

View from the Chair

Les Dixon, South Harbour Business Association



Les Dixon, pictured, Chairman of the [South Harbour Business Association](#), has lived in Mangere Bridge for 50 years.

A retired engineer, this tireless community servant has been a member of Mangere Residents & Ratepayers Association, Committee member of the Mangere Bridge Charitable Trust, Community Board member and Mangere Bridge Business Association member.

Reverend Dixon is Senior Priest of St James Anglican Church, Mangere Bridge.



Les and his seven-member board work closely with BID programme manager Alex Holley, pictured.

It is certainly uncommon, if not unique, for a minister of religion to chair a business association.

We were keen to get the Rev. Les Dixon's perspective on the governance and other challenges facing the industrial precinct located within the Mangere-Otahuhu Local Board area of southern Auckland.

The following are edited extracts from his Chairman's Report to South Harbour's 2017-18 AGM.

“The association's focus is on achieving a range of outcomes centered on partnerships, communicating with our members, maintaining safety, providing networking platforms maintaining CCTV surveillance to improve security across the district”.



The largest of Mangere's four business improvement districts, South Harbour covers those businesses located within Mahunga Drive, Hastie Avenue and Rymer Place.

These include importers, wholesalers, builders and joiners, light engineering, carriers, warehousing, tour companies, manufacturers, food retailers and laboratories. Businesses range from solo operators to those employing more than 100 staff.

“Crime prevention remains a top priority as evidenced by feedback from our business community.

“Since SHBA began back in 2004, crime rates have fallen by more than 70 per cent.

“We’ve upgraded the district’s CCTV surveillance system and, as has occurred with other BIDs, the intention is to have it linked in to the Police regional surveillance system so that we are linked into its real time monitoring.

“We’re pleased to be able to provide a reliable surveillance service for our members and our partnership with NZ Police and Calibre Security is working well.



Keilly Newton speaking about the Police’s role in emergency management associations

“Our expansion programme is continuing. Our stage one expansion project result was hugely disappointing to all concerned and was not the result we had hoped as we failed to get the numbers we need to trigger the expansion process. However we press on. Regular updates are communicated through our [website](#), newsletters and our Facebook page.

“Since 2004 SHBA, along with fellow industrial business associations, have collaborated and provided considered feedback on the council’s draft plans. We have raised concerns about emergency response management, and policy proposals which impact on business activities and will continue to do so.

“Our organisation also undertakes environmental scanning; working with other agencies, identifying employers’ future needs, liaising with education providers and facilitating job opportunities with people of South Auckland. Working with these groups boosts our ability to promote real-time investment in staff training to our members.

“We enjoy our working relationships with other business associations in the Local Board area and across Auckland.

“Issues of importance to our business community such as transport planning, traffic congestion, security, rubbish dumping, employment, and roading have been consulted on widely and we have conveyed all feedback and concerns to the relevant stakeholders to ensure these are properly addressed. Our involvement with other business associations means that we have at our disposal a huge amount of experience and expertise that we can contribute to, tap into and leverage off. This means a higher level of information that we can pass on to members.

“Our contribution to building a resilient community is being achieved through working collectively with cluster groups in our district, facilitating and focussing on issues and solutions impacting businesses, our wider community, and assisting individual business owners.”



SHBA facilitated a community consultation project in collaboration with operators of Major Hazard Facilities (MHFs) across Mangere, Penrose and Otahuhu. Although most of these businesses are outside its BID area, SHBA considered it to be of such importance that something had to be done about the hazardous groups.

Les Dixon says Alex worked hard to achieve a unity between affected parties and to assist adjoining BIDs with similar businesses with the setting up of the MHF processes.

“This showed the benefits of a strong and cohesive BID programme while much of this work has been done pro bono by Alex,” he said.