

WAIMATE

YOUR DISTRICT

YOUR FUTURE



Living in Our District

Waimate District Council

Waimate Community Survey, 2008

RESULTS

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Executive Summary

Waimate District Council is about to commence its three yearly renewal of the District's Community Plan and in order to do this Council needs to know what the community thinks about what has been happening in the district over the past three years and what the community sees as priority considerations for future planning.

Citizens were asked to indicate the relevancy of the current Community Outcomes and they were asked to comment on what they saw as the strengths, weakness, opportunities and barriers impacting on their life and future in the Waimate District.

Respondents still regarded as very important the protection of the District's cultural heritage and natural environment. Respondents also felt the social, cultural and spiritual well-being of citizens was important to community life, and economic sustainability and development was essential for the future of the Waimate District.

As far as who should be involved in fulfilling Community Outcomes, respondents believed that Waimate District Council has a primary role in District planning and meeting the needs of Waimate citizens. Council has a role in protecting and enhancing the natural environment, and in making Waimate District a safe place to live. Respondents believed Waimate District Council should be seen as caring for the physical and mental well-being of the citizens of Waimate District.

Respondent choices of major roles for the Waimate District Council supported high level planning. Respondents indicated that Council has a major role in District planning and governance, ensuring that the needs of citizens belonging in the Waimate District are met. Council has a major role in ensuring production and disposal of waste is not detrimental to the environment. Council has major role in protecting and enhancing the natural environment, and in promoting sustainable development. Council has an important role in fostering economic development and providing for the District's infrastructural needs as well as providing affordable services. Respondents believed that Waimate District Council performs an important function when monitoring and overseeing community well-being.

Respondents felt that the quality of life available to citizens living in the Waimate District was the major strength of the District. The stress-free lifestyle, the caring community, and the surrounding natural environment were all big plusses for living in Waimate District. Easy access to main centres, lakes, rivers and mountains meant location was also regarded as a great strength of the Waimate District.

Respondents felt that the limited range of retail goods and services was a hindrance to living in the Waimate District. Respondents were not satisfied with the level of accountability of Waimate District Councillors and the cost/benefit ratio of Waimate District Council.

Respondents commented on a number of opportunities for improving Waimate District and their lives here. Respondents saw that opportunities existed for the development of tourist attractions and the greater provision of retail services. They believed the development of good sport, recreation and cultural facilities would improve the District.

A greater commitment to community tidiness and enhancement of community safety were also regarded as opportunities for improvement of the Waimate District.

Respondents were very concerned about the quality of local governance, believing that the level of accountability of Waimate District Councillors and the overall performance of Waimate District Council were barriers to the future of the Waimate District. National Government bureaucracy was also seen as a barrier to growth and community well-being. Respondents highlighted the negative attitude of citizens about life in the Waimate District as a significant barrier hindering the future of the Waimate District.

Respondents were asked to list any new ideas and other comments they had for those planning for the future of the Waimate District. There were some popular topics of interest that generated ideas.

Respondents were interested in the development of recreation opportunities and facilities, with a particular focus on providing activities for young people of the community. They were interested in economic development and growth in the District. Some had ideas about the development of tourist attractions, identifying the District's history as an area for promoting and developing local tourism.

Respondents were concerned about the ongoing health needs of the District. They had some suggestions with regards to infrastructure needs including provision of housing and the longevity of the District's recycling programme.

Respondents had praise for Waimate District events, wishing to see new events encouraged. There were suggestions about improving 'the look' of the main street along with suggestions for providing a greater range of retail goods and diversity of shops.

Finally, respondents did have some things to say about the Waimate District in general. Many enjoy living in Waimate District and believe it is place that contributes to a positive sense of well being.

Introduction

A Waimate District Council survey was designed to get feedback from Waimate District citizens on their thoughts about current Community Outcomes and their ideas and aspiration for the future well-being of the Waimate District. ¹ ie:

- What do you think is good?
- What do you think could be improved?
- What would you like to see for the future?

A survey was distributed to all households in the Waimate District.

The survey contained two sections:

Section 1: Community Outcomes Survey

- For the previous Community Plan various groups and individuals were surveyed and asked “What would you like to see in the Waimate District 10 years from now?” The results of the previous survey were shown in a table of Community Outcomes on this 2008 survey. Citizens were asked to comment on what they thought of these ideas now, whether these Community Outcomes were still relevant or not, whether Council had a role in fulfilling these Outcomes and whether Council's role in fulfilling these Outcomes was a major or minor role.

Citizens were also asked for any new ideas they had for the Waimate District.

Section 2: Community Plan Survey

- To assist in developing the most relevant community plan for the next ten years, citizens were asked to think about their vision for the area over the next ten years and consider all the things that impact on their life in the Waimate District. Citizens were asked to consider the strengths and weaknesses, of living in the Waimate District and to list what they saw as future opportunities and barriers to living here.
 1. What are the things which make Waimate District a great place to live?
 2. What aspects of life in the Waimate District are you not completely satisfied with?
 3. List those things which you think would make Waimate District a better place to live, play and do business in.
 4. List those things that stand in the way or that might stop Waimate District being the place you want it to be.

Citizens were also invited to record any extra comments about their vision for the Waimate District.²

¹ For a copy of the survey refer to Appendices: Appendix Five

² For Methodology of analysis of this survey refer to Appendices: Appendix One.

Demographics

There were 182 people involved with this survey who contributed 149 responses. This included 34 couples.

In order to analyse some demographics of the overall survey citizens were able to record gender, age and ward location information.

This demographic data was compared with the relevant demographics for the Waimate District as recorded in the 2006 Census.

- **Gender**

The gender split of the survey respondents was very similar to the gender split for the total Waimate District population.

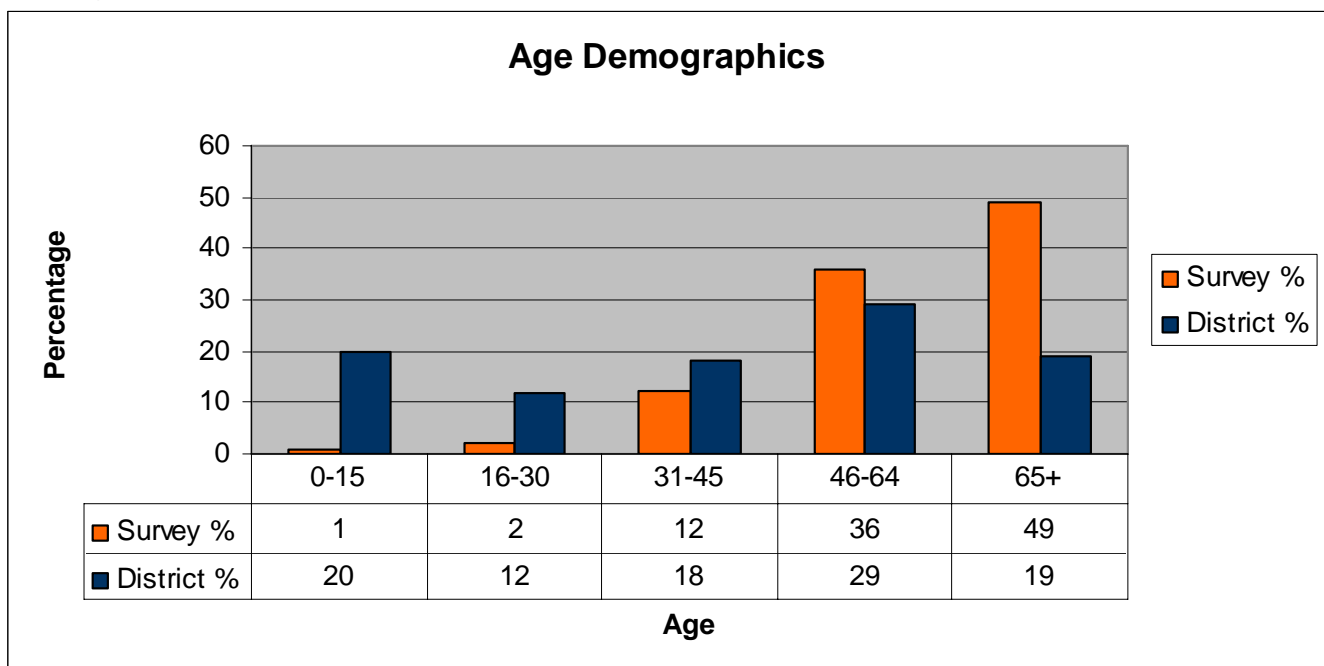
- **Age** (Refer to Graph, Figure 1 below)

The percentage of survey respondents in particular age cohorts was compared with the percentage of the overall Waimate District population falling within each of these age cohorts.

A considerably higher proportion of the community aged 65+ responded to the survey as compared with the proportion of 65+ actually living in the Waimate District. Likewise a slightly higher proportion of survey respondents were between 46-64 yrs as compared with the proportion of this age group represented in the total Waimate District population.

Young people were not as well represented in this survey.

Figure 1



- **Location** (Refer to Graph, Figure 2 below)

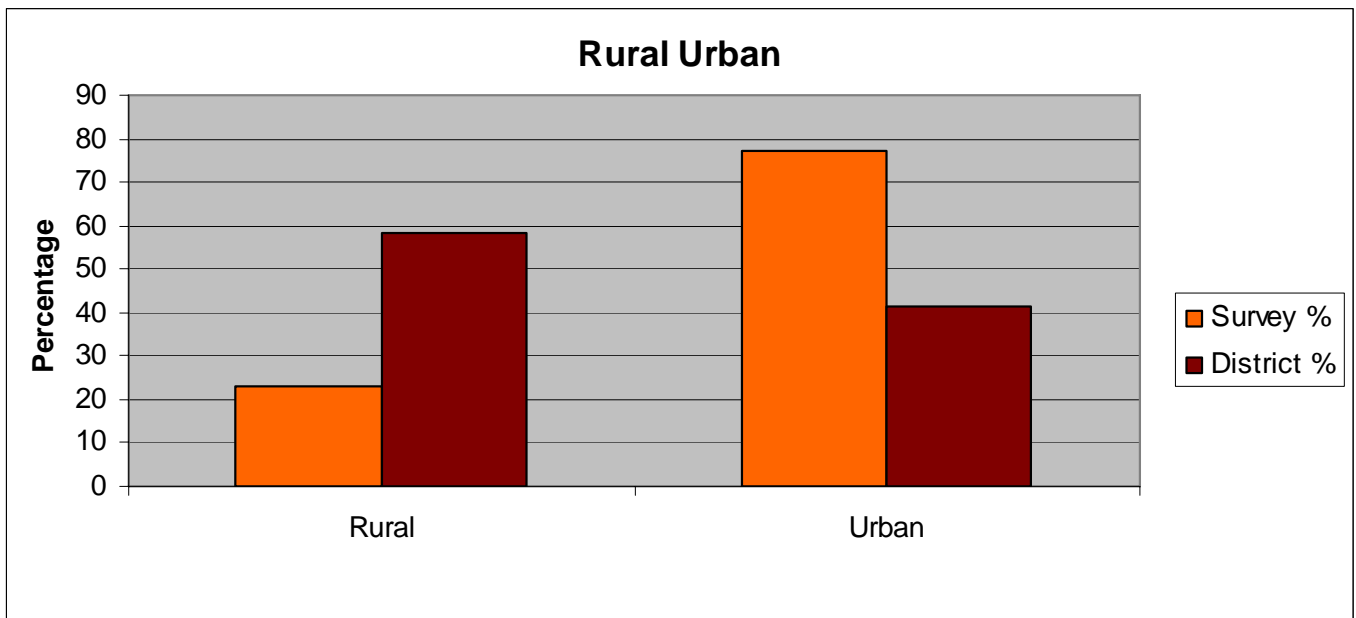
The percentage of respondents living in rural or urban areas was compared with the overall Waimate District population location data.

A much greater proportion of survey respondents live in the urban area.

In fact, 78% of survey respondents were from the urban area as opposed to 22% who live in the rural areas.

This compares with Census data that indicates, in fact, only 40% of the Waimate District population live in the urban area and 60% live in the rural areas.

Figure 2



Conclusion:

- Gender of survey respondents was well represented.
- Survey respondents were over-represented by an older population.
- Survey respondents living in the urban area were over-represented.

1. Community Outcomes Survey

Citizens were asked to comment on the following list of current community outcomes³:

Current Community Outcomes

- The Health needs of the District are adequately provided for.
- The Education needs of the District are adequately provided for.
- The Governance provided by the Waimate District Council meets the needs of its Citizens.
- The well-being of all age-groups is achieved.
- The Security and Safety of the Community and its Citizens meets their needs.
- The Community is positive about its continued well-being.
- The population size of the District supports the achievement of Community Outcomes.
- Citizens feel their needs for Community are satisfied.
- The Wealth of the District has increased.
- Citizens are confident that their needs for 'communities of interest' can be met.
- Citizens feel that their Recreational needs are satisfied.
- The District has top-quality services at an affordable cost.
- The District is visually attractive.
- Citizens feel that their Cultural needs are satisfied.
- The diverse Spiritual needs of Citizens are recognised and supported.
- The Historical and Cultural heritage of all Citizens is adequately protected.
- The Community benefits from the inclusion of citizens diverse Cultural and Ethnic backgrounds.
- The Natural and Rural Environment is protected.
- Sustainable Development is a feature of the District.
- The District has successfully fostered non-agricultural growth as part of a complete buoyant community.
- Waste is not detrimental to the Environment.
- Economic Development has enhanced the Community.
- The Economic Infrastructural needs of the District are met.
- Council's District Planning meets the needs of the Community.
- Increases of quality of life, well-being and prosperity are shared and accessed by all Citizens.

³ (For statistics (%) for responses to this survey refer to Table in Appendices: Appendix Two)

1.1 Is this idea still relevant and good?

(Refer to Graph, Figure 3, p.8)

It was noted that this question can contain contradictory sentiments.

Eg. Non agricultural growth – A person may well think that it is relevant that we pursue non-agricultural growth, however, in this person's opinion growth thus far has not been good. This then leaves the person in a dilemma about what response to give to the question.

- However, there are still some strongly supported Community Outcomes and over 60% of respondents think that all the Outcomes are still relevant and good.
- 92% of respondents believe that the District's historical and cultural heritage should be protected with 91% also believing that the natural and rural environment should be protected.
- 90% of respondents feel it is important that recreational needs are satisfied, 88% that educational needs are satisfied and again 88% believe that the diverse spiritual needs of the community are recognised and supported.
- 86% of respondents feel it is important that the District is visually attractive. 84% believe that the community benefits from the inclusion of citizens with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and 83% believe that citizens should feel that their own cultural needs are satisfied.
- 84% of respondents regard the economic infrastructural needs of the District as important and 83% would like to see that economic development is continuing to enhance the community.
- Community Outcomes at the lower end of the scale still received over 60% support. 65% of respondents believe that citizens should 'feel their needs for community are satisfied' is still a relevant outcome, and 68% believe that an 'increase in quality of life, well-being and prosperity are shared and accessed by all citizens' is still a good community outcome.
- 69% believe that the population size of the District has a direct bearing on the achievement of the Community Outcomes.

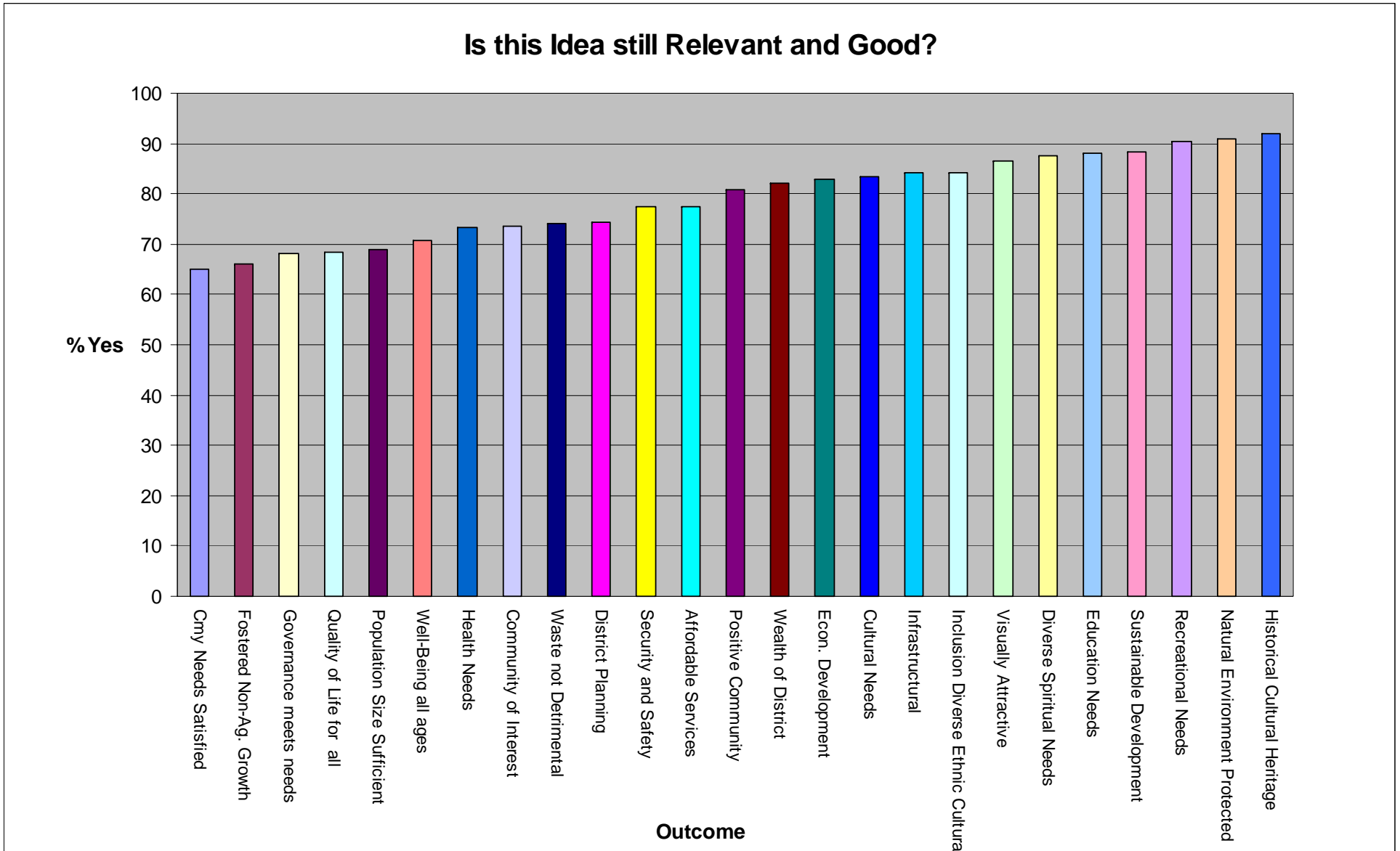
Conclusion:

- Protection of the District's cultural heritage and natural environment is very important.
- The social, cultural and spiritual 'well-beings' are important to community life.
- Economic sustainability and development is important for the District.

But are these Community Outcomes that are still seen as 'relevant and good' by respondents also seen as a role for Waimate District Council?

1.1: Community Outcomes still relevant ?

Figure 3



1.2 Should Council have a role in the community outcomes?

(Refer to Graph, Figure 4, p.10)

This is a nice clear question.

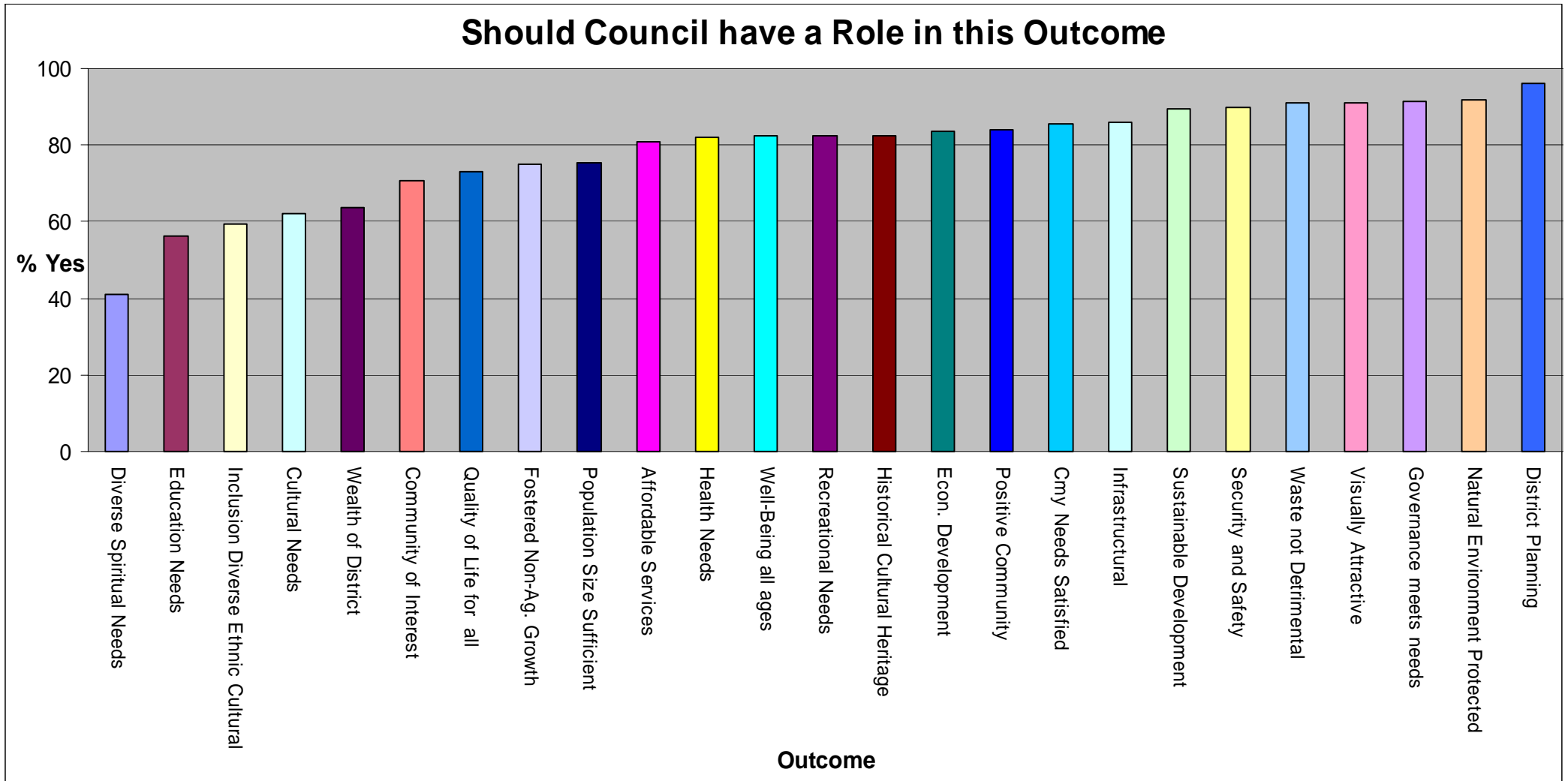
- You will be pleased to see that 96 % of the community regards Council as having a role to play in District planning and meeting the needs of its citizens. Protection of the natural and rural environment is also regarded as a popular role for Council, 92% of respondents think so, as is the development and maintenance of a visually attractive District where 91% of respondents think so.
- 90% of respondents believe Council has a role in meeting the security and safety needs of the community.
- 86% of respondents believe that Council is responsible for ensuring that their needs for community are satisfied and 84% believe that Council has a role to play in ensuring the community is positive about its continued well-being.
- 82% believe that Council has a role to play in ensuring the well-being of all age groups and again, 82% see a role for Council in providing for the health needs of the District.
- In contrast to Council's role in providing good community health outcomes, only 56% believe Council should have a role in providing for the educational needs of the District.
- 64% believe that Council has a role to play in increasing the wealth of the District with only 57% seeing this as a major role for Council.
- Interestingly, historical and heritage protection which had 92% support as a good community outcome has dropped to 82% support as a role for Council and then only has 55% support as a major role for Council. Other aspects of cultural well-being regarded as important community outcomes are not necessarily seen and roles for Council.

Conclusion:

- Council has a primary role in District planning and meeting the needs of Waimate citizens.
- Council has role in protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
- Council has a role in making Waimate District a safe place to live.
- Council has a role in caring for the physical and mental well-being of the citizens of Waimate District.

1.2: Council Roles

Figure 4



1.3 If Council does have a role in this outcome should it be a major or minor role? (Refer to Graph, Figure 5, p.12)

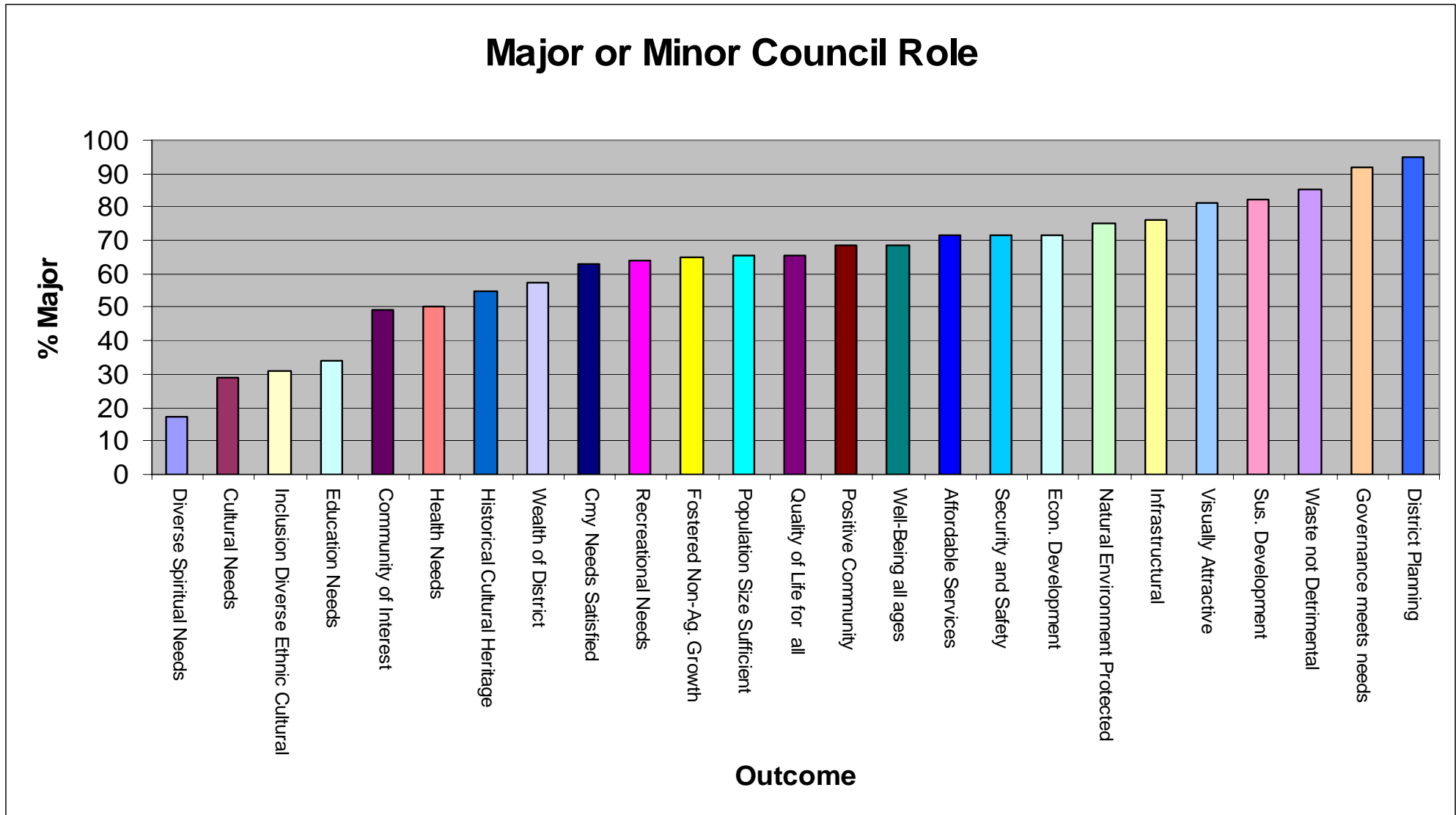
- 95% of citizens believe that Waimate District Council has a major role to play in District planning with 92% believing that the governance provided by Council should meet the needs of citizens.
- 85% of citizens also believe that Council has a major role to play in ensuring waste is not detrimental to the environment and that sustainable development (82% agreement) is a feature of the Waimate District. Council also has an important role to play in ensuring that the District is visually attractive.
- Citizens believe Council has a very minor role to play in meeting the spiritual and cultural needs of the community and in ensuring that the community benefits from the inclusion of citizens of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.
- Interestingly, although health and education needs are regarded as important community outcomes, 50% of citizens believe that the provision for adequate health needs is a major role for Council, and 34% believe that provision for adequate education needs should be a major role for Council.

Conclusion:

- Council has a major role in District planning and governance, ensuring that the needs of Waimate District citizens are met.
- Council has a major role in ensuring production and disposal of waste is not detrimental to the environment.
- Council has major role in protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
- Council has a major role in promoting sustainable development.
- Council has an important role in fostering economic development.
- Council has an important role in providing for the District's infrastructural needs.
- Council has an important role in providing affordable services.
- Council has an important role in monitoring and overseeing community well-being.

1.3: Council Major/Minor Roles

Figure 5



2. Community Plan Survey⁴

2.1 I think Waimate District's good points or strengths are...

(Refer to Graph, Figure 6, p.14)

133 respondents answered this question.

- Respondents agreed that stress-free environment associated with living in the Waimate District was a strength. 52% of respondents agreed that the slower pace of a valued community life available to those living in Waimate District was important. 32% of respondents regarded the Waimate surrounds, the natural environment, as a positive attribute of the District, with 23% appreciating the parks and reserves. 19% enjoy the climate and see it as a strength.
- 25% of respondents regarded the central location of the Waimate District as a strength. Acceptable distances from main centres was seen as an advantage of living in the Waimate District as was the nearness to lakes, rivers and mountains.

Demographics of the most identified strength (for stats refer Appendices: Appendix Four)

- Respondents talked about the nice friendly community, its people and the great environment. There were no significant differences between ages or location of respondents praising these strengths of the Waimate District. There was a difference in gender though, with more males than expected agreeing that one of Waimate strengths was the lifestyle afforded by the community and environment.

Conclusion:

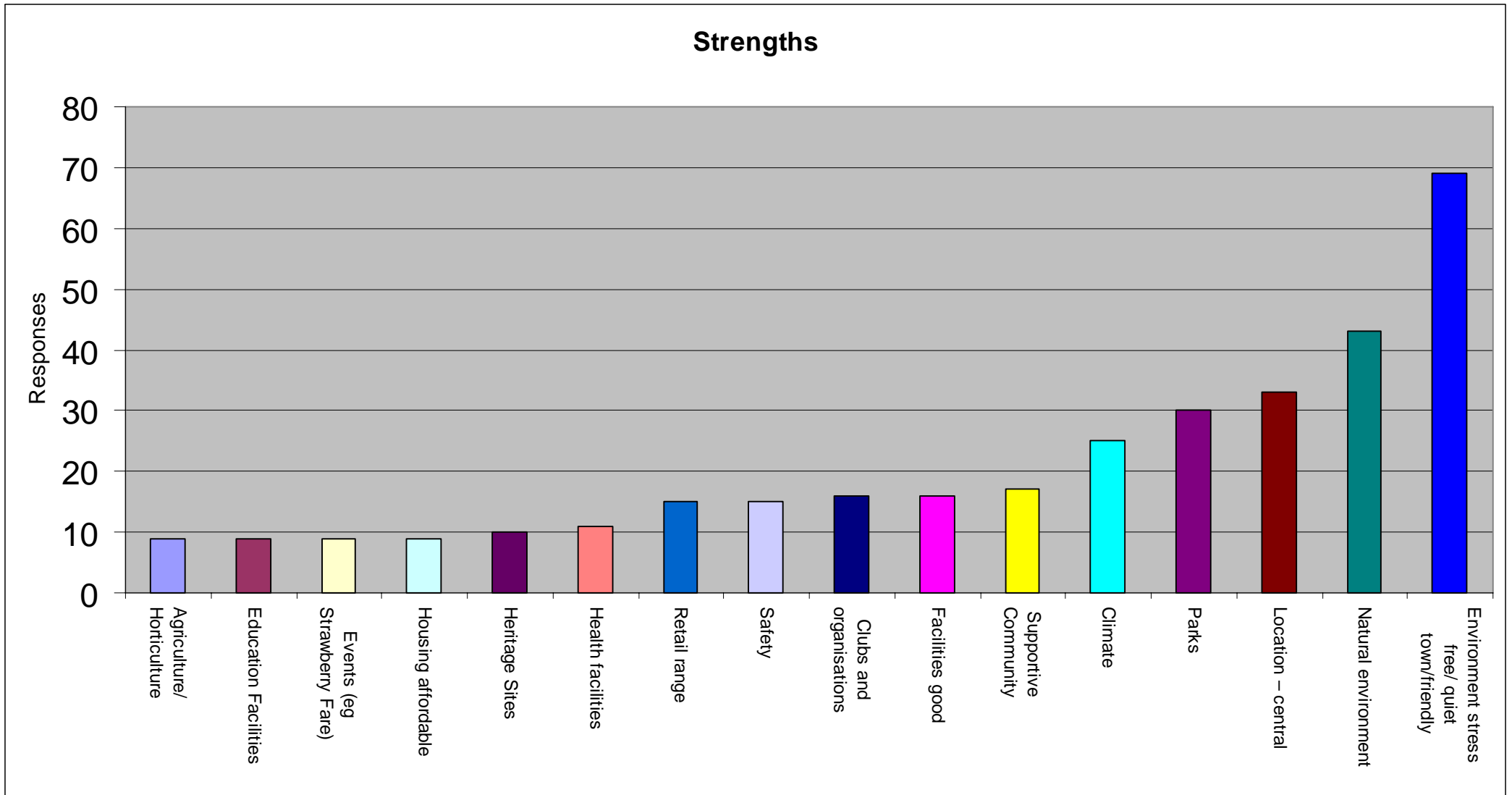
- The surrounds and quality of (community) life available to citizens living in the Waimate District is seen as the major strength of the District.

For respondents comments refer to Table, Figure 12, page 25

⁴ For summary graphs and stats refer to Appendices: Appendix Three
Waimate District Survey Report 2008

2.1: Waimate District's Strengths

Figure 6



2.2 I think Waimate District's weaknesses are...

(Refer to Graph, Figure 7, p.16)

135 respondents answered this question.

- The limited range of retail outlets in the Waimate District was regarded as a significant weakness of living in the District. 25% of respondents were not satisfied with the number of retail services provided in the Waimate District. They were frustrated with not enough variety of shops and the lack of competition. In particular, respondents noted the inadequacy of having just one supermarket, the lack of restaurants, and too many second hand shops.
- Respondents indicated dissatisfaction with the Waimate District Council. 16% highlighted the fact that there was not enough Councillor accountability and 13% were not satisfied with the overall performance of Waimate District Council.
- 12% of respondents also regarded the provision of health facilities; the lack of permanent doctors, as a weakness of the Waimate District.
- Respondents indicated that 'limited opportunities for youth' was a weakness, along with the sometimes very negative attitudes of citizens about their own District.

Demographics of the most identified weakness:

(for stats refer to Appendices: Appendix Four)

- There were significant differences between the sexes as regards to retail range. As to be expected women were more likely to see this as a weakness of the District. Also the 65+ age group and people living in the urban area were more likely to see the lack of variety of shops as a weakness. Men, those in the 45 to 64 age group, and people living in a rural location were less likely to see retail range a weakness.

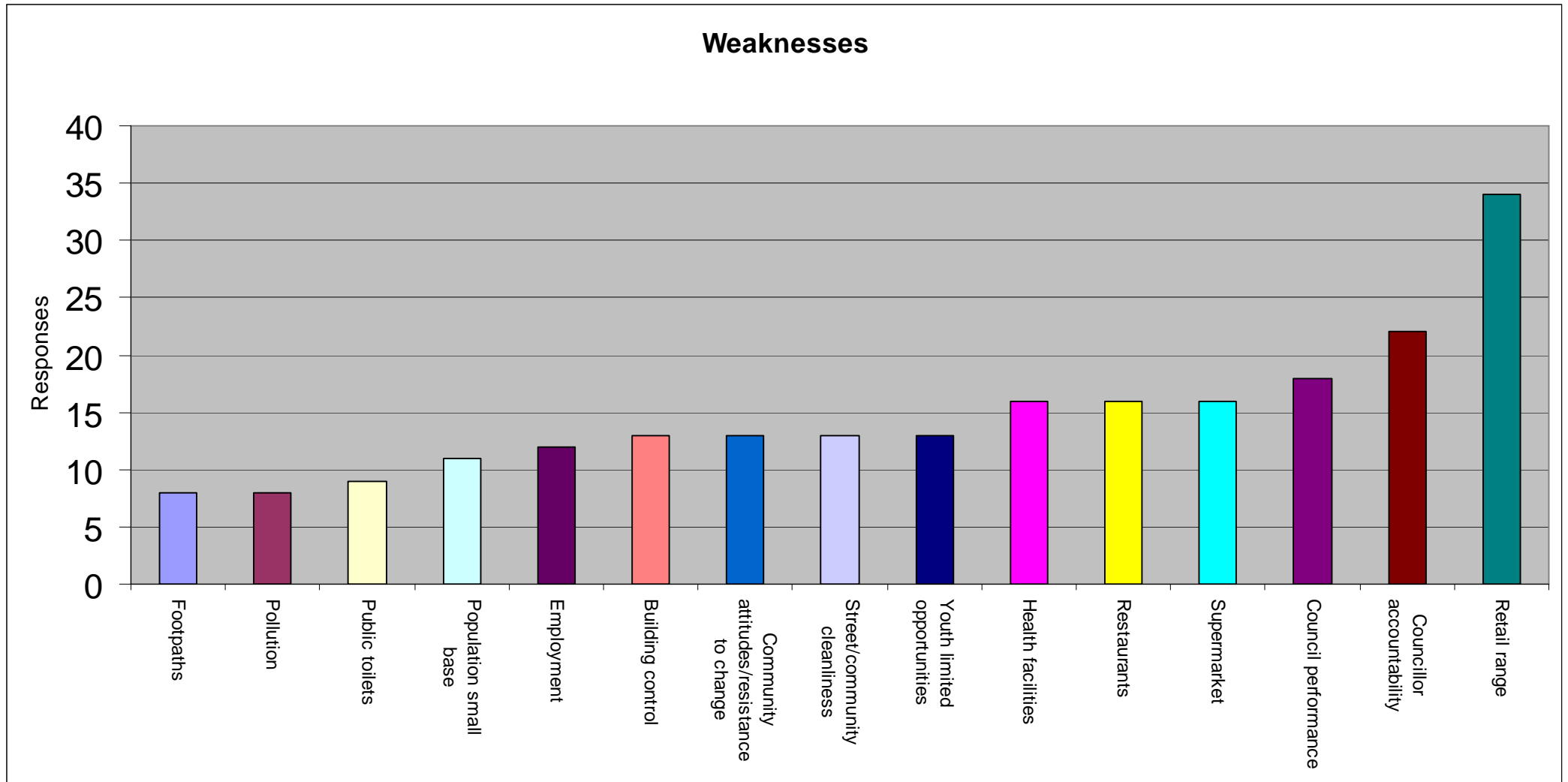
Conclusion:

- Limited provision of some goods and services is seen as a weakness of the Waimate District.
- Citizens are not satisfied with the level of accountability of Waimate District Councillors and the overall performance of Waimate District Council.

For respondents comments refer to Table, Figure 13, page 26

2.2: Waimate District's Weaknesses

Figure 7



2.3 I think the opportunities to make Waimate a better place are...

(Refer to Graph, Figure 8, p.18)

118 respondents answered this question.

- 17% of respondents regarded the tourist attractions of the Waimate District as having the potential to provide opportunities for the District's future. 16% saw the growth and development of retail services as another area of opportunity.
- The development of a good swimming pool complex was also viewed as an opportunity to improve the District.
- 8% of respondents indicated such things as the development of parks, a suitable sports stadium, and new restaurants as providing opportunities to improve Waimate District.
- 8% of respondents indicated that there opportunities existed to lift the level of community cleanliness and street tidiness, and that this would make Waimate District a better place to live.
- Interestingly, 8% of respondents also felt that, as an opportunity to improve life in Waimate, it would be a much safer place if the police were available all the time. (ie Police station open 24hrs 7 days a week to be able to report crime immediately)

Demographics of the most identified opportunities:

(for stats refer to Appendices: Appendix Four)

- Both sexes, all ages and both urban and rural dwellers see the development of tourist attractions as the most likely opportunity for the Waimate District .

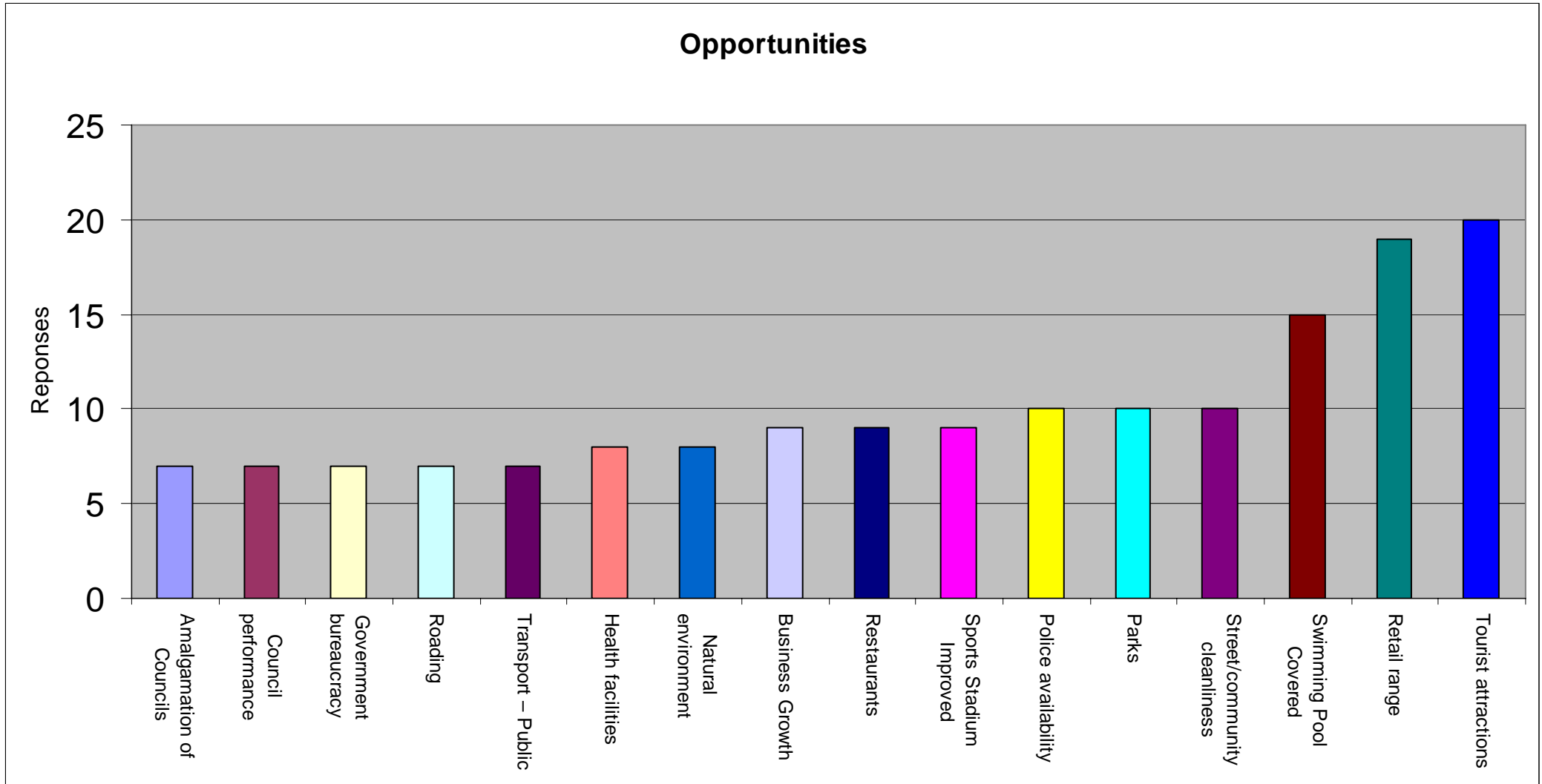
Conclusion:

- Opportunities exist for the development of tourist attractions in the Waimate District.
- The Waimate District would be improved by the provision of a greater variety of retail services.
- Opportunities exist for the development of good sport, recreation and cultural facilities.
- The Waimate District would be improved by greater commitment to community tidiness and cleanliness.
- The Waimate District would be improved by knowing it is safe place to live.

For respondents comments refer to Table, Figure 14, page 27

2.3: Waimate District's Opportunities

Figure 8



2.4 I think that the main things that will prevent Waimate District from being what I want are... (Refer to Graph, Figure 9, p.20)

101 respondents answered this question.

- Respondents regarded Local Government as one of the greatest barriers to the future of the Waimate District, with Councillor accountability (23%) and Council performance (18%) regarded as the greatest barriers. 13% of respondents also saw the implications of Government bureaucracy as one of the main things preventing Waimate District from being the place respondents would like it to be living in.
- Attitudes of citizens of the Waimate District were also regarded as significant barriers to the future. Negative opinions of the District, resistance to change, and unwillingness to accept new people into the community were cited as reasons why community attitudes could hinder the future of the District.
- 8% respondents believed the cost of rates would be a barrier to future contentment with living in Waimate District, and 7% believed lack of a variety of employment opportunities, particularly for youth, could hinder future growth.

Demographics of the most identified barriers:

(for stats refer to Appendices: Appendix Four)

- Respondents were vocal in their dissatisfaction with Waimate District Council. Their concerns were mainly with the elected Council rather than the executive council. Demographically comments came from right across the board with the exception of two age groups.

The 45yrs to 64yrs age group were significantly more likely to see Councillor accountability and Council performance as barriers to the future.

Although the 65+ age group were less likely than expected to see Councillor accountability and Council performance as barriers to the future, there were still 25% of respondents over 65 who did see Council performance and Councillor accountability as a hindrance to the future of the Waimate District.

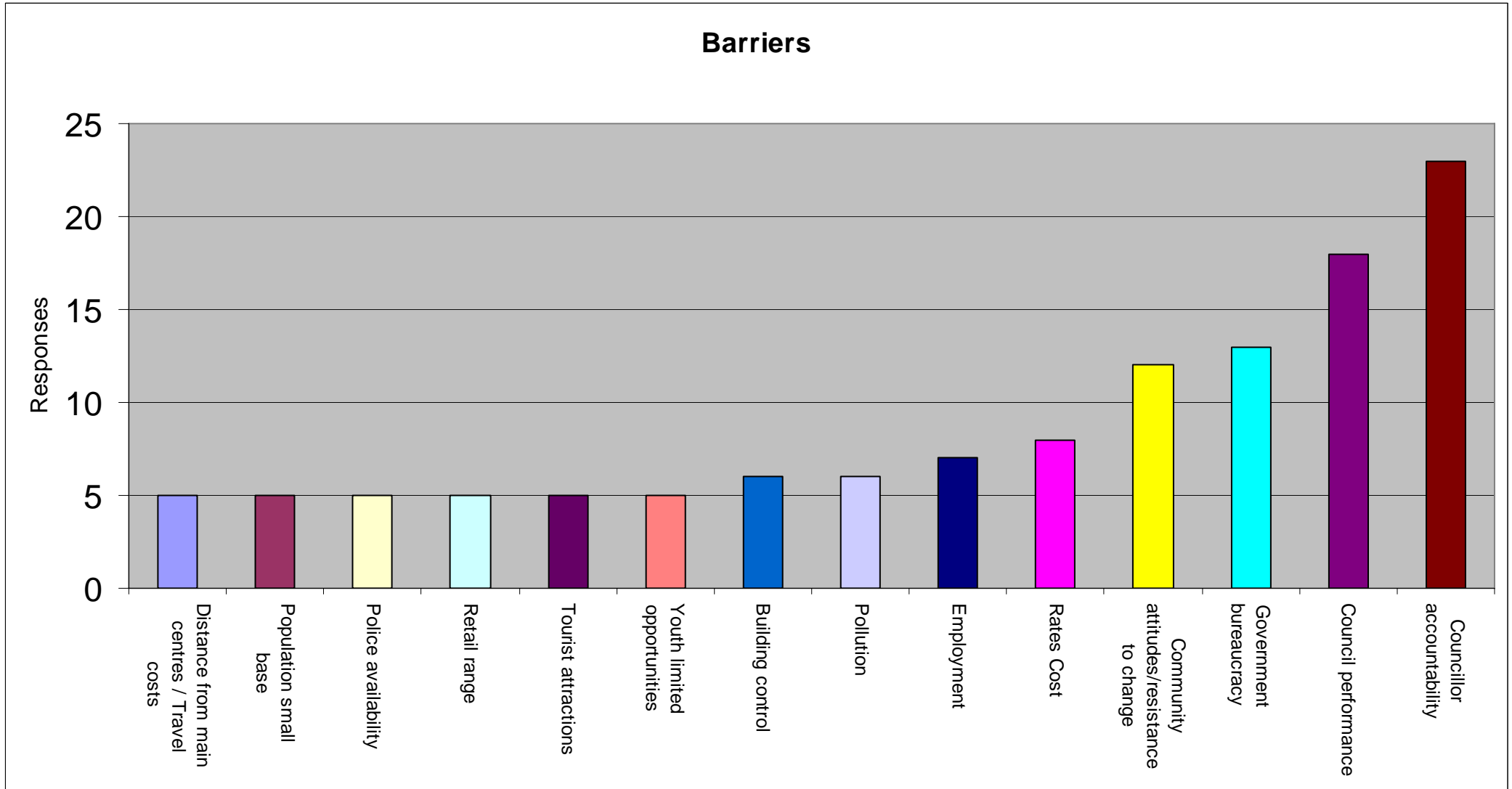
Conclusion:

- Accountability of Councillors and Council performance are seen as barriers to the future of the Waimate District.
- National Government bureaucracy is seen as a barrier to the future of the Waimate District.
- Positive community attitudes are important for the long term well-being of the Waimate District.

For respondents comments refer to Table, Figure 15, page 28

2.4: Waimate District's Barriers

Figure 9



3. Ideas and Comments

3.1 What new ideas do you have for the Waimate District?

(Refer to Graph, Figure 10, p.22)

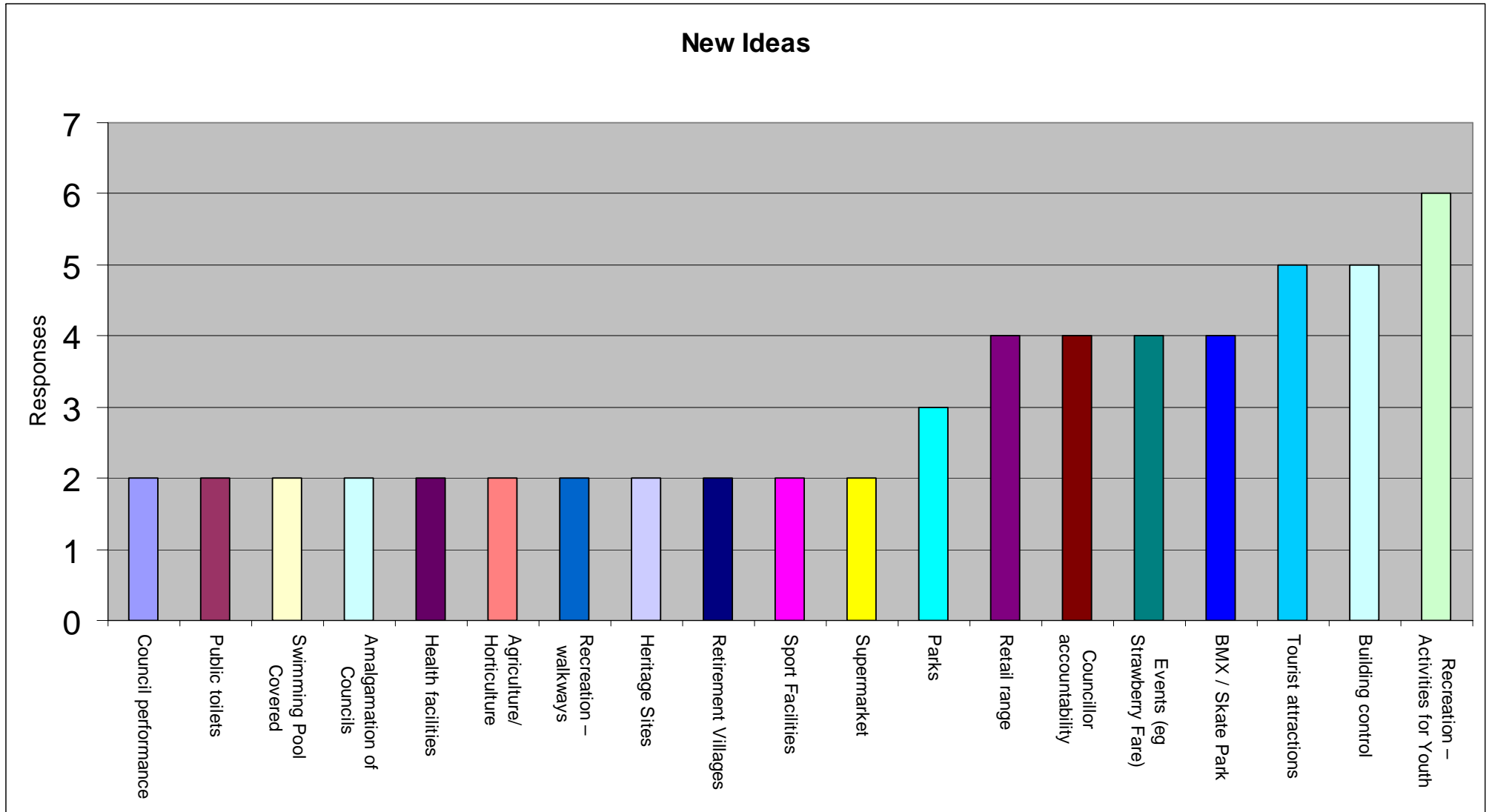
Respondents were asked to list any new ideas they had when planning for the future of the Waimate District. There were some popular topics of interest (themes) that generated ideas.

- Respondents were interested in the long term provision of recreation facilities and in particular were concerned that there were plenty of activities available for the youth of the District.
- The development of a sport and recreation centre, BMX track, skate park, and the provision of an indoor swimming pool are ideas still surfacing from Waimate citizens. Enhancement of parks and reserves and the development of walking tracks were also included in suggestions.
- Respondents were concerned about the seemingly unnecessary 'red tape' associated with local government bureaucracy particularly in the area of resource consents and building controls. Ideas revolved around reduction of regulations and paper work.
- Several respondents also had ideas around the development and promotion of tourist attractions. Building on the District's history and cultural heritage were seen as popular ways of developing and promoting local tourism. (eg. Bushtown and Edwardian theme town, Old Studholme-Waihao railway line)
- Respondents also had praise for some of Waimate District annual events (eg Strawberry Fare, Christmas Extravaganza, Busking Festival) and would like to see continued support for events and new events encouraged.
- Respondents were concerned about the retail area of Waimate District. There were suggestions about improving 'the look' of the main street along with suggestions for providing a greater range of retail goods and diversity of shops.

For respondents ideas refer to Table, Figure 16, pages 29-35

3.1: Topics of interest around ideas for future planning

Figure 10



3.2 Do you have any other comments to make of the Community Plan

(Refer to Graph, Figure 11, p.24)

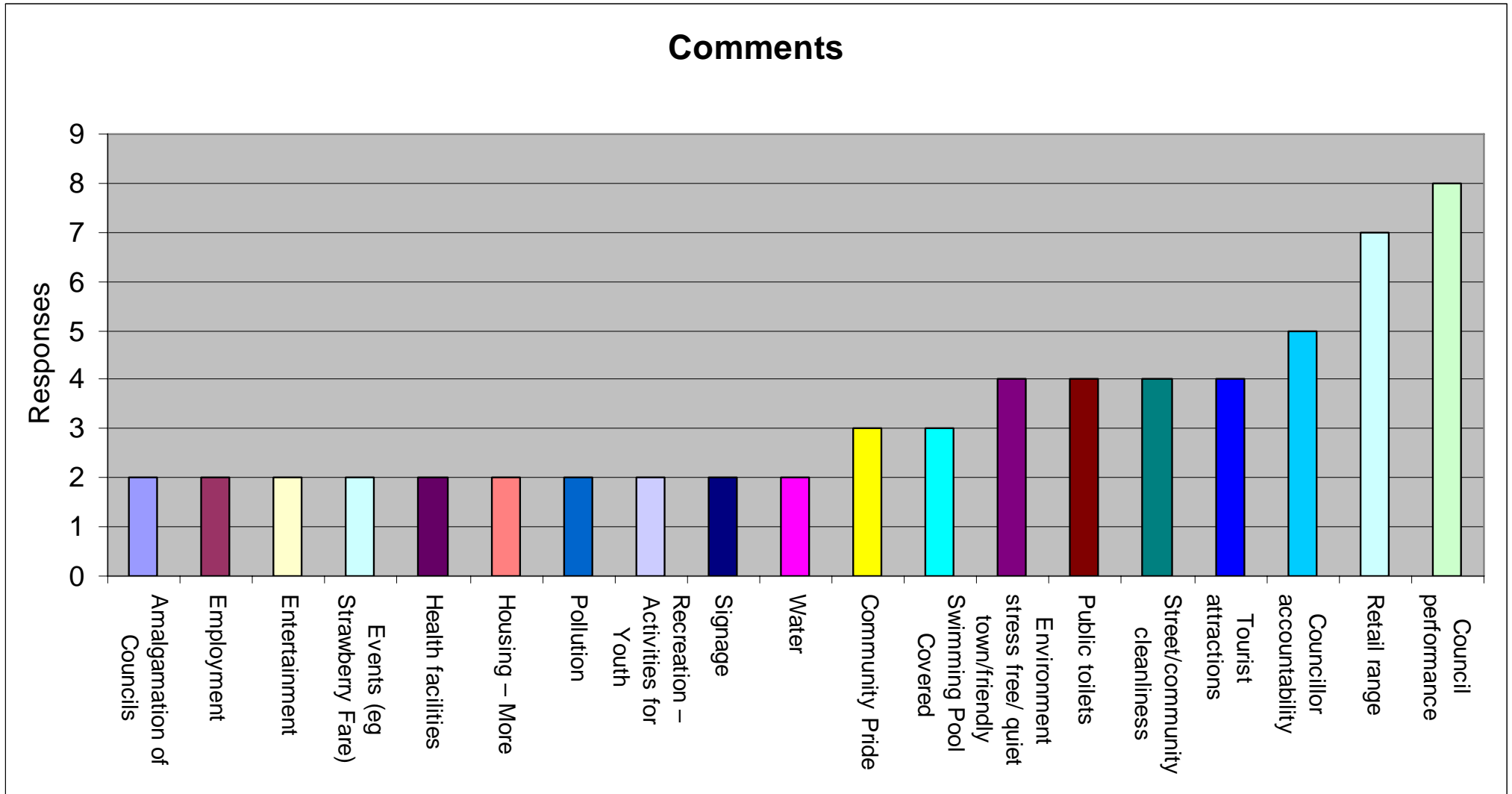
Respondents were given the opportunity to add any final comments on completion of the survey. Many of these comments covered similar topics as those recorded in the ideas section.

- Respondents had several comments to make about Council performance and the level of accountability of Councillors. Although recent publicity about the Waimate District Council has been with regards to the public toilets, it was apparent respondents were feeling frustrated with the overall performance of Council and the accountability of Councillors.
- As in the ideas section, a number of respondents had comments to make about the lack of retail services in Waimate District. The rise in fuel prices was making it less economical to travel out of town for retail goods and respondents were concerned about the limited range of goods available and lack of retail competition.
- Respondents had comments to make encouraging the development and promotion of tourist attractions.
- There was some concern expressed with regards to street tidiness and community cleanliness in general.
- Respondents were appreciative of the quiet, stress free lifestyle available living in Waimate District.

For respondents comments refer to Table, Figure 16, pages 29-35

Topics of interest around respondent comments

Figure 11



4. Tables of Comments and Ideas

From the major topics identified by respondents as strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and barriers (approx.) 10 randomly chosen respondent comments have been recorded.

4.1 Respondents comments on Waimate District's Strengths

Figure 12

<p>Environment Stress free</p> <p>Supportive Community</p>	<p>Relatively stress free environment. Well-organised community. Friendly community. . People care about each other. Close knitted community. Creative strong minded people with the town's interest at heart. We are a supportive community. Good values, family orientated. Personal touch and friendliness. It's people. The community feel. Sense of community. Social groupings are strong. The vibrancy of the local community from baby boomers to retirees. Many clubs, etc. A quiet happy community that is more safe than many other towns. Safe, caring community. Good friendly place to live. Neighbourliness. Small community where people rally together. Good community spirit. Obliging business ethics.</p>
<p>Natural Environment</p>	<p>Most residents keep their properties very tidy. Very tidy business district. Beautiful natural surroundings. Great parks and recreation facilities. The blend of rural with the urban. Pleasant surroundings. Tidy, attractive environment. Waimate District – a diverse scenic playground. Nice view of the hills The rural environment. Lots of recreation at the doorstep. Lovely range of scenery and landforms</p>
<p>Central Location</p>	<p>Close to larger service cities. Location to other activities. Location is central South Island (x2...) Fairly central to most things. Central location of town and District. Geographical position. Situation – handy to larger towns, lakes, rivers and mountains. Accessible hinterland.</p>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>Maintenance of beautiful public spaces. Eg Knottingley Park and Victoria Park. Garden parks to take visitors to. Great gardens eg. Knottingley and Victoria Parks. The parks and trees. Victoria Park, Knottingley Park, Kelcey's Bush. Waimate's parks and gardens. Victoria Park is so peaceful. Nice parks, lovely parks (x 4 ...)</p>
<p>Climate</p>	<p>The climate is good. (x3) We don't get extremes. Good weather. The moderate weather we usually have. (x2) Temperate climate when other areas are getting it rough. Climate is not extreme.</p>

4.2 Respondents comments on Waimate District's Weaknesses

Figure 13

<p>Retail Range</p> <p>Supermarkets</p> <p>-Restaurants</p>	<p>Poor commercial competition. Lack of a really good coffee shop. Not enough variety of shops. Too many empty shops. Lack of retail shops. Lack of continuity – shops come and go. Lack of weekend trading. Shops and garages close too early. No 24hr fuel. Insufficient choice of shops. Too many second-hand shops. Major upgrade of shop fronts. Relocate transport business out of town. Advertise Waimate District more overseas. Not enough places to shop.</p>
<p>Council</p> <p>Accountability</p>	<p>A lack of knowledgeable Councillors available. Councillor accountability for Budget over-runs. Not listening to rate payers needs. (x2) Council buys Dawson building without consultation. Council bickering in public. Bickering Council members. Not listening to Waimate District. Wasting ratepayers money (eg. public toilets) Absurd Council decisions. (eg. public toilets)</p>
<p>Council</p> <p>Performance</p>	<p>Council not building for the future. Some Councillors have their own agenda. Weak Council. Put the Councils back the way they used to be with your own plant and staff. Council not working together. Slowness and inactivity of people getting consents through Council. Lack of accountability and honesty in local government on some Councillors behalf. Ongoing cloud of negativity going on over Council. Poor decision making by community representatives. Infrastructure needs not keeping pace with community.</p>
<p>Health</p> <p>facilities</p>	<p>Lack of doctors. Health – overworked doctors and nurses. Difficulty in attracting doctors and high quality professionals Health under one umbrella. Difficulty in retaining doctors. Doctor shortage at times. Costs of accessing medical care in Timaru. Poorer access to health services – regional</p>

4.3 Respondents comments on Waimate District's Opportunities

Figure 14

Tourist Attractions	<p>Completion of Bushtown. Wild food outlet. Organised hunt. Promote Waimate for it's natural areas. A luge from the Whitehorse to Queen Street. (Ha, ha just joking!!) This is the centre of the South. Could be more tourist and visitor activity. Enlarge the Animal Farm experience. Working village for tourists. Racecourse made into a recreation park. Develop Edwardian theme. Do up fabulous old buildings especially Arcadia. Further promotion of Waimate as a desirable alternative in which to live and work. Maintain and enhance the natural environment.</p>
Retail Range	<p>More shops but not second-hand. Better shopping. More shops, Greater variety. Quaint little coffee shops. A little shopping arcade. Covered shopping mall. Upgrading the shops from Colour-Plus A new Supermarket. More shops eg. supermarket. More shopping facilities. 24hr swipe card at garage for fuel. More home deliveries. Attract more retail outlets to the town. Excellent shops, cafes and service. Better take-away options.</p>
Swimming Pool	<p>Cover the swimming pool. (x9 comments) Upgrade of sports stadium and swimming pool. Cover the swimming and have it open all year. A year round swimming complex. Not just for use but for older people to help with medical problems. A pool that has under-floor heating, at least four showers, spa pool, one that caters for competition, games area in pool, pre-school pool, café facilities, hydroslide.</p>
Community tidiness	<p>Cleaner footpaths (esp. High Street) Tidy up old cars and rubbish, etc Cleaning up and beautifying entries to town. Tidy up main street in the upper section. Tidy up the place, get some colour, and get rid of the run-down look. To have graffiti removed and painted over. Tidy up Waimate. Street tidiness needs to be at a certain standard.</p>

4.4 Respondents comments on Waimate District's Barriers

Figure 15

Councillor accountability	<p>Council attitudes. Disproportionate influences of special interest groups. Old Council members who have no progressive vision apart from farming. Lack of listening to what citizens want. Eg. the public toilets. Councillors who have their own agenda and do not listen to the public. Councillors don't listen and don't care. Listen to the people and stop bulldozing. Don't invest in projects without full consultation. Council wasting funds (eg. public toilets) The Council must listen to the ratepayers.</p>
Council performance	<p>A lot of talk and very slow action. Divide the Council up into urban and rural. Smallness of Council and staffing level. (Pro-amalgamation) Rate affordability. Lack of backing for private business. Council overspending. Short-sighted decisions. Steady erosion of rights and privileges. Having a Council that listens to the public.</p>
Government bureaucracy	<p>Over-regulation in regards to resource management. Too much government interference. Emphasis on growth instead of resource enhancement. (eg decline of energy availability) Compliance costs and bureaucratic constraints. Watch regulations don't hold up progress. Too many restrictive regulations (eg. fuel, chemical handling use) High cost of Resource Management Act. Set up a Regional Council for South Canterbury. Too much Government influence. Too many rules and regulations over and above the Councils heads. Government and Regional Council regulation inhibiting growth.</p>
Community attitudes	<p>Small town mentality. Negative attitude of locals. Political Correct culture. Not progressing or looking ahead. Respect towards citizens. Get people to be more positive thinking. Resistance to change. Lack of vibrancy. Need a contemporary feel. People need to feel proud of their town. Small mindedness. Negative media coverage. Dislike of change and distrust of non-locals. Income opportunities that can be gained from attracting new young people to the District. – not recognised by the District. Narrow-minded people who do not want Waimate to grow with the times. Negative attitude towards public spending. Lack of belief in District's/people's ability to succeed and progress.</p>

4.5 Respondents General Ideas and Comments

Respondents were asked to record any further ideas and comments they had about the Waimate District and for planning for the future. These ideas and comments have been categorised under topic headings for ease of reference.

Figure 16

<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>Dairy farmers are shopping outside Waimate. Better farm services for them would keep them in the town. Waimate has not catered for dairying, services are inadequate, engineers, electricians etc.</p> <p>More agriculture (wine, etc). Encourage organics / GE free.</p> <p>Farming is the lifeblood of the Waimate district. Too many takeovers making bigger holdings is no good for rural communities like ours. The more one man economical farms the better.</p> <p>Improved facilities for conferences, larger gatherings. Encourage better, modern tourist accommodation. Need to appoint qualified economic development officer who is able to do this.</p> <p>The Council needs to foster new initiatives to support existing small business. Set up a 'think tank' of small business operators as an Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Encourage new industry to set up and to provide employment for young people.</p> <p>Attract IT business.</p> <p>Continued encouragement of economic activity is the most important thing a Council can do.</p> <p>Work more closely with business development organisations to further expand the regions industrial base. Fonterra will soon exceed their capacities at Clandyboye and Edendale.</p> <p>Dairying, including Studholme factory bringing more people & finance into district. Processes need to improve. Require assistance & informative packs to outline their next step.</p> <p>Develop an industrial estate.</p>
<p>Environment</p> <p>Cont.</p>	<p>Preparing for long term energy decline and climate change with local initiatives.</p> <p>Get on to the Canterbury Regional Council to urgently take action on water quality in local swimming holes. Contact Fonterra to ask for more energetic action on the clean streams accord with the local dairy farms. Contact local Studholme dairy factory to ask for a written undertaking to back their public statements about "clean green" approach as applied to their local suppliers.</p> <p>The impoverishment of the region's soils by artificial fertilisers. The lip service paid to native fauna and flora. The closed mind set of conservatism and parochialism.</p> <p>Lifestyle blocks should not be allowed. They should be an economical enterprise. Protect native flora. Do more to ensure our waterways are not any further degraded or dried up.</p> <p>Maintain parks and reserves at a high standard.</p>

	<p>Security cameras. Liquor ban in main street over the weekends including Friday night.</p> <p>Tidy up the tatty main street buildings, make title holders pro-active in decorating and painting shop frontages. Liquor ban from Parsonage Road to Mill Road inclusive. Lower speed to 40 kph through town centre. Make pedestrian crossings more visible to motorists. Damaged tiles on footpaths need attention. Redesign intersection by Criterion Hotel safe for cyclists.</p>
<p>Infrastructure: Housing, -Roads, -Water -Waste</p>	<p>Council's community housing is failing to meet District's needs.</p> <p>Look into getting housing for the workers at the dairy factory. Maybe Council can buy and tidy up (thus providing more work for residents) houses and rent them to new employees.</p> <p>Develop a Retirement Village (like in Fairlie) Build more 2-bedroom units for retired people. Caretakers unit in Knottingley Park for retired couple to look after camping sites.</p> <p>Village opposite Seddon Square looks out at a beautiful view and a real asset to the town, it would be an awful mistake to put a public toilet on the site.</p> <p>Better identification of the town from the Main Highway, ie. Southern entrance. Northern entrance. 5 minutes to Waimate. Bright tasteful signs. Signs back from the corner entrance.</p> <p>Footpaths upgraded. Moss removed from footpaths. More lighting. More rubbish bins.</p> <p>Streets could be a lot tidier. Litter, glass, dog poo. More rubbish bins around. People should look after their own rubbish but not many do.</p> <p>Community crackdown on all this rubbish that we now see on road sides all along our district roads and rivers, lakes etc. We need an awareness campaign.</p> <p>Time sewerage was along Timaru Road.</p> <p>Like the recycling system but would also like a green only pick up as I can't get to the dump when it opens.</p> <p>We are wasting are too much dollars on recycling.</p> <p>Costly green waste system.</p>
<p>Governance/ Management</p> <p>Cont. Governance</p>	<p>The smallness of Council at Councillor and Council staff level, means the ability to respond etc is limited. Amalgamating with TDC would create sufficient scale.</p> <p>Get rid of some of the unnecessary red tape and paper work.</p> <p>The Council staff are very approachable and we always find all very helpful and courteous.</p> <p>You need to take into account what the people are saying and feeling and stop bulldozing your way in with things you think we should have. Toilets in Seddon Square is ridiculous but typical.</p> <p>Rates too high. We are a small town with a modest rate base. Grand ideas we can not afford, so we must live within our means.</p> <p>Change Council meeting times to the evening so as working professionals can be</p>

	<p>Anyone who can access broadband can enjoy work and lifestyle here.</p> <p>Waimate is a very nice town to live in.</p> <p>We need more and more people to make Waimate grow.</p> <p>People need to feel that the town belongs to them so they take pride in their properties and also feel they would like to contribute ideas etc when asked by whoever or whatever organisation.</p> <p>Waimate is laid back, honest and has excellent people.</p>
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Appendices

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Appendix One:

Methodology

The process:

- All surveys were sequentially numerated when they were processed. The process involved council staff entering the data into two spreadsheets designed by both Council staff and the contractor. This design enabled valid and effective summaries and comparisons.
- Data/ideas were put into topic categories and these categories were given a code of no more than 4 letters and entered into a coding sheet. Categories were expanded as more issues came in.
- Responses were tracked via their sequential number and allowed comparisons to be undertaken with respect to age, sex and location.
- The statistical analysis of the responses was based on Microsoft's Excel software for the graphing and ranking that was undertaken.
- The highest three or four issues were analysed with the lesser issues recorded only. This approach was undertaken to enable the results to be presented in a timely manner.
- Where sampling of the survey was required this was done in a statistically randomised manner.

Issues that have arisen from process:

- Sample size
With some 182 people completing the survey this is large enough to make valid comments. The margin of error is 7.6% in 95% of the time. This is acceptable to identify some large trends as evidenced from the leading issues identified by the respondents.
- Couples
Some couples have sent in a single response to the questionnaire, where this has happened this has been recorded as only one response for graphical purposes and identification of the major issues. This was done deliberately as the assumption was made that a couple were just as likely to make any response as a single persons response. In the analysis of the responses however, couples have been given twice the weight to account for the fact that two people did fill in the questionnaire
- Anonymity of respondent
Various levels of anonymity were found in the responses. Some people declined to give their sex /age (8 responses) while a much larger number (49 responses) declined to identify where they lived. This was possibly because the survey asked for their name as well in order to participate in a prize draw. Given the nature of the responses it is apparent that some people do not want to be identified as having a particular view.

Methodology cont.

- Complexity of survey

Respondents had some comments to make on the survey document with respect to ease of comprehension and the ambiguous nature of some of the questions. Some respondents felt the survey was not “user-friendly”.

Many respondents commented on the complexity of the community outcomes and struggled to answer the questions meaningfully. This was Section 1 of the survey and could well have put people off completing the rest of the survey. This is exemplified in the number of people who stopped filling in the first part of the survey and then went on to answer the SWOB part of the survey.

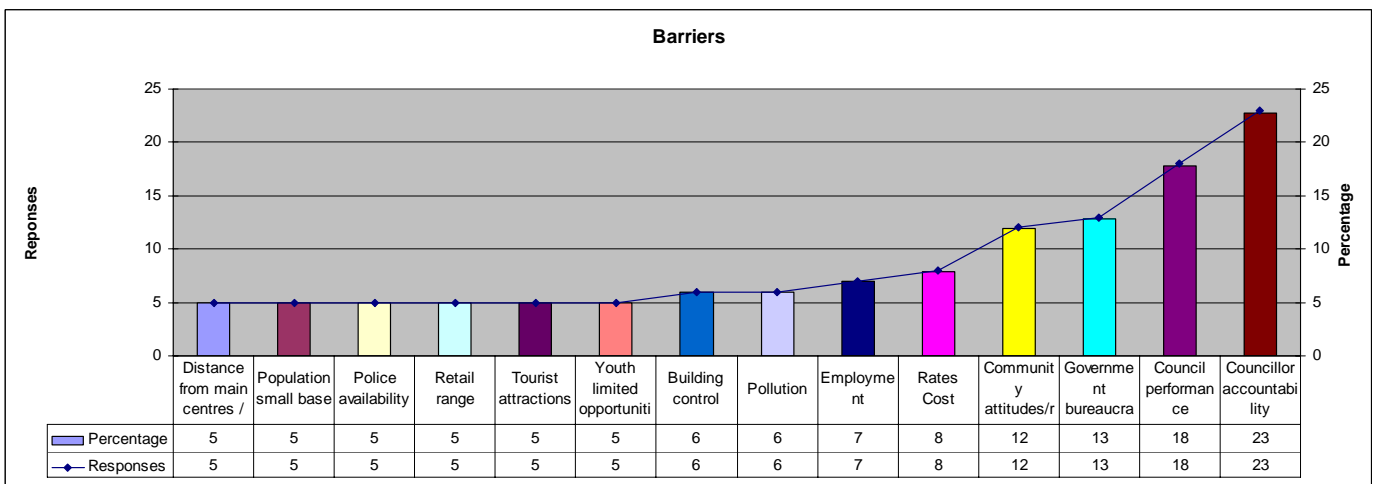
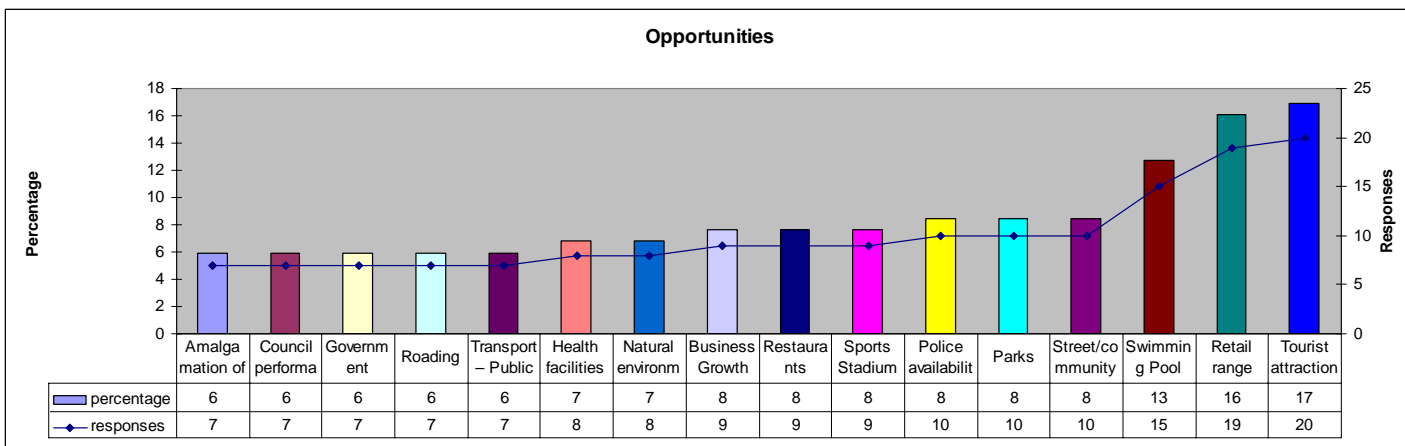
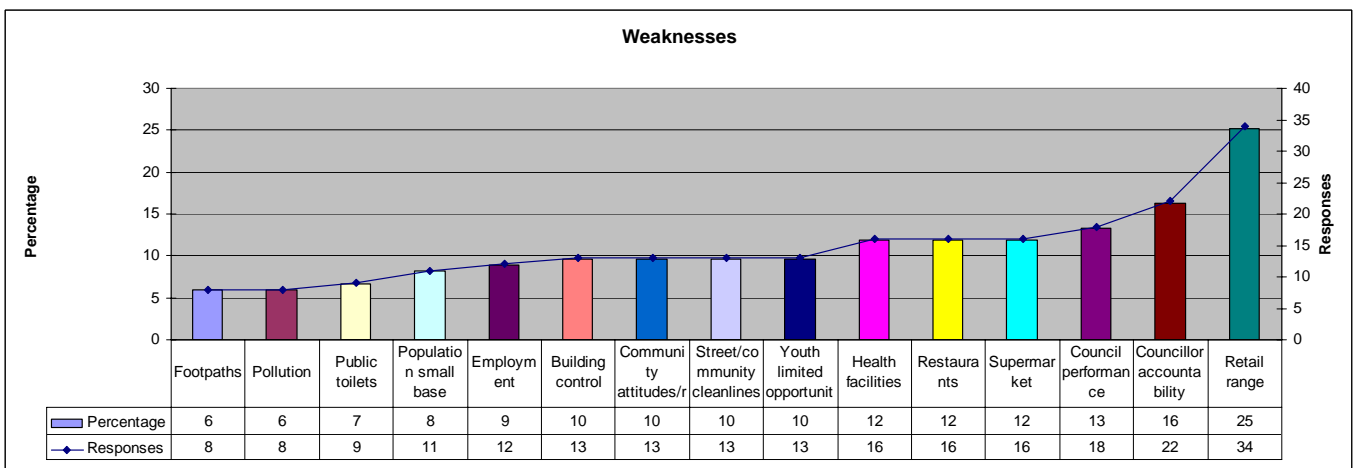
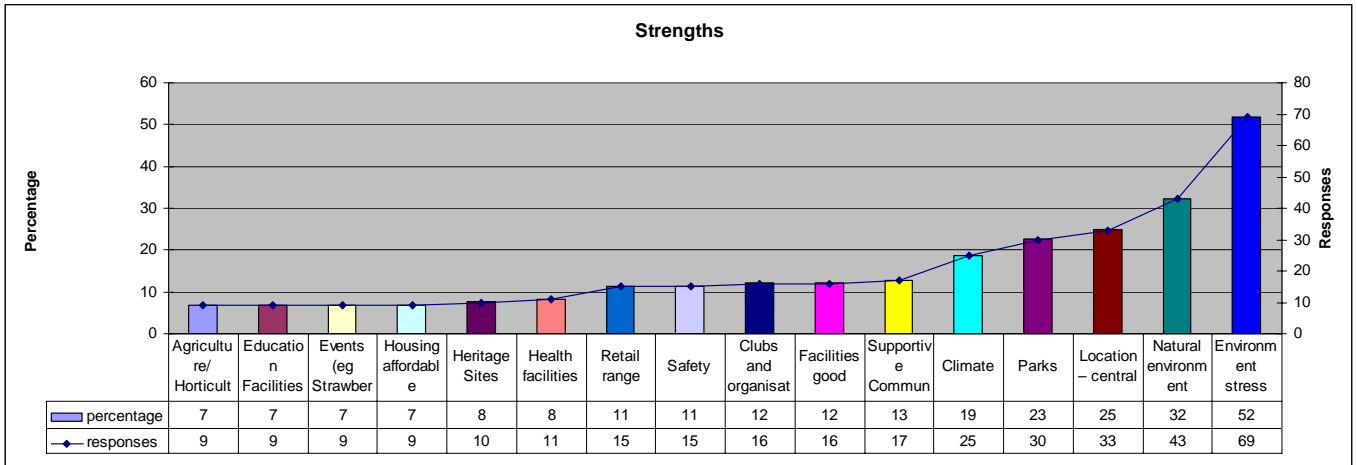
Some respondents were concerned as to whether the survey results, ideas and comments would be heeded by Council.

“We elected a Councillor for our area expecting he/she would consult with the constituents and go back to the District Council with an informed decision as to the wishes of the people on subjects relating to the wellbeing, welfare and future of our town, district and inhabitants. The survey is very hard to understand, it is being read out of context and therefore I believe the results will not be a true indication of the intended answers. What do you expect from this survey? Only a small percentage will answer the written document satisfactorily. Talk to the people, Listen to the people.”

Appendix Two: Community Outcomes Survey

Community Outcomes (Current)	Is this idea still relevant and good?		Should Council have a role in this outcome?		If Council does have a role should it be a major or minor role?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Major	Minor
The Health needs of the District are adequately provided for.	73		82		50	
The Education needs of the District are adequately provided for.	88		56		34	
The Governance provided by the Waimate District Council meets the needs of its Citizens.	68		92		92	
The well-being of all age-groups is achieved.	71		82		69	
The Security and Safety of the Community and its Citizens meets their needs.	77		90		72	
The Community is positive about its continued well-being.	81		84		68	
The population size of the District supports the achievement of Community Outcomes.	69		76		65	
Citizens feel their needs for Community are satisfied.	65		86		63	
The Wealth of the District has increased.	82		64		57	
Citizens are confident that their needs for 'communities of interest' can be met.	74		71		49	
Citizens feel that their Recreational needs are satisfied.	90		82		64	
The District has top-quality services at an affordable cost.	76		81		71	
The District is visually attractive.	86		91		81	
Citizens feel that their Cultural needs are satisfied.	83		62		29	
The diverse Spiritual needs of Citizens are recognised and supported.	88		41		17	
The Historical and Cultural heritage of all Citizens is adequately protected.	92		82		55	
The Community benefits from the inclusion of citizens diverse Cultural and Ethnic backgrounds.	84		59		31	
The Natural and Rural Environment is protected.	91		92		75	
Sustainable Development is a feature of the District.	88		89		82	
The District has successfully fostered non-agricultural growth as part of a complete buoyant community.	66		75		65	
Waste is not detrimental to the Environment.	74		91		85	
Economic Development has enhanced the Community.	83		84		72	
The Economic Infrastructural needs of the District are met.	84		86		76	
Council's District Planning meets the needs of the Community.	74		96		95	
Increases of quality of life, well-being and prosperity are shared and accessed by all Citizens.	68		73		66	

Appendix Three: Community Plan Survey Results



Appendix Four: Community Plan Survey Results

Demographics of the highest responses for the questions:

Most identified topic	Sex		Age					LOCALITY	
	Males	Females	A	B	C	D	E	Rural	TOWN
STRENGTH Environment nice friendly town etc	29	22	0	2	4	19	25	11	30
EXPECTED	24	27	0	1	6	19	24	9	32
Difference	5	-5	0	1	-2	0	1	2	-2
OPPORTUNITY Tourist Attractions	11	12	1	0	1	11	12	5	16
EXPECTED	11	12	0	1	3	9	12	5	16
Difference	0	0	1	-1	-2	2	0	0	0
BARRIER Councillor Accountability	14	13	0	0	3	17	7	3	12
Barr Council Performance	12	11	0	1	2	9	11	2	7
Total	26	24	0	1	5	26	18	5	19
EXPECTED	24	26	0	1	6	19	24	6	18
Difference	2	-2	0	0	-1	7	-6	-1	1
WEAKNESS Retail Range	12	23	1	1	4	7	23	5	22
EXPECTED	17	18	0	1	4	14	17	8	28
Difference	-5	5	1	0	0	-7	6	-3	-6

Differences that are at least 5 away from the expected can be thought of as reasonably significant when compared to what you would expect from the average of all responses. (In 95% of the time this difference is not likely to happen by chance)

Appendix Five: Waimate District Community Survey 2008

Waimate District Council is about to commence its three yearly renewal of our District's Community Plan and we want to know what you think.

For our previous plan various groups and individuals in our community were surveyed and they were asked.

“What would you like to see in the Waimate District 10 years from now?”

The results of the previous survey are shown in a table on the next page.

We would like to know what you think of those ideas now and if you have any new ideas.

Please note that Community Outcomes are the expression of what the Waimate community's desires, at a high level. Council does not conduct, nor fund the work to progress these outcomes alone, but works with many partnering organisations in our community and with central government agencies.

An example is:

The Community Outcome:

The health needs of the District are adequately provided for.

Primary Role:

Belongs to South Canterbury District Health Board.
Aoraki Primary Health Organisation.

Secondary Roles for Council include:

- Own and operate Waimate Medical Centre Ltd
- Provide funding support and administrative services to Waimate Health Developments.
- Provide funding to Centrecare Counselling Health Services
- Provide funding to Waimate Community Vehicle Trust.
- Maintain close links with Lister Home and Hospital
- Advocate for effective political representation on District Health Board for Waimate District.
- Advocate for a fair share of central Government health funding for Waimate District.

Community Outcomes (Current)	Is this idea still relevant and good?		Should Council have a role in this outcome?		If Council does have a role should it be a major or minor role?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Major	Minor
The Health needs of the District are adequately provided for.						
The Education needs of the District are adequately provided for.						
The Governance provided by the Waimate District Council meets the needs of its Citizens.						
The well-being of all age-groups is achieved.						
The Security and Safety of the Community and its Citizens meets their needs.						
The Community is positive about its continued well-being.						
The population size of the District supports the achievement of Community Outcomes.						
Citizens feel their needs for Community are satisfied.						
The Wealth of the District has increased.						
Citizens are confident that their needs for 'communities of interest' can be met.						
Citizens feel that their Recreational needs are satisfied.						
The District has top-quality services at an affordable cost.						
The District is visually attractive.						
Citizens feel that their Cultural needs are satisfied.						
The diverse Spiritual needs of Citizens are recognised and supported.						
The Historical and Cultural heritage of all Citizens is adequately protected.						
The Community benefits from the inclusion of citizens diverse Cultural and Ethnic backgrounds.						
The Natural and Rural Environment is protected.						
Sustainable Development is a feature of the District.						
The District has successfully fostered non-agricultural growth as part of a complete buoyant community.						
Waste is not detrimental to the Environment.						
Economic Development has enhanced the Community.						
The Economic Infrastructural needs of the District are met.						
Council's District Planning meets the needs of the Community.						
Increases of quality of life, well-being and prosperity are shared and accessed by all Citizens.						

WAIMATE DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN SURVEY 2008

To assist in developing the most relevant community plan for the next ten years, we would appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete this survey. We would like you to think about your vision for the area over the next ten years and consider all the things that impact on your life in the Waimate District.

QUESTION 1: WAIMATE DISTRICT'S STRENGTHS – WHAT YOU LIKE.

Please tell us what you think are Waimate District's good points, in other words, what are the things which make Waimate District a great place to live.

List up to 5 strengths and tick the one you think is most important.

	I think Waimate District's good points or strengths are.....	√ which is the most important
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

QUESTION 2: WAIMATE DISTRICT'S WEAKNESSES:

Please tell us what you think are Waimate District's present weaknesses. What aspects of life here are you not completely satisfied with?

List up to 5 weaknesses and tick the one you think is most important.

	I think Waimate District's weaknesses are.....	√ which is the most important
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

QUESTION 3: IMPROVEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Please list those things which you think would make Waimate District a better place to live, play and do business in. What do you see as opportunities for Waimate District that could improve your life here?

List up to 5 opportunities for Waimate District and tick the one you think is the most important.

	I think the opportunities to make Waimate District a better place are	√ which is the most important
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

QUESTION 4: BARRIERS TO THE FUTURE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE REMOVED:

These are things that stand in the way or that might stop Waimate District being the place you want it to be.

What would you change if you could?

List up to 5 points and tick the one you think is most important.

	I think the main things that will prevent Waimate District from being what I want are	√ which is the most important
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Other Comments.

A Couple of Questions About You

In order for us to plan our future survey delivery most effectively, we would like to know.

Do you, or your household pay rates in the Waimate District? Yes No

Gender Female Male

Your age is 0 – 15 16 – 30 31 – 45 46 – 65 65+

To Be Eligible for the Prize Draw:
Your contact details (entirely optional)

Name:

Address:

The results of this survey will be used to help create a document called “Waimate District Community Outcomes 2008” to be published in late September 2008.

This document will be available on Council’s website www.waimatedc.govt.nz from 1 October 2008 onwards and will form part of Councils new Community Plan 2009/19.

All information recorded on this survey is strictly confidential to the Council and will be used for internal purposes only. Data is combined so that individuals will not be able to be identified.

If you would like a copy of the Community Outcomes Document 2008 please tick here
and we will post a copy to you.

If you have any questions regarding this survey please contact.

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