The Northern Action Group

Incorporated

AGM

25th May 2026

“Engaging Communities”

“Campaigning to get Democracy for the people of North Rodney”

AGENDA:

- WELCOME
- APOLOGIES
- MINUTES - of the previous AGM meeting on the 28th April 2025.
- MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- TREASURERS' REPORT
- ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE
- ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
- AMENDMENTS TO OUR CONSITUTION

  (IRD have advised we need some further amendments to retain our income tax exemption and to apply to be a registered charity to obtain donee status - to enable donors to claim a tax credit on donations to NAG.

  The amendments are additions to Clauses 11 and 16 of the Constitution.

  A copy of the Constitution with these amendments (marked in italics) has been made available on our website.
- GENERAL BUSINESS
- GUEST SPEAKER(S): COMMENTS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

AGENDA:

“ENGAGING COMMUNITIES”

Speakers – following Introduction from the Chair…

Hon Chris Penk: Kaipara ki Mahurangi MP

Mayor Wayne Brown

Greg Sayers: Ward Councillor

Brian Putt (Chair ANCAD)

Discussion and responses from speakers

Minutes of the 28 April 2025 AGM

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE NORTHERN ACTION GROUP APRIL 2025

Held at Totara Park Hall, 5 Melwood Drive, Warkworth on Monday 28th April 2025 commencing at 7.01 p.m.

1. **WELCOME**

   Attendance:

   Committee – Bill Foster (Chair), Hugh Briggs (Sec), Maurice Purdy (Treasurer), Lance Taylor, Peter Buckton, Peter Sinton, Malcolm Black

   Attendees: Members, supporters and speakers: Mayor Wayne Brown (Auckland Council), Greg Sayers (Auckland Council), Mike Howard (Kaipara)Tim Holgate (RLB), Michelle Carmichael (RLB), Geoff Upson (RLB), Colin Smith (RLB), Elizabeth Foster, Angela Buckton, Sue Crockett, Bill Townson, Mona Townson. Stephen Law, Glen Ashton, Chris and Helen Russell, Karen Purdy, Julie Briggs, Jane Harris, Janette Cerin, Jake Kennedy, Bob Millar, Sally Marden.

   The Chair, Bill Foster, welcomed all attendees (29 including the Committee and guest speakers) to the AGM. It was an excellent turnout, given the poor weather. Bill identified the key speakers - The Mayor Wayne Brown, Greg Sayers (Auckland Councillor for Rodney), Mike Howard (Councillor for Kaipara) and welcomed them to the meeting.

2. **APOLOGIES**

   The Secretary (Hugh Briggs) took an apology from Tanya Hamilton and Dave Stott. The apologies were moved and accepted.

3. **MINUTES**

   The minutes of the previous AGM meeting on the 24 June 2024 were taken as read. Copies were available at the meeting but no questions were raised. The minutes of that meeting were then accepted as being a true and accurate record of that meeting. Moved Bill Foster, seconded by Hugh Briggs. Approved

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

   There were no matters arising.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

   The Chair, Bill Foster, then presented his report using Powerpoint slides. (This report can be viewed by way of this link to the website.) He reviewed last year's activity, with some successes.

   These included the proposed new boundary changes, which have been approved by the Board and Council for introduction at this year's election, giving fairer presence for rural areas. He indicated why NAG had to continue to question the structure of Auckland Council, which he hoped the RLB and Council members would outline. Positive responses on the roading issues with more Council funding and a liaison group established. There is a better liaison with the Board. NAG made several submissions on Electoral Reform, AC's Complaints process, and the Annual Plan. There is still more work to be done on improving the disconnect between planning and managing growth in Warkworth (and Rodney). NAG continues to push for greater community involvement – leading from the bottom and not top down.

   He ended his presentation with thanks to the Committee, and all the supporters with their generous donations, without which NAG could not continue its fight on behalf of the Rodney communities.

   Moved that the report be accepted – proposed Bill Foster, seconded Hugh Briggs (Sec): Carried.

   Hugh Briggs (Sec) again thanked Bill for his tremendous work on behalf of NAG and the Rodney Community. There was loud applause.

6. **TREASURERS' REPORT**

   Maurice Purdy presented the brief financial statement (copies were made available and was also shown on the Chair's presentation). The Society was kept financial by generous donations from supporters, given that the Society had not sought grants or funding from any appropriate agencies. The main expenditure was on materials and limited advertising. He sought more donations to ensure those people would become members and not supporters.

   It was then moved that the accounts be accepted as a true and accurate record, as attached and signed off by the Chairperson. Moved by Maurice Purdy and seconded by Bill Foster. Carried.

7. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

   Bill then moved that the nominations as shown on the Chair's slides for the officer and Committee positions could be accepted, unless there were more coming from the floor. None were offered. As the Chair was the only nomination, Bill stood down whilst the Secretary, Hugh, acted as Chair to undertake the voting for the Chair position. Hugh proposed that Bill be nominated as there were no others, seconded by Peter Buckton. Bill was unanimously voted as Chair. Bill resumed in his role as Chair to complete the election process. The nominations for Secretary (Hugh Briggs) and Treasurer (Maurice Purdy) were moved and accepted, as there were no others presented. Peter Sinton, Malcolm Black, Lance Taylor and Peter Buckton were re-elected onto the Committee.

8. **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION AND DONATIONS**

   Bill advised the meeting that there was no annual subscription provided for. Any North Rodney resident that made a donation was considered to be a financial member as per the Constitution. Members just had to register and make a donation. This could be online or by filling in the membership form. It was resolved to maintain this process. Moved by Bill and seconded by Hugh. Several people came and made generous donations which were gratefully received by the Treasurer.

9. **CONSTITUTION**.
The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (Act) requires us to update our Constitution before April 2026. Copies of the old Constitution https://nag.org.nz/NAG%20Constitution%20Sep2014.pdf and our new Constitution https://nag.org.nz/NAG%20revised%20Constitution%202025.pdf have been made available on the website for members to inspect. Advice of the proposed change was given with the Notice of meeting to members. The proposed new Constitution adds requirements that are necessary to comply with the Act. The definition of North Rodney (for membership) has been extended to include areas around Kaipara Harbour in Rodney that were earlier omitted. Other provisions have been retained. Approval of the new Constitution requires support of 75% of members present and entitled to vote.
Bill moved that the new Constitution be adopted, and it was seconded by Hugh. The motion was carried and the new Constitution will come into effect immediately.

10. **GENERAL BUSINESS**
There was none.

Bill then invited the guest speakers to comment on the theme chosen: **Managing Growth**.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Chris Penk: Kaipara ki Mahurangi MP
He was unable to attend but sent some notes which Bill included on the presentation and spoke to. Chris acknowledged NAG's work for the Rodney community, Greg and FTT for their work too. He wanted to get more community involvement. He indicated that the most significant roading project was the new Warkworth to Te Hana motorway, and the subsequent northern sections to Whangarei. Further schools needed to be built in growth areas, with better acquisition powers to come. Similarly, there will need to be more health facilities to accommodate the growth in population. The Government believes that growth will pay for growth – there needs to be better ways of funding new infrastructure, and making development easier with the RMA reforms, and development contributions will need to reflect the actual costs of development (more intensification of existing urban areas rather than greenfields which is more expensive to service!!)

Greg Sayers: Ward Councillor
He acknowledged NAG's fight had not always been fully successful but it had repositioned itself to get appropriate changes to representation, better integrated planning and better maintenance expenditure. He congratulated NAG on its hard work for the Rodney communities.

His main points were: the CCOs are being reformed to ensure full control by Council (eg AT), as they are not accountable to Council. It will happen this quarter. A new Bill will enable the change to the AC Act to happen. The rates have been kept to low increases compared to other big cities as a result of cost cutting. Designed to fix infrastructure, increase transport fund, and better Local Board funding. Council (Mayor) wants better value for money, to reduce waste, and having a better direction for ratepayers.

Mike Howard (Kaipara District Council
He reported there had been good discussions with Greg, Colin and Geoff on common interests, especially roading. There was pressure for growth in Kaipara from the new motorway without due planning for it. Both Councils have to accept such growth. The issue is the sustainability of small Councils, with the need to consider other options such as amalgamation (such as is being considered by this Government). They are looking at combining with the FNDC, but there is real synergy with North Rodney, and have started to talk about it. There is a need to have an overarching strategy with communities driving the process.

Peter Sinton (WALG/NAG)
Peter is a NAG Committee member, but is also the Chair of WALG (the combined Business and Professional group set up to share information and coordinate activity for a better Warkworth/Mahurangi area). He showed that Council have not provided a suitable "Structure" Plan for Warkworth or even all Rodney to accommodate the intended growth that it pushed for in The Auckland Unitary Plan. It has supported urban growth areas around Warkworth with urban scale development densities. Such growth will increase the size of Warkworth by 4 times!! The Warkworth Structure Plan does not recognize the impact on the existing community or the current infrastructure in the District. New Plan Changes proposed by developers are well ahead of any Council funded provision of services and roading links. The critical part is that there has been no detailed development plan for the town centre. The previous Town Centre Plan was merely a window dressing of the existing centre pattern. It is already struggling with empty shops and fierce competition from the big box retail out of town centre developments. Such a new Plan needs to be community led, as is now being proposed by the WALG professional team of very experienced engineers, planners, surveyors and project managers. Locals know local!

Mayor Wayne Brown (Auckland Council)
He came into power as "MR FIX IT". He was very proud of some of the actions that had made a significant difference. Reduced costs by $375million, a fare cap for public transport, AT to have an integrated transport plan (now to be taken over by AC!). Set up of Future Fund addressed a low return from AIA shares, and investment is expected to gain around 9%. The Port is still profitable otherwise AC would sell its shares; Healthy Water is OK. AC took a delegation to China – need to work with them for more investments!

He introduced 10 Rules for better project management, as there were many overruns on big projects. Essence is “what is project trying to solve”, “will it achieve its goal”, and if cannot do an efficient and effective result, do not attempt it (The Snell’s Beach beach footpath removal to “protect” the birds was mentioned). AT will now have to focus on public transport and its approval ratings. AC will do all the planning and implementation for roading. He accepted that growth needed to be (better) managed – we need to make the most of what we have, and have better integrated planning for development and infrastructure. Consent and Plan Change Commissioners and the Environment Court were working against AC planning.This includes planning for flooding, and the need to prepare new Plans to minimize risk. He felt that Chris Bishop was onside and good to work with. There needs to be a devolution of power so that locals are not being dictated to (by Wellington). NAG echoed that for Rodney within AC. AC is a regional government authority. Water reform proposals will force amalgamation of smaller Councils but it needs to ensure that all aspects of local needs are met – that needs good local representation. Instead of complaining about lack of authority, local Boards should take it!

His presentation was dynamic and thought provoking. He received significant applause.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was some discussion, particularly on points raised by the Mayor. When the discussion ended, **Bill** declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm with an invitation to share tea/coffee and finger food.

Further social discussions took place until after 9.30pm.

Hugh Briggs
Secretary

Signed by:
Chairman Bill Foster…… Date ……

Matters Arising

- CCO Changes in AC (AT functions)
- Rates increases
- Getting value for money
- Waste through “gold plating”
- Managing growth
- Delegation to communities - “Locals know Local”
- Proper community-led Development Planning – Town Centre Pilot
- Water is key in Rodney
- Merger with Kaipara
- Government reform of LG

Chairman's Report

Chairman's report to 31 March 2026

As always, I want to first thank my colleagues on the Committee, Jane Harris for her sterling support of our website; everyone in our communities working for a better Rodney; and most importantly you, our supporters. Thank you for your donations to help our work.

Malcom Black is standing down from the Committee this year and we want to thank him for his contributions on the Committee and wish him the best for the future.

It's hard to get younger people involved in community and District affairs but we need some different perspectives to keep us focused on what matters for Rodney communities. Being on a committee is not onerous and you can help us improve what we say about how to get better outcomes, real localism, transparency, and democracy. Please come forward and join our committee.

This year we have had a lot to respond to, and the submission pipeline has been a long one!

For those interested, all these submissions are on our website: https://www.nag.org.nz

Submissions made

Terms of Parliament submission (April 2025)
We opposed any extension of term without the introduction of measures to improve transparency and accountability – like on-line referenda and voting and recall elections which we have consistently supported. We also opposed the Government's wheeze to stack Select Committee membership.

Development Contributions (May 2025)
We provided a substantial paper to AC arguing for "growth pays for Growth" and introducing the confronting number of **$200,000 per new Housing equivalent Unit** as the Development Contribution needed to fund keeping public infrastructure assets and facilities at the level ratepayers currently enjoy.

Request for Council and Local Board support for a pilot Community Engagement Project to provide a Warkworth/Mahurangi Development plan (September & December 2025 and March 2026)
In support of WALG and MCPG we requested engagement with AC and the RLB for a community-led development planning pilot to address the flaws and gaps in AC's failure to manage growth. RLB response was positive but AC officials have so far resisted any involvement in their processes or regulatory control over funding and planning activity.

AC Transport Governance Amendment (November 2025)
We made a submission in support of the intent of the Bill but recommending significant improvements to its delivery mechanisms. These suggestions were essentially ignored as they were in follow up correspondence with the Minister.

The legislation was passed recently and while AC is working on transition, we made a submission in May (together with RCV and the LCA) to AC's Transport and Infrastructure Delivery Committee. We argued for recognition of the importance of Rodney's roads and transport to the Auckland region, a more fair and proportionate allocation of funding and better governance and management of Rodney's transport assets.

Plan Change 120 (December2025)
We supported the Mahurangi Community Planning Group with a submission identifying problems that poor Zoning and the Unitary Plan have already caused for Warkworth and recommending changes to density, planning and hazard identification proposals. (This is still a work in progress as the Minister has changed his requirements for AC)

Simplifying Local Government (January 2026)
We made a submission on the proposed regional council reforms making the case that the reforms as proposed would not work; that ministers and officials did not appreciate the difference between **operating at scale** to achieve efficiency and outcomes, and **centralising control** through amalgamation; that Auckland demonstrates that structural consolidation does not generate competence, coordination or legitimacy but primarily concentrates authority; and suggesting what would work.
Subsequently Ministers have delivered a heavy handed "Head Start" threat to Councils to either propose changes or be changed.

Kaipara-North Rodney UA – Strategic Opportunity (January 2026)
We provided a paper for Kaipara District Council identifying commonalities between Kaipara and North Rodney and inviting KDC to ask Government to explore the opportunity. The costs and benefits are worth evaluating but Minister's blinkered approach to "Head Start" has said they don't want to consider AC as part of any changes.

RMA replacement – Planning and Natural Environment Bills (February 2016)
We provided a critical assessment focusing on structural changes; arguing that the new legislative framework, while advancing national direction and standardisation, does not sufficiently address misalignments between planning, infrastructure delivery, and community legitimacy; and recommended amendments to strengthen community-led planning, require transparent infrastructure funding and sequencing, introduce flexibility in spatial planning areas, and better align statutory plans with long-term funding commitments.

Auckland Council Annual Plan 2026-2027 (March 2026)
A 15 page submission on rates, principles, fairness, Rodney's needs, cutting unnecessary spending and waste and reducing costly subsidies.

Funding the Operating Costs of the City Rail Link (CRL) (March 2026)
We made a submission to AC on the need for a proportionality based framework for getting ratepayers to pay for the CRL and why a targeted rating model better reflects Auckland Council's statutory obligations and rating principles.

Still work in progress:

- The disconnect between planning and providing for growth;
- The Maintenance shortfall (assets being bled);
- Unfair transport (roading) priorities and waste in implementation;
- Giving Rodney's communities a common voice (this AGM's focus);
- Preparing proper Community-led Development Plans – MCPG;
- The Wayby Landfill proposal (never needed) - and we support extending the capacity of existing landfills as the immediate solution); and
- Local Government Reform. Analysis of the Kaipara/North Rodney merger option is still needed - as an alternative to Kaipara being lost to an urban-centric Whangarei in the same way Rondey has been lost to an urban-centric Auckland.

Where to from here:

I said this last year but it's still a hot topic: it's time for Rodney's communities to have a say in what they want and how to do it! AC's top-down and one-size-fits-all urban model has never worked well in Rodney and just produces inefficiencies and frustrations we live with every day.

It's time for a change to recognize the role communities can play in deciding how to grow our area and how our Councils can work with us to best support that – not the other way around.

Promises, Promises.

Each year now I remind us of AC's promises to Rodney back in 2018:

AC Promises to LGC for Rodney [2018]	Current Status [2026] (8 Years on)
A potential extension of aspects of the Waiheke pilot project, empowering the local board, to Rodney	❌ No extension to Rodney- some additional governance staffing support
A planned move of the Rodney Local Board office to the Rodney area, including the potential for a second meeting space in Kumeu	✅ It took years but Warkworth and Kumeu offices now opened. Sadly - No public access or toilets.
A major increase in road sealing budget for Rodney	✅ Finally the promised $125m. Mayor Brown and Councillor Sayers making good on the promise. More to come?
A review of service level variability across the Auckland region to determine how to address funding distribution issues across local board areas	❌? Review completed several years ago showed asset and facility unfairness. GB slow to change allocation. Minor formula change for ABS and LDI funding slightly benefits Rodney
Triennial reviews of local board allocations and delegations to coincide with the long term process as an ongoing commitment to localism and devolution	❌? No real progress. Some additional authorities but no staff support, so officials set the Agenda. The governing body shows political resistance to reallocations and any real delegation. RLB yet to defer to Community decisions.
Targeted communication improvements in areas of Auckland with strong local identities or unique challenges - such as Waiheke and Rodney - to build the public trust and confidence	❌ "Our Rodney" propaganda for AC introduced- to tell us what AC is doing for us. "Have your say" promotions patronise ratepayers. CIM surveys still show low trust in A/C so publication frequency has been reduced. Community engagement initiative offers some hope.

Thank You All!

Yours Sincerely
Bill Foster
May 2026

Treasurer’s Report

Northern Action Group (Inc)

Financial Report for the year ended 31st March 2026

Cash In		
Donations x 9		$1,580.20
Donations for MCPG Plans (Note 1)		$2,590.60
Repayment – from Jane Harris (Note 2)		$149.44
	Sub Total	$4,320.30
Cash Out		
14 April – Local Matters Advert		$39.60
30 April - Bank Fee		$5.00
16 May – Totara Park Hall 2 x Hires		$100.00
7 Oct - Local Matters MCPG Advert		$883.20
20 Dec – Jane Harris – Web Site		$149.44
29 Dec. – Jane Harris – Web Site		$149.44
29 Dec Urban Acumen (Note 1)		$2,530.00
31 March – Bank Fee		$5.00
	Sub Total	$3,861.68
Bank Balance at 1st April 2025		$87.77
Plus deposits		$4320.30
Less expenses		$3861.68
Closing Balance 31st March 2026		$546.39

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2026

ASSETS	2026 $	2025 $
Bank Balance	546.39	87.77
GST Owing (Note 3)	0.00	0.00
Total Assets	546.39	87.77
LIABILITIES		
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Net Assets (Liabilities)	546.39	87.77

Reviewed By:

M Purdy
Treasurer
April 2025

Bill Foster
Chairman.

Notes:

1). An invoice of $2,530.00 to NAG from Urban Acumen was for initial plans drawn up for MCPG for discussions on the future of the Bowling Club site. 3 NAG members agreed to donate to allow NAG to pay the invoice as MCPG's bank account was not operational at that time.

2) Jane Harris was paid twice, in error, for website costs, and made repayment to NAG.

3) A small amount of GST refund is expected for 2026 but not yet confirmed.

Election of Officers and Committee – Nominations received

OFFICE	PERSON	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Chairman	Bill Foster	Maury Purdy	Hugh Briggs
Secretary	Hugh Briggs	Bill Foster	Lance Taylor
Treasurer	Maury Purdy	Hugh Briggs	Bill Foster
Committee:	Lance Taylor	Hugh Briggs	Maury Purdy
	Peter Buckton	Lance Taylor	Hugh Briggs
	Peter Sinton	Hugh Briggs	Bill Foster

Annual Subscription

To reconfirm the past decision that a (any) donation is the membership fee.

Members are any persons who are residents or property owners in North Rodney, complete our membership form and pay the membership fee.

We don’t charge an annual membership fee but rely on donors to fund our limited expenses. If we had a bit more we could think about running some advertising to promote NAG’s messaging. 😀 So if you think we are doing something worthwhile, keep supporting us please!

Adoption of a New Constitution

New Constitution

The amendments are:

- Addition to clause 11 (Changes to the Constitution)

  No addition to, deletion from or alteration of the organisation's rules shall be made which would allow personal financial gain to any individuals. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

- Addition to Clause 16 (Profits / Personal Benefit / Employment
  - *As a not-for-profit organisation, the officers and members may not receive any distributions of profit or income from it. This does not prevent officers or members:*
  - *receiving reimbursement of actual and reasonable expenses incurred, or*
  - *entering into any transactions with the organisation for goods or services supplied to or from them, which are at arms length, relative to what would occur between unrelated parties.*
  - *Provided no officer or member is allowed to influence any such decision made by the organisation in respect of payments or transactions between it and them, their direct family or any associated entity.*

Approval of the new Constitution requires support of 75% of members present and entitled to vote.

I move that the new Constitution be adopted.

General Business

The Northern Action Group

Incorporated

AGM CONCLUDED

"Campaigning to get Democracy for the people of North Rodney"

Speakers and Discussion

“Engaging Communities”

Engaging Communities

Speaker Introduction

Last year I asked a simple question: ***How do we get Rodney's communities to speak with a clearer voice about what is needed — and make sure Council and Government actually respond to it?***

Since then, we've had no shortage of plans, reforms, consultations and submissions. But often it feels like communities are mostly reacting to decisions that have already been shaped elsewhere.

Tonight isn't about complaining. It's about stimulating a constructive discussion on how communities and government can work together earlier and more effectively — not just through consultation, but by helping shape priorities and practical solutions.

Rodney is different from much of urban Auckland. We're a network of towns, villages and rural communities, and people care deeply about the future of this place.

So, I hope what our speakers share with us tonight will help us reshape - and answer - that question:

*How do we create a better connection between communities and decision-makers so growth and change happen **with** us, not simply **to** us?*

“ENGAGING COMMUNITIES”

Speakers:

Hon Chris Penk: Kaipara ki Mahurangi MP

Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown

Ward Councillor Greg Sayers

ANCAD Chair Brian Putt

Discussion and responses from speakers