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councillor I was keen to get to the bottom of the issue, see what the problems are, and find out what can be done to improve things.

In search of the information I needed I went to the pedestrian crossing one morning to see for myself what was happening. What I saw was very few children actually using the crossing. I saw truck drivers running across the road at any old spot to purchase refreshments with little time to make that dash safely. I also saw parents, who I assume had delivered their older children to school, driving away from the school with unrestrained children in their cars.

As parents, as adults and as a community we need to be taking more responsibility for our children. We must be teaching our children the safe way to get to and from school and wherever else they are going. We need to be taking an interest in how we, as a community, are raising our young people.

*Councillor comment with Judy Kingsbury*

My second concern was regarding the Council's elderly persons housing, as this is often a topical subject. I wasn't sure exactly what to expect, but when I was shown around I found the units to be generally very nice and that many of the residents have indeed made them their home. I would like to congratulate the people who have taken responsibility for themselves and have enhanced their own homes. Good on you.

Thirdly we hear so much about law and order issues, particularly in Ashburton. I was invited to accompany a police officer on a Saturday night and observe "Ashburton after Dark". From 9.00 p.m. to 4.00 a.m. we were out there patrolling the streets.

It was an amazing experience and I can tell you first hand we have a very active police force in Ashburton. While the majority of us are quietly tucked up in bed they are dealing with the fallout of a small minority who feel they can do as they please around the town at night. What struck me was the complete lack of pride, respect and responsibility this minority show towards their families, neighbours, the community and themselves.

There is no way the police can always be in the right place at the right time. So perhaps we, the community, should be proactive and find ways to assist our local police. We must take responsibility as a community for ensuring the values that make our District such a great place are passed on to younger generations. Maybe we could programme the Police phone number into our phones and report perceived crime to them as we see it, therefore allowing them to assess, prioritise and react to any incidents.

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## *Submissions open till October 29*

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Group Chairman for the
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says.

"As a result of these workshops we have built up a wide base of stake-holders who represent the varied opinions on Canterbury water both locally and regionally. It has certainly highlighted the fact that water is valued in different ways by different people, and it's given us the basis for discussion and interaction before we get into the really difficult issues."

He says the Steering Group is particularly interested in the public's views on two key points.

"We want to know if people feel we have a complete and accurate summary of all of the uses and be
Canterbury's water – as
proper discussion about
strategies.

"It may be that some
are some uses or benef
been overlooked. Alter
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"We also want to know
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Bede O'Malley says w
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to achieve. "We are all
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Submissions can be m
through the automated f
programme's website at
http://www.canterburywa