Mangere Bridge Village Business Association Inc.

Annual General Meeting Report – 2026

The Mangere Bridge Village Business Association has continued to navigate a challenging year in 2026, particularly in relation to funding and the ongoing constraints placed on community organisations across Auckland. Reduced financial support has limited our ability to deliver the full calendar of events traditionally enjoyed by our residents. Despite these pressures, our commitment to providing high-quality, free, and accessible community events has remained unwavering. We have continued to explore alternative funding sources, sponsorship opportunities, and partnerships to ensure the Mangere Bridge village remains vibrant, connected, and well-supported.

Our 2025 programme has largely carried through into 2026, with several adjustments made in response to performance, community feedback, and new operational requirements.

The Summer Season of Thursday Night Live ran from February through to the end of March. While the programme has historically been a popular feature of our village calendar, this year's season was noticeably less successful. A number of businesses were not open during the evening hours, and several were unable to serve alcohol, which significantly reduced patron engagement and the overall atmosphere along the café strip. As a result, we will be reviewing whether Thursday Night Live continues in 2027 or whether alternative approaches may better achieve the same community-focused goals.

The Teddy Bears Picnic, traditionally held at Naomi and Bill Kirk Park, did not proceed in 2026. Council now requires a full event permit for even small-scale gatherings in the park, creating a disproportionate administrative and financial burden for what is intended to be a simple, low-key family event. We will reassess the feasibility of reinstating the Teddy Bears Picnic in 2027, provided the permitting requirements can be managed in a practical and cost-effective way.

St Patrick's Day we had some spot prizes and a village-wide treasure hunt:" spot the Leprechaun" , encouraging greater family participation and engagement with local businesses.

Our Annual Family Festival in April was sadly cancelled this year due to severe weather warnings; we look forward to this event in 2027.0

Winter Quiz Nights continued to serve as an important fundraising initiative, supported by Fresh Choice and other local sponsors. These events remain popular with teenagers and adults and provide a reliable, small-scale revenue stream for community activities.

The Annual Fun Run & Half Marathon in September remains a recognised fixture on the Auckland running calendar, numbers were slightly down this year but was still a great event that we will continue to have on the calendar bringing lots of people into the village. The event is supported by local business sponsorship and benefits from waste management assistance from Friends of the Farm.

Village Cleanup Day brought together Friends of the Farm and local business owners to refresh the village. Activities included painting, cleaning shopfronts, and general beautification efforts, reinforcing the pride our community takes in maintaining a welcoming village environment.We will look at doing this again towards the end of the year or in the new year.

The Kids Markets, traditionally held in November and December, have encouraged entrepreneurship among local children while supporting pre-Christmas decluttering. However, council now requires a full event permit for these markets, adding significant administrative and financial considerations. We will evaluate whether the event remains viable for 2027 and beyond under these new requirements.

The Annual Santa Parade, held on the first Thursday of December, continued its more than 20-year legacy as one of the village's most cherished events. Attendance and community engagement remained high, with Friends of the Farm once again supporting waste management.

CCTV Over the past year, we successfully secured **$20,000** in funding to support essential upgrades to the Māngere Bridge CCTV network. These upgrades have now been fully completed. Our CCTV system has repeatedly proven its value, providing critical support during incidents involving local businesses and the wider community. Footage is regularly used by Police and insurance providers and continues to play a major role in reducing crime and improving response times.

With the core upgrade now complete, we intend to seek further funding to continue strengthening the network. This includes extending coverage into additional areas, addressing emerging blind spots, and ensuring our equipment remains modern, reliable, and effective.

Security patrols In addition to CCTV, we operate a **three-patrol nightly security programme** throughout the village. This includes **two vehicle patrols** and **one on-foot patrol with door-rattle checks**, conducted at staggered times each night to maximise visibility and deterrence. These patrols have been highly successful, providing reassurance to business owners, reducing overnight incidents, and supporting a safer environment for the community.

Together, the CCTV network and security patrols form a critical part of our village safety strategy. Continued investment will allow us to maintain and enhance these services, ensuring Māngere Bridge remains a safe, welcoming, and resilient community.

Sunday Markets The Sunday Markets continue to be a popular community activation, drawing families, visitors, and regular stallholders into the village. These markets support local business visibility, encourage weekend foot traffic, and contribute to the overall vibrancy of the area.

AT Safety Event We partnered with Auckland Transport to deliver a community Safety Event**,** This collaboration strengthened our relationship with AT and provided valuable education and engagement opportunities for families and local businesses.

Lights Festival Funding Secured we successfully secured funding for the Lights Festival, originally planned for last financial year. We have booked in for new lights to go in the trees, and stock has now arrived so these will be going up In the next few weeks.

Village development has progressed significantly at the old Top Shops site, where new businesses are scheduled to move in from the end of October. One confirmed tenant is a new dairy, with additional businesses expected as construction continues. This redevelopment is anticipated to bring renewed activity and increased foot traffic to the village.

Hanging baskets, these were refreshed and replanted by Mangere Floral, they were installed before the end of the year. The 2026 display was exceptionally beautiful, with vibrant, healthy plants that added colour and life throughout the village. Their contribution ensured the baskets looked outstanding all season.

Despite the financial constraints and operational challenges faced this year, the Mangere Bridge Village Business Association remains resilient, proactive, and deeply committed to our community. Our events continue to strengthen local engagement, support businesses, and provide meaningful experiences for residents of all ages. We will continue to seek new partnerships, funding opportunities, and creative solutions to ensure our village thrives and remains a welcoming, lively place for everyone.

Signed: Kate Adams, Village Manager