Mangere Bridge Village Business Association Inc

Chairperson's Report – 2026

It is my pleasure to present the Chairperson's Report for 2026. It has been another year of working to support our village, our local businesses and the wider community. As a Business Improvement District, our role is to help maintain a village that is safe, welcoming and attractive, while supporting the businesses that are such an important part of our local community.

Much of the work undertaken by the Association happens behind the scenes, but it plays an important role in looking after our village and ensuring that the needs of our business community continue to be represented.

Safety and Security

Safety and security remain a key priority for the Association. During the year, we committed a substantial amount of funding to upgrading the village CCTV cameras. These cameras are an important resource in helping to deter and respond to crime and provide valuable assistance to Police and local businesses.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Kate Adams for her ongoing commitment to this work. Kate is regularly available to monitor the cameras and provide assistance to Police and businesses when needed. Her willingness to make herself available and respond to issues as they arise is greatly appreciated and is an important part of the service the Association provides.

We are currently working through some issues relating to the continued availability of the CCTV hub within the village. We are hopeful that it can remain in its current location, or that an alternative arrangement can be secured at a manageable cost. Maintaining access to this resource is important, and we will continue to work towards a practical outcome.

Recycling, Cleanliness and Village Presentation

The recycling service continues to be one of the practical initiatives offered through the Association. We recognise that managing costs is important to every business, particularly in the current economic climate, and we remain mindful of the need to keep the cost of the service as reasonable as possible.

Unfortunately, the cost of participation has been a concern for some businesses. However, the cost of providing the service does not disappear when a business chooses not to participate. Where businesses opt out, the Association must either meet those costs from its own limited resources or consider how the remaining costs are shared. We are reluctant to increase the burden on businesses that already participate and support the service.

Our challenge is to maintain a service that benefits the village while keeping it affordable and fair. I encourage businesses to consider the wider benefit of participating and the importance of working together to maintain a clean and tidy village.

Rubbish and illegal dumping also remain ongoing issues. Keeping the village presentable requires continued attention and cooperation from businesses, service providers and the wider community. This is an area where we will continue to focus our efforts.

Events and Community

One of the strengths of our village is its sense of community, and our events play an important role in maintaining that connection. They bring people into the village, provide opportunities for local businesses to benefit from increased activity, and help make the village a place where people enjoy spending time. These events make it a destination bringing more than just our locals into the area and advancing business interests.

Kate has mentioned the number of events we have enjoyed through out the year but I would like to mention what I consider to be a particular highlight – and that is the annual Santa Parade. We are proud to have retained this much-loved event in the village, despite interest from other organisations in taking it over. The parade has been running for more than 25 years and has become an established part of the Christmas calendar.

For many local families, it is a tradition passed down through generations, with parents who once brought their children now returning with their grandchildren. That continued connection is something worth protecting. We look forward to welcoming the parade back to the village this Christmas and thank everyone who contributes to keeping this special event going.

Funding and the Future of the BID

An ongoing challenge for the Association is securing the funding needed to continue delivering services and initiatives for our business community.

The annual BID targeted rate funding allocation of $38,000 is an important contribution to our work. However, maintaining this funding requires ongoing effort, and the current funding arrangement is due to finish in 2028. At this stage, it is unclear whether we will be able to meet Council requirements going forward. We need to continue planning ahead and identifying the funding and support required to sustain the services and events that businesses rely on and make our Village so special.

I would like to acknowledge Kate Adams and Corinne Cameron for their continued work in keeping funding applications moving and helping to ensure that opportunities are pursued. This work is not always visible, but it is essential to the Association’s ability to continue operating and delivering for the village.

At the same time, we must remain conscious of the financial pressures facing local businesses, especially in such difficult times. We need to balance the services and initiatives we would like to provide with what we can realistically afford, while continuing to look for opportunities to secure additional funding and support.

Looking Ahead

As we look towards 2027, our priorities remain clear. We will continue to focus on:

- **Safety and security**, including maintaining effective CCTV facilities and supporting initiatives that help keep the village safe.
- **Business engagement**, ensuring that local businesses have opportunities to contribute their views and remain involved in the Association's work.
- **Village events and promotion**, continuing traditions such as the Santa Parade and supporting activities that bring people into the village.
- **Cleanliness and presentation**, with ongoing attention to rubbish, recycling and the overall appearance of our village.
- **Supporting local businesses**, recognising the pressures they face and working to maintain a village environment in which they can continue to operate and thrive.

These priorities will require ongoing commitment, collaboration and careful management of the resources available to us.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank our Village Manager, Kate Adams, for her dedication, responsiveness and the considerable work she undertakes on behalf of the Association. I also thank Corinne Cameron for her ongoing assistance, particularly with funding applications and the work required to keep our initiatives moving forward.

To my fellow committee members, thank you for your time, input and commitment throughout the year. The work of the Association relies on people being willing to contribute their time and ideas for the benefit of the wider business community. Those meetings seem to roll around very quickly and theres always the added pressure of getting back to the business of 'running a business' – so thank you for giving up your time.

Finally, thank you to all our member businesses for your continued support. We recognise that running a business is not without its challenges, and we remain committed to working with you to make our village a safe, attractive and welcoming place for businesses, residents and visitors alike.

There is always more to be done, but by continuing to work together, we can protect what makes our village special and build on the strong community connections that have been established over many years.

Maria Mortimer
Chairperson