

23 September 2024

CHAIR'S REPORT

Birkenhead Village Association

The past 12 months have been without doubt vastly more challenging for our business community than the Covid years. The free-wheeling and high-spending days of the lockdown years have well and truly ended and we are now having to navigate our way through the economic vandalism of the previous Government.

While there are green economic shoots appearing, it will take some time for communities to regain their former vibrancy and optimism.

Our security camera network continues to be of great help to both local businesses and the police. Our network continues to grow and we are hugely grateful for the generous financial support of the Birkenhead Licencing Trust for having Birkenhead's best interests at heart.

Even though there was traffic chaos, we are overjoyed that after 10 years of your Board lobbying hard on this, Auckland Transport have commenced the upgrade of our heritage globe lights. We are grateful to both Auckland Transport and the Kaipatiki Local Board for their financial contributions in making this happen. Already the lights that have been completed have lifted the overall aesthetic of the village. We look forward to the further stages of this project – and to removing this item from our agenda!

The Board continues to meet on a monthly basis, and Kae also attends relevant Local Board and BID group meetings. Birkenhead is fortunate to have the services of a talented Board, who are committed to making Birkenhead great. I would like to thank our board members: Pete Taylor, Bruce Yarnton, Tony Cradwick, Suzanne Harper, Steve Simms, Dominique Tuck, Chris Ott, Adrienne Leslie and Cheryl Posthouwer for the time and effort you give to this community, and for your wisdom, advice and good humour. It is a pleasure to work alongside you.

My grateful thanks also to our Treasurer Adrienne Leslie for keeping tabs on the finances, and to the amazing Cheryl Posthouwer for being such a competent and able Secretary. Sadly, we are losing Cheryl from her Board position and as Secretary. We are hugely grateful to you for the commitment you've made for the past four years and your extraordinary attention to detail. It will take someone very special to fill your shoes.

I would also like to thank our Local Board representatives Melanie Kenrick and Adrian Tyler. It is great to have you around the table, and we are always very grateful to John Gillon and the wider Kaipatiki Local Board for their support of our events.

Advice and support to our businesses continue to be day-to-day tasks of our hard-working Village Manager Kae Condon, keeping our many stakeholders informed and executing popular community events. I personally, am very grateful for the time and effort Kae puts

into Birkenhead, and feel that we are fortunate to have someone with her passion and dedication working on our behalf. Thank you Kae.

We are optimistically looking forward to a strong end of the year, with a number of key projects to move forward next year. Thank you for attending our AGM, and for being part of our community. It is an honour to serve as your Chair.

Jude Turner
Chair
Birkenhead Village Association