

LIFE IN VACANT SPACES

MEDIA RELEASE

KEY PARTIES:

Life in Vacant Spaces (LiVS) & Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)

RELEASE DATE:

Immediate release

SUBJECT

EAST X EAST: A NEW PARTNERSHIP TO HELP ACTIVATE THE REDZONE

Life in Vacant Spaces (LiVS) is pleased to announce a new partnership to activate a small area of the Residential Red Zone. The exciting community space has been named East x East, to reflect its location in the eastern suburb of Burwood at the eastern end of New Brighton Road.

After a year-long pilot project in the same area, LiVS and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) recently signed a new contract to continue their partnership to create a space that provides some amenity and acts as a gathering space for the community. The aim is to fill the area with temporary art projects, local clubs and other events and activities. It's meant as a temporary space to utilise the land and encourage community involvement whilst plans and preparation for future development are completed.

Jeremy Barr, Group Manager Land and Property for LINZ says that LiVS plays an important role in helping community groups develop events and help them with the required applications, licences and permits as required. *"Having a dedicated site and an organisation like LiVS, who have a proven track record around the city of activating different spaces, will become a huge resource for the Eastern Suburbs to tap into".*

LiVS is a charity that has been around for nearly seven years. They specialise in brokering spaces for other charities, creative projects, social enterprises and start-ups. East x East is a slightly different project for LiVS as there were no temporary projects when taking on the space. LiVS Director, Rachael Welfare explains further *"LiVS usually have a good idea of what a project needs and then we find or offer a space that suits. Whilst there is clear push for interim use in the RedZone, the area still comes with a lot of emotions and challenges, making match-making in this case a little bit tougher. We know people have been using the space and we know people want progress, we really just want to help with that".*

The 8 hectares of land has been licenced to LiVS for a two-year period, with a right of renewal for a further two years. A Community Pump Track was installed last year during the pilot project and several groups have followed that initiative since the new contract has been signed. LiVS are currently working on several additions including Disc Golf, picnic areas and more; but really welcome ideas from the community as well.

"We're aiming for a snowball effect here; we plan to put a few things in place, which we hope will then attract other ideas and people wanting to do their own projects" says Welfare "...we want this to be a real community owned space, with things the community wants and needs, we want feedback and we want people to get involved."

There will be some small pots of seed-funding available to support project ideas and enable various types of activity. Those interested in developing a project for the space, now or in the future, should get in contact with LiVS via their website. LiVS do plan to launch a project in the coming months to generate some fresh ideas and get people excited about the possibilities. They are currently working with interested groups and the local community to gauge wants and needs. For more details you can check out the recently set up Facebook page

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IMAGE & CREDIT:



Community Pump Track installed June 2018 – Supplied.



Tree Hill gifted to LiVS from CCC to support the space – Supplied.



Radio Control Haulage Club Container painted with support from LiVS – Supplied.

More images available on request

LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION:

<https://lives.org.nz/> - Life in Vacant Spaces Website

<https://lives.org.nz/our-spaces/east-x-east/> - East x East webpage

<https://www.facebook.com/EastxEastChch> - East x East Facebook page