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- BY BRIDGET RUTHERFORD

Community input requested

A survey, which is part of a neighbourhood safety programme, is giving Riccarton West residents a chance to have their say on how they want their community to be.

The survey is part of a United States programme called SafeGrowth which is currently operating in Riccarton and Phillipstown.

City council crime prevention team leader Sue Ramsay said SafeGrowth was piloted in Phillipstown in October 2013 and introduced in Riccarton west in September last year.

“SafeGrowth is designed to promote community resilience, and connected and cohesive neighbourhoods.

“Phillipstown and Riccarton West were chosen as the first suburbs to support the excellent work of neighbourhood police teams in these areas.”

Other neighbourhoods had since expressed interest in adopting the programme, but future funding would need to be found for this to happen, she said.

Resident Anusha Ravishankar has lived in Riccarton West for nearly seven years.

It is a “peaceful” suburb and she had no plans to leave, she said.

She had not seen any crime in the area apart from one car which had been broken into on her street a couple of years ago. She often visited Harrington Park with her children in the school holidays, and felt safe walking on the street at night.

Senior Sergeant Pete Stills said the survey was about asking residents what was important to them.

“What in their community do they want us to do for them that concerns them. Sometimes our view is different to theirs on what’s problematic in the community.”

It was an opportunity to start focusing on other community concerns as well as crime, he said.

The feedback will be collated and used to make a neighbourhood safety plan, aimed to build neighbourhood ownership, and make the neighbourhood a better place to live, work, and play.

The survey can be completed at <https://ccc.tfaforms.net/54>