

GRAfton Residents Association

grafton.org.nz

Chair's report to the members of the Grafton Residents Association for the year ended March 2018.

The new committee started its year with the question posed at last year's AGM – what exactly is GRA for, and can it continue in its advocacy for Grafton? While the jury is still out on the first part of the question, I can say for certain that GRA has indeed continued as an active advocate for Grafton.

Grafton Vision

We received a \$10K grant from the Waitemata Local Board to undertake a community consultation project to better identify our stakeholders and to provide council with guidelines of the community's aspirations and concerns. Kudos to Libby Hayes-Mcleay and Martin Dickson for getting the project up and running, and for the tireless work of Dianne Northcott and Jacqui Callaghan consulting with people across Grafton. The committee has employed Joanna Boileau to help with the consultation, which continues. If you haven't had your say, get in touch we'd love to hear your views.

Parking Consultation

The Council consultation that will have the biggest direct impact on Grafton was for parking. We baffled AT with our request for significantly higher parking charges for the suburb, and they did meet us half way. Parking for residents continues to be a serious problem at all hours of the day and days of the week. AT have promised that they will review the turnover targets that they have set, and adjust the scheme as needed to ensure that there are parking spaces available in our suburb. The installation of the scheme is set to begin at any time, and residents will be notified in advance to apply for the residents exemption to the parking charges.

Other Submissions

In addition to the parking consult, GRA also submitted on the Auckland Plan, the 10 year budget, the regional pest plan and the waste management and minimisation Plan. (WMMP) We also were heard at several of the Domain Committee meetings at council, and have met regularly with ATEED (Lantern and other festivals) as well as meeting with our Local Board members both formally and informally.

Finances

We have a backlog of annual reports due with the companies office, and our recent rule changes and proposed new rules (at this AGM) are intended to put these to bed and clarify things going forward. GRA has refunded a \$480 grant that the incoming committee was unaware of and that we did not end up spending on the intended purpose – printed newsletters. Martin Dickson has done a great job in getting the books back into shape. Our financial position may look particularly good at the moment but the funds are allocated to the Grafton Vision project. We need to look at a more sustainable financial plan going forward.

Rules

I promised a full update of the association's Rules at last year's AGM, and they are here at this AGM for your approval. This sounds grander than it is. The Incorporated Society's website has

wonderful sample documents that are up to date even with proposed changes to the legislation. With these proposed Rules changes we should be good for another 20 years. It was a delight reading the original 1962 Rules. My how things (and language) have changed! GRA is 56 years old this year.

General

Your committee has been meeting and working faithfully all year, and for that I am truly grateful. Behind the scenes Anne Mouat has kept the web and facebook pages ticking over, and members old and new have been coming out of the woodwork to talk about what Grafton means to them.

If the Grafton Vision work is teaching me anything, it is that there is a deep vein of appreciation for the heritage values of Grafton and a desire to protect them. If it is my privilege to remain on the committee, I am looking forward to initiating some work in the heritage space. There certainly seems to be an appetite for it.

The community is changing a great deal. We've lost a few classic buildings this year and we're gaining some significant university buildings as well. Both will change the character of the community.

I want to thank the Waitemata Local Board for their contributions to GRA and the Liberal Catholic Church for making their rooms available to GRA for our meetings. I want to thank Dianne Northcott for feeding and hosting every committee meeting we've held this year!

Richard Leckinger
Chair
May 2018