purpose of the Youth Development Fund is to support young people living in the Waihoru Board area by providing financial assistance for their development. The Community Board also seeks to acknowledge young people's effort, achievement and potential excellence in the community.

The Community Board will consider applications for the following activities:

- **Personal Development and Growth** - For example leadership training, career development, Outward Bound, Spirit of Adventure, extra-curricular educational opportunities.
- **Representation at Events** - Applicants can apply if they have been selected to represent their team, club or community at a local, national or international event or competition. This includes sporting, cultural, intellectual and community-focused events.

Off the Ground Fund

Open for applications all year round, this small grants fund can provide up to \$500 for initiatives that bring local communities together for a project or spontaneous event.

If you would like to know more about the Board's community funding, please contact any of the staff below:

- Heather Davies - Community Development Adviser - **03 941 5314**
- Nime Ah Kam-Sherlock - Community Recreation Advisor - **03 941 5677**



Your Community Board members



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The Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board generally meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4.00pm at the Linwood Boardroom, Gate B, 180 Smith Street. *From 2027, these meetings will instead be held at the new Ōmōkihi South Library Boardroom, 66 Colombo Street, Cashmere.* These meetings are open to the public and live-streamed on our YouTube channel [here](#).

Agendas and minutes for each meeting can be found on the council's website at ccc.govt.nz.

If you would like to speak at a Board meeting please contact the Community Board Adviser on 03 941 5563 or emailing Jonathon.Jones@ccc.govt.nz.

