

# Residents satisfied in Riccarton west

BY BRIDGET RUTHERFORD

Early glimpses at the results of a safety survey conducted in Riccarton west have shown people enjoy living in the area.

The survey is part of an American programme called Safe-Growth which complements the work done by the Riccarton Neighbourhood Policing Team.

It was piloted in Phillipstown in October 2013 and introduced in Riccarton west in September last year.

Sheree Wharewhiti, who is heavily involved in community projects, said in looking through some of the completed surveys, most feedback was positive.

The survey closed in mid-April and there were 105 responses received.

“It showed they do feel a bit safer in the community.”

She said some good feedback included people saying the streets were cleaner and there was less graffiti in public spaces.

A number of people commented on there being fewer broken bottles and glass on the roads, footpaths and parks, she said.

“And that’s due to the liquor ban.”

A permanent liquor ban was introduced across Riccarton and Ilam in 2011 after a trial temporary ban proved successful following the February 2011 earthquake.



Sheree Wharewhiti

Ms Wharewhiti said the ban had allowed more people to come into the community.

“You see a lot of activity now, especially with the elderly.”

Two areas that people wanted to see improved in Harrington Park was lighting at night and trimming back some trees to make it safer, she said.

“A negative is still a positive to us because it outlines it for us.”

The data and feedback from the surveys are now being analysed and compiled by Canterbury University students and a full report will be prepared by the end of the month.

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