



Birkenhead Residents Association Annual General Meeting

June 19th 2012, 7.30 – 9 pm
Birkenhead Library

Meeting started 7.30pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Warwick Jones, Janine Clist, Tony Holman, Dinah Homan.

A welcome was extended to all attendees, and particularly Local Board members Lindsay Waugh, Richard Hill and Grant Gillon.

2. Minutes of 2009 AGM

There were no questions on the minutes from last year.

Acceptance of these was moved by Nick Lawrence and seconded by Adrian Meys.

3. Chairs Report

Gordon Martinsen was chairman for the past 12 months. His report is attached.

4. Financial Report

Treasurer Don Pointon presented the financial report, highlighting that the Association has funds in the bank, and is therefore well positioned for future activity or issues.

He moved that the accounts be accepted. Grant Gillon seconded this and the motion carried.

5. Committee Members

The following members of the committee have resigned and/or are unavailable for re-election:

Gordon Martinsen
Wal Britten
Carol Scott
Suzanne Bliss
Scott Bliss
Ian Squire

The Committee expressed its thanks to Gordon for his excellent work over the last four years, as Chairman of the Association.

Committee Members re-standing for the coming year are:

Don Pointon
Warwick Jones
Gillian Taylor
Jan Fiddes

Nick Lawrence

Adrian Meys

Keith Salmon was nominated to join the Committee by Gordon Martinsen; this was seconded by Adrian Meys.

The first meeting of the new committee will be convened within one month to elect officers.

6. Guest Speaker

The Chair of the Kaipatiki Local Board (KLB), Lindsay Waugh, presented a summary of activity and focus from the previous year.

She highlighted:

- Completion of the 30 year Auckland Plan
- Completion of the Local Board 3 year plan with the positive outcome of successfully changing the intention for Highbury to be a high-rise center
- The next challenge is the Unitary Plan; she strongly urges the Association and its Members to make sure the community voice is heard
- Current KLB focus includes:
 - o Town Centre upgrade
 - o Beachaven Wharf
- Lindsay highlighted the challenges the KLB is facing relating to budgets and lack of allocation of transport funds (for this ward) until 2016/17. She advised they are pushing strongly to protect funds for this area.

The following points outline the participant's questions and discussion that followed:

- o Suggestion that the new BRA Committee makes a public statement in support of KLB position on funding for the Town Centres and Ferry services.
- o Beachhaven Wharf: is there provision for carparking? Likely focus is reliance on feeder bus service.
- o Ferry Bus services: suggest KLB seek to get free bus service so that people will use it. Noted that to some extent the single ticketing system will resolve this.
- o Gym equipment in Little Shoal Bay: discussion highlighted community resistance – some against the equipment altogether, with others just preferring it in a different location away from the children's play area.
- o Varying views were also expressed about the boatyard, with some people liking it and others against it.
- o Rates increase: discussed, noted that increase is capped at 10% for any property.
- o Heritage: has Council a strategy regarding Heritage Zones? Lindsay outlined the approach to defining Heritage, Historic heritage and Character that Council is planning to use. Unitary plan will expand on this.
- o Walking track from Highbury into Le Roys bush: noted that another "win" for the community is that land has now been purchased to protect bush access. There will be a path across from the Library by the Senior Citizens Hall. Timing from pathway development not known.

Meeting closed 8.45 pm

Birkenhead Residents Association

Chairmans Report

I would like to welcome everyone with a special welcome to Lindsay Waugh Chair of the Kaipatiki Local Board.

Over the past twelve months we have had to try to understand a number of Draft plans from Council and the Local Board containing a range of size, complexity and scope all of which has been a little overwhelming and it has been difficult to know exactly what is being proposed, what the implications are and what position we should take as a representative of the local community. When a report was leaked to the media showing extensive the potential effect of Councils intensification proposals on Birkenhead the response from Community was very strong and resulted in a well attended meeting here at the Library. Council was prompt in its response and has subsequently changed Birkenhead Point from Red (Suitable for intense high rise development) to White (NOT suitable for intense high rise development) in recognition of the Heritage and landscape significance of the area and its contribution to Auckland character. The Auckland Plan has lowered the original intensification targets but there will be ongoing debate over how the objective of making a city more liveable can be achieved without losing the very things which make Auckland the great place it already is.

In addition to this we have ongoing District Plan issues such as Plan Change 33 which relates to Business zoned properties within Heritage areas and the Highbury District Plan Change which went through a Consultation stage prior to the Auckland Council amalgamation and has now been withdrawn in anticipation of the forthcoming Unitary Plan which will cover a wide range of development controls. Hopefully the considerable time and input from the Birkenhead Community to date will not be lost in the process. There is also the Village Planning Network which aims to improve communication and decision making between residents, business community and Council. I had high hopes for VP but they are yet to be realised mainly, in my opinion, due to the fact that the process cuts across many of the well entrenched attitudes and procedures which can be found within Council.

With the New Auckland Council covering such a large area and a wide range of very different communities communication at the local level becomes even more critical so that communities can feel they are an integral part of the process rather than waiting to be presented with signed and sealed decisions decided by a few. The current system is only understood by a minority and participation rates are low.

I hear too often the statement: "What is the point in getting involved – all the decisions have been made and my opinion will not be listened to." Unfortunately without Community input the association has no mandate to be pro active over issues which affect us all and is limited to a taking a re active role often when everything is on the brink of being signed and sealed.

Council and Local Boards are going to have to find new ways to connect to the community and must take a proactive role in encouraging greater participation and providing resources to established and new Community groups. This association must continue working towards forming a meaningful partnership between the Community, the Local Board and Council.

Regretfully I am standing down as Chairman and pressures of business and health prevent me from taking any further role through this Association but I will continue to watch with interest and wish the new Committee and Chairman every success for the future.

Gordon Martinsen, Chairman, 19th June 2012