

# Designing Out Crime?

## Tokoroa's Alleyways: He Ara Hou

- He Ara Hou means, “New Pathways”:
  - Tokoroa is redesigning its alleyways; making ‘new pathways’
  - Tokoroa establishing collaborative partnerships in alleyways project as the new pathway to community ownership of issues & solutions around safety
  - Doing project with youth, to also show them new pathways of respect & involvement in community

David Hammond: South Waikato District Council

Greg Standen: NZ Police, Tokoroa

## Public reaction

[Picture local  
paper]

“A lot of people use the alleyway, especially in the holidays when mothers take their children to feed the ducks. I don't know it's such an alleyway problem as a people problem... we're fighting a losing battle, we've got to teach people the respect of things.” (*Graewyn*)

“Alleyways are a thing of the past – times have changed. I will not walk down there at night. It has to be closed, it's getting dangerous. This is my livelihood and my safety, it's my democratic right to be safe in my home.” (*Bob*)

# Public feelings of safety

Survey of residents living adjacent an alleyway:

- 50% feel unsafe living next to an alleyway (compared with 86% of South Waikato people who feel safe in their neighbourhood)
- 50% want the walkways closed as their suggestion for improvement

[Graphic removed]

**Sitelines**

**Ambush points**

**Low surveillance & isolation**

**Maintenance**

**Tagging says 'we own this space'**

**Lighting**

**Easy access to property for burglary**

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***Tokoroa Alleyways***

## Alleyways Map – Tokoroa

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# Alleyway 'Crime Corridor' in 2005

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- 30 incidents of disorder in & around alleyway network, including arrests
- 66 incidents of property destruction
- 80 burglaries
- 84 taggings; 6 mnth
- Easy escape

# Battle for ownership of public space

“Alleyways were developed to make it easier for shift workers in the area, but those times have gone. Graffiti, property damage & death threats are just a few of the problems Mr Gabolinscy has encountered, & he says the alleyways give thieves easier access to homes, as well as a quick escape route. At one time he found 16 spraycans in the alley near his home.” (SWN, 070606)

# Ability to respond

- South Waikato Safer Community Council partnership leading the initiative
- Willingness of CPU and CPTED to invest with confidence
- Tolerance of the community for a short time to see if there will be a real outcome
- Political will for the initiative to show a new pathway

# Response perspective – NZ Police

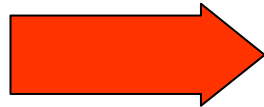
Partner with Council to assist in preventing crime & road trauma, & responding to trends



# Response perspective – NZ Police

## **Criminality Prevention**

Focuses on offenders by tackling “Risk Factors” linked to offending, e.g. misuse of alcohol.



## **Situational Prevention**

Aims to deter/detect crime by making it difficult, increasing risks, reducing rewards  
e.g. **CPTED**.



## **Law Enforcement**

Aims to deter/detect & rehabilitate offenders.

# Reassurance policing

- Using community-focussed policing to target visible crime & disorder to make neighbourhoods more secure
- Targeted through 'signal' crimes
- Community-focussed through listening & responding to neighbourhood priorities
- Secure neighbourhoods through visible, accessible & locally known officers

# Response perspective - Council

- South Waikato Community Outcomes priorities
- South Waikato Council partnership framework
- Response required:
  - Learned that ad-hoc is not best method
  - Recognition of original purpose of alleyways
  - Real solutions – better safety, less crime
  - Coordinated action by groups
  - Taking responsibility

# Baberton – Colinton Alleyway: post make-over

Untagged murals

Local youth painted

Left the high fences

Minimised ambush zones

Clear sightlines

Better maintenance

Removal of trees with  
neighbour support



# He Ara Hou - What we've learned

- LT solutions are needed but must deliver ST wins now
- Adults can't assume they own public space – youth also do, but must be channelled positively
- Tagging is evil but graffiti art is redeemable -Youth art in public places include them in public design – healthy ownership/responsibility of the public space
- Youth amplify adult values - If adults don't respect an area, youth dump on it even more
- Partnership solves solutions faster, with greater resources, expertise – especially in low resourced areas

# He Ara Hou - Looking forward

- Assessment of cost of new contract standards
- Strengthen cultural connections to He Ara Hou; an alleyway to a school is a, 'pathway to learning'
- Continue partnership approach to urban crime & nuisance